

# The Federal Reporter



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

January, February and March 2009

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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](http://www.narfe.org)

## From the WSFC President, Dale Brighton



**Happy New Year to all of our NARFE friends. I hope you had a great holiday season and have managed to dig out of our white Christmas. Goodbye to 2008 and hello to 2009.**

The end of a year brings reflection and I have been thinking of some of what we of NARFE did right and some of what perhaps could have been done better. On the other hand, the beginning of the year gives us the opportunity to learn from the past and press on with the projects and enthusiasm that were initiated in 2008.

**I doubt there has ever been a time in NARFE's 88 year history in which the federal employee and retiree needs the strength of this organization more than it does right now. Therefore, it is also an era in which we must be even more proactive and push forward with greater participation at all levels....National, federation, chapter and member.**

Quickly, I'd like to remind you of what the federation began last year and will continue in '09. As we all are aware, our dropout rate is of great concern and in an effort to stem the tide we have planned a program to deal with this issue. We're excited about the project "Retention Attention" which has been so well developed by VP Sandy Cagle and DVP Rich Wilson.

It has now been completed and will be presented to the Federation Executive Board at their January 15th meeting. Following, the project will be placed in the hands of the District Vice Presidents to present to the chapter membership committees beginning in February. It is imperative that the chapters begin the retention process just as soon as possible.

This information will be available in CD or hard-copy form. I urge every chapter to make it possible for their membership committees to avail themselves of this information upon contact by the DVPs.

Service Officer Involvement is another issue that is being addressed. Several of our chapters have no one in this position. We recognize that the function of Service Officer is vital to our members and their families. Marion Wilson, Federation Service Officer, has written an informative program for the chapters. The intention is to remove some of the mystic of being a service officer. She continues with this project in 2009.

Newsletter guru Dave Seesholtz has completed research on NARFE newsletters in our state. This included which chapters publish a newsletter, content

and how often. From the results he developed a set of criteria for bringing chapter newsletters up to publishing standards. Criteria defined as

- (1) published at least quarterly
- (2) containing basic information on time, location and chapter meeting programs, and
- (3) list contact information for chapter officers.

The Federation adopted Dave's proposal along with establishing a grant of \$50 to chapters who are currently not in compliance and bring their newsletter up to this standard. These grants will be awarded at the WSFC Convention. It is hoped this will increase and improve our communication.

To accomplish the objectives we've put forth will take the participation of all—leaders and members alike. However, although this sounds like a hefty proposal, if we dedicate ourselves, it is my belief that we will witness accomplishment.

In November **the Tacoma chapter conducted an orientation luncheon for their new members.** I was impressed with the program and the acceptance by the new members who attended. It was very well done. I'm sure the chapter would be willing to share their planning of this event if other chapters would like to schedule the same.

**If you have not adopted resolutions for 2009, this is an open invitation to join with me in mine. In an effort to vitalize NARFE like we've never done before, let's resolve to:**

- Continue our legislative agenda **by communicating with our congressional delegation**
- Offer special welcoming to new members and be open to their ideas
- Continue the effort to improve all means of communication to our members
- Give greater guidance to the districts and chapters in conducting leadership training
- Assist the chapter leaders in recognizing that member retention is as important as recruitment
- Place more focus on informing the active federal employee of the purpose of NARFE and its importance to them.

This list is only the tip of the iceberg of what we could plan and I hope the chapters come up with ideas of their own. January is the ideal time to do strategic planning.

Thank you to all and a Happy NARFE NewYear.

**Dale**

## VICE PRESIDENT – Sandy Cagle



The November 2008 issue of *NARFE Recruiter's Journal* stated, "NARFE's strength is in its members.....and we need all the members we can get." This is so true, and while recruiting new members is essential, the more crucial challenge is retaining our

current members.

In lean times, as we are now experiencing with recent downturns in the economy, individuals often chose to cut back on the number of organizations they belong to and focus their membership on the ones that provide the greatest perceived value. We need to work extra hard to ensure that individuals continue to choose our organization for its value of safeguarding our earned benefits.

The Washington State Federation of Chapters recognizes that the chapters need more local help in understanding and using the resources already available to improve our retention. Dale Brighton, WSFC President, tasked Rich Wilson, District VP, and I to develop a proactive approach called "Retention Attention" to assist chapters in this area.

