

# The Federal Reporter



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

October, November, December 2009

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Washington State Federation of Chapters  
Federal Reporter  
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4519 NE 49<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.narfe.org)

## From the WSFC President, Sandy Cagle



As we enter into the fall season, not only do we see changes in the weather and trees, we will also see changes transpire with the election of new and incumbent officers of the twenty-two chapters of our federation. It is a constant effort to seek leaders and guide them toward upward mobility within the chapter and possibly to the federation level. I would encourage you to look at the [www.NARFWA.net](http://www.NARFWA.net) website in the Leadership Section to see the three Power Point presentations dealing with recruiting and training of NARFE chapter leadership. These were presented at State Convention this past May but you may have not had an opportunity to see them at that time.

If you have already held elections, encourage the present officers to mentor their replacements and take advantage of the training that is available on the website. If you haven't held elections yet, it's not too late to encourage members to join the chapter's leadership team. And by the way, now is the time to start looking for your replacement for next year.

The Federation is also looking for qualified volunteers for various committees. Recently, every chapter received a letter and Committee Member application. Please see that members of your chapter boards and members are notified that they may volunteer to serve on any of the committees listed. The letter and form can also be found on the [www.NARFEWA.net](http://www.NARFEWA.net) website. It can be printed out and then mailed or forwarded by email.

For some this is old news, but I do want to say a little about the NARFE Dues Referendum. The official ballot was mailed to the chapter secretary listed on your chapter's F-7. If the F-7 was not updated before July 14, the ballot went to someone who may no longer be the secretary. Just a reminder that each chapter decides their vote and records it on the ballot, then returns the ballot to Election Services Corporation before December 8, 2009 using the pre-addressed stamped envelope provided. While there's been considerable discussion about the use of the coupon, this was simply the National Executive Boards way of enabling all 312,000 NARFE members to become involved in the chapter vote. The coupon was not to void or change any chapter's bylaws. So review and follow your chapter's bylaws on voting, inform your members on the issue and encourage them to come to the meeting to take part in the vote and, if attendance is not possible, encourage them to use the coupon for their input.

Since the last *Federal Reporter*, I had the privilege of attending the National Federation President's meeting in Grand Rapid, MI (site of the NARFE 2010 Convention). Forty-eight of the fifty-four presidents came together for training presented by the Enhancement Committee. There was a lot of idea exchanges and issue discussions among the presidents as well as with the National Executive Board (NEB). Dan Adcock, National Legislative Director, presented some of the proposed health care reform details and how it might impact federal employees and retirees. Note: We are already seeing in proposed amendments that there may be ramifications, so it is important that we continue to be vigilant and participate in contacting our Congressmen and Senators when it looks like our health insurance is in jeopardy.

Overall, the Federations seem to share the same concerns regarding recruiting and retention of members, how to improve communication between Federations and National Headquarters and some of the technical issues such as M-112 and M-114 reports. I often get asked, why can't the M-112s and M-114s come out at the same time? The assembled presidents also asked the same question. We were told that the M-112 is on a financial database and M-114 on a membership data base and because they are separate programs, they do not work together and will never match. We encouraged the NEB to look into other databases and methods to better manage those two reports so they aren't so difficult for chapters to use.

It is a real pleasure to serve as your president and to work with such an outstanding Executive Committee. We are working very hard to make a strong federation that is working for each member and chapter to reach our goals and those of NARFE.

**Sandy**

## VICE PRESIDENT – Richard Wilson



Here we are in October already. The second quarter has started. I have been working hard for both the Federation and my Chapter. Just before the end of the last fiscal year, I ordered and received additional post cards for the Retention Attention program. If your chapter needs additional cards, please

contact me at 253-210-5609 or at [narfe1404@comcast.net](mailto:narfe1404@comcast.net). I will mail them to you.

We are working at revising the WSFC Strategic Plan and Standing Rules to make them current and relevant. Much thought and work have gone into the revisions.

All chapters should be ready to or already have voted on the Single Dues Referendum. My chapter discussed it at our September meeting and from the newsletters I've received so far, many chapters will be discussing and voting on the initiative at their October meeting.

