

The Federal Reporter



Washington State Federation of Chapters
National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

April, May and June 2007

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Washington State Federation of Chapters
Federal Reporter
David Seesholtz, Editor
4519 NE 49th Street
Vancouver, WA 98661-2655

This newsletter is mailed to all elected officers and committee chairs listed in the Federation directory, and to a courtesy listing. If you prefer **NOT** to receive this publication, notify the editor and you will be removed from the mailing list.

NARFE – Advocates for Active and Retired Federal Employees
www.narfe.org

From the WSFC President, Dale Brighton

Along with 14 other Washington State NARFE members I had the opportunity to attend the 10th Legislative Conference in Bethesda, Maryland, March 3-6. It was a great conference geared appropriately to first-time attendees. I'm impressed with our NARFE national office staff that did an outstanding job of coordination. Over 300 members attended with 56% of those first-timers. Most importantly, the breakout sessions were so well presented. We learned about contacting Congress, NARFE-PAC, Social Security, Health Care issues and the U.S. Budget. The national staff has serious concerns over Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and Pay Banding.

Our contingent had appointments with all members of the Washington State Delegation with the exception of Rep. McMorris of the 5th District. This *Federal Reporter* issue will most likely have reports of those visits by my fellow attendees but I'd like to give you some general thoughts I came away with. We were very well received and I was particularly impressed by the knowledge the congressional offices have of our proposed legislation.

Of the three offices that I visited we were given more than ample time to state our concerns. In both the offices of Rep. Dicks and Senator Murray our visits lasted 45/50 minutes. Rep. Inslee came out of a committee hearing to meet with us. Senator Patty Murray serves on the Senate Budget Committee, Rep. Adam Smith and Brian Baird on the House Budget Committee, Senator Cantwell on Senate Finance Committee, and Rep. Jim McDermott on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. All of these committees are of importance to NARFE. Yes, both the House and the Senate are meeting five days a week.

I have some feeling of encouragement for Premium Conversion moving forward. In keeping with the philosophy of "pay as you go" WEP/GPO will be more difficult to get through committee. It's going to take "baby steps" and compromise for this legislation.

Thank you to those chapters and to the Federation for the support in sending members to this very worthwhile conference.

By the time you receive this I will have attended many NARFE meetings in addition to the above Legislative Conference and a chapter meeting in Spokane. Attending the workshops of District I, II and V will give me the opportunity to get acquainted with

many old friends and several of our State's new NARFE leaders. I have met with the State Convention committee in Bremerton. It has a very well planned meeting and I hope many of you plan to attend to make this a productive session for NARFE of Washington State.

The past three months have been extremely busy ones and will continue to be up to the Convention. Deep appreciation goes to all of those who have been so supportive and helpful to me and to all of the Federation Executive Board. It does make these jobs much easier when we have so many willing team players in our chapters.

VICE PRESIDENT – Clark Crouch

Handbook for District VPs

At the request of Dale Brighton, our federation president, a draft manual has been prepared to assist district vice presidents in fulfilling their duties in their districts as well as in their positions on the federation's executive board.

One area of general interest has been that of budgeting for district activities. The current practice provides equal funding for all districts regardless of the number of chapters or the distances, which VPs must travel to visit their chapters. The draft manual provides for proposed budget submissions by each district VP based on their unique needs.

Another segment, which was included by request, is a suggested annual meeting agenda for the districts.

Copies of the draft were provided to the incumbent VPs for comments and the subject was on the March 28th executive board agenda in Spokane. The draft is also available for download from a temporary location on the internet at <http://narfe1192.org/manual.doc>.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Sam Cagle

“We’re in it for the money”. While most public relations efforts can be performed quite well at no cost, there are times when a bit of the coin of the realm can come in handy. For example, if you have a special meeting, or a special speaker, that you want to inform prospective members (not the general public) about, an ad in the local or specialized newspaper might be what is needed. The Federation has a small pot of money that can be used in these situations as “PR matching funds”, where the chapter puts up a certain sum of money and the Federation matches it. Sometimes, this can go even further, when the NARFE national office provides matching funds equal to the total of the chapter and federation amounts. Information on how to go about doing this is available on the www.narfewa.net web site, or by contacting Sam Cagle, WSFC PR chair, at 360-456-8509.

“Speak the speech I pray you, trippingly on the tongue”. Do you want to go out and talk to groups in your community about NARFE, but don’t really know what to say? There are several tools available on your Federation website, www.narfewa.net, that can help you with this process. One is the current “NARFE PRS Presentation”, a PowerPoint slide presentation that can be downloaded and shown to groups who have a laptop and video projector available. This half hour presentation is primarily designed for current federal employee audiences, including those who are at agency-sponsored pre-retirement seminars, but can be modified for general audiences. The website also contains links to NARFE Talking Points on a number of subjects.

What is “news” about your chapter activities?