Shortly, the District Vice-Presidents will be contacting each chapter in their respective districts to arrange a training session for all Chapter Presidents, Membership chairs/committees, Chapter Treasurers, Chapter Newsletter Editors and anyone involved in membership recruiting and retention planning.

The training presentation is intended to help interpret the M-112, M-114 and A220 report forms and how using these reports will assist in identifying those members at risk of lapsing. The training will also present additional resources that a chapter can use to proactively target those individuals before they are lost.

The HQ NARFE 2009 Membership Plan was sent to all Chapter Presidents recently and it included areas of recruitment and retention. The plan has some great ideas for approaches but remember our work at the local chapter level will always be the most effective way to retain members. No matter how beneficial our organization appears to the leadership of NARFE, value is perceived through the eyes of our members.

**Sandy**

## ACTIVE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES – Linda Cline

I have to say the new look to the National NARFE website is very appealing and easy to maneuver!!!!

While checking out what was the latest in Federal Employee news, I ran across the 1500 AM Federal News Radio site. If you haven't listened to it, try it!!! There is a lot of interesting updated material!

I also found another interesting program, The Fed Experience Pilot Program. It is projected that more than half a million federal employees will leave their government positions in the next five years. By the end of 2009 agencies will need to fill 193,000 mission-critical job vacancies. To address critical hiring needs, the Partnership for Public Service launched the Fed Experience pilot program with federal agencies, corporate partners and other stakeholders to match government's critical hiring needs with the talents of experienced, older workers. According to the Partnership's research, tens of millions of baby boomers would like to pursue federal employment opportunities. (Future NARFE members?) This program should also appeal to current Federal Employees as they may be able to move into other Federal Agencies to utilize their talents and stay in the working sector longer.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year and if anyone is having success with AFE's joining NARFE, let me know!!!!!!

**Linda Cline**, Postmaster, Monroe, WA 98272-9998

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR – Ray Weinmann

"Please consider running for a federation Office. Let any of the Nominating Committee (Ray Weinmann, Art Hathaway, Bill Powers, Rich Wilson, Julia Fryer) or your District VP know if you are interested.

We would like to see some fresh faces and competition in 2009 for each office."

**Ray**

## **DISTRICT II VP – Richard Wilson**

The 2008 year has come and gone. Where did it go so quickly? As we welcome in 2009 we are full of hope for health, happiness, prosperity and peace. We are also full of hope for NARFE's success in gaining new members and more importantly retaining the members we already have. We are hopeful for movement in the Congress on legislation dear to NARFE.

In January, the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) will roll out a new program call "Retention Attention." This program was designed by WSFC Vice President Sandy Cagle and me. It is designed to educate chapter executive boards on the reports available to them and how to use them to retain current membership. There is a presentation explaining all the other resources available to retain membership. All of us on the WSFC Executive Board feel the Retention Attention program will be a huge success.

Once again I want to stress membership. Recruitment is still very important. Imagine if each member in Washington recruited just one new member. Our membership would double our membership. Then think about the \$10.00 incentive for new members. Remember, there's also an incentive for members who renew their membership by using the dues withholding process available to them by OPM. They save money and we retain a member, more than likely for life, because the renewing member will never have to worry about having to receive a dues renewal notice ever again.

As we move into the New Year there are some important events to consider. The first one coming up is the Legislative Training Conference, to be held in Washington DC from March 7 – 10, 2009. This is where NARFE members will be able to meet with their Members of Congress and Senators to discuss those important pieces of legislation NARFE so strongly supports. You should consider attending. In May the WSFC will hold its State Convention in Wenatchee. New state officers will be elected. There will be a lot of very important business conducted as well. Look for more information in this issue of the Washington Reporter.

I wish you all a very healthy and prosperous Happy New Year and look forward to serving you in 2009.

**Rich**

## **DISTRICT III VP – Autie Bergman**

Wow, time really does go faster as we age! People have said that for years, but I admit I have not given the statement merit until now.

As I write this article, I have a long "to do" list in front of me to get ready for Christmas. This list is just my

family list! There is another list of things I need or want to accomplish for NARFE, church, community and neighbors. I am also sure each of you has a similar list.

What a joy to know we are blessed with health, energy and desire to accomplish tasks each day. And that those tasks have a positive effect in our lives and the lives of those around us!