Federal Employee Health Benefits Program open season is less than a month away. Open season will be from Monday, November 9, 2009 until Monday, December 14, 2009. Many chapters will be holding health fairs at either their October or November meetings.

I'll be attending the 2009 Washington State Senior Citizens' Foundation Fall Conference on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Tukwila representing the Federation. I am looking forward to this conference.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Rich

## SECRETARY – Paul Shell



We are going to get very busy and soon.

On or around November 1<sup>st</sup>, most likely before this newsletter hits the streets, I will be sending the first of several e-mails about the 2010 convention. This is in addition to the normal packets you receive. There

are things you should be thinking about in advance of the normal convention activities.

Most of you have elections coming up. Please, please, file your F-7 with a copy to me ([phshell@aol.com](mailto:phshell@aol.com)) so I can update the roster. This includes any changes in your chapter's meeting information. Do this as soon as you can and try to get it to me by mid December for yet another roster update. Note that anytime during the year you have a change – do another F-7. Chapter presidents are charged with doing this now, however, with the

president's blessing, the chapter secretary can do it. Follow the directions at [narfe.org](http://narfe.org). Neither I nor NARFE National are omniscient – we need to be told who runs things in your shop. This gets the right mail and calls to the right person. And one last thing, if an officer or committee chair has a change of address, they need to notify national and me.

I know it is difficult, but try to fill as many positions as possible with maybe a new face or two. Most committee chairs should have at least one other member to help. This will take some of the pressure off everyone. Some members will help with a project or job that has a definite end and is short lived. Try to chop up big projects into smaller ones so more folks can get involved. Who knows, you may find a future officer or committee chair.

On a less serious note, I hope you have a great Thanksgiving and Holiday Season. Put your ears on and have fun.

Paul Shell

## DISTRICT I VP – Bob Elmore

I went to Walla Walla Chapter 237 on October 1st. Although there was a small turn-out for the meeting, they had an interesting speaker from Yakima. Sorry I don't have the name but she was a representative from SHIBA. She talked about medicare and some of the scams people have been getting in the mail from insurance companies. They need to be investigated and we need to be aware of them. While I was there I talked to Terry Sannar, President of the chapter, about taking over the state Alzheimer's committee since we have a vacancy. After consulting with Sandy Cagle at a meeting in Tri-Cities, she agreed to take the position. As District Vice President I want to say "Thank You" to Terry for taking on this position. I'm sure she will be a good representative for Alzheimer's.

I went to Colville Chapter 1247 on October 6th. While I was there we talked about dues reform for chapters in regards to the upcoming elections which will be in November. They will be voting on the new dues that the national office is proposing. Since they do not have a newsletter I suggested they put an ad in the local paper for NARFE members to come to the meeting to vote on this critical issue. Also, the chapter was preparing for their upcoming Health Fair. While I was there I found out that Membership Chairman Donna Olson's husband John had passed away this summer. He was a long-time NARFE member. We will all miss him.

At the Spokane Chapter 32 October meeting we discussed dues reform and how we were going to vote for this. Spokane Police Chief, Anne Kirkpatrick,

spoke about budget cuts in the Police Department. She stated this was very important for seniors because there will be less policemen out on the street.

In August, Chapter 32 and AARP provided an open townhouse meeting with Congresswoman Cathy Mc Morris-Rogers. We had a very good turn-out and good TV coverage. At the meeting she indicated she would look into the premium conversion bill before the House. We hope she votes the right way.

In regards to Chapter 32 officers for the coming year, I believe we will have a new president and a new treasurer thanks to new members stepping up to be officers.

Bob

## DISTRICT II VP – Quentin Gates

### Virtual Chapters?

In the last issue of the WSFC *Federal Reporter*, I made a plea to each of you to spend a bit of your retirement time serving in a leadership position in your Chapter, your District, or in the Washington Federation. Maybe you could do something as undemanding as taking the minutes of your chapter's meetings for a year or assisting your president in organizing and executing an interesting chapter meeting or just being the person who sends that card from the chapter to a member who's ill or to a spouse who's grieving.

