

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 • September 2012



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: Robert Jewell
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, (800) 947-6676;
and 332 East Fifth Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362 (Staffed by
Judith Morris), judith.morris@mail.house.gov - Tuesday 9:00
A.M.-Noon, Thursday 1:00-4:00 P.M., and by appointment
452-3370.

September Chapter Program

Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 11:30 A.M.
Paradise Restaurant
703 North Sequim Avenue
(just north of Sequim High School)
Sequim, WA

Our speaker for the August meeting is
Margaret Low, from the American Red Cross
Lunch is at 11:30 AM and the speaker will
be at 12:00.

Message from NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin

“NARFE mourns the murder of four American personnel, including Ambassador Chris Stevens and Foreign Service information management officer Sean Smith, in the assault on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya. This is a tragedy for all Americans, but it hits particularly close to home for those of us in the federal family, who count these brave citizens as our friends and colleagues. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims.”

Presidential Debate Schedule, Mark Your NARFE Calendar

The three presidential and one vice presidential debates are the best defense against often misleading political commercials. While the NARFE 2013 calendar is on its way to members, mark your 2012 calendar for the following dates. All debates will take place from 9-10:30 p.m. EDT. More details are posted at www.debates.org, including, “Organizing a Debate” information.

First presidential debate (Domestic Policy):
Jim Lehrer, executive editor, PBS NewsHour;
Wednesday, October 3, University of Denver,
Denver, CO.

Vice presidential debate: Martha Raddatz,
senior foreign affairs correspondent, ABC News;
Thursday, October 11, Centre College, Danville,
KY.

Second presidential debate (Town Meeting):
Candy Crowley, chief political correspondent,
CNN, and anchor, CNN's State of the Union;
Tuesday, October 16, Hofstra University, Hemp-
stead, NY.

**Third presidential debate (Foreign Poli-
cy):** Bob Schieffer, chief Washington correspon-
dent, CBS News, and moderator, Face the Na-
tion; Monday, October 22, Lynn University, Boca
Raton, FL.

Continuing Resolution, Pay Freeze Extension Pass House

The stopgap spending bill, H.J. Res. 117, to fund the government for the next six months, passed the House on Thursday evening on a 329-91 vote. The bill's \$1.047 trillion annual rate, set forth in the Budget Control Act passed last summer, represents an increase of about \$8 billion over current spending levels. The Senate is expected to approve the measure, without change, next week, and President Obama is expected to sign the legislation without fanfare. Unfortunately for current federal employees, passage of the legislation also means an extension of the pay freeze for at least another three months, as the spending bill is set to expire at the end of March 2013.

— NARFE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE, SEPTEMBER 14

Consumer Prices Rise in August

Current law requires the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for federally administered retirement programs – Social Security, military retirement and civil service – to be formulated based on the CPI-W, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. With two of the three months of the third quarter measured, the July (225.568) and August (227.056) average index, 226.312, is 1.38 percent higher than the 2011 third quarter average (223.233). The final data point, September consumer prices – which will set the COLA for 2013 – will become available at 8:30 am EDT Tuesday, October 16. That monthly index will be averaged with July and August indices. The 3rd quarter average will be compared to the 2011 3rd quarter average (223.233). More information is available at www.bls.gov/cpi.

— NARFE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE, SEPTEMBER 14

August Meeting Recap

SPEAKER: Terry McMahon, former USAID Officer. Mr. McMahon worked for USAID for 27 years. He served in five overseas countries—Brazil, Afghanistan, Jordan, Egypt, and Ukraine. He also served three assignments in Washington, D.C. Mr. McMahon spoke primarily about his Afghanistan assignment, which began in Kabul in the spring of 1973. He lived in a house in the suburbs with his wife and four children. Afghanistan is extremely primitive, with no roads except those which were built by Russia and the United States. Fifty percent of the children die before age five. They found the illiteracy rate for girls to be 98 percent. The United States has built many schools, clinics, and roads between the villages in rural Afghanistan. During the turbulent times when the war lords were competing for power, over four million Afghanistan people went into refugee camps in Pakistan. Mr. Mahon returned to Afghanistan in the late 1980's; however, shortly thereafter he had to be transported to Andrews Air Force Base following a serious car accident. The Taliban began moving in and ceased much of the country. This continued until September 11, 2001, which began the war that has lasted almost 11 years now. Fast forward to August 2012: The effects of the American withdrawal on the Afghanistan people are devastating. What will happen to the many roads and systems which the US started to build? Heroin is a very serious problem. Fifty percent of the women are illiterate and cannot leave their home without an escort. There are awful health problems to deal with. The United States has an enormous aid program there now, totaling \$2.5 billion a year. The future is so very unclear for cash-strapped Afghanistan people who have suffered so much and who face such uncertainty.

MEMBERSHIP: Twenty-five members and guests attended.

ALZHEIMERS: Fifty one dollars was collected for Alzheimer's research. ”

—KAY KOZMINSKI, CHAPTER SECRETARY

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