Your Washington State VPs and the entire Executive Board continues to work on your behalf for the State and National concerns. Our present "project" is the Membership Retention Program which will be rolling out to Chapters in the near future. The District VPs will share with each chapter the program authored by Federation VP Sandra Cagle and District II VP Rich Wilson at future Chapter Ex. Board Meetings. We are confident this program will help all of us retain members.

Another area of concern to all of us is our National Economy. This issue has direct consequences for each of us.

Two years ago at the District III meeting in Longview, while speaking to us about NARFE issues, Brian Baird's representative spoke about Brian's concern for fiscal responsibility. She said that Brian was concerned not just about today-but the future. At the same meeting Dave Seesholtz commented that the Iraq war was the first in his memory that the American public was not asked to make some kind of sacrifice. All of this does tie together.

Several years ago while in D.C. for another Associations Legislative Conference we were honored to have General David Walker as a speaker. David worked at that time for the Comptrollers' Office as the Chief Auditor. After 10 years at that job David resigned. He has joined a nonpartisan foundation, the Peter G. Peterson Foundation ([www.pgpf.org](http://www.pgpf.org)). The mission of the foundation is to educate the American public of the financial threat to our country. This foundation was formed before we all saw the "melt down" of the recent months. Recently there has been a film released entitled I.O.U.S.A. Segments from this film can be viewed from the foundation website. There is also a tab for "action".

I believe, as Patriotic citizens and as retired and active Federal Employees it is each of our obligation and responsibility to learn about the financial threat we face as a nation. At the very least it will give us an understanding of how our issues fit in the BIG PICTURE. I am not advocating we give up our fight or vigilance to our issues as NARFE members. I do believe knowledge is power. This problem has been here for a while and it will require all of us to solve it.

My wish for each of you is to have a 2009 filled with Love and Blessings.

**Autie**

## DISTRICT IV VP – William Powers

Due to the weather, Poulsbo, Chapter 881, cancelled their quarterly meeting. Poulsbo is now publishing a quarterly newsletter and hopes to be rewarded at the 2009 WSFC Convention.

I installed the new slate of officers for Port Orchard, Chapter 888. I will install Port Angeles/Sequim, Chapter 1006, officers in late January. Lanny Ross, our Region IX National VP, installed the Bremerton, Chapter 181, 2009 slate of officers. I am now their president.

The District IV Workshop will be in Sequim. Probably on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Sequim Elks Lodge with a buffet luncheon. Al Burge, president of P.A./Sequim Chapter 1006, is coordinating date and place to accommodate his chapter and his local spokesman for Norm Dicks, US Representative. We are inviting Norm's Sequim/P.A. area spokesman to give us a talk on Norm's view of current affairs.

Another main focus item at the District IV Workshop will be "Retention Attention". This will focus on a program authored by Rich Wilson, District II VP and Sandy Cagle, WSFC VP. As our NARFE National VP, Joseph Beaudoin, told me, NARFE is doing a fairly good job in recruiting members; however, our members are leaving the 'back door' faster than we can bring them in the front door.

As for the national economy, anticipate things to get worse before they get better for a few more months. Expect commodities market (gold, oil, corn, coffee, etc,) volatility to continue also. But most of all, expect political instability in emerging markets (3<sup>rd</sup> world) for this quarter. This financial meltdown hurts them also. Finally, thank those before us that protected our retirement system and pray that we do as good of a job protecting it.

Bill

## DISTRICT V VP – Carl Gallion

Happy New Year to all from the central Washington chapters "**the Heart of Washington**".

We hope your families were blessed with Holiday memories to last a life-time. Our chapters have been busy closing out 2008 and electing new officers for the coming year. I had the pleasure of installing newly elected leaders in Ephrata (#856), Wenatchee (#239) and in Tri-Cities (#1192). With great optimism, I'm very pleased at all our new leaders and I'm sure their dedication to our chapter and legislative goals will be fully supported. I look forward to working with each of them as the District VP.

I'm so pleased at the cooperation I've gotten from all my chapters in support of our NARFE-PAC and Alzheimer's objectives. Of significant mention, the Tri-Cities held a white-elephant auction in favor of

Alzheimer's in November. Proceeds from "**treasures sold**" in addition to some significant personal contributions equaled **nearly \$900!!!!** Special thanks to the membership and also to Pam Griffin and Bill Darke for their excellent efforts.

Special recognition goes to the Yakima chapter for granting 8 of their most devoted, active members with Honorary Memberships before that category was discontinued.

