

November/December 2009

NARFE PORT ORCHARD CHAPTER 888

Art Haywood, President

Mike Kaaland, 1st Vice President

Nancy Johnson, 2nd Vice President

Stu Higgs, Secretary

Suzanne Rueter, Treasurer

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John Smith, Programs Manager

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Enos Bryant, SGT AT ARMS

Helen Ristvet, Alzheimer's Chair

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Sally Ann McCluskey, Decorations

Bob Edwards, District IV Webmaster

Bill Powers, District IV Vice Pres

District IV/Chapter 888 website:

www.narfewadist4.org/ch888.html

NARFE HOTLINE (TF) 1-877-217-8234

www.narfe.org



Chapter Meetings are held at **11:30 am** on the **2nd Tuesday** of the month at the **EAGLES LODGE**, 4001 Jackson Rd in Port Orchard (**Potluck lunch**)

November 10, 2009 – Speaker: DEREK KILMER, Washington State Senator

December 8, 2009 – Christmas Party – Entertainment: South Kitsap School Choir

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

GET OUT THE VOTE! It is time to think seriously about how you are going to vote on the **NARFE Dues Referendum** and, later, on Chapter Officers for 2010. As indicated elsewhere, a ballot is provided in this Newsletter for your vote on the Referendum. Please use the ballot; and do it when you receive your Newsletter. Don't put it aside planning to do it later; you might get busy and never get back to it! Fill it out and mail it to me before you forget it!! Your ballot must be signed by you for your vote to count!!! For your info, the NARFE Dues Referendum provides a monthly Chapter dues of \$9.00 which is \$1.00 less than the current Chapter dues. The \$1.00 reduction will be offset, in part, if not totally, by a reduction in the per capita tax we have been paying to Washington State Federation. If we are unable to pay our bills with the \$9.00, we will be expected to devise the necessary assessment on our own.

Voting for the Chapter officers for 2010 is another matter. This election will require your attendance at the Chapter meeting on November 10, 2009 at the Eagles Lodge on Jackson St. in Port Orchard. We are hoping for a record turnout for this meeting. Be advised that we have a **continuing need for volunteers** to be Chapter 888 officers or board members. Please contact me if you are interested.

Art Haywood

LEGISLATIVE

Congress approved the final Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Authorization bill, which includes several civil service improvements long sought by NARFE. The bill would allow federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity; permit Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) workers to initially credit half, and later all, of the unused sick leave toward retirement; and provide for retirement equity for federal employees in Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Territories.

OPM announced that it would extend the deadline for Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) enrollees to make changes in their coverage to avoid or mitigate a 25% premium increase. Most enrollees who added the automatic compound inflation (ACI) option to the FLTCIP plan are subject to the rate hike. OPM has moved the deadline from December 14, 2009, to February 15, 2010.

NARFE members are asked to rally to the defense of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). NARFE's revised **action alert** calls on each NARFE member to advise his or her congressional delegation, one Representative and two Senators, to allow FEHBP enrollees, like other Americans, to keep the plan they have now. (Use the following URL to read more and send an e-mail to your own congressional delegation: <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=14174906>).

Special Port Orchard Chapter 888 Voter's Coupon

Make Your Vote Count on the 2009 NARFE Dues Referendum

Note: If you cannot attend our November 10th chapter meeting when we vote using this ballot on Dues Referendum, please vote below & mail/take by November 3rd (election day) to an officer.

I vote **YES** on the NARFE Dues Referendum _____

I vote **NO** on the NARFE Dues Referendum _____

Mail/take this coupon to:

Art Haywood
1904 Valley Ave. E.
Port Orchard, WA 98366-8572

Print Name

Signature

SECRETARY

The upcoming National Dues Referendum is the single most important item of business for all NARFE Chapters. There have been numerous articles in the NARFE magazine fully explaining this referendum. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a copy of the dues referendum ballot. (There is also a ballot on page 36 of the August issue of the NARFE magazine). PLEASE mark your ballot for or against and mail it to Chapter President Art Haywood, 1904 Valley Ave. E, Port Orchard, WA 98366. We will also be conducting an election at our regular noon potluck luncheon meeting November 10, 2009. After all the ballots are received, they will be reconciled to coincide with our Chapter's official allotment of 9 votes and forwarded to the third party organization which is conducting the referendum.