How about Chapter meeting times and places, as well as speakers brought in to address your members? How about the NARFE Scholarship program and the scholarship winners related to your members? What about a special meeting or pre-retirement program for current federal employees? Perhaps individual members have interesting backgrounds or stories. Is your chapter performing a community service? Do you have information from NARFE on the status of legislation that would be of interest to all federal retirees, both military and civilian? News is news. It is information that would be of interest or use to the audiences reached by the different media that are available to you. Be on the lookout for those items that would be newsworthy to you, while raising the name of NARFE and your chapter in a positive way.

Newspapers, Radio, TV. Be sure to have a regular process in place to release information on Chapter activities and meetings in your local media. Typically, a chapter’s area is covered by several daily and weekly newspapers, as well as a few local radio stations and possibly local commercial or public access television stations. A number of federal installations and organizations also publish regular newsletters or newspapers as well. If the Chapter Public Relations chair or committee member handling it has access to the Internet, the process can be quick and relatively painless. Some homework is required up front. Most local media are now able to take releases and announcements electronically. Learn what those methods are for each and write them down. Links to all Washington print and broadcast media are available in the Public Relations section of the WSFC web site, www.narfewa.net. If you have any questions on the process, contact me at 360-456-8509 or caglels@comcast.net.

Displays don’t do much in the closet. The Federation has two types of display units that chapters can use throughout the year for special events, health fairs and pre-retirement seminars. The ZAP display is a brightly colored 6” pull-up display which can be used in conjunction with, or separate from the existing table-top displays. Photos of the types of units and procedures for requesting them are in the Public Relations section of the www.narfewa.net web site. Vancouver Chapter recently took advantage of the “down” season of events to set up a month-long exhibit about NARFE, using the tabletop display and other materials at the main Vancouver library. Similar opportunities are available throughout the state.

A pen...for your thought. When you are in a situation such as a pre-retirement seminar, a health fair, recruiting or other public presentation to prospective members, whether they are current federal employees, their spouses, retired or former federal employees or survivors, you will find it handy to be able to leave them with something reusable that contains the NARFE name, logo, phone number or web address. You might consider using the NARFE ballpoint pens that we obtained recently from NARFEMART. These good-looking Bic pens cost the Federation 25 cents each and it is wise to use them sparingly, but they can be a highly effective means of reminding those prospects of NARFE and how to reach the organization. Contact Sam Cagle to order them.

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT - June H. Christie

The following letter was sent out from Alzheimer's Assoc. weekly newsletter, entitled: "**Champions advance Alzheimer research**"

Dear Friends,

You are a true champion, one who has helped the Alzheimer's Association to be a leading source of funding for vital Alzheimer research for over 25 years.

Today, I'm asking you to make a generous gift to help us fund even more cutting-edge research and hasten the defeat of this devastating disease.

From the recent headlines-making study that has detected a new variant gene involved in Alzheimer's, to the development of new Alzheimer's drugs, research is rapidly expanding our knowledge of Alzheimer's disease.

As I hope you'll agree, we've come a long way in terms of research discoveries during the past quarter century. However, it will take millions of dollars for us to fund the next phase of Alzheimer research, care, education and advocacy.

Thank you again. We would not be where we are today without champions like you.

Now, please reaffirm your commitment to defeating Alzheimer's disease. Make your gift today.

Sincerely,

Gordon Lavigne,
Sr. Development Officer
Alzheimers Assoc.

Our state convention is coming soon. We will have Ms. Nancy Dapper, Executive Director from Seattle Alzheimer's Association Office to speak for us. We will also have a \$100.00 gift certificate from Pier One for raffle in keeping with our Marine Theme. Tickets will be available at the District and Executive Board meetings at the end of the month. If you would like a package of 10 or more, please let me know.

June H. Christie
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NARFE-PAC --Paul Shell

I for one had a good and instructive time at the Legislative Conference in Bethesda, Maryland, and on the Hill. At least two of the Washington delegation visited all the representatives and senators for which we had appointments. I was amazed that the halls of

Congress were most similar to the Federal building in which I worked. But who knew that room 2443 was on the 4th floor?

John Thurber (Tacoma VP) and I visited 4 representatives and 1 senator. We talked mostly to young but knowledgeable staffers. We did talk to Congressman Adam Smith. We also joined the crowd at Senator Murray's office and talked for quite some time to a staffer on a multitude of issues. The folks we talked to seemed very well informed and pro-NARFE. We hit on all 3 of the main issues and once, upon request, I went through the long list of NARFE interest items for which there are no bills.

It is very obvious that the NARFE National staff is well regarded both as to their lobbying efforts and NARFE-PAC bipartisanship and honesty.

Before we went on the Hill, we had three break-out training sessions, one of which was NARFE-PAC. Training was well done and well coordinated. I was happy to actually meet some of the people I've been dealing with. Sort of gets you juiced up.

I don't want to bore you with a "bunch of redundancy", however there are a couple of things that I feel must be mentioned yet again. Please make sure Chapter PAC Chairs are aware of this.

First, please **do not compromise PAC funds**. There is to be no chapter money given to NARFE-PAC. Do not write chapter checks to the PAC.

Second, Chairs should collect the money, making sure that you list donors by name, membership number, amount of cash or check and whether or not a pin is given. Contribution forms should have been received from National by now. If not, let me know as I have a few extra. A simple spreadsheet will do as long as the needed information is shown. Personal checks should be made out to NARFE-PAC. Cash donated should be converted to a *private* check made payable to NARFE-PAC.

Third, we can ask for donations but not have fundraisers such as bake sales. PAC laws are complex and, so far, our National leaders have kept us out of trouble.

So, please keep all money collected entirely separate from chapter funds and mail checks to **NARFE, Attn: Budget and Finance, 606 N. Washington St, Alexandria VA 22314-1914.**

SECRETARY - Vic Rohret

Hello NARFE Family!

I feel fortunate to have attended the 10th Biennial Legislative Training Conference in Bethesda the first week of March. The conference got off to a great start with over 300 members in attendance of which 56% were first-timers.



As in years past, there were five educational classes: NARFE-PAC, Social Security Issues, Health Care Issues, U.S. Budget and Contacting Congress. We also had a bonus class regarding State Legislation. Any one of these would be able to fill an entire workshop back here at home!

Our National office employs Judy Park, Chris Farrell and Dan Adcock as legislative liaisons to the politicians. All three are highly knowledgeable and greatly respected on Capitol Hill! High points of the sessions were:

Contacting Congress - Attend local Town Hall meetings and PAC events. Volunteer at the office of your favorite legislator! Keep active and responsive on issues. Be ready to respond on issues WITHIN ONE DAY!

Health Care Issues – NARFE opposes Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) because, for older Americans, they will create HIGHER premiums with FEWER benefits. A new Premium Conversion Bill (HR 1110) already has over 28 co-sponsors and a Senate Bill is in process!

Congressional Budget Process – was enacted to bring order to decision-making for government spending. The budget process establishes a timetable as well as rules & procedures to level the playing field for all budget items including: Social Security, pensions, military, war, disaster relief, committee allocations and all other expenditures. Our earned benefits may be subject to fluctuations in the budget process.

Social Security Issues – there are 162 million workers under Social Security (SS). SS provides efficient administration of universal and fair coverage for COLAs, the disabled, survivors, and dependents. NARFE opposes replacing SS benefits with Individual Private Accounts (IPAs) and opposes investing SS reserves outside of US Treasury securities.

NARFE-PAC - NARFE seeks to influence public policy to obtain new benefits and enhance current benefits. NARFE is bi-partisan. As NARFE members we are "Citizen Activists" petitioning the government.

This is the idea that the founders of our country had in mind. PAC funds help NARFE to do just that!

STATE Legislative Class – some states pass laws to encourage seniors to relocate while some states tax annuities, property, etc. Petition your state representatives to pass laws that encourage the high-income seniors to move into Washington. This helps them as well as the economy!

Find out more about these classes from those individuals who attended the Legislative Conference. They will be presenting more in detail at the Regional Meetings, the State Convention as well as at the next few chapter meetings.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming Convention in Silverdale. For now Happy Easter and Happy Spring!



DISTRICT II VP – Richard Wilson

There is a lot of activity in District II. After being elected to the Vice President position last March, I started visiting the seven chapters comprising District II. I have met with every chapter at least one time and many two times. I find common issues facing each chapter. They are (not in any order) declining membership, membership involvement, and members stepping up into leadership roles. Declining membership is a tough one. It seems we are able to get members easy enough, the numbers show this. The real issue as I see it is retention of the members we have. Membership is dropped for many reasons and I believe the chief among them is our members can't see the value of their membership, meaning they just don't understand how hard the N.A.R.F.E. organization is fighting on their behalf to keep the benefits they feel they have earned. They do not understand that with the stroke of a pen, benefits they've earned through their employment with the government can be taken away. One only needs to compare the differences between CSRS and FERS.

Many members don't want to be associated with a chapter, as is their right. Chapter members generally do not even attend meetings where valuable information is shared. Since I have been a member, I've noticed many members want to belong but don't want to be involved. How often have we seen chapter officer slots left unfilled or one person is filling two and sometimes three officer or chair assignments? I wish I had the answers to solve the issue I have noted, but I do not have them. The answer rests with the members and yet to be recruited members.

Winter storms caused a lot of havoc with District II chapters. Many were unable to meet in both December and January due to the storms we experienced. My Chapter (1404) meets at the Bellevue Community Senior Center. This venue was used for emergency shelter during the December storms and ensuing power outage that lasted for six days. The timing for the January storm was bad. Had it been a day either way, we would have had our meeting. Evergreen Chapter 1701 also had a meeting canceled in January.

Recently I held the annual WSFC District II meeting at the Edmonds Yacht Club in Edmonds WA. Lanny Ross, Regional Vice President, Region IX, made an excellent presentation on membership in NARFE providing a wealth of information for the attendees. He also made his presentation available to anyone who wanted it. Dale Brighton, WSFC President and her husband traveled all the way from Malaga, WA,

through a snowstorm on Stevens Pass to attend the meeting and make a presentation on the state of the Washington Federation of Chapters. Rex Tauscher, WSFC Treasurer talked about the financial affairs of the Federation. Also in attendance were District III Vice President Autie Bergman and District IV Vice President Bill Powers. Evergreen Chapter 1801 President Gary Robertson gave an excellent presentation on how to be an effective Chapter President. I can't thank all of them enough for their support. They were pivotal to having a successful meeting. Every Chapter in District II sent Representatives to the meeting. Six of seven chapter presidents attended. In all there were 35 attendees.

Our guest speaker was Robert Hughes. Mr. Hughes worked in the area of Human Rights for over 50 years starting in Montgomery, Alabama, at the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. He called Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and Ralph Abernathy some of his many friends. He worked for the Justice Department for 27 years in the Community Relations Service.

Each Chapter provided a door prize gift. Tickets were sold for a raffle of these prizes. A total of \$110.00 was raised for Alzheimer's Research.

I want to remind everyone about the Washington State Federation of Chapters Annual Convention scheduled for May 16-18, 2007, at the Silverdale Beach Hotel, in Silverdale, WA. There will be much camaraderie and information shared during the convention. I encourage all of you to attend. The deadline for reserving rooms is approaching (March 19). Contact the Hotel at 800.544.9799 or at www.silverbeachhotel.com for reservations. Be sure to get your registration form sent in as well. I'll see you there.

Lastly, I have spent the first year in my position learning as much as I could about the District II Chapters and its members. Fortunately I have been elected to a second term. I am thankful for the trust District II Chapters have placed in me. I look forward to serving another year and learning more about our great organization.

DISTRICT III VP – Autie Bergman

I have been working with Pacific Chapter 2120, but have had no success. That is my opinion anyway.

I have spent most of my time organizing the District III Workshop, for April 4th.

I attended the District II Workshop in Edmonds and enjoyed the meeting. Rich Wilson did a great job and there was a good attendance.

Membership continues to be one of my major focuses, recruiting and retaining members.

I would encourage each of you to be in contact with your representatives by internet, phone or mail on a regular basis.

DISTRICT IV VP – William Powers

Our district had two representatives at the March National Legislative Conference in Bethesda, Maryland. They were Bob Mueller of the Port Orchard chapter and George Eads of the Bremerton chapter. Bob will give his report at our District Workshop in Poulsbo on April 12th (Thursday) at the “Sons of Norway Hall” located at 18891 Front Street, Poulsbo from 9 AM to 3 PM. I have also requested Jay Inslee’s Poulsbo/Bainbridge assistant, Clarence Moriwaki to speak at our workshop.

Please submit your applications and room reservations **NOW** for the State Federation Convention. The Convention is on May 16-17-18 in Silverdale at the Silverdale Beach Hotel. Guest speaker for the Legislative Luncheon will be Dan Adcock, the National Assistant Legislative Director. Further information and forms can be obtained from our website in the next paragraph.

Our District IV website is providing more information all the time. The website is <http://www.narfewadist4.org>. Bob Edwards, our web master, is continually tweaking on the site with improvements. Take a look, I think you will like our website.

I have entered the 21st century. I bought a laptop with Windows Vista, a compatible projector, Office Small Business 2007, and a book to help me with the latest changes. Now, all I have to do is put it all together and submit our presentation to our District IV website for others to preview the presentation with suggestions for our April 12th District Workshop.

TREASURER REPORT- Rex Tauscher

1. PER CAPITA TAXES FOR THE 1ST QUARTER ARE DUE PRIOR TO THE STATE CONVENTION.

2. Liability insurance through the National Office is due in April; your Chapter President will normally get the request form, so check on it.

3. Questions this year on Chapter FIN/EIN numbers, apparently some chapters have not obtained them. Normally your financial institutions require this number for any accounts for the organization. If you are using an individuals Social Security Number, your account may be subject to attachment by personal lawsuits.

4. Surety/Dishonesty/Fidelity Bonds, check your chapter bylaws to see if they specify that one is required. The Bond must cover all individuals in your chapter that have signature authority on your chapter accounts. This is especially true if your monies are being retained under an individuals social security number instead of a FIN/EIN number. Make sure that your books are audited at the end of your fiscal year.

5. Has your chapter incorporated in the State of Washington? If not the Officers of your chapter may be legally responsible for claims against your organization. Note that having your chapter incorporated, puts the first legal action against the corporation, not the officers of the organization.

6. Membership dues and dues distribution details are currently shown on page 4 of the NARFE Quarterly News for NARFE Leaders, Volume 4, Number 1, dated January 2007. You may have noticed the new membership item “Premier Federal Credit Union”. One of our chapters has received one of these members, which is designated by the category AD. Please let me know which chapter it is, as it appeared on our 10% report for December 2006 indicating 2 members. This will be an item of interest in the near future as it is reported that some of these members are not eligible under current National By-laws.

7. The 2007-2008 WSFC preliminary budget is provided in Federal Reporter. Review it as we will be voting on it during our upcoming convention..

