

NARFE PORT ORCHARD CHAPTER 888

2011 May/June/July

Protecting the Future For National Active and Retired
Federal Employees

2011, NO. 3

Charles (Wally) Niesen, President

Joyce Kaaland, Secretary

Don Podraza, Membership

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Bob Edwards, District IV Webmaster



Chapter Meetings are held at 11:30 am on the 2nd Tuesday of the month
at EAGLES LODGE, 4001 Jackson Rd. in Port Orchard (Potluck Lunch)
Guest Speakers: May 10, **Jan Angel**; State Representative, 26th Legislative District
June 14, **Christopher Dyer**, Border Patrol Agent
NO CHAPTER MEETING IN JULY HAPPY 4TH ... August 9th is our BBQ



PRESIDENT

I did a little research and found that the nation's Tax-Freedom-Day (the day the government collected enough taxes to pay this year's budget) was April 12. It would be almost the end of May if all of the government spending was taken into account. **Washington State**, with the date of April 16th, is ranked 5TH in the nation with four states where the residents' total income owed the government for 2011 is more than ours: **Mississippi** ranked 50th at March 25th and **Connecticut** had the dubious honor of being 1ST at May 2nd. These figures don't even take into account the deficit. Kind of frustrating, isn't it!

On a lighter note, we had another fun and informative meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of this month. The food was great (as usual), the fellowship was engaging, and the guest speaker was very informative. We had 21 attendees and are always hoping for more. With 438 members on the rolls I would think there would be more interest in attending the meetings. Just as a reminder, our guest speaker for the month of May will be Washington State representative, 26th District, Jan Angel of Port Orchard. Jan has been honored as the Northwest Region Legislator of the Year by the Washington Association of Vocational Administrators. Bring questions and plan on being well informed.

With the turmoil in government over the budget and the amount of attention being paid to government workers and retirees, there has never been a more important time for us to band together to have our interests heard and respected. Our representatives in Washington D.C. and NARFEPAC are working diligently to protect our earned benefits and to turn around the negative impression government employees and retirees have been getting lately. They need our continued support.

For a number of reasons **we are going to a quarterly publication of our newsletter** *continued 2nd column ↑*

President Continued

on a trial basis beginning with our next issue. We will re-visit the newsletter frequency next year to see if we will continue on a quarterly basis or revert to the bi-monthly schedule. Any feedback will help determine future action on this issue.

The sun has been a real teaser so far this Spring. Evidently, there has never been an April in which 60 degrees was not reached but the forecasters are getting worried about it. I'm getting anxious to do more work in the garden but this weather has been lousy for that. If you are in one of the more accommodating micro climates which the Puget Sound region has so many of, I hope your weather has been better than mine. I won't complain too loudly, though, as we haven't had the blizzards, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, etc. that so much of the world has had to deal with. ■

Wishing you good health and happy loving relationships,

Charles (Wally) Niesen

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Finally, the income tax season is officially over for Joyce and me. With the help of three other volunteers we managed to do 751 tax returns. Our next venture will be to attend the State convention in Spokane starting May 15th then continuing on to South Dakota to attend our granddaughter's high school graduation.

From the NARFE Legislative Hotline:

NARFE's campaign to **Protect America's Heartbeat** continues. To date NARFE members and allied individuals have sent 88,988 e-mail messages and 898 printed letters to our Congressional delegations.

Toolkit Centralizes Resources: The Protect America's Heartbeat "toolkit" is now on the Protect America's Heartbeat website under "Resources". The toolkit will give you the facts about federal worker and retiree compensation and benefits -- and resources to raise your voice in your community. Here is the link: *continued 3rd column ↑*



WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Tom Wilkin

REINSTATEMENT

Kenneth Milovac

membership: Don Podraza

1st VP continued

<http://www.narfe.org/pdf/NARFE-ProtectAmericasHeartbeat-Toolkit041911.pdf?>

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Mike Kaaland 1st VP

LEGISLATIVE

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AVERTED.

Congressional leaders agreed at the last hour to pass the Federal Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 that will keep the government up and running. The deal was made at 11:00 pm on the 8th of April. All parties got part of what they wanted. Neither the House nor the Senate received everything that they wanted. This was also true for the president.

This compromise will cut 37.8 billion from the federal budget and prevents money from going toward abortion in the District of Columbia.

Senator Reid said that it was very hard to arrive at this point. Both sides have had to make tough choices. But tough choices are what this job's all about. The fight over the 2011 budget "is the first bite of the apple," said Rep. Paul Ryan. Only the military received all that was planned. The next battle will be over the 2012 Federal Budget. The Republicans are planning to demand even larger cuts, maybe as high as \$100 billion. The House Budget Committee has voted to approve a plan that, over the next 10 years, will save \$6 trillion. ■

Bob Mueller

EDITOR'S NOTE

Federal employees and their earned benefits have come under attack in the Congress recently. NARFE has been fighting these attacks directly and has established procedures for the NARFE membership to add support. If you have a computer with internet access and are concerned enough to lend your support to the effort to combat these attacks, here is what you must do.

The first thing to do is to find a copy of the NARFE magazine that you received in the mail. Then locate the mailing label on the cover and copy the membership number. This number along with your name will enable you to register as a member when you go online to the NARFE web site at

www.narfe.org. After you register as a member, you want to familiarize yourself with the offerings of the website. Sign up to receive the "GEMS" messages from NARFE That will keep you informed of events of interest and the aforementioned attacks on your benefits. GEMS will offer you procedures to join in the effort to protect your benefits in the form of a letter to your representative or a message if you prefer.

Speaking of computer usage!!! If you have a computer and are one of our Chapter members who likes to go south to warmer climes in the winter or just likes to take extended trips in your motor home or whatever, send us a message with your ↑

travel plans before you leave. We will then take your name off our mailing list until your return. This change will save the Chapter money with the Post Office by not having to process your undeliverable mail during your absence. And, finally, if you would like to receive your copy of the Newsletter by email, send us a request at arthayw@aol.com. We save printing and postage costs when we send by email. ■
Art Haywood



MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Port Orchard Chapter 888 is **438**. Recruiting new members is crucial! Look for appropriate times to recruit qualifying friends and acquaintances into our chapter. Be sure to use your NARFE magazine to recruit.

MEMBERS DROPPED FOR NON-RENEWAL: Alice Anderson, Stuart Arns, Michael McKinnon, Robert Mygatt, Janet Stegman, Ruth Braaten, Nicholas Ferderer, Eugene Melson, Julie Stark, Leona Wells, Mark Whitehead

I'm always available to answer questions about membership. Give me a call at 360-876-1100. ■

Don Podraza



ALZHEIMER'S

NARFE Chapter 888 has **\$231.79** in the Alzheimer's Fund. Don't forget to bring your aluminum cans to the monthly chapter meeting or take them to the recycle center at Towne Square to be credited to Chapter 888's Alzheimer's Fund. ↑



Our contributions are so important in the funding of Alzheimer's research. The Alzheimer's Association reports that, currently, there are drugs that treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's — temporarily helping memory and thinking problems. But these medications do not treat the underlying causes of Alzheimer's. Many of the new drugs in development will, hopefully, stop or slow the progress of the disease. ■ **Helen Ristvet**

NARFE

Guardian of your Federal Benefits

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- Enos Bryant, SGT AT ARMS
- Helen Ristvet, Alzheimer's, Chair Telephone Committee,
- Sally Ann McCluskey, Decorations

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LAND OF THE FREE**



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Employees Association Chapter #888**
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