

January/February 2010

NARFE PORT ORCHARD CHAPTER 888

Mike Kaaland, President

Wally Niesen, 1st Vice President

Nancy Johnson, 2nd Vice President

Stu Higgs, Secretary

Suzanne Rueter, Treasurer

Bob Mueller, Legislative, NARFE-PAC

Helen Higgs, Chaplain

Don Podraza, Membership

Carol Bailey, Service Officer

Art Haywood, Newsletter Editor

Deanna Niesen, Newsletter Design



Elaine Haywood, Newsletter production

Mary DeLaGrange, Publicity

Virginia Julian, Travel & Reception

Bill Chaussee, Reception

Enos Bryant, SGT AT ARMS

Helen Ristvet, Alzheimer's Chair

Telephone Committee

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**)

January 12, 2010 & February 9, 2010– Speaker: To be determined

PRESIDENT Happy Holidays to all.

It is my pleasure to be the Port Orchard NARFE Chapter 888 President once again. What we make of the chapter this next year will require input from you. Our general meetings that are conducted on the second Tuesday of every month except July are a way for you to learn from community speakers, our officers and committee chairs. For all of you who missed the December meeting you missed a great performance from the South Kitsap Chamber Choir.

Analysis of the House-Passed Health reform bill is discussed in the December issue of the NARFE Magazine. To keep up-to-date on important legislative issues, sign up for Gems at (www.narfe.org). NARFE remains concerned that the Senate interest in an OPM-administered public plan could undermine the integrity of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). Senator Judd Gregg, R-NH, the ranking member on the Senate Budget committee, plans to offer an amendment to H.R. 4313 that would create a commission which would force changes to entitlement and other program spending and tax policy through the use of a Congressional fast-track procedure. On the positive note, for all of you in the FERS retirement system, your unused sick leave can now be credited toward retirement.

As we get into 2010, Joyce and I will again be coordinating the AARP Tax-Aid program for Port Orchard. This is an IRS and AARP jointly sponsored program staffed by volunteers to prepare and file income tax returns electronically at no cost to the taxpayers. Although intended for the elderly and low-income families, no taxpayer will be turned away. Note, however, taxpayers' returns requiring the reporting of significant business income or any loss, or any rental income, are beyond the scope of the program. In Port Orchard, Tax-Aid sites will be open from Feb 1 through Apr 15 as follows:

Manchester Library, Mon: 4 to 8 PM except Feb & Mar 8th

St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, Tue: 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Givens Community Center, Thur: 9 AM to 1 PM

Port Orchard Library, Sat: 1 to 4 PM

Taxpayers must bring photo identification and documents verifying the Social Security numbers of all family members. There are a lot of new items that will benefit you in reducing your tax liability, e.g. If you have earned income from work you may be able to take a 6.2% credit, not to exceed \$400, \$2,400 of unemployment is not taxable, deductions exist for purchase of new motor vehicle etc.

Michael Kaaland

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank the Chapter 888 members who did so very much to make the three years that I served as your Chapter President enjoyable. I cannot thank the Executive Board members enough. They have served above and beyond and I really do appreciate all their hard work. I know they will continue to serve the new slate of Chapter officers equally well.

Art Haywood

SECRETARY

At the Nov. 10th meeting voting was held on the National Dues Referendum and then all ballots (including mailed-in ballots) were given to the Secretary for processing. There were 38 total votes cast by our 441 members for an 8.6% voter turnout. There were 26 'yes' votes and 12 'no' votes. Chapter 888 was assigned 9 votes by NARFE, based on our membership of 441. The 'yes' votes corresponded to 6 NARFE yes votes and the 'no' votes corresponded to 3 NARFE no votes. The 6 & the 3 were entered on the NARFE ballot and mailed on Nov. 10th, after which the chapter ballots were destroyed. On Dec. 9th National President Margaret Baptiste emailed the results of the National Dues Referendum. NARFE issued 1,508 ballots to the chapters. 224 were invalid and 256 ballots were not returned. 65.41% were yes votes and 34.59% were no votes. Therefore the National Dues Referendum failed to achieve the required 2/3 majority and the referendum was defeated. These results will be posted in the February 2010 issue of the NARFE magazine.

At the December 8th chapter meeting the charter was draped in memory of **Rafe Eugene Ledford** who passed away on November 6, 2009.

The Chapter 888 officers for 2010 were sworn in by District IV VP Bill Powers at the Dec. 8th chapter meeting. The officers are: President Mike Kaaland, 1st VP Wally Niesen, 2nd VP Nancy Johnson, Secretary Stu Higgs, and Treasurer Suzanne Rueter.