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TREASURERS REPORT 7/1/2006- 02/28/2007

1. BEGINNING BALANCE IN THE GENERAL FUND FOR 2006 –2007 AS OF 1JULY 2006	\$25,687.70
CASH RECEIPTS FOR THE PERIOD 7/1/2006 – 2/28/2007	
10% FUNDS (includes dedicated funds brought forward)	\$14,830.57
PER CAPITA TAX (includes dedicated funds brought forward)	\$9,274.40
OTHER INCOME – REFUNDS	\$623.50
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS FOR THE PERIOD OF 1JULY 2006 –28 MARCH 2007	\$24,728.47
 DISBURSEMENTS AND REALLOCATIONS	
REALLOCATION TO CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT	\$20,500.00
DISBURSEMENTS FROM CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$15,829.03
 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS AND REALLOCATIONS	(\$36,329.03)
 ENDING BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT AS OF 28 MARCH 2007	\$14,087.14

SUMMARY OF DEDICATED FUNDS

DATE	ACCOUNT FISCAL YEAR	BEGINNING BALANCE	CASH RECEIVED JUL 06-JUN 07	FUNDS PRIOR YEARS TO GEN	ENDING BALANCE 31 DEC 06
7/1/2006	2006-2007	\$5,308.89	\$0.00	\$3,934.39	\$1,374.50
7/1/2006	2007-2008	\$1,339.83	\$2,874.41	\$0.00	\$4,214.24
7/1/2006	2008-2009	\$0.00	\$1,173.50	\$0.00	\$1,173.50
TOTAL IN DEDICATED FUNDS AS OF 28 MARCH 2007-----					\$6,762.24
DEDICATED ACCOUNT CDS AS OF 2/28/07 -----					\$6,978.40
AMOUNT OF DEDICATED FUNDS REMAINING IN GENERAL ACCOUNT 2/28/2007-----					(\$216.16)
SAVINGS CD OPENED JULY 2006, CURRENT VALUE					<u>\$20,282.72</u>
TOTAL CD VALUE 2/28/2007					\$27,261.12
NET WORTH GENERAL ACCOUNTS AS OF 28 MARCH 2007					\$34,515.02
NET WORTH DEDICATED ACCOUNTS AS OF 28 MARCH 2007					<u>\$6,762.24</u>
TOTAL NET WORTH WSFC ACCOUNTS					\$41,277.26

SUMMARY OF CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT;

Kitsap Community Federal Credit Union (KFCFU)					
	Opening Balance	Current Value	Interest 7/1-2/28/07	Remarks	
Dedicated Savings -00	\$200.00	\$201.17	\$.71	Required account to open CD's	
Dedicated CD-70	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$4.04	Matured 7/24/06, reinvested in -073	
Dedicated CD-71	\$3,000.00	\$3,638.50	\$85.84	Mature date 1/24/08, 12 mo, 4% ***	
Dedicated CD-72	\$1,000.00	\$1,044.03	\$26.91	Mature date 7/23/07, 18 mo, 3.98%	
Dedicated CD-73	\$2,031.07	\$2,094.70	\$63.63	Mature date 11/21/07, 16 mo, 5.25%	
Total dedicated account value.....		\$6,978.40			
Savings CD-74	\$5,000.00	\$5,151.50	151.50	Mature date 11/28/07, 16 mo, 5.25%	
Savings CD-75	\$5,000.00	\$5,131.22	\$93.73	Mature date 7/26/07, 6 mo, 4.65% **	
Total savings CD value.....		\$10,282.72			
Total interest 7/1-2/28.....			\$426.36		
US Bank (USB)					
Savings CD	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	Mature date 5/9/07, 9 mo, 5.25% pd @ maturity	
Estimated value as of 2/28/2007...\$10,262.50					

*** \$500.00 ADDED FROM CHECKING AT INITIAL MATURITY 1/24/07 CD-71

** CD reinvested 6 mo @ 4.649% maturity 26 July 2007

PREPARED BY: REX TAUSCHER, TREASURER, 3/16/2007

* Actual expenses shown for 2006-2007 are through 02/28/2007 only

DESCRIPTION	2004-2005 BUDGET	2004-2005 ACTUAL	2005-2006 BUDGET	2005-2006 ACTUAL	2006-2007 BUDGET	2006-2007* ACTUAL YTD 2/28/07	PROPOSED 2007-2008	DIFFERENCE
IDENT'S TRAVEL	\$1,400	\$452	\$1,500	\$854	\$1,500	\$0.00	\$1,500	\$0
RESIDENT'S TRAVEL	\$300	\$92	\$300	\$37	\$300	\$58.29	\$300	\$0
CLERK'S TRAVEL	\$400	\$174	\$400	\$235	\$350	\$0.00	\$350	\$0
MANAGER'S TRAVEL	\$400	\$162	\$400	\$54	\$100	\$0.00	\$100	\$0
VICE PRES TRAVEL	\$700	\$108	\$700	\$424	\$700	\$310.37	\$875	\$175
VICE PRES TRAVEL	\$600	\$497	\$600	\$600	\$700	\$511.46	\$875	\$175
VICE PRES TRAVEL	\$700	\$371	\$700	\$675	\$750	\$192.92	\$875	\$125
VICE PRES TRAVEL	\$600	\$578	\$600	\$676	\$600	\$0.00	\$750	\$150
VICE PRES TRAVEL	\$700	\$553	\$700	\$688	\$700	\$370.56	\$890	\$190
GRATE PAST PRES TRAVEL	\$100	\$113	\$100	\$0	\$75	\$0.00	\$100	\$25
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR EXPENSES	\$900	\$708	\$900	\$432	\$900	\$39.00	\$1,000	\$100
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR EXP	\$750	\$48	\$600	\$0	\$550	\$0.00	\$600	\$50
PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR EXP	\$600	\$295	\$500	\$428	\$500	\$145.02	\$500	\$0
CLERK OFFICER'S EXP	\$600	\$191	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$6.32	\$200	\$0
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR EXP	\$500	\$357	\$500	\$129	\$350	\$0.00	\$350	\$0
REPRESENTATIVE EXP	\$50	\$0	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$50	\$50
MEMBER'S REPRESENTATIVE EXP	\$100	\$52	\$100	\$22	\$50	\$0.00	\$100	\$50
LEGISLATIVE BOARD COMM EXP	\$7,500	\$6,662	\$7,000	\$5,663	\$6,500	\$4,623.05	\$7,000	\$500
MEMBERSHIP/MISC EXPENSES	\$4,500	\$4,043	\$4,500	\$2,129	\$4,500	\$599.36	\$4,500	\$0
STATE CONVENTION	\$6,000	\$3,630	\$6,500	\$6,404	\$5,500	\$0.00	\$6,000	\$500
CLERK'S NATL CONVENTION	\$750	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$1,400	\$1,368.47	\$0	-\$1,400
LEGISLATIVE CONF EXP	\$750	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$750	\$0.00	\$0	-\$750
MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT	\$3,000	\$2,008	\$4,000	\$2,497	\$4,000	\$1,453.67	\$4,000	\$0
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (REBATES)	\$750	\$730	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAMS	\$1,000	\$1,006	\$1,000	\$369	\$1,000	\$1,160.50	\$1,400	\$400
COMPUTER CENTERS	\$900	\$815	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$302.48	\$1,200	\$800
CLERK REPORTER/EDITOR	\$2,000	\$2,013	\$2,500	\$1,977	\$2,700	\$2,340.02	\$3,000	\$300
CLERK LOBBY CONTRIBUTION	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$550	\$550.00	\$400	-\$150
TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$250	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
PROGRAM CONTINGENCIES	\$750	\$784	\$750	\$824	\$900	\$0.00	\$1,200	\$300
GRANT FOR CONV (HOST CHAP)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$0
UNAPPORTED CARRYOVER EXPENSE	\$400	\$210	\$400	\$731	\$400	\$536.30	\$750	\$350
CLERK-PAC COORDINATOR	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$20	\$75	\$0.00	\$75	\$0
CLERK SITE	\$300	\$252	\$400	\$80	\$250	\$0.00	\$300	\$50
LEGISLATIVE PLANNING	\$900	\$167	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$200	\$200
RETIREMENT SEMINARS TRNG	\$600	\$735	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
CLERK FAIR EXPENSES	\$400	\$247	\$400	\$70	\$300	\$34.18	\$200	-\$100
CLERK LETTER TRAINING	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
MEMBERSHIP (CFE'S ONLY)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
CLERK RECRUITING EXP (2006)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,050	\$0.00	\$0	-\$1,050
CLERK ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM	\$0	\$0	\$1,250	\$1,242	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0

WSFC Legislative Chair – Natalie Leath

Fifteen members of the Washington Federation attended the 2007 NARFE Legislative Conference in Bethesda MD. From Seattle Chapter 43, President Berry Crosby and Conrad Knutson; Tacoma Chapter 163, President Paul Shell and Vice President John Thurber; Bremerton Chapter 181, President George Eads; Bellingham Chapter 196, D. Brady Green; Olympia Chapter 236, Legislative Chair Sam Sevier; Yakima Chapter 238, Marvin Nelson and Vic Rohret; Wenatchee Chapter 239, President Dale Brighton and Tom Brighton; Port Orchard Chapter 888, Legislative Chair Robert Mueller; Tri Cities Chapter 1192, Legislative Co-chairs, Don and Mary Binder; and Renton Chapter 1701, President Robert Brown. Don Binder served as coordinator for legislative appointments, while the delegation was in the Capitol.

Below are important NARFE supported legislation that has been introduced or reintroduced in the 110th Congress. NARFE members can help build support for these bills, by contacting Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and your Congressional Representative. Urge them to co-sponsor this legislation, call their offices for an appointment and visit their offices when they are in your district.

Bill H.R. 82 Repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision

Legislation to repeal the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) introduced by **Rep. Howard Berman** (D-CA) currently has 236 co-sponsors as of March 1, 2007. (85 R, 151 D)

Senate Bill S. 206 Repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision sponsored by **Sen. Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), added Sen. Menendez (D-NJ) on February 26th and the following 4 on March 1st: Whitehouse (D-RI), Kennedy (D-MA) Sanders (I-VT) and Stabenow (D-MI). There are currently 20 co-sponsors - (3 R, 1 I, 16 D)

Washington Co-sponsors to date: Brian Baird (D-3-WA) and Rick Larsen (D-2-WA).

