

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 • October 2011



NARFE District IV Website

www.narfewadist4.org

Chapter Officers

President: Bud Shaw
Vice President: Robert Ackerman
Secretary: Kay Kozminski
Treasurer: Robert Jewell
Board Member: Ralph Angulo
Board Member: William Holman
Board Member: Lois Shaw
Past President: Al Burge
District IV Vice President: Bill Powers

Chapter Chairpersons

Alzheimer's: LaVeta Edmonson
Legislative: Bill Holman
Membership: Lois Shaw
Newsletter: Sara Boore
Programs: Vacant
Public Relations: Vacant
Service Officer: Ralph Angulo
Sunshine: Kathryn Spilker
Telephone: Vacant

Legislators

Senator Maria Cantwell

website: <http://www.cantwell.senate.gov>
Senator Cantwell's Director for the Olympic Peninsula
Mike English - (253) 572-2281
The Commerce Building
950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 615, Tacoma, Washington

Senator Patty Murray

website: <http://www.murray.senate.gov>
Senator Murray's Director for the Olympic Peninsula
Christina Reeves - (253) 572-3636
The Commerce Building
950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 650, Tacoma, Washington

Representative Norm Dicks

website: <http://www.house.gov/dicks>
345 6th Street, Suite 500, Bremerton, WA 98337 and 332 East Fifth Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362 (Staffed by Judith Morris)
Tuesday 9:30 A.M.-Noon, Thursday 2:00-5:00 P.M., and by appointment 452-3370)

October Chapter Program

Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 11:30 A.M.
Paradise Restaurant
703 North Sequim Avenue
Sequim, WA

The speaker for the September meeting will be Robert Beebe, owner of Olympic Game Farm.

Lunch is at 11:30 A.M. and the speaker will be at 12:00. You do not have to have lunch to attend the meeting.

President's Corner

Following our August meeting Chapter 1006 treasure's books was audited by two of our members, Al Burge and Bill Matney. Minor corrections were made and the books were then determined to be satisfactory.

The November meeting will include our annual Health Fair, we do not know at this time which Health Fair providers will attend. Due to the time schedule for the Health Fair providers, we must start our meeting at 11:00 A.M. Please remember the one hour earlier starting time in November.

FEHBP Premiums will increase slightly in 2012

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced today that the average premium for the 8 million people enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program (FEHBP) will increase by 3.8 percent for non-postal employees and all annuitants in 2012, which is approximately half of last year's increase of 7.3 percent.

On average, enrollees with self only coverage will pay \$2.32 more per bi-weekly pay period; enrollees with family coverage will pay \$6.18 more. Premiums for Health Maintenance Organizations will increase an average 6.7 percent, while Fee-for-Service plans will see an average increase of 3.2 percent.

"Our most popular plan is increasing rates by just 1.6 percent, saving money for our employees, and all taxpayers. Other plans also have low rate increases." The 2012 Open Season for health, dental, and vision insurance and flexible spending accounts will be held from November 14, 2011 to December 12, 2011.

Possible COLA increase

The government publishes the annual cost-of-living adjustments typically in late October, based on the percentage increase (if any) in the average CPI-W for the third quarter of the current year over the average for the third quarter of the last year in which a COLA was paid. This year's increase, if there is one, will take effect on Dec. 1. The COLA for Federal Retirees and Social Security and Supplemental Security Income recipients could be nearly 4 percent as of Dec. 1, based on the latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Consumer Price Index, a measure of the average change over time in the prices urban consumers pay for goods and services, rose 3.8 percent between August 2010 and August 2011, largely due to an increase in gasoline and food prices.

Do the Right Thing

It is often painful, but choosing Right over Easy will always be better. If it feels right – it probably is.

President's Corner continued on back

President's Corner, continued

Don't confuse truthful with hurtful or courage with foolishness. Don't judge others by your standards.

Dues withholding is a good investment.

If you switch to automatic dues withholding you will save money and won't have to worry about annual renewals. Members with automatic dues withholding also received an annual courtesy card as a reminder to them that their dues are being withheld.