Stu Higgs



Left to Right: Bill Powers, Wally Niesen, Stu Higgs, Suzanne Rueter, Mike Kaaland, Nancy Johnson

IN MEMORIAM

We received word that Past Federation President **Dwight Pace** passed away Friday, November 13th. Memorial services were on November 20th in Spokane.

CHAPTER TREASURER AUDIT

On Thursday, December 17, Chapter 888 Treasurer, Suzanne Rueter, provided her books, records, and assistance to Bill Chaussee and John Smith for the 2009 audit. The books were found to be in balance and our thanks to Suzanne Rueter who is commended for the great job she is doing. The audit checklist will be presented at the board meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2010.

John Smith

CHAPLAIN

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

Helen Higgs

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Port Orchard Chapter 888 is around 445. Keep up the good work! Recruiting new members is crucial! Look for appropriate times to recruit qualifying friends and acquaintances into our chapter; this includes retired and currently employed Federal and military personal. Don't forget—spouses of current members qualify to join! If your spouse would like to join NARFE, sign them up today!!

MAGAZINES:

After you finish reading your monthly NARFE magazine, give it to another retired or active federal or military employee. This is a great way to introduce them to NARFE. Also, if you're not good with words, the magazine speaks for itself. You might even show them the application form, there's one in every issue. I try to keep a magazine in the car. That way I'm ready if I meet a qualifying candidate when I'm out and about. Try making a goal of giving your magazine to a qualified individual each month!!

CONSIDER THIS:

The message from NARFE Headquarters is clear. There is an organized group in Congress that is after your earned benefits and your health insurance premiums. NARFE membership is your best insurance against eroding benefits! You may never regain the benefits you lose.

Stay the course and keep recruiting new members to NARFE! I'm always available to answer questions about membership.

Give me a call at 360-876-1100.

Don Podraza

EDITOR'S NOTE: The next newsletter will be issued in **March 2010**. Items for publication in the **March/April** newsletter must be in the hands of the editor by the **20th of February 2010**. I can be reached at 1904 Valley Ave E, Port Orchard, WA 98366, 360-769-9670; email: arthayw@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.**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Guardian
of your
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NARFE LEGISLATIVE VICTORY

The Senate leadership's negotiated compromise to get the 60 votes needed to pass health care reform contains language drafted and suggested by NARFE that would move to safeguard the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). The protective language was added by the Senate leadership in response to concerns raised by NARFE and federal-postal organization allies regarding a proposal that would have the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) play a significant role in national health care reform -- partially administering a health care delivery system consisting of at least two national, private nonprofit insurance plans.

The compromise will be added to the bill through the approval of the 383-page "manager's amendment" which includes the OPM-administered "multi-state" health plans and following FEHBP protections:

- Premiums of FEHBP and the proposed OPM-administered multi-state plans would be calculated in separate risk pools.
- The OPM Director would be required to ensure that the multi-state plans are administered separately from the FEHBP.
- FEHBP insurance carriers would not be required to offer coverage through the multi-state program.
- The OPM Director may establish separate units or offices within the agency to ensure that the administration of the multi-state plans do not interfere with the effective administration of FEHBP.
- The OPM Director may not allocate fewer financial or personnel resources to the agency's administration of FEHBP.
- The OPM Director may appoint additional personnel to carry out the administration of multi-state plans.

ALZHEIMER'S

We have \$220.05 in the Chapter 888 Alzheimer's Fund From the Tacoma NARFE NEWS (Chapter 163): "There is a promising new technique to detect the defective enzymes involved with memory function. Developed at Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute at West Virginia University, a prick of a finger will do it. Tests found that it was 98% effective. Also found was that low doses of the chemo drug bryostatin reactivates the defective enzymes. The broken connections in the brain can be rewired. This would reverse the symptoms of several brain disorders and restore memory."

Helen Ristvet

NARFE-PAC

Support the efforts of NARFE to preserve our benefits by contributing to NARFE-PAC and contacting your Legislators about current legislation being considered.

Senator Maria Cantwell

Website: www.cantwell.senate.gov
The Commerce Building
950 Pacific Ave, Suite 615, Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: 253-572-2281; Fax: 253-572-5879.

Senator Patty Murray

Website: www.murray.senate.gov
The Commerce Building
950 Pacific Ave, Suite 650, Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: 253-572-3636; Fax: 253-572-9488.

Representative Norm Dicks

Website: www.house.gov/dicks
345 6th St, Ste 500, Bremerton, WA 98337
Phone: 360-479-4011; Fax: 360-479-2126.

Bob Mueller

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