

The Federal Reporter



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

October, November, December 2008

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Washington State Federation of Chapters
Federal Reporter
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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



Yesterday, husband Tom & I returned from a trip to the west side of the State. It's always a little sad when the carefree days of summer come to an end but the autumn colors on the passes are breath-taking and they remind me

that fall is such a special time of year.

As most of you have already received a report on the Nat'l NARFE Convention I'll give only some of the highlights here. A full report can be read on the web.

Those who have attended prior conventions tell me this was one of the best...if not the best! President Baptiste and her staff served up a smooth event. She was reelected by unanimous vote. Also, I am very pleased to announce that our Region IX Vice President, Lanny Ross, has also been elected for another term.

It was exciting to learn that our state leads the Nation in Alzheimer's donations at \$60,800+. Great thanks to all those members who gave so generously making this a wonderful success. A new Alzheimer's research goal of \$9 million has been set for 2011, the 90th birthday of NARFE.

By resolution, honorary members will be replaced by what is titled "Distinguished Members". Eligibility remains the same—85 years of age and 20 years membership. These members will pay dues and be issued identification cards and a pin designed for this purpose. Honorary members are grandfathered in.

Going forward, the NARFE National Executive Board will make the convention site selections. The 2010 convention is scheduled for Grand Rapids and Reno was chosen for 2012.

In my opinion, the best offering at the convention was by Dan Adcock, the newly appointed National Legislative Director. His talk is titled "**Perfect Storm**" and it can be downloaded from the NARFE website. I urge all to read it and for the chapters to furnish copies to members who do not have computers.

At the Federation Presidents meeting, many issues were discussed and are being recommended. I'll report just a few here. The main thrust was to offer ways in which the chapters can be strengthened through recruitment and retention.

- Join the Chamber of Commerce (matching funds may apply)
- Conduct special spousal recruitment events

- Submit articles/ads for other federal employee newsletters
- Develop a management action plan for active federal employees
- Establish continuity with chapter meetings 12 months out of the year
- Don't wait for members to volunteer; tell them you need their expertise for a specific job
- Explore placing PSAs on local TV and Radio

We learned that NARFE-PAC had received \$500,000 in contributions this year. This will certainly go a long way in getting our message to Congress. Don't miss "*How They Voted: 110th Congress*" on pages 34-40 of the October issue of the NARFE magazine. Also, another must-read article on the website is "*2008 NARFE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SURVEY.*" This is a report on answers given to President Baptiste's questions to candidates Obama and McCain. If you are undecided how to vote, this may help you!

This past quarter I was fortunate to visit three of our State's chapters: Puyallup, Federal Way and Vancouver. It's always a pleasure to learn what the various groups do, to meet old friends and to get acquainted with new ones. The dedication of those leaders and participating members is always encouraging.

I had met Mike Teefy, --legislative chair of the Vancouver chapter-- by telephone but was able to put a face with a voice during my visit there. He introduced me to a publication titled "**FRIDAY ALERT**" (Alliance for Retired Americans). It is of great value to chapter legislative chairs and, in fact, to all members. A year subscription costs only \$10 and can be ordered on the internet. Surely every chapter can afford this very informative publication.

One last thought... it is doubtful that in NARFE's 87 year history there has ever been a time that federal employees and retirees needed this organization more. With the economic news coming to us we must do everything in our power to hold on to the benefits we have **EARNED**. Both presidential candidates are talking "cuts".

We all dislike "scare tactics" -- we've had enough of those in the past years-- but it can't be over-emphasized that we must all, as a group and individually, work hard to keep this organization strong. If you're a member: **Stay a member. Recruit** other federal employees or retirees. Be willing to **accept a leadership position**. Folks, **it's going to take us all to fight this battle!**

Have a great productive NARFE year and don't forget to VOTE.

Dale

ALZHEIMER’S REPORT FROM NATIONAL CONVENTION – Bonnie Seesholtz, Chapter 131

NARFE’s goal of raising \$8 million for Alzheimer’s research has almost been accomplished. By National Convention, over \$7,590,000 had been contributed. Since NARFE became involved in the fight against Alzheimer’s in 1986, it has funded 42 research grants. At the National Convention, our Alzheimer’s committee selected five more grants to fund and set a new goal of \$9 million to be raised by the time our NARFE Association reaches its 90th birthday in 2011. The delegates gave their approval for this decision.

Two awards were presented for Alzheimer’s fundraising. The award for the highest total giving was presented to our Washington State Alzheimer’s Chairperson. Washington State contributed a total of \$60,845 this past year, which topped all other states and territories. The award for the highest per-capita giving was presented to West Virginia for contributing \$12.77 per member.

Harry Johns, president and CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association, spoke to the delegates at the opening session and applauded NARFE members for their fundraising efforts in support of Alzheimer’s research. “It is making a difference in the lives of people across the country, and ultimately the world”, he said. “Today, as many as 5.2 million Americans have Alzheimer’s. If we don’t get it fixed, there will be 16 million at the end of this century”.

Maria Carrillo, director of medical and scientific affairs for the Alzheimer’s Association noted that all of the NARFE-sponsored projects relate to the early detection of Alzheimer’s. “It is necessary to identify people in the earliest stages of the disease to be able to combat it best.”