More lack of good judgement by our government

Recently the Government of Iraq awarded a contract to a Chinese oil company allowing them to take control of the oil production in Iraq. Why in the world would our Embassy in Iraq allow such an event to happen considering all the money and lives we have invested there in the last ten years?

OPM paying \$120 million annually to dead people

The Office of Personnel Management has paid more than \$600 million to deceased annuitants in the last five years. Efforts to stop the flow of improper payments from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund have not worked. In one case the son of a deceased employee had been collecting his father's pension for over 40 years. The payments was discovered when the son died.

It is little wonder why the public has such a disgusting view of government employees when things like this are constantly appearing in the press.

Everyone makes mistakes. Admit them, apologize, and fix them if possible, Learn from them and move on.

—BUD SHAW, CHAPTER PRESIDENT

We send our sympathy to the families of Roger Skors and Betty Kimble.

If you are moving to a new location please let me know or you can call National Membership @ 1-800-456-8410 and they will take care of it. You ask why??? Our address labels come from the NARFE Printing Office monthly and if we don't have your correct address - your newsletter is returned to our post office box in Sequim and we must pay 44 cents for each returned newsletter and we average 3-4 per month.

Name Tags are available for \$8.00 if you are interested. I have the name tag for Roger Fight for pickup.

Don't forget that November is our Health Fair meeting month. That's on November 22nd.

—LOIS SHAW, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

September Meeting Recap

SPEAKER: Bill Maule, retired Diplomatic Officer, Department of State, and NARFE Member, Poulsbo Chapter. Mr. Maule began his presentation explaining the major differences between the Foreign Service and the Civil Service. The two services operate under different legislation. There are six ranks in the Foreign Service, which is known as "rank in man." Every year, every officer is reviewed and ranked from "very best" to "very worst." Those at the top will be eligible for promotion, which must be confirmed by the Senate. Eventually, this leads to the Senior Foreign Service. The bottom four percent are determined "low ranked." After two of those ratings, it's good-bye Foreign Service. Mr. Maule's service was performed in many interesting locations including Brussels, Bagdad, Haiti, Vienna, Beirut, London, Montreal, and Washington, D.C. His children were born in Iraq. When asked if he could "do it over again", he said "yes" but only if he could start over in 1956.

VICE PRESIDENT ACKERMAN and other Chapter Officers urged attendees to continue to contact our congressional leaders, especially Senator Patty Murray, to appeal to them to protect our earned benefits in the battle that is looming—one that threatens the pay, retirement and benefits of all federal employees and retirees. The Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (or so called "supercommittee) is tasked with cutting trillions of dollars from the federal budget. As stated by NARFE President Joseph Beaudoin, Federal workers, retirees and annuitants didn't cause the budget crisis and should not be unfairly singled out to bear the burden of fixing it.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 25th, 11:30 a.m., Paradise Restaurant, Sequim. Speaker—Robert Beebe, Olympic Game Farm. The November meeting will be from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It will be devoted solely to the Health Fair (and lunch, of course). Open season is November 14-December 12. For detailed information, see NARFE's Open Season Report, beginning on page 30, in the October issue of NARFE. New premiums are available on the website www.opm.gov/insure.

—KAY KOZMINSKI, CHAPTER SECRETARY

Membership

Since I was away last month I sent out past due notices late to the following members whose dues were due August 1st

Martin Dawson and Harold Wright. This month for Sept 1st dues is Billy Frazier.

For a reminder of the Dues Structure and to refresh your memory here 'tis:

One year National Dues is \$40.00 plus \$7.00 Chapter Dues; Two years National Dues \$72.00 plus \$14.00 Chapter Dues and Three Years National Dues is \$102.00 plus \$21.00 Chapter Dues is \$123.00

Members who are on dues withholding will receive a 15% reduction on the National dues. Their annual dues will be \$34.00 plus our chapter dues of \$7.00 per year. You can send your payment direct to: NARFE Membership Records, 606 North Washington St., Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1943. You should write Chapter #1006 on your check for reference.

We appreciate those that have paid their dues not only for one year but also those that pay for 2 & 3 years in advance.