H.R. 1110 - Premium Conversion Bill

NARFE champion, **Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA)** introduced H.R. 1110, to allow civilian and military retirees and active duty military personnel to pay their government health care premiums with pre-tax dollars. Premium Conversion would provide the typical federal retiree with hundreds of dollars in annual tax savings. Davis, who saw his identical bill in the 109th Congress die, despite gathering 340 co-sponsors, introduced his 110th Congress legislation with a prominent bipartisan cast of original co-sponsors. There are currently 29 co-sponsors (13 R, 16 D)

H.R. 1256 - FEHBP Premium Cost Sharing

House Democratic Whip **Rep. Steny Hoyer** (MD) reintroduced legislation this week to increase the government's share of Federal Employee Health Care Benefit Plan premiums from 72 percent to 80 percent -- as he had pledged he would to two unions earlier this week. Hoyer was joined in reintroducing the bill by a bipartisan group of 46 members including Congressman **Frank Wolf** (R-VA). Under the proposal, the government would pay 80 percent of the cost of premiums in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, saving the average federal worker about \$509.08 annually, as calculated by the Office of Personnel Management. Currently, the government picks up 72 percent of premium costs. The prospects for Hoyer's proposal are uncertain, in part because Congress is under pressure to reduce the federal deficit and rein in spending. His proposal also runs counter to a Bush administration plan, announced last month, that would reduce the government's contribution to health-care premiums for new retirees with less than 10 years of federal service.

S. 773 Premium Conversion - Legislation to allow federal and military retirees to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax compensation was introduced this week by Senators John Warner (R-VA) and Jim Webb (D-VA) and by five original bipartisan co-sponsors; Senators John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Susan Collins (R-ME), Trent Lott (R-MS) and John Sununu (R-NH). Rockefeller, Snowe and Lott are members of the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the bill. Senator's Warner and Webb's bill (S. 773) would amend the tax code to allow Federal civilian and military retirees - as well as active duty military employees - to pay their health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis, as active federal civilian employees can already do.

STATE LEGISLATURE -- Al Driemeier, Chair

The 60th Legislative Session is on. As of March 18th 2,540 bills have been introduced, 1,404 amendments have been introduced and 4 bills have been passed. This is ok, for most of them deserve to be in the trash can anyway.

Let us take a look at the progress being made on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission, (BRC) on Health Care Costs and Access, Ref. the Federation Fourth Quarter Newsletter. SB 5930 was passed by the Senate. This bill sets forth the goals as stated in the Governor's Executive Order for the BRC as shown:

Sec. 1: The health care authority and the department of social and health services shall, by September 1, 2007, develop a five-year plan to change reimbursement within state purchased health care programs to:

- (1) Reward quality health outcomes rather than simply paying for the receipt of particular services or procedures;
- (2) Pay for care that reflects patient preference and is of proven value;
- (3) Require the use of evidence-based standards of care where available;
- (4) Tie provider rate increases to measurable improvements in access to quality care;
- (5) Direct enrollees to quality care systems;
- (6) Better support primary care and provide a medical home to all enrollees; and
- (7) Pay for e-mail consultations, telemedicine, and telehealth where doing so reduces the overall cost of care.

The plan shall identify any existing barriers and opportunities to support implementation, including needed changes to state or federal law and be submitted to the governor and the legislature upon completion.

A companion house bill (HB 2098) is currently in the Rules Committee.

The governor's goal is to cover all children by 2010 and all Washingtonians by 2012.

Bottom line: If you are waiting for a universal mandatory health plan for everyone in Washington, don't hold your breath.

For information about Long Term Care the following website is recommended: The Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging, <http://www.agingwashington.org/>.

Information on all the bills dealing with Elder Care is available at that site.

In closing, don't forget SHIBA (the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors), it's a great place to start when looking for available health aides for seniors. (800-397-4422)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

-- Dave Seesholtz

Next month we will be electing our WSFC officers for 2007-2008 at the convention at Silverdale. At this time our candidates for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary are the incumbents. The WSFC Bylaws state that the nominating committee will accept nominations or declarations of intent to run at least 60 days prior to the convention and present those names to the convention. If you missed the opportunity to submit your desire to run for one of these offices to the nominating committee, you may be nominated from the floor of the convention.

The nominating committee will be meeting on Wednesday, May 16th at 1:00 PM. This committee consists of the following members elected at the 2006 Convention:

Dave Seesholtz, Vancouver Chapter #131

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Mike Ferri, Everett chapter #193

360-653-2342

Al Rizzo, Tri-Cities Chapter #1192

509-375-0446

Art Hathaway, Spokane Chapter #32

598-235-8509

Loretia Cornette, Olympia Chapter #236

360-456-8558

THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

A few days after the last edition of this newsletter left my computer to be printed and mailed I received the information that **Dwight Pace** would be resigning from the position of our Federation President due to health issues. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly **thank Dwight for a job well done.**

Dwight and I came to the WSFC Executive Committee at the same time, July 1997, as District Vice Presidents. It didn't take long for me to recognize that Dwight is a person who isn't afraid to ask the hard questions and to challenge why we do things the way we do.

When I think of Dwight and all that he has done for us during the past ten years several thoughts pop into my mind.

- Dwight had the persistence and patience to create a new District on the eastside of the state so that the membership could be better represented and served.
 - He implemented a critique process into our conventions that has resulted in more effective use of our time and resources.
 - He brought us into the world of new technology by allowing us to use computers and his personal digital projector at our conventions.
 - He convinced the WSFC Executive Committee to use surplus financial resources to help send more members to legislative conferences and conventions. Washington State had one of the best participation rates at these national meetings during his time on the Executive Committee.
 - Dwight and Lois started doing Pre-Retirement Seminars for Federal Employees in 1996 at the request of the Spokane Federal Training Council. To date, they have been involved in over 50 seminars, acting as contractors to produce the entire seminars. All 8 functioning Eastern Washington and 2 Western Washington Chapters have sponsored seminars. As Pre-Retirement Coordinators for the WSFC they have been mentors to chapters conducting these seminars. They have also presented workshops at state conventions and district meetings on planning and delivering Pre-Retirement Seminars.
 - They participated in NARFE's Pre-Retirement Seminars Focus group in 2002.
- They were featured in "**Faces of NARFE**", *Retirement Life Magazine*, October 2001, p 54.
 - Dwight has demonstrated to us over and over again that giving out free memberships is a good way to build membership.
 - Dwight is very knowledgeable about strategic planning and helped the WSFC leadership through the process to define our mission and set measurable goals.

From these thoughts of mine you can see that Dwight has made a significant contribution to the success of NARFE in our state and across the nation. Now, let me share with you some background information about Dwight:

- Awarded Master of Education in Adult Education, 1966, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Named Adjunct Professor, Department of Regional and Community Planning, Eastern Washington University, 1977
- Community Development Achievement Award, Community Development Society of America, 1984
- Professor Emeritus, Washington State University, 1989
- Retired in 1989 after 36 years with the USDA, Cooperative Extension Service in Washington, Missouri and Colorado
- A National Life member, Dwight joined the Inland Chapter 992 of the Idaho Federation in 1984 and transferred to Spokane Chapter 32 in 1991
- He has been extremely active in Chapter 32 and since 1997 has served the WSFC in many roles including President, Vice President, District Vice President, Pre-Retirement Seminar Co-Chair
- He will continue to serve as Immediate Past President

We are fortunate that Dwight chose to donate his time, knowledge and skills to NARFE and specifically to the Spokane Chapter 32 and the WSFC. The well being of active and retired federal employees and their survivors has greatly benefited because of Dwight's service.

– **Dave Seesholtz, Editor**

CHAPTER NEWSLETTERS –Dave Seesholtz, Editor

As your “Federal Reporter” editor, and a past and current chapter newsletter editor, I’ve been reviewing the chapter newsletters of the WSFC and from other chapters around the country for about 13 years. This year the chapter newsletters I’ve received from our chapters entering the newsletter judging at the convention are very much improved from years past. Congratulations to all of you editors and writers on a great job.

The criteria that will be used for judging the newsletters at this year’s convention was presented in the July, August, September 2006 issue, page 12, of the “Federal Reporter”.

Since that time I have also been reminded about the postal regulations that we are required to abide by for **Nonprofit Standard Mail**. When I take the chapter newsletter to the post office, I’m always a little nervous as they look through it. My biggest fear is that someday I could get sent home with 670 pieces of mail for recycling.

This year, as we review your newsletters, we will also be pointing out anything that appears short of meeting the postal requirements. For your information the postal regulations from USPS Brochure DMM 700 regarding Nonprofit Standard Mail are shown here.

1.6.8 Periodical Publication Content Requirements

Advertisements for products and services in material that meets the content requirements for a periodical publication are available at the Nonprofit Standard Mail rates. The material mailed must meet these standards:

- a. Have a title. The title must be printed on the front cover page in a style and size of type that make it distinguishable from other information on the front cover page.
- b. Be formed of printed sheets. (It may not be reproduced by stencil, mimeograph, or hectograph. Reproduction by any other process is permitted.) Any style of type may be used.
- c. Contain an identification statement on one of the first five pages of the publication that includes these elements:
 1. Title.
 2. Issue date. The date may be omitted if it is on the front cover or cover page.

3. Statement of frequency showing when issues are to be published (daily; weekly; monthly; monthly except June; four times a year in June, August, September, and December; annually; irregularly, etc.).
4. Name and address of the authorized organization, including street number, street name, and ZIP+4 or 5-digit ZIP Code. The street number and street name are optional if there is no letter carrier service.
5. Issue number. Every issue of each publication is numbered consecutively in a series that may not be broken by assigning numbers to issues omitted. The issue number may be printed on the front or cover page instead of in the identification statement.
6. International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), if applicable.
7. Subscription price, if applicable.

d. Consist of at least 25% nonadvertising matter in each issue. Advertising is defined in 707.4.12.

The good thing is that the postal workers are current federal employees and are usually extremely helpful to us. Delivering the newsletter to the bulk-mailing department of the post office is a great opportunity to introduce them to NARFE and to recruit them.

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