

JUNE 2007

NUMBER 06-07

General Meeting Date & Time: June 11, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club
National Avenue & 'E' Street, Bremerton, WA

Program: TACOMA NARROWS BRIDGE - 'GOOD TO GO' PASS

NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.

WE DID IT! The monthly message from the President is normally the first article in our monthly newsletter, but since I'm the one who compiles the monthly missive I'm going to take editorial license and write what I want to say at the beginning.

THANK YOU - to all our Chapter members who pitched in to make the 2007 Convention a resounding success.

First of all - I want to congratulate and thank all the members who worked so hard the past two years. Don Palmer, Co-Chair was instrumental in getting the Signal Flags that decorated the Ballroom; Ralph had an extremely difficult task with registering all the delegates, guests and visitors. Faithful wife Linda was our Treasurer. Megan and her crew were fantastic! Special thanks to Norene Torkelson and Zora Davis who stayed at the hotel to make sure everything was cleaned up.

J. R. Seibold had a huge undertaking with the Program and Memorial Books and did a fantastic job. The covers of those books are gorgeous. Karen Powers designed the Banquet decorations, assisted by volunteer Claudia Ehreth. And Ed(s) Saftich even got involved with being table decorators. Myra was out there cutting and serving cake when she wasn't taking official photographs. I know I am missing a lot of names and I would hope the Committee Chairs will include them in their reports. And I can't miss saying how much we appreciate all that COSTCO did - I don't even want to think of how much all the food they provided would have cost.

Ann Eads jumped right in selling the Chapter Raffle Tickets and then played the keyboard for the Memorial Service, while husband George paddled out in the Outrigger Canoe and laid the beautiful wreath in the water. Wayne Matz once again used his talent to play Taps. And our own Lanny Ross who brought up-to-date information from NARFE Headquarters to all the attendees.

My heartfelt appreciation to every Chapter member who contributed to this huge undertaking. *Amber VanSantford*

SERVICE OFFICER: A huge THANK YOU to those who helped in the Hospitality Room at our State Convention at the Silverdale Beach Hotel. I know I am probably missing some of the names since I have lost my program with all the names sooooo. If I do miss any names my humble apologies: Elsmar McKay, Doris Boyd, Vera Gianalli, Joyce Libsack, Leah Ritchie, Adeline Crabtree, Zora Davis, Lucille Kidd, Betty Langton, Anna Haynes, Myra Claudius, Noreen Torkelson, Jean Lenihan. We got lots of appraisals for how we made visitors feel welcome, so we must have done something right. It was a lot of work running around sorting stuff out - putting it away and then turning around and getting it all out. Without all of us doing something it never would have worked out. Your Chapter is lucky to have you all willing to do this. Those who missed out on even attending the State Convention missed a lot of fun and lots of meeting up with old friends and just fun visiting with each other.

Now to summer stuff! A lot of us are grandparents and like to travel and do things with our grandchildren while they are out of school. Don't forget to take information with you such as how to get hold of your health insurance company when out of the coverage area. If you have this information there is a GOOD chance you will not need it. However, you never know. Make sure you know how to contact your bank or credit union when out of the area - lots of problems seem to be happening with security of our accounts. I had to contact a credit union once when my ATM card was denied couple of times within a short space of time. The credit union said that their computers had picked up unusual activity other than my usual 1 or 2 withdrawals in a week. Assured them I had used it at various gas stations on a long drive to Colorado - they confirmed that and since they wanted me back here to continuing doing business with them, reactivated my debit account so I could drive home!!! Just be really prepared for emergencies when away from home - makes it easier on your family members. Enjoy your time with your grandchildren - I know I am looking forward to doing it. *Megan Winans*

JUNE SPEAKER: Janelle Shellenhamer from the Department of Transportation will be speaking on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge 'Good To Go' Program. She will also be selling the passes which are much cheaper than paying for the individual trip

across the new bridge. You can pay by cash, credit card or check - but you must sign up for at least \$30.00. Bring your friends and neighbors to hear about all the bridge progress. *Bill Powers*

SUNSHINE: Get Well Cards were sent to Gladys Berteaux, Ed Drouin, Fritz Jappe, Elsmar McKay and Don Serry. Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Jerald Honeywell, June Martin and Henry Thaves. *Norene Torkelson*

LOST AND FOUND: Somehow I came home from the convention with a small black stapler that does not belong to me. But I lost three table knives and two pie servers. If you lost a stapler but found some silverware, please let me know. *Amber VanSantford*