Wenatchee is marching Full-Steam into creating a wonderful WSFC Convention for us in May 2009. Please mark your calendars for this celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> convention.

To all our WSFC friends... **Here's hoping your 2009 is a banner year filled with hope, happiness and continued progress towards our NARFE objectives.**

Carl

## NARFE-PAC -- Paul Shell

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you up and rearing to go for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

I will be watching Vic's updates as to chapter president and NARFE-PAC chair changes, but it would help a bit that, if there is a change in your chapter's two officers, you would send me a quick email telling me of the changes.

I have written a PAC page for the WSFC Policies and Procedures Manual. If it doesn't drift down to you, after it is approved, I'll send you a copy.

This is a new Congress so the old pins are no good. Please throw them away. I am requesting a stock of pins and various forms from national, so let me know what you will need for the next year or so.

March is PAC month, so I hope you are planning an event at your chapter. Remember – no fund-raisers. Monies can be requested only from NARFE members. Money donated is not tax deductible. Make sure the names etc. are recorded, make a copy of it and send it with checks made payable to NARFE-PAC directly to national. No money is to come from your chapter nor is a chapter check to be used for PAC. For cash collected, keep the money and write a check for the total amount also payable to NARFE-PAC.

Sorry to be direct but our PAC has a good history of record keeping and we would like to keep it that way.

Please keep your eyes and ears open during this Congress. As you have read in NARFE Magazine we will most probably be under attack to lose some of our "entitlements". PAC is a leverage to support those Congressmen and Senators that support us. But that does not mean we are safe.

Paul

## SERVICE REPORT – Marion Wilson

Happy New Year to everyone! How did we ever find time to work full-time?

Hope all enjoyed all the snow and lets hope we have rain soon. I am not a happy camper as a shut-in retiree.

If your chapter has a new Service Officer please let me know. Also, assure that they have the resources they need to serve the chapter members and retirees. You can go on-line and order these manuals and brochures. You can also get many forms you may need to do the work of the Service Officer. You may order them by going on-line to [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and clicking on publications.

Also, **there is the new Service Officer Guide (FH-10/07/08) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 2008 of the “Q & A” book ready to order.** I highly recommend that each chapter request a copy of each of these publications. They are excellent tools for the Chapter Service Officer.

You should have received your Annuity Statement with your COLA of 5.8% effective 1 December 2008 that will be reflected in your 2 January Annuity. Also, you should receive another Annuity Statement in January with the changes in your FEHBP effective 1 January 2009 and will be reflected in your February Annuity. It is very important for you to file these documents with your permanent records and let your family know where they are filed. We should receive the 1099R Income tax form no later than 31 January 2009.

If you need to make a change in your address or change in your taxes you may **call OPM at 1-888-767-6738** to make the change. Always know where your CSA or CSF number is located and that your family knows too.

A reminder to any retired military or dependents that they may suspend their FEHBP in order to enroll in **TRICARE for Life**. They must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B. They must go through OPM to suspend their FEHBP and they may be reinstated at a later date. This is a suspension and not a cancellation that is available to military retirees.

A reminder, get your request for reimbursements for the Service Centers to me in a timely manner preferably on a bi-monthly basis.

I will be distributing the WSFC Service Officer Newsletter #3 in late January. If you have a question or an article for me to include in the newsletter please feel free to do so. My e-mail: [drssweety@comcast.net](mailto:drssweety@comcast.net).

If I can be of any assistance remember I am only a phone call away at **253-531-4514**.

Marion

## STATE LEGISLATIVE – Al Driemeier

The Governor's 09-11 Budget was introduced on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December. With a 5 million dollar short fall and the Governor's promise that taxes will not be raised, cuts to many State provided services have to be made. Below is an excerpt of the Senior Lobby's President, Walt Bowen, summary of the Governor's Budget:

“The following items affecting senior programs were listed in the Human Services Section of the Proposed 2009-2011 Budget Policy Highlights.

### 1. Medicaid and Other Federal Program Reduction

The federal Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs will no longer receive supplemental state funding. Long term care staff are reduced to reflect an anticipated decrease in workload from elimination of the Adult Day Health Program.

### 2. Nursing Home Survey Efficiencies

Long term care surveyors will complete additional nursing home survey tasks to achieve salary savings. Nurses will continue to gather and analyze data on the complex medical issues that impact nursing home residents.

### 3. Care Provider Rate Changes

About one-third of the people who receive in-home care from home care agencies will be required to use an individual provider rather than more expensive agency services. The homecare worker training enhancements enacted in the 2007 legislative session for increased advanced training scheduled to start January 1, 2010 are suspended this biennium. Nursing facilities rates will be reduced 7.5 percent.”

The Legislature convenes on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January. If any Federation member would like the senior lobby to endorse an active bill, please let me know at 360-561-3943 or mail to [thedries@aol.com](mailto:thedries@aol.com). If the Federation Executive Board concurs, I will ask the Senior Lobby for their endorsement and sponsorship.

Al

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS – Sam Cagle**

The 2008 FEHBP Open Season recently concluded with chapters around the state making good use of local health fairs to pass out NARFE literature and Active Federal Employee applications. Thanks to NARFE volunteers who pitched in to help support major health fairs in key locations. These fairs are a significant means of reaching AFEs with the NARFE message. Chapters need to continue to think of ways they can participate in health fairs as well as other activities in their area.

The NARFE tabletop and pull-up “ZAP” display units are still available for chapters to make use of throughout the year, at functions such as pre-retirement seminars, special chapter meetings, and presentations or booths at events that are likely to draw active federal employees, retirees or survivors. Be alert to opportunities that may be occurring in your area and contact Sam Cagle to schedule a display. NARFE has designed some new graphic panels for the ZAP display and we are investigating the possibility of getting one for use in Washington.

If you become aware of any special conventions of federal employees, such as postmaster organizations, please contact Sam Cagle so we can see about participating with a NARFE booth or presentation.

Federation matching funds, along with those from the national office, can still be obtained to support approved chapter public relations and advertising activities. Details on requesting funding are on the Federation web site, [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net), in the Public Relations area and a letter requesting Public Relations Plans has been sent out to Chapter presidents.

Don't forget to take advantage of opportunities to make NARFE presentations to local groups that are likely to contain Federal employees or retirees. Samples of current slide presentations or speeches are also available on the web site, or online from [caglels@comcast.net](mailto:caglels@comcast.net).

NARFE Scholarship season is on us once again. As in years past, a total of sixty \$1000 scholarships will be made available nationally, six of those in the Northwest's Region IX. The scholarships are open to children, grandchildren, stepchildren and great-grandchildren of any NARFE member in good standing. All applicants must be current high school seniors, with at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Detailed information and application forms will be available in the February, March and April editions of NARFE magazine and on the NARFE web page, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). A number of chapters are sending copies of NARFE form F-105 “A Guide to NARFE's Annual Scholarship Awards Program” to high school counselors in January, with a cover letter. Chapters

can find school address information on web sites like [www.schooltree.org](http://www.schooltree.org). Newspaper releases will be made available shortly to Public Relations Chairs for direct placement by chapters. Be sure to carry articles on the scholarships in your chapter newsletters as well encourage members to have their children, grandchildren, etc participate.

**Help spread the word.** There are still a substantial number of active federal employees, retirees and annuitants who have never heard of NARFE and need to be made aware of our mission and services. NARFE has significantly revised a number of its pamphlets and posters. Make sure that your “stash” of materials only carry the current ones, then make the effort to get them distributed to agencies and individuals in your area. Be sure to share the information about the pressures on our retirement benefits and the efforts of NARFE to save them for us.

### **Webmaster.**

Be sure to bookmark and make regular use of your Federation website, [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net). It contains information on NARFE activities throughout the state and provides tools for you to use in membership, legislation, and public relations programs. Through it, you can also link to chapter and other organizational sites.

Some items on the Federation web site include:

- An updated listing of District Workshop dates and locations,
- Federal Legislative “recess” dates,
- Direct legislator contact links,
- Membership reports plus updates on Recruiting and Retention incentives,
- Current and past copies of the Federal Reporter in PDF format,
- Updated Washington NARFE-PAC donation information,
- A page for information from the Region IX Vice President, Lanny Ross,
- Regularly updated PowerPoint presentation that can be used when speaking to active and retired Federal Employee audiences,
- Links to chapter newsletters,
- Chapter officers, as well as meeting dates, times and locations

Chapter webmasters who are interested in linking to the Federation site should contact Sam Cagle, [caglels@comcast.net](mailto:caglels@comcast.net).