It should be noted that Senator Tom Coburn, R-OK, on the floor of the Senate, said, "...There is no guarantee to your federal pension based on the economics we face today in this country. If you think it is guaranteed, you have another thought coming because the world economic system is going to determine whether we can honor that pension..." If this disturbs you as much as it does me, pass his remarks along to your active and retired federal employee friends who do not yet belong to NARFE and point out that the NARFE organization is the ONLY voice for them in Washington DC. In numbers there is strength, my friends.

Note: The requirements for Distinguished Member (which has replaced Honorary Member) are to attain the age of 85 years and to have been a member of NARFE for 20 years. Distinguished Members receive a certificate and a pin but no change in their dues structure. If anyone would like to become a Distinguished Member please contact me with your age and the date you joined NARFE.

Stu Higgs

TREASURER

Thank you to my Budget Committee: Mary De La Grange, Nancy Johnson, Joyce Kaaland, Art Haywood, Don Podraza, John Smith and Bob Mueller. We worked very hard for two and a half hours to get a budget made up, taking into account the proposed NARFE dues referendum should it pass.

Suzanne Rueter

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Port Orchard Chapter 888 is around 441. Recruiting new members is essential to "grow" our constituency to command the respect and fulfillment of our requests to Congress! Look for appropriate times to recruit qualifying friends and acquaintances into our chapter. Don't forget—spouses of current members qualify to join and they INCREASE our constituency! IF YOUR SPOUSE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN NARFE, SIGN THEM UP TODAY! **NEW MEMBER: Kenneth Buher**—welcome to Port Orchard Chapter 888.

Don Podraza

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
CHAPTER #888
1904 Valley Ave E
PORT ORCHARD, WA 98366

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Guardian
of your
Federal
Benefits

SERVICE OFFICER

Remember, when you have a problem related to your retiree or survivor benefits, call me at 871-2010, or email me at cjbailey9@msn.com. I'll be more than happy to look over or help you with any forms needed to apply for these benefits. **Carol Bailey**

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Mayor Lary Coppola discussed the state of the City of Port Orchard. He cited the completion of the comprehensive plan in compliance with the State of Washington requirements; crime rate is down; Planning and Permitting Office has been reorganized with permit backlog eliminated; Bay Street utility undergrounding is completed; sink hole at High Joy Bowl has been repaired; the city has received its 19th consecutive perfect audit. Bethel Corridor annexation and installation of downtown fiber optic cable were touched upon. His remarks were well received.

Stu Higgs

OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING

Lanny Ross, Region IX Vice President, shared NARFE updates at the Annual Birthday Luncheon held at the China Sun on October 13, 2009. Members were also encouraged to read the comments of Senator Tom Coburn, R-OK, on page 10 of the September, 2009 NARFE magazine (See Secretary Stu Higgs' column). After the flag salute, the Charter was draped in memory of **Birney S. Covell, Jr.**

Nancy Johnson

ALZHEIMER'S

We have \$145.58 in the Chapter 888 Alzheimer's Fund. This includes \$39.40 from the can that Deanna Niessan filled at the bowling alley. All money sent to NARFE is used for research. The National NARFE Alzheimer's Fund has contributed \$8,279,779.83 for Alzheimer's research. You can help by taking your aluminum cans to Town Square to be credited to Chapter 888. Don't forget to crush them! ...

Helen Ristvet

PROGRAMS MANAGER

Sometimes it is difficult to get programs to suit the needs of everyone and have a program that everyone will enjoy. If you refrain from coming to the NARFE Meetings because the programs don't interest you, then send me your suggestions at 360-792-2626 or email me at john7smith@comcast.net.

John Smith

CHAPLAIN

If anyone knows of a sick member or a member's death, please call me at 674-2424. **Helen Higgs**

EDITOR'S NOTE: The next newsletter will be issued in **January 2010**. Items for publication in the **January/February** newsletter must be in the hands of the editor by the **20th of December 2009**. I can be reached at 1904 Valley Ave E, Port Orchard, WA 98366, 360-769-9670; email: elainhay@aol.com. **PLEASE notify me if you have a change of address including change of zip code** or if you will be temporarily away

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE CHANGED THE DELIVERY OF THEIR NEWSLETTER TO EMAIL. If you would like this service, please advise by sending me an email. **Each e-mail newsletter saves the chapter printing & mailing costs.**

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