We should all be very proud of our Washington State Federation members and their generous contributions to Alzheimer’s. Let’s see if we can keep our 1st place standing for next year by generously donating to Alzheimer’s.

Bonnie



Art Hathaway, Spokane Chapter; Genevieve Bogulawski, Reg. IX Alzheimer’s Chair; Pres. Dale and Barbara Pretzer, National Alzheimer’s Chair; smiling over the award for Washington State.

ACTIVE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES – Linda Cline

As a current Federal Employee, I am pleased to be appointed as the Active Federal Employee Chairperson for the Washington State Federation of Chapters, (WSFC).

Our NARFE mission since 1921 has been to protect and improve retirement benefits of federal retirees, employees and families. For the past 15 years, with NARFE’s help, we have not lost ANY retiree benefits. However, this may not always be the case. In a recent Wall Street Journal article, General Motors Corporation announced they would cease medical coverage for its salaried retirees age 65 and above. Many companies have gone this route in the past few years.

Although the FY 2009 Budget has no cuts in federal health or retirement benefits we need to stay alert! Not only stay alert but try and get more AFEs to join NARFE!!!

I would like to suggest that all of us invite an AFE to come to a meeting or get together. We all have a Post Office in our towns, and many of us have other federal agencies at which we worked. Drop in and talk to the employees about NARFE.

Linda Cline, Postmaster, Monroe, WA 98272-9998

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR – Ray Weinmann

The Federation Nominating Committee will eagerly accept and/or actively solicit candidates for Federation offices. Seriously consider running for President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary. We would like to have several candidates for each office. You can let your district representative or any of the members of the nominating committee know of your intentions. Your active participation will help strengthen the Federation.

Ray

DISTRICT II VP – Richard Wilson

It is now officially Fall! We are nearly at election time for a new President and it is time to get back to the business of NARFE. Membership continues to be NARFE's Achilles tendon. We seem to be able to recruit new members just fine. It is retaining them, once their membership comes due, that is the issue. This starts at the Chapter level with the chapter membership chair and the chapter membership committee. NARFE Headquarters and the Washington Federation can develop programs (and we are in the federation), but in reality all the action has to happen at the chapter level. I recruited three new members recently while in Louisville at a postal supervisor convention. I'll be following up with them in a year to see if they continue their membership in NARFE. I believe personal follow up at the chapter level is of pivotal importance in retaining members. Granted, we lose members for a number of reasons, but non-payment of dues as a reason should appear at the bottom of that list of reasons. While I believe the two renewal notices NARFE Headquarters sends should be sufficient, often it is not. We in the federation and me personally are working on a program called Retention Attention. It is a program that will include a PowerPoint program and a post card (for the personal touch) designed to educate chapter membership chairs. It will teach them how to accurately interpret the M-112, M-114 and M-220 reports. It will also provide a post card for membership chairs to send to members who've not yet paid their dues. I firmly believe personal contact with members who may be lost due to non-payment of dues will yield results.

I attended a postal supervisor convention in Louisville during the same week as the NARFE National Convention. I was able to participate in Lanny Ross's Regional IX Caucus. I listened to all the candidates for National Office come and give their campaign speeches (you know, what's important to them and what they're going to do for NARFE and the membership). As you know, Margaret Baptiste, Nathaniel Brown, and Dick Ostergren all won re-election for President, Secretary and Treasurer (respectively) and Joseph Beaudoin won election for Vice President. He is from Virginia.

Recently the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced the new 2009 Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) rates. You can review the new rates at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/09rates/index.asp>.

I encourage you to review the new rates. I know they are more than last year. Remember, October and November are Health Fair months. Most Chapters will have vendors attend their meetings during these months. Additionally, there will be many health fairs

held at Federal Buildings and Federal Agency offices.

Have a very Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season.

Rich

DISTRICT III VP – Autie Bergman

Well, today at my house, it felt a little like fall-just when I was really into summer too. Hope all of you made some memories with friends and family and enjoyed what seemed like a nice summer to me.

National Convention is over and by all the notes I have received, Washington Delegates worked hard. I am disappointed that the "single dues" did not pass. Perhaps next year.

This week we have heard a lot about the trouble in the American economy. Also, the fact that our cost for Health Insurance will rise as much as 13.3%. As of now, the Cost of Living Adjustment will be 5.5 or 6%. Hopefully, if nothing else comes from this, you will each be inspired to contact your Congress Women and Representatives. I think it was Judy Park who stated at our State Federation Meeting in Walla Walla that it takes at least 25 constituents with concerns on the same issue to bring it to our Legislators attention.

I have sent out emails to all the chapters in District III asking for reports on the Legislative Action for the month of August. Tacoma responded that they have planned events in September. Kelso-Longview sent letters to each member to send to both Congress Women and our Representative. Brian Baird's aide will also speak at the regular meeting for Kelso-Longview. I have not heard back from Vancouver or Olympia and will call them for that report.

In reading other VP reports in this area, it appears that all Districts are having some problems getting responses and/or a representative from our Legislative delegates. I am sure it has to do with the Election and the need they feel that they have to campaign. It seems I am always saying this-but we MUST take the time as individuals and as a group to make ourselves known to all our Legislative Representatives. It is our "responsibility". Federal workers and retirees are small in number when compared to other groups so we must make MORE noise. I hope we can all give just a little more effort to this important area.

District III may lose one more chapter to closing, Puyallup Chapter 1866. Natalie Leath worked for several years to inspire members to participate with no success.

We hear much about retaining our members from Lanny and all of our leaders. This truly is the most important issue that we need to address. We need all of your ideas on the table and then we need to

develop a plan. This subject is always first and foremost as the WSFC Executive Board meets.

We welcome any ideas. Please share your thoughts with any EB member.

I plan to visit all the chapters in District III in the next 2 months and will be contacting the Presidents to verify time and place.

See you all soon.

Autie

DISTRICT IV VP – William Powers

I did not attend our national convention in Louisville, Kentucky, but seven members of District IV did attend. George Eads, Bremerton Chapter 181, carried the proxy for Poulsbo Chapter 881. I will leave reporting the results of this convention to those Federation officers that did attend.

I would like to bring up an item that I am sure will be a topic of discussion in this fall quarter, the “misery index”. The “misery index” is a combination of inflation and the unemployment rate. In September it was over 11% for the nation, double from last year. It could hit 13% for Washington State before the end of this fall quarter when the trouble on Wall Street trickles down to our “Main Street”. The unemployment will not affect most of us directly, but will certainly affect us indirectly. The inflation rate affects everyone directly.

We federal retirees are expecting an inflation rate of approximately 6% when the final CPI-W comes out on October 16th. This 6% inflation adjustment will not “cut-it” for the average retiree with Blue Cross Blue Shield standard option which will jump by 13.3% and enrollees will pay significantly higher co-payments and co-insurance for brand-name prescription drugs in 2009. Detailed information will be issued for “open season”.

Bill

DISTRICT V VP – Carl Gallion

This past summer, Wenatchee Chapter 239 hosted their annual picnic, which once again turned out to be a wonderful success, both for their Alzheimer’s contributions and their excellent attendance from other chapters and their own. In July, 11 members from Wenatchee accompanied me to hold a “get acquainted” meeting in Okanogan. Even if we only had 1 of their 35 members to join us, the great support from Wenatchee was much appreciated.

As our season slowly changes from summer to autumn, our country is experiencing an unprecedented time in our history. Stability of our entire financial system has been challenged and we hope our elected officials in the US Congress have made the right choice to bring us back from a near

disaster. Deciding the quality of our future elected officials will be our next big step this fall. I encourage everyone to research all evidence of credibility for each candidate and cast your vote. Only in our country are we blessed with free speech, free press and it implores everyone to make your vote count.

District V chapters all continue to actively support our NARFE-PAC program. I am proud of our increased donations coupled with intelligent evaluations of candidates (when requesting funds). Keep up the great work!

Wenatchee Chapter 239 continues to prepare for our 2009 convention (May 14-15). Don’t forget to put this special time on your calendar.

Carl

NARFE-PAC -- Paul Shell

Thanks so much for your prompt responses to my e-mails. I will keep you posted on any PAC information as I receive them. The way it is going, you may hear before I do of any grants. An item on my “to do” list for the Legislative Conference next March is to find out why national cannot tell us of their decisions in a prompt manner. In addition, please keep me in the loop. I send notices to the Presidents and PAC chairs of pending issues. If there is a change in officers/committee chairs or e-mail addresses, please let me know.

At present, I know of Norm Dicks and Brian Baird each receiving a \$1000 grant. Pending are Congressmen Inslee, Larsen, Hastings and Reichert. In addition, we have pending requests from challengers Darcy Burner and George Fearing. I inform Sam Cagle of any grants and he promptly posts them to the state web site, narfewa.net. So you can check there periodically.

In the meantime, happy voting, happy Thanksgiving, and all the other holidays fast approaching.

Paul

SERVICE REPORT – Marion Wilson

I must say I have been very busy with my new position, Federation Service Officer. I have contacted the six Chapter Presidents in the Federation who don't have a Chapter Service Officer to see what I could do to help them in recruiting a Chapter Service Officer. I am happy to say I am working with two chapters assisting them in recruiting a Service Officer. I have sent both a packet and hopefully they will make a decision to take the position. I will continue to work with all of them. The chapters without a Service Officer are: Chapter 43, 237, 881, 1404, 1801 & 1866. Let's all hope that someone in each chapter will step forward and take these positions.

I distributed my first issue of the quarterly WSFC Service Officers Newsletter as planned and I am happy to say I have received many calls/e-mail thanking me for the information that was published and looking forward to working with me. The four topics I covered in the newsletter were:

1. What to do in case of a death of an annuitant, spouse of an annuitant, or a survivor of an annuitant;
2. Telephone numbers to get information/advice;
3. A list of items to have in a safe place
4. A list of resources for the Chapter Service Officers.

I also distributed an Introduction Letter to all' stating how to contact me and that I was available 24/7 for assistance. All my correspondence and newsletters will be distributed to all the Federation Executive Committee, all Chapter Service Officers and to the Chapter President who doesn't have a Service Officer.

I plan to have the next issue of the newsletter out in late October or early November.

A reminder to all that "Open Season" for FEHBP is November 10th thru December 8th 2008. OPM will mail CSRS and FERS annuitants information about costs and benefits in FEHBP and about the Dental and Vision plans. We should receive this information by the opening date of the Open Season. You don't have to do anything if you plan to stay in your current plan. I do recommend that you study your brochure before you make a decision especially those of you approaching Medicare eligibility. I understand the overall average FEHBP premium increase will be 7.0 percent for 2009.

I will end by stating "Happy Holidays" to all of you with Thanksgiving and Christmas around the corner. Where did the year 2008 go?

Marion

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Sam Cagle

Health Fairs

Well, it's health fair time again. A total of 93 health fairs have been scheduled throughout Washington in October and November. The schedule has been posted on the Federation web site, www.narfewa.net and chapter presidents have been notified.

There are several actions from your chapter that need to take place.

First, you need to decide at which fairs you want to have a NARFE presence. Your chapter has probably had enough experience over the past few years to make that decision fairly simple. Let the agency organizers know that you are coming.

Order the packets, publications and posters from NARFE headquarters that you want to use for handouts or display. You can contact them by phone at 1-800-627-3394. Let them know if you want the bigger kits, that contain recent copies of the NARFE magazine, or smaller ones that contain a flyer promoting the magazine. You might also want to order other forms or publications that can go into the kits as well (the kits contain a letter from President Baptiste, a CFE application, and a flyer on legislative accomplishments. The rest you have to add.)

Some suggested items for the kits include:

F-126 (02/08): "The 10 Worst Mistakes Federal Employees Can Make"
F 127 (02/08) "The 10 Worst Mistakes Federal Retirees Can Make"
F-100: "Be Prepared for Life's Events" (this is an 8'; x 10' flyer, suitable for the larger kit)
F-106 (01/08): "Extending Premium Conversion into Retirement"
F-122 (09/07): "What has NARFE Done for You Lately?"
F-123: "Pop Quiz - Laws can change and so can your..."
Unnumbered: "It's a Wonderful NARFE"
L-1 (01/08): "Understanding the Social Security Offsets GPO and WEP"
L-2: "NARFE Legislative Program for 110th Congress" (Becomes obsolete in January 2009)

You might also want to order posters:

P-1 "Is your Retirement Safe"
P-2 "Vanishing Benefits"
Delivery can take 3-4 weeks

Sam

Displays and Pens

Once you have decided which fairs you plan to cover, you need to decide if you want to use a NARFE display. There are two types - the pull-up "ZAP" display and the fold-out tabletop display. For more information on them, go to "Public Relations/Displays and Exhibits in this website. We have two of each in the federation, but they do need to be ordered in advance from Sam Cagle (caglels@comcast.net). Chapters will need to be prepared to pay the postage, Fedex or UPS charges to the next location.

We have a limited supply of the NARFE Bic pens. These pens contain the full NARFE name, national web address and toll-free phone number. They make excellent presentation items to current federal employees and retirees who are not yet NARFE members. They cost the Washington State Federation of Chapters 30 cents apiece, so there should be some care in ordering and distributing them. To order pens for the health fairs, chapter presidents, membership chairs or public relations chairs should contact Sam Cagle (caglels@comcast.net, or 360-456-8509).

You might also want to localize your handouts by putting chapter contact information on a flyer or letter that you can give to health fair participants. A sample letter is available on the web site, along with a copy of the "Important Questions for Open Season" that you can reproduce and hand out.

Presentations to Pre-Retirement Seminars

NARFE chapters and members often have opportunities to address pre-retirement seminars and other gatherings of current federal employees and retirees. Once accepted, the question often comes up as to what to present. One answer is the NARFE PRS Presentation, a Federation developed PowerPoint presentation that is posted and regularly updated on the WSFC web site, www.narfewa.net. It can be downloaded, projected, printed as a handout, or used as a speech outline.

Chapter websites

A number of WSFC chapters have posted their information on the web. Some have developed their own sites, others have shared a server, and all have added or linked their sites to both the NARFE and the Federation web site. Check it out at www.narfewa.net. If you are interested in adding your chapter site to the Federation's, contact Sam Cagle, the Webmaster, at caglels@comcast.net

Who orders the recruiting pamphlets in your chapter?

(a) Membership chair, (b) public relations chair, (c) any chapter officer, (d) chapter "recruiters", (e) all four, or (f) none? The only wrong answer is (f).

Basically, any chapter member who can make effective use of the pamphlets, can order them. The chapter should know who these individuals are, and coordinate their efforts. Make sure an excessive amount of the publications are not ordered and shipped only to be put on a shelf and stored until they become outdated, but don't hoard all of the publications in one place where the appropriate members cannot easily access them.

- Look at the planned needs and chapter events. Recruiting campaigns, health fair participation, booths at public events, informational distribution to existing chapter members, etc. Determine approximately how many of which publications might be needed for those events.
- Order the publications at least a month in advance from NARFE headquarters, using the NARFE web site, so they can be pulled, packaged and shipped across the country. Also build in sufficient time for them to be prepared (like putting the recruiter number and chapter number on the application forms) and assembled into packets for distribution.
- Read the materials before you hand them out, so what you are saying to the prospect is up to date as well.

Clear these old publications out of your "stash".

If you have outdated publications and flyers in your supply of NARFE materials, please make sure they are recycled, not used in new recruiting efforts.

- First and foremost, make sure that you only have the new combined active and retired application, dated 11/07. There are two versions of this, H-140A Membership Application, or F-14C Membership Application with the (Self Mailing Envelope). All earlier application forms, or **those that apply just to active employees or just to retired employees should be destroyed.**

- Old favorites, “10 Worst Mistakes that Federal retirees can make”, and “The Next 10 Mistakes” that were printed before May 2008 should be dumped. **Replace them with F-126 “10 Worst Mistakes Federal Employees Can Make” and F-127 “10 Worst Mistakes Federal Retirees Can Make”, both dated 05/08.**
- Trash the old “GPO/WEP” brochures and **order the new L-1 “Social Security Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision”, dated 01/08.**
- Eliminate the older flyer on Premium Conversion, **using only the F-106 “Premium Conversion Brochure”, dated 01/08.**
- L-2 “NARFE Legislative Program for the 110th Congress”, dated 12/06, will only be good through December of this year. The Legislative program for the 111th Congress, which convenes in January 2009, will be approved at the National Convention this September, and a new brochure will be published around December.

Make sure that your stock of publications that you will be using for recruiting efforts is up to date. The old ones contained outdated information and the new ones have been significantly rewritten.

Sam

SECRETARY – Vic Rohret

Hello NARFE Friends & Family!

NARFE National Convention in Louisville Kentucky was a great experience! Here’s a quick rundown of the highlights as I perceived them.



Sunday, September 7: National President Margaret Baptiste opened the meeting after presentation of the colors by a Revolutionary War color guard. A memorial service commemorated those thousands of members who passed away this past year; there were over 900 from Region IX! Awards were given for Alzheimer’s donations. Washington received an award for greatest donations. NARFE donations are currently helping to sponsor five new Alzheimer’s research projects. Maria Carrillo PhD, from the Alzheimer’s Association, spoke about several new areas of study for detection and treatment of the Alzheimer’s disease. Congressman John Yarmuth (D-KY-3) spoke about Social Security Reform for GPO & WEP as well as promoting Premium Conversion.

Monday, September 8: Margaret Baptiste spoke about the importance of retaining NARFE members. When educating Capital Hill, organizations with more members generally have more clout because they are more representative of the general population. This is one reason NARFE has joined FAIR and CARE. FAIR is a coalition of 6 million members made up of several organizations promoting WEP and GPO reform. CARE is another coalition of organizations promoting Social Security reform.

National Secretary Nat Brown reported that 63 chapters were closed in the past year (2 from Washington) and stressed the importance of retaining members. He also complimented the staff employees at NARFE Headquarters who spend many hours a

day answering retirement/benefits questions from the membership.

National Treasurer Richard Ostergren reported that NARFE is in great shape financially and very stable as the auditors report. Investments are with Smith-Barney and Bank of America. The Life Membership fund should be fully vested in six years rather than five. Best of all, there are no dues increases expected in the near future.

Tuesday, October 9: Region IX VP Lanny Ross facilitated presentations from five resorts that were vying for the 2012 convention site. The eventual winner was the Nugget Casino in Reno/Sparks NV. Details: Aug 6-21, 2012; \$95/room; free airport shuttle; RV spots; 9 restaurants in & 8 outside; 12 lounges; only 25 feet from the elevator to the meeting room; cheap food; senior discounts; Farmers' Market; Rib cook-off at convention time; free senior transportation around the area!

Wednesday, September 10: NARFE National Legislative Director Dan Adcock spoke to us today about NARFE’s legislative platform and activity. We are currently in a time of economic change and uncertainty where we have to actively promote our vision of fairness and support for the promises made to federal employees for our retirement. Dan also talked about Premium Conversion and other alternatives that would allow for more tax fairness for former feds.

As for Current Employee Issues: legislation for FERS, sick leave and TSP improvements made good progress this year but probably won't go anywhere, BUT, because of our activities this year, these issues will probably move quickly in the next Congress!

Now the cautionary items: Federal retirement is stable but not so the private sector. A \$438B Federal Budget deficit was expected in 2009 (and now we add \$700B to that). This could lead to a possible

overhaul of entitlement programs and reforms starting in 2009. Medicaid, Medicare & Social Security fixes (funds!) may come from Federal retirees' earned benefits. There may be health care & FEHBP cuts to help fix the Federal Budget. Re-read the May NARFE Magazine on Presidential candidates!

Thursday, September 11: This was a day of acceptance speeches, Raffles, Awards, public relations, and new business on the program.

Convention attendees generously donated over \$4400 for FEEA (Federal Emergency & Education Assistance). NARFE donated Over \$100,000 last year. Much of the money goes to college scholarships for children of government parents killed in natural disasters and in terrorist actions. FEEA will be a focus for NARFE in the next few years. Also, \$558,945 was raised by NARFE last year for the Alzheimer's Foundation. NARFE is the number one donor for Alzheimer's!

The day finished with a great banquet and dance in the evening. Combining the business sessions during the daytime with the nighttime activities around the Louisville Downtown area, the entire experience was a great adventure! NARFE's next national convention will be in Grand Rapids, MI in 2010 and I encourage everyone to attend! Be a part of the leadership to move our great organization into the future and help ensure our federal retirement benefits!

