

# NARFE

## National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 • May 2007



### NARFE District IV Website

[www.narfewadist4.org](http://www.narfewadist4.org)

### Chapter Officers

**President:** Ray Weinmann

**Vice President:** Ron Gill

**Secretary:** Marilyn Falls

**Treasurer:** Mary Balian

**Board Member:** Ralph Angulo

**Board Member:** William Holman

**Board Member:** Lois Shaw

**Past President:** Orvie Jensen

**District IV Vice President:** Bill Powers

### Chapter Chairpersons

**Alzheimer's:** Elizabeth Owen

**Historian:** Charlotte Petersen

**Legislative:** Bill Holman

**Membership:** co-chairpersons:

Orvie Jensen

Lois Shaw

**Newsletter:** Sara Boore

**Programs:** co-chairpersons:

Ron Gill

Ray Weinmann

**Public Relations:** Gary Kydland

**Service Officer:** Ralph Angulo

**Sunshine:** Marie Wall

**Telephone:** Mary Tate

### Legislators

#### Senator Maria Cantwell

website: <http://www.cantwell.senate.gov>

**Senator Cantwell's Director for the Olympic Peninsula**

Robert Thoms - (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**

Mary McBride - (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 Mary Schun-

eman) Tuesday 9:30 A.M.-Noon, Thursday 2:00-5:00 P.M., and

by appointment 452-3370)

### May Chapter Program

**April 22, 2007, 11:30 A.M.**

**The Secret Garden Buffet**

**First St. and Golf Course Road**

**Port Angeles, WA**

Our May speaker will be Janet Parris, Direct Services Program Resource Manager for the Senior Information and Assistance office. Ms. Parris will be talking about getting services to people and will touch on any recent issues.

The Pledge of Allegiance will be at 12:00 noon and will be followed by the presentation and a short business meeting. You do not have to eat at the buffet to attend the meeting.

### President's Corner

When you read this the Washington federation Convention will be in progress or completed. We have a strong contingent representing the Chapter and will be anxious to report the results at our May meeting. The Federation convention (once a year) deals with elections of State and District Officers, bylaw and resolution considerations, and the budget. It's also a time to learn what is happening in the rest of the State organization.

I hope you are sending off your contribution to NARFE PAC. In the first quarter of 2007 only 3 Chapter members have contributed. As you know the campaigns have already begun for national elections. NARFE will be approached for support by various candidates. Our money can help elect those candidates who are knowledgeable and supportive of our legislative agenda.

Don't forget our offer for a free meal (bring a prospective or new member you have enrolled) and also our new raffle (be present to win).

—RAY WEINMANN  
CHAPTER PRESIDENT

## NARFE Welcomes Mikulski-Voinovich GPO Reform Bill

Margaret L. Baptiste, president of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees' Association (NARFE), today lauded Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and George Voinovich (R-OH) for introducing the Government Pension Offset Reform Act, bipartisan legislation that would amend the Social Security Act by lessening the burden of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) on retired public servants, including federal retirees. "Senators Mikulski and Voinovich deserve praise for demonstrating their commitment to assuring equity in the earned retirement benefits of our nation's public servants," affirmed Baptiste.

The GPO, in effect since 1983, prevents government retirees who were first eligible to retire in 1982 and later from collecting both a government annuity and Social Security benefits based on their spouse's work. Two-thirds of the amount of the government annuity that the retiree has earned is used to offset whatever Social Security spousal or survivor benefits that might have been payable. In December 2003, approximately 394,000 Social Security beneficiaries were affected by the GPO. Of these, about 75 percent were women, approximately 40 percent were widows or widowers, and 20 percent had a non-covered pension of less than \$1,000 per month.

President Baptiste highlighted NARFE's ongoing work with other organizations to persuade Congress to address the adverse economic impact of the GPO. The loss of earned survivor Social Security benefits can result in poverty among elderly women, despite their years-- and their spouses' years-- of work. "There is no legitimate reason for a certain segment of seniors being denied their Social Security benefits for which full Social Security taxes were paid" said Baptiste.

For over 20 years, NARFE has led a legislative campaign to rid the Social Security Law of the GPO provision. NARFE chairs the Coalition to Assure Retirement Equity (CARE), comprised of over 40 national organizations representing public sector retirees that support change in the GPO. "The GPO arbitrarily penalizes the earned Social Security benefits of public sector retirees—devastating the income security of many federal employees, teachers, and county and state workers. NARFE calls for Congress to immediately take up this discriminatory provision under the Social Security Act," Baptiste asserted.

—WWW.NARFE.ORG

## Membership

It is with great sadness that we report that Bertyl "Bert" Strandberg passed away at his home of cancer on May 5. He was 72.

Last month Port Angeles/Sequim Chapter 1006 lost one member that was dropped from the rolls for non-renewal of dues. However, our Chapter gained one member. Welcome Mr. David Johnson of Port Hadlock.

Three members have been sent second dues notice. If you are one of those members who has not renewed or your anniversary date is approaching and you have a question or concern about NARFE at any level of the organization, please call one of our chapter officers or committee members. If we don't have the answer we will get it!

Please consider these:

- Congress is determined to reduce your benefits.
- Congress is looking for ways to reduce the national deficit.
- Your retirement benefits, including health care, will be targeted and potentially reduced.
- Right now, Congress is looking at reducing your future retirement annuities and increasing your health insurance premiums.

NARFE is the only organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing retirement benefits of current and retired federal employees. We cannot afford to let our individual membership lapse. We must maintain our voice. We may never regain our benefits if we lose them. NARFE membership is our best insurance to protect our benefits.

—ORVIE JENSEN  
MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIR