

Protecting the Future For National Active and Retired Federal Employees

# NARFE PORT ORCHARD CHAPTER 888



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)  
**August 9, is our BBQ**, Guest Speaker: **Jason McMillan**, Kitsap County Dept of Emergency Mgt.  
**Sept. 13**, Guest Speaker: **Jan Angel**, State Representative, 26th Legislative District  
**October 11**, Guest Speaker: **Larry Seaquist**, State Representative, 26th Legislative District



Charles (Wally) Niesen, President

Joyce Kaaland, Secretary

Don Podraza, Membership

NARFE HOTLINE (TF)  
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Carol Bailey, Service Officer  
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Bill Powers, District IV Vice Pres.  
District IV/Chapter888 website:  
www.narfewadist4.org/ch888.html

Bob Edwards, District IV Webmaster

## PRESIDENT

Just (7-8-11) arrived in Reno a couple hours ago. Will be here for a week visiting my grandson. Am writing this from the table in the apartment we will occupy for the week. I'll be continuing this article for a couple days, a little at a time.

This year the State Convention in Spokane had four representatives from chapter 888. The information presented at the convention floor as well as the workshops was interesting and pertinent to our interests and concerns. Most important was the fact that NARFE membership continues to decline and this will have an impact on the effectiveness of our clout on Capitol Hill. This is especially important in light of the economic moves being considered there at this time. The most effective thing we can do is to stay well informed and communicate our concerns to our representatives in D.C. The best way to do this is to keep up with developments in the media and read GEMS as well as all NARFE updates. Most important, digest your NARFE magazine and then follow the instructions in it on how to contact and communicate with your representatives. Support the Heartbeat of America campaign initiated by NARFE. The information is in the NARFE magazine.

The apartment complex we're staying in does not have WIFI for computers, so I'm suffering a bit of withdrawal from my major source of news and information. However, as I watch the TV to try and follow the economic crisis and, hopefully, its solution unfolding I'm getting a very uneasy feeling for the situation we as active and retired federal workers are in. I do agree our country requires some sacrifices to emerge from the current economic turmoil. I do hope the sacrifices our leaders impose upon us will be fair and equitable. I am afraid, however, that for political reasons federal workers and retirees might be looked at as likely scapegoats. Let's hope that I and many others who agree with me about this are wrong. *continued* ↑

*President Continued*

I recently received notice from our treasurer, Suzanne Rueter, that for a number of reasons she will be resigning her position as of January 2012. Suzanne's expertise and attention to detail have been a great contribution to our chapter for these past seven years and she shall be sorely missed in that capacity. **The position she will be vacating is a necessary position to be filled in order for our chapter to continue.** Let's hope someone capable steps forward to fill it.

This month (July) is the month chapter 888 has no meeting. August, however, is when we have our special get together with the addition of BBQ hamburgers to our monthly pot luck. All who miss this miss a real treat. Jason McMillan from Kitsap County Dept. of Emergency Management will be our guest speaker. Sounds like we will be having a great time. **You should join us.** If anybody needs a ride let us know (360-801-1295) and we'll make sure you get there and back home.

As I recall I've been complaining about the weather at home in my past couple of articles. We drove through 105 degrees in Sacramento and it's in the high 90's here in Reno. Maybe the good old Northwest isn't so bad after all.

If you think this edition of our newsletter is late, I want to remind you this is the first of the trial quarterly publications we told you about. We would really like to get some feedback regarding your thoughts about the frequency of our publication, so please consider communicating your thoughts with us. ■

Enjoying and thankful for the blessings we have,  
**Charles (Wally) Niesen**

## 1st VICE PRESIDENT

**PROTECT America's Heartbeat-Toolkit Centralizes Resources:** The Protect America's Heartbeat "toolkit" is now on the Protect America's Heartbeat ..... ↑

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

- Madeline Tabafunda
- Barbara Barrett
- Robert Lamb
- Mary Knoop
- Philip Paquette

## REINSTATEMENT

- Robert Mygatt
- Stuart Arns
- Sheldon Travis

## TRANSFERRED TO CHAPTER 888:

- Mary Cathern Edwards
- membership: Don Podraza**

*1st VP continued*  
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: <http://www.narfe.org/pdf/NARFE-ProtectAmericasHeartbeat-Toolkit041911.pdf?CFID=947783&CFTOKEN=52375387> ■  
**Mike Kaaland 1st VP**

## \$TREASURER'S NOTESS\$

Due to other commitments, when I finish my 7th year term as your Treasurer in December 2011 **its imperative that someone fill the position.** It's an important duty and will require some training so don't wait until the last minute to put your volunteer skills to work. ■

**Suzanne Rueter**



## LEGISLATIVE

The most pressing problem for our country and before Congress right now is the debt crisis and how to raise the debt limit. The best way for us as federal employees and retirees to **have a voice** in this debate and at the same time help protect our own financial and health earned benefits is to **get on board with the Heartbeat of America campaign**. If you're not familiar with it you should be. Get details from your NARFE magazine or the national NARFE website. Those resources will give you the information you need to have your voices heard.

Election fever has begun and politics are raging. Possibly due to a dramatic drop in the President's favorable ratings, Republican candidates seem to be coming out of the woodwork (so to speak). The current Republican leading candidate is apparently Mitt Romney with numerous trail-behinds. Keeping up with the daily (sometimes hourly) changes in the political landscape during the next 16 months promises to be challenging. However, it is more important than ever to keep informed and vote for the candidates that support our interests.

Thanks to John Smith, our Program Chairman, we have local legislators as speakers at our luncheons we can ask questions of. These events are very informative and should be a big reason for attending. In addition we have speakers representing a wide variety of other interests including: senior issues, gardening, law enforcement, county projects and regulations, entertainment (music and singing), and fire department, just to name a few. All of this in addition to great food and fellowship should really whet your appetite to come and join us. ■

**Bob Mueller**



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Everywhere you turn, you are bombarded with the news of the United States debt crisis and the need to increase the debt limit. This news has, in turn, inspired all manner of reaction ↑



to reduce the financial burden of the country. Unfortunately, federal employees—current or retired—present an attractive target of pay and benefits. As your NARFE National President Beaudoin points out in the August 2011 NARFE magazine, all NARFE members are called upon to support the NARFE National Headquarters' effort by providing personal support to protect your benefits. You can do this by using the NARFE provided telephone number (866-220-0044) and call your elected representatives in Washington to tell them how the proposed cuts would negatively affect you. ■

**Art Haywood**



## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Port Orchard Chapter 888 is **428**. Recruiting new members is crucial! Look for appropriate times to recruit qualifying friends and acquaintances into our chapter. Feel free to use your NARFE magazine to assist with your recruiting efforts. It contains an application form!! ■

MEMBERS DROPPED:

**Susan Dycus, John Killinger, Marjorie Carroll, Carol Haines, Charles Preston, Eleanor Sharrett, Frederick Valley, Elizabeth Weaver, Ronald Grannum, and Bernard Razy**

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 \$275.79 in the Alzheimer's Fund. You can go to the Alzheimer's website (alz.org) to read about the Alzheimer's Association International Conference held in Paris on July 20, 2011 to report on Research Advances. All NARFE members who have contributed to our Alzheimer's Fund should feel very proud to have been a part of this research. **Remember to walk, talk, and eat your veggies**. ■

**Helen Ristvet**

**PROTECT AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT. BE A VOLUNTEER FOR NARFE! WE NEED YOU! CHAPTER 888 WILL BE NEEDING A TREASURER AND SUZANNE IS READY RIGHT NOW TO HELP BRING YOU UP TO SPEED ON THE PROCESS. PLEASE HELP!**

## IN MEMORIAM

Chapter 888 extends our sympathy to the family of the following members who passed away recently:

**Craig Paulsen,**

**Ruth S Braaten**

**Marion H Chamberlain**

## NARFE

**Guardian of your Federal Benefits**

Mike Kaaland, 1st Vice President

Suzanne Rueter, Treasurer

Bob Mueller, Legislative, NARF-PAC

John Smith, Program Chairman

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



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