Vic

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR – John Cornette

After about 16 months as Membership Chair, this is my first input to the Reporter. Please excuse my tardiness and permit me to summarize some salient events of the intervening time.

In July 2007, a letter was sent to some 1300 dropped NARFE members from the 2003-2005 period, asking that they consider rejoining NARFE. Only 5 contacts resulted, with only one rejoining. This convinced me that a few months after a member drops, likelihood of rejoining is negligible. The following month I began emailing the vast majority of membership monthly data reports (today I mail by post only on request or by exception).

Moving forward in year 2007/08, Spokane Chapter 32 was awarded second place in NARFE national recruitment 6 month trial program. The award of \$300 to the Chapter was announced at the national convention in Louisville in September. The overall winner, a Virginia Chapter, won \$500, recruiting 88 new members, two more than recruited by Spokane. The trial program ran from January through June 2008. Continuation of the program is not currently

announced, although it was under consideration by HQ.

WSFC Membership Awards 2007/08 were presented at the WSFC convention in Walla Walla in May 2008 as follows:

Greatest Total Gains (Number):

Group A Chapter 237 Walla Walla 35

Group B Chapter 32 Spokane 150

Greatest Total Gains (Percentage):

Group A Chapter 237 Walla Walla 15.2%;

Group B Chapter 196 Northwest Cascades 16.9%

Best Rate of Retention (Percentage):

Group A Chapter 1070 Kelso-Longview -5.68%

Group B Chapter 32 Spokane -3.56%

Chapter with greatest Number of Reinstated Members:

Group A Chapter 239 Wenatchee 14

Group B Chapter 32 Spokane 33

Chapter with greatest Number of New Members:

Group A Chapter 237 Walla Walla 24

Group B Chapter 32 Spokane 117

Chapter with greatest Number of Dues Withholding, National Life and Honorary Life:

Group A Chapter 238 Yakima Valley 86 (41.1%)

Group B Chapter 181 Bremerton 562 (40.3%)

Top Recruiters by District:

D1 Ilene E Smith, Chapter 237 Walla Walla

D2 Linda Cline, Chapter 193 Everett &
David L Kimple, Chapter 196 NW Cascades

D3 Paul Shell, Chapter 163 Tacoma

D5 Johanna Caylor, Chapter 1192 Tri-Cities

Recruiter of the Year:

D4 Lanny Ross, Chapter 181 Bremerton

Top Four Chapters in Registered Recruiting:

Chapter 181 Bremerton 35

Chapter 1192 Tri-Cities 19

Chapter 237 Walla Walla 15

Chapter 163 Tacoma 12

Cash Awards for WSFC 2007/8 Year Individual and Chapter Recruiting:

Group A recruiting:

Ilene E Smith, Chapter 237 Walla Walla (8) \$25
Chapter 237 Walla Walla (24 total) \$25

Group B recruiting:

Lanny Ross, Chapter 181 Bremerton (21) \$25
Chapter 32 Spokane (117 total) \$25

Cash Awards for WSFC 2007/8 Year Chapter increases (threshold percentage):

5% Chapter 1070 Kelso Longview (10%) \$40
5% Chapter 1192 Tri-Cities (6.8%) \$40
4% Chapter 1247 Colville Valley (4.9%) \$30
4% Chapter 193 Everett (4.7%) \$30
3% Chapter 196 Northwest Cascades (3.3%) \$20
2% Chapter 237 Walla Walla (2.7%) \$10

Membership Incentive Rebates for 2007/08 year:

For the period, 165 rebates were made in the following categories:

Active Members/multi-year – 73
Dues Withholding – 27
Reinstatement – 61
Spouse – 4

The Rebate program continues as modified for 2008/09.

Retention for 2008/09 year:

During the state and national conventions, a prevailing theme was the emphasis upon retention, particularly at the Chapter level and beginning at the time of initial acquisition of a new member.

Recruitment continues to improve, but not strongly enough to offset losses, as national membership drops toward 320,000. The tools for retention are developed and provided to the Chapter, for application one-on-one at the grass roots level. WSFC President Dale Brighton has asked the Vice President (Sandy Cagle) and District II Vice President (Rich Wilson) to develop a program to emphasize retention. Look for its usage in the next series of District Workshops.

John

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CHAIR – Steve Anderson

I am sure it is clear to all that we are in significant crisis in the United States with the economic meltdown that was started by insane practices in mortgage financing, and has spread across all facets of our daily lives, as well as around the world. None are more vulnerable than retirees. Some of us are fortunate to have investments in 401K type plans such as the **Thrift Savings Plan**, but we are seeing those investments rapidly erode as the stock market rides a course like a roller coaster. Whether we have such investments or not, we all worry about inflation that may be fueled by the crisis and whether our retirement will keep up and sustain us.

On August 20 and 21, I forwarded to all Chapter Presidents and Legislative Chairs articles from the Washington Post with answers from both Senators McCain and Obama to questions from Post Columnist Joe Davidson, and an analysis of what their respective positions mean to federal employees and retirees. The answers and analysis pointed out significant differences in how federal employees and retirees are viewed by each candidate. I can provide additional copies of the Washington Post articles upon request.

The NARFE website now has answers from both candidates to questions posed by NARFE, again showing their differences. The NARFE questions and the candidate's answers will also be printed in the November NARFE magazine, which we will receive before the end of October.

It is imperative to our future that we make the correct choice in electing a new President in November. All chapters need to ensure their members have access to the aforementioned articles to aid all members in making their decision on how to vote. I believe it is safe to say that the United States has never had a more important presidential election. Vote wisely.

Steve



Marvin steering the Louisville Belle

TREASURER REPORT- Rex Tauscher

The Per Capita Tax (PCT) method of calculation Bylaws change was approved at this years Federation Convention. This change will go into affect with the 3rd quarter period. The new requirements were included with the chapter receipt mailing for the 2nd quarter. This new method of calculating the PCT is intended to reduce the input errors and confusion existing with the current and prior submittals of the PCT.

The new method of calculating the PCT results in the following changes to Federation and Chapter bookkeeping requirements.

1. The advance payments of PCT for all multi-year members will no longer be required from the Chapters.
2. The Chapter funds held in Federation dedicated accounts (\$2,936.67) were returned to the Chapters. Also the interest on these funds (\$84.76) was included (voted and approved during Federation Convention).
3. The return of these funds were completed by the Federation Treasurer on 20 September 2008 due to late payments of the 2nd quarter payment of the PCT.
4. Payment of prepaid PCT using our old method resulted in an additional payback for the past three (3) quarters to bring the new method of payments to a standard base, in the amount of \$3,982.20, which is being returned to the chapters when funds are available in the Federation checking account along with information for the 3rd quarter tax payment..
5. The Chapter Treasurers with the new PCT calculation will only have to identify the category AB and AC members from each months A-220 report to include in the PCT calculation instead of the current 18 categories, used to calculate the PCT.
6. Also noted during the development of the PCT form and copies for the chapters for the required calculation I find that chapters 196, 239, 856, 881, 1404, 1866 and 1966 have Honorary members that are National only (non-voting) one each per chapter. These chapters must adjust the allowed deduction for Honorary members by reducing the allowance by 1. This deduction information will be sent out to the applicable chapters with their refund checks.

Please note that all mail sent to the WSFC Treasurer should be mailed to WSFC-NARFE, Treasurer, PO Box 5025, BREMERTON, WA. 98312-0462. This is not my home mailing address, but NARFE Chapter 181, Bremerton post office box. Mail sent to my home address is subject to loss due to remote location and frequent removal of items by parties unknown.

WSFC Treasurers Net Worth Report

31 August 2008		\$38,880.66
Checking	\$6,002.39	
Savings	\$301.58	
Deposit CD's	\$32,576.69	

Rex

**WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
INCOME EXPENSE YEAR REPORT
JULY 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008**

1. BEGINNING BALANCE ALL FUNDS FOR 1 JULY 2007	\$36,314.52
CASH RECEIPTS FOR THE PERIOD	
10% FUNDS	\$23,066.20
PER CAPITA TAX (\$67.20 Overpay Adjustment)	\$12,161.84
OTHER INCOME – INTEREST	<u>\$1,555.52</u>
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS FOR PERIOD	<u>\$36,783.56</u>

2. CASH DISBURSEMENTS FOR PERIOD

ITEM#	(Expended)	Budget	Remaining
1 PRESIDENT'S TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$1,132.99	\$1,500	\$367.01
2 VICE PRESIDENT'S EXPENSES	\$0	\$300	\$300.00
3 SECRETARY'S EXPENSES	\$658.26	\$350	(<u>\$308.26</u>)
4 TREASURER'S EXPENSES	\$0	\$100	\$100.00
5 DIST I VICE PRESIDENT EXPS	\$544.60	\$875	\$330.40
6 DIST II VICE PRESIDENT EXPS	\$825.01	\$875	\$49.99
7 DIST III VICE PRESIDENT EXPS	\$244.17	\$875	\$630.83
8 DIST IV VICE PRESIDENT EXPS	\$689.56	\$750	\$60.44
9 DIST V VICE PRESIDENT EXPS	\$680.54	\$890	\$209.46
10 IMMED. PAST PRESIDENT EXPS	\$0	\$100	\$100.00
11 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR EXPS	\$243.12	\$1,000	\$756.88
12 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE EXPS	\$521.63	\$600	\$78.37
13 PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR EXPS	\$480.57	\$500	\$19.43
14 SERVICE OFFICER'S EXPS	\$162.48	\$200	\$37.52
15 STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR EXPS	\$0	\$350	\$350.00
16 SHIBA REP EXP	\$0	\$50	\$50.00
17 ALZHIEMERS CHAIR EXPS	\$86.86	\$100	\$13.14
18 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXPS	\$7,133.48	\$7,000	(<u>\$133.48</u>)
19 OFFICE /MISC. EXPS	\$1,866.16	\$4,500	\$2,633.84
20 2008 STATE CONVENTION EXPENSE	\$7,591.96	\$6,000	(<u>\$1,591.96</u>)
21 NATIONAL CONVENTION EXPENSE	\$802.83	\$2,000	\$1,197.17
22 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONV.	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
23 MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT	\$2,081.91	\$4,000	\$1,918.09
24 INCENTIVE PROGRAM (REBATES)	\$1,650.00	\$2,500	\$850.00
25 PUBLIC RELATIONS PLANS/PROGRAMS	\$833.65	\$1,400	\$566.35
26 SERVICE CENTERS	\$562.39	\$1,200	\$637.61
27 FEDERAL REPORTER	\$2,275.62	\$3,000	\$724.38
28 SENIOR LOBBY	\$400.00	\$400	\$0.00
30 PROGRAM CONTINGENCY	\$250.00	\$3,700	\$3,450.00
31 ADVANCE CONVENTION HOST CHAPTER	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$0.00
32 CARRY-OVER BUDGET 2007-2008	\$1,330.69	\$750	(<u>\$580.69</u>)
33 NARFE-PAC	\$15.81	\$75	\$59.19
34 WEB SITE EXPENSES	\$204.00	\$300	\$96.00
35 STRATEGIC PLANNING	\$0	\$200	\$200.00
37 HEALTH FAIRS	\$0	\$200	\$200.00
	<u>(\$34,268.29)</u>	<u>\$47,640</u>	<u>\$13,371.71</u>