**Sam**

## ALZHEIMER'S – June Christie

"Let's Pretend". Does anyone remember this radio program from their childhood (before TV)? I did a lot of pretending back then. We didn't actually use the word 'pretend', we always said, "Let's play like". However, living in Texas we always shortened our words and ran words together at times. So, 'play like' became, 'plak', play-like squashed together, thus, 'plak'.

As adults, we can't 'plak' any more when it comes to plaque. We all know that 'word' and it has nothing to do with child-like fantasies. We can't pretend that plaque doesn't exist and we can't pretend Alzheimer's disease doesn't exist. I do so appreciate all your efforts to make our research fund so impressive, but there is no stopping now. It may not happen in our lifetime, but to everything there is a season; a time of healing, a time for a vaccination, or a time for a cure. It will happen! There are too many people involved in this cause not to have a happy ending.

Maybe I'm still in a fantasy world, but only good can come from the research efforts of the doctors and scientists, the people at the Alzheimer's Association and all the millions of volunteers and contributors who are working to eradicate this horrible plaque buildup in our brains.

Excerpts from the *alz.org* website: "What can I do now?" Help put Alzheimer's issues on Pres-Elect Obama's Health Care Agenda! He is asking Americans to tell him why health care is important and what should be included in this reform. This is a great opportunity to tell him your personal story. To make your voice heard, go to [www.change.gov/page/s/healthcare](http://www.change.gov/page/s/healthcare) and complete a brief form.

As of Jan. 1, 2009, I have resigned the WSFC NARFE-Alzheimer's Coordinator position. Our president, Dale Brighton is asking for a volunteer to fill this spot. Please let her know ASAP. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with Dale and all the loving and caring people of Washington State and I thank you for that privilege.

I will still receive donations until a replacement can be appointed and further information can be sent out to each chapter.

June

## ALZHEIMER'S PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Please grant my visitors tolerance for my confusion,

Forgiveness for my irrationality and the strength

To walk with me into the mist of memory   
My world has become.

Please let them take my hand and stay a while,  
 Even though I seem unaware of their presence.

Help them to know how their strength   
And loving care will drift slowly

Into the days to come just when I need it most.

Let them know when I don't recognize them

That I will. . . I will.

Keep their hearts free from sorrow for me,

For my sorrow, when it comes,

Only lasts a moment, when it's gone.

And finally Lord, please let them know,  
How very much their visits mean,

How even through this relentless mystery,

I can still feel their love.

### WSFC 2009 NARFE CONVENTION

50 Years of Service

Help Celebrate our Golden Anniversary

May 14 – 15, 2009

The Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel and  
Convention Center

Located in downtown Wenatchee, WA  
close to shopping and restaurants

Nearby interest include:

Antiquing, golfing, fishing, wineries,  
boating, camping, river rafting, gardens  
and sightseeing

Leavenworth is 30 minutes away  
Lake Chelan is 45 minutes

A warm welcome is extended to you  
from Chapter 0239

Questions: Please contact  
Bob Berkley at 509-884-6106

Amen!





## **NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CHAIR – Steve Anderson**

**Let's decide to go fishing.** As an old saying goes, it is time for all Washington State Federation Chapters to “fish or cut bait” on deciding whether to send representation to the March Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. What Congress decides to do, or not do, in the next two years will be pivotal for both current and retired Federal Employees. The Legislative Conference provides Chapters an opportunity to debate, shape and bring home to all members the NARFE Legislative Agenda for the upcoming sessions of Congress. Participation will also result in personal meetings with our Senators and Representatives, to both present them with the concerns and needs of current and retired Federal Employees, and to hear their response.

Many Chapters argue, with a good case, that their budgets will not support sending a representative to the Legislative Conference. Those who do participate in the Conference must return with a plan to communicate key information to Chapters that are unable to attend. I know our District Vice Presidents will ensure this happens.

At this writing I have received confirmation that the Spokane, Tacoma, Olympia/Timberland, Wenatchee, Tri-Cities and Emerald Chapters will send representatives to the Legislative Conference. I also know that Northwest Cascades, Walla Walla, Columbia Basin, Colville Valley and Evergreen Chapters will not be able to send representation. Currently, no one from District IV (Olympic Peninsula) has reported a plan to attend.

I am looking forward to additional Chapters signing on to participate in the Legislative Conference.