REGION IX VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: Now that I have completed attending all the 2007 State Federation Conventions in Region IX I want to express to my home chapter #181 how proud I am of the work they put into hosting the 2007 Washington State Convention. Special thanks goes to Amber VanSantford for all the hard work she put into chairing the convention. Her work and dedication were very evident in Silverdale. The Chapter should be proud of the very moving Memorial Service and the Flag Ceremony with the presentation of the folded American flag that had flown over the US Capital. I will be proud to present the flag to NARFE President Margaret Baptiste for display in the NARFE National Office in Alexandria, VA. I for one was very touched by these events, along with the outstanding way the convention was conducted. I know that there will always be those that disagree, but having attended many, many conventions over the last six plus years in Region IX I can honestly say that Chapter #181 should take pride in putting on a wonderful convention. Amber's committees should also take pride in doing a great job. Some might say that the attendance this year was down, but having attended four State Conventions I can assure you that all conventions this year experienced a reduced number of attendees from previous years. Many have said that the increased gas price had an effect on attendance

So, to all, thanks for a great convention and a "JOB WELL DONE"

Lanny Ross

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: We survived another Washington State Convention! As many of you know Chapter 181 hosted the convention in Silverdale, Washington. That means that the host committee has put in many long hours in preparation for this event and we are all tired. But life goes on and so does Chapter business.

This report will combine the information from April and May, because we did not make a report in May and if we do not publish in July and August the September report will contain June, July and August information. If I was reminded of anything at the state convention, it is the importance of recruitment and retention of our membership. If each of us would recruit just one member every five years our membership would grow beyond our dreams. Our success at what we do is directly linked to the size of our membership. When we visit or contact a member of Congress we represent NARFE and all of its voting membership as well as the potential membership but not with equal impact.

Our new members for April and May are: John Blockhus, Pat Garrett and Jack Varner. Our reinstatements for these two months are Woodrow Arneson, Bonnie Buchanan, Orvin Lykstad, Shannon O Dell, and Robert Wieman.

Now for the members who have been dropped for non-renewal: Bruce Bargmeyer, Brian Bjorgo, Robert Brano, Norton Cannon, Etta Carey, Wilhelmina Ching, Richard Erickson, Rosalie Fagan, John Frender, Diana Harrell, Paul Hoft, Robert Metcalf, Emma Robertson, Harold Schultz, Dorothy Schuster, William Seidel, Leland Stice, Laurine Strachan and Linda Weaver. Thanks again for contacting these members and urging them to reinstate their membership. *Ralph Sanders*

PRESIDENT: Greetings Chapter Members - almost two years ago in 2005, Chapter 181 offered to host the Washington State Federation Convention for May 2007. Amber VanSantford offered to be the Co-Chairman with Don Palmer. I, as the president, am so thankful they were willing to accept this very complex and difficult assignment.

The 2007 Washington State Federation Conventions is now in the history book. I feel it was a very worthwhile and positive experience for all who

participated. It was very informative and hopefully will cause us, as members of NARFE, to be more committed and engaged in the cause of NARFE and what we, as an organization, stand for. Our task as retired or current federal employees is never done.

As I try to express my thanks to all of you who made the 2007 Washington State Confederation Convention an outstanding event, a Thank You does not go far enough to tell you my feelings. The team work both by individuals and committees was something to behold. Maybe I could compare it to a fine turned orchestra with Amber being the conductor and together we all made the beautiful music. It should be noted here that our chapter newsletter received a blue ribbon for excellence at the Convention.

June 11 will be our last chapter meeting until September 10. I remind you to read your monthly National Magazine, call the Legislative Hot Line about issues that concern you, and by all means, stay in touch with your elected representatives and let them know of your concerns about our benefits regarding retired or current federal employees.

I hope you and your families have a very wonderful and healthy summer. I am most appreciative to be your chapter president and feel honored to be associated with so many outstanding people here within our own community. I'll see you in September! *George Eads*

TREASURER: Financial activity for May 2007, including the Alzheimer's Account, receipts totaled \$1,437.79 with expenditures of \$939.47. Income from our Red Apple Market receipts has been averaging around \$50 or less a month which is below normal from past returns. This is a great program so turn the cash register receipts in so we can get credit for them. Participating Red Apple Markets are Garguile's (Perry Avenue), Ralph's (Kitsap Lake) and the Silverdale Market. We have received fewer returns of our Newsletter at the Post Office for the last month so keep up the good work at notifying us of your address changes. Be sure to send us your change of address to **NARFE Chapter 181, P.O. BOX 5025, BREMERTON.WA. 98312-0462.** *Rex Tauscher*