3. TOTAL INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	\$36,783.56
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD	(\$34,268.29)
INCOME MINUS EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD	\$2,515.27
ENDING BALANCE ALL FUNDS FOR THE PERIOD	\$38,829.79

4. DEDICATED ACCOUNT SUMMARY 1 JULY 2008

	<u>2008 – 2009</u>	<u>2009 – 2010</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
AMOUNT FROM 10% FUND	\$3,682.69	\$1,251.96	\$4,934.65
AMOUNT FROM PCT PAYMENT	\$2,029.70	\$714.25	\$2,743.95
ENDING BALANCE JULY 1 2008	\$5,712.39	\$1,966.21	\$7,678.60

5. TOTAL ALL SAVINGS	\$36,098.01
TOTAL IN CHECKING	<u>\$2,731.71</u>
TOTAL ALL ACCOUNTS	\$38,829.79

6. INTERESTS ON ALL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS 7/1/2007 – 6/30/2008; \$1,555.52

7. NET WORTH AS OF 30 JUNE 2008	\$38,829.79
DEDICATED ACCOUNTS	(\$7,678.60)
FUNDS AVAILABLE GENERAL	\$31,151.19

Report Prepared 7/1/2008 by Rex Tauscher, WSFC Treasurer

EDITOR—Dave Seesholtz

At the last board meeting I was given the task of developing a plan for getting chapters to meet a minimum standard for their newsletter. I had suggested that the minimum level for a newsletter should be about as follows:

- mailed to members at least quarterly
- contain basic information on the time, location and program(s) for the next meeting(s)
- contain contact information for chapter officers

The Board seemed to agree with these standards and we will discuss it more at the Board meeting on October 16th.

We also will be discussing a proposal to help chapters to meet these guidelines. The following are some ideas being proposed:

1. Encourage chapters that are not meeting the suggested minimum standard to consider increasing their dues by at least the amount needed to produce one to the suggested minimum standard.
2. District VPs should encourage these chapters to provide information to a neighboring chapter and pay them the cost of printing/ mailing their newsletter to their members.
3. WSFC provide up to a \$100 grant toward the printing and mailing cost of a chapter's first edition of a startup newsletter.

We realize that all chapters are different. The size of your membership and your dues will be big factors in what you can do. Please study the following table that shows the chapters with either no newsletter or one that is less than the suggested standard.

Please consider discussing this information with your chapter board.

Dave

WSFC CHAPTER NEWSLETTER STATUS OCTOBER 1, 2008
Includes only chapters with newsletter less than suggested standard

Chapter	Size	Sheets	Frequency	Members	Chapter Dues
NW Cascades #196	Email		Randomly	347	\$7
Walla Walla # 237	8.5 x 11	2	Annually	225	\$6
Yakima #238	8.5 x 11	1	March/Sept	211	\$5
Columbia Basin #856	8.5 x 11	4	Sept/April	96	\$10
Poulsbo #881	Post cards		4 times	256	\$6
Kelso/Longview #1070	Post cards		Bi-monthly	92	\$4
Colville #1247	None		None	108	\$5
Evergreen #1801	8.5 x 14	2	Semi-annually	171	\$7

NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOTOS: I have included some photos taken during the convention in Louisville. If you want to see these photos in color you need to go to the WSFC web site www.narfewa.net and click on the Federal Reporter.



Pres. Margaret Baptiste opening the convention



Paul Shell & John Thurber, Tacoma Chapter



Bonnie Seesholtz, Chapter Pres. Vancouver rises to speak to a motion.



Reg. IX VP Lanny Ross & Reg. X VP, Joe Beaudoin (who was elected VP) prepare to collect Lincoln Pennies.



Johanna Caylor & Sig Preston, TRI-Cities Chapter, on the convention floor



Sig Preston, TRI-Cities Chapter, served as time keeper



Kentucky Night Entertainment



Kentucky Night Entertainment Abe Lincoln Presentation



Former Pres. Charles Fallis installs the 2008-2010 National Executive Board



WSFC Delegates



Part of the Region IX Caucus



Vic & Marvin enjoying Louisville

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