**Steve**

## **EDITOR – Dave Seesholtz**

Now we know why the song writer wrote “*I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas*”. It’s because many people don’t really want one. At least no one that’s mature enough to be in a retirement group. In the future I’ll settle for seeing my “White Christmas” on the wonderful Christmas cards that I receive.

As I write this article the big news is the flooding on many of the rivers in Southwest Washington. This usually happens when we have substantial snowfall before the end of December.

When I worked at Mount St. Helens one of my duties was the flood coordinator. When we had a storm situation like we just had we would send out patrols to provide safety to the public and to prevent additional damage. We had people with heavy equipment and hand shovels cleaning culverts.

Today, the forest service has a much smaller work force and a starvation budget. I’m going to guess that the Gifford Pinchot National Forest will have at least \$10 million of damage to the main roads.

There is hope. Every time I hear Barack Obama talk about rebuilding the infrastructure, I have hope that some of that will happen on the national forest. Maybe we can put people to work and get those roads fixed before the summer tourist season ends.

If the politicians are really serious, there’s hope that Coldwater Ridge will be back in operation. I’d rather see a million dollars spent at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument to repair the building at Coldwater and hire additional staff than have it given to some rich bank executive.

*I think I’d better put this article in a letter to Representative Brian Baird.*

**NEWSLETTERS:** Ok, enough about the weather and the economy, we need to talk about **Chapter Newsletters**.

- At the October WSFC Executive Board the following minimum standard for a chapter newsletter was adopted:
- must be 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 also **adopted a proposal to provide a \$50 grant to chapters that bring their newsletter up to the newly adopted standard.** In the last Federal Reporter there was a list of the 8 chapters who do not meet the standard. If you are the President of one of these chapters and want to receive a grant, contact me and we can discuss your plan.

The grants will be made at the state convention.

**Poulsbo Chapter 881** has started to put out a quarterly newsletter in December.

**Kelso/Longview 1070** has contracted with Vancouver Chapter to be included once each quarter in their newsletter. They paid for the additional cost up-front for the entire 2009-year.

**Evergreen Chapter 1801** was considering expanding this year from semi-annual to quarterly.

Please think about it. If you were a new member and didn’t receive a newsletter from your NARFE chapter during the year, would you renew your dues? How would you know when and where to go to a meeting? How would you know if you wanted to go to the meeting?

**Dave**

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter period. The new requirements were included with the chapter receipt mailing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. There are still 4 delinquent chapters for the payment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter taxes. I will be sending out late reminders within the next two weeks to those chapters. Note that the allowable total voting membership of 150 or less was authorized to allow payments on a semi annual basis, but not for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. This will make all due payments required prior to this next years state convention in order for chapter votes to count. Approximately around 18 January 2009 the latest M-114 and M-110 reports will be available, at which time I will be sending out the information to all chapter treasurers for the calculation of their 4<sup>th</sup> quarter per capita taxes.

Note that all Federation dedicated funds for per capita taxes were returned to each of the chapters and three (3) quarters of prepaid per capita taxes were also paid back to the chapters during the months of July, August and September. This repayment was required to make the transition into the new method of per capita tax collection. Repaid amount totaled \$7,003.63.

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

30 April 2008		\$45,461.50
25 December 2008		
Checking	\$2,808.03	
Savings	\$301.73	
Certificates of Deposit	\$31,931.12	
Total Net worth 12/25/2008		\$35,040.88

### ITEMS OF FINANCIAL CONCERN

OPERATING FUNDS FOR THE FEDERATION COME FROM TWO SOURCES;  
10% FUND  
PER CAPITA TAXES FROM CHAPTERS

Our Washington State NARFE membership continues to drop from 9,016 in 2006, to 8,262 in 2008; a 754 member decrease. This will result in an income decrease of approximately \$1,600 for the coming year if we are able to maintain our current membership levels. This decrease in membership will have an impact on our budget for the coming year. If you noted, the 2008-2009 budget was presented as a deficit budget with additional incentives to attract and reinstate new and current members.

To all chapters and Federation Officers; please note in the coming year that travel to chapters outside your normal districts should be limited and if possible approved by the Federation President. This will be required to prevent over expenditure of funds and allow for the special committees chairs reimbursements currently being requested by the executive board.

For all Treasurers and Presidents; please notify me as soon as possible of changes in chapter treasurers, and mailing addresses to prevent mailing errors.

Rex

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