***I made the plea but it didn't work!*** Nearly every chapter newsletter I have received contains some kind of request for members to volunteer to help keep their chapter alive and serving its members. I know the feeling. My chapter must now decide how to continue when the same 10 people (out of nearly 400 members) had to reluctantly agree to stay on in their positions just to keep the chapter viable. That can't last very long. So... short of shutting the chapter down or combining it with a nearby chapter... what can we do?

The most time-consuming job is organizing and presenting good monthly meetings. Each meeting must be interesting enough to make it worth finding room for it in one's busy schedule and to actually make the effort to attend. *How do we notify everyone? Where do we meet? Who's the speaker? Any refreshments?* Making that happen is more effort than most retirees (or active employees) want to expend. Maybe it's time to look at different approaches to chapter activities. Some Examples...

- Consider scheduling a meeting every-other-month to reduce the workload.
- Or you could have a joint meeting with another chapter once in a while to halve the workload and double the pool of volunteers.

- Readjusting the chapter's meeting schedule and activities may make it easier for passive members to consider accepting some of the workload.

The key is to keep the tasks clear, specific and within a fixed time duration. Then be sure to tell the participants how much their help is appreciated.

Unless we find ways to inspire our members to physically participate, we may find that we've become members in Virtual Chapters only... staying at home, reading the NARFE Magazine, checking our E:mail for retirement news... and **hoping** that our congressional representatives remember us.

Quentin

## DISTRICT III VP -- Bonnie Seesholtz

Hello! I am the new District III VP. I was elected at the state convention in Wenatchee in May. I have been a member of NARFE for 13 years and have attended all but one state convention and all 6 national conventions that have been held since I became a member. I am presently the President of Vancouver Chapter #131. If you have never been to a convention I encourage you to attend and get involved if possible. You learn a lot at these conventions and the more involved you are the more you learn.

This summer at Vancouver's summer picnic, Kelly Love, Brian Baird's representative, spoke to us on topics that are important to us as members of NARFE and how Representative Baird felt about them and why.

In August, some members from the different chapters attended Representative Baird's Open House meetings on the health-care issue. Through this type of interaction we are keeping NARFE's concerns before our elected officials at the grass-roots level.

This fall a lot of our emphasis has been zeroed in on National's "One Dues" Referendum. In trying to get our members informed as to why it is felt that we need this type of a dues structure, we have used our newsletters, chapter meetings, word of mouth and etc. to try and be in touch with ALL members. Voting on this Referendum has started and by the time you read this article it should pretty well be finished.

I am looking forward to learning more about NARFE and you, my fellow members, as I start down the road as your District III VP.

Bonnie

## DISTRICT IV VP – William Powers

Three of the four District IV chapters are voting on the 2009 Dues Referendum by ballot allowing those that do not attend chapter meetings to vote. The

Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006 will be our last chapter to vote. Their vote will be at the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ralph Sander is our new District IV WSFC Membership Committee representative. As a result of the August WSFC Executive Board meeting, John Cornette decided that he needed a member from each district to assist with membership issues.

Health care reform continues to be the topic of discussion on the national front. Bremerton Chapter 181 had Ryan Dumm, Congressman Dicks' "District Representative", speak about Dicks position on various health care issues at their September meeting. It will be interesting to see how close Dicks position on the issues is compared to the way things actually turn out when legislation is finalized.

Don Serry, a past District IV VP and delegate at many NARFE conventions, died of congestive heart failure on October 5<sup>th</sup>. Don opened up the first Washington State NARFE Service Center. This service center opening was covered by "Retirement Life" May 1989 magazine. The service center served Bremerton, Port Orchard, and Poulsbo. Retirement Life is the original name of our present "NARFE" magazine. At the time of Don's death, he was still serving as a member of Bremerton Chapter 181 Executive Committee. He planned to use Kitsap Transit Access bus for transportation to board meetings in his wheelchair.

**Bill**

### **DISTRICT V VP – Carl Gallion**

I enjoyed the month of September and with the beautiful beginnings of fall here in Central WA, I was able to visit all 4 of my chapter's monthly meetings. I used this time to refresh each chapter's need during October for canvassing prospective "active" Federal workers to join NARFE at their health fairs. Each chapter did hold successful sessions in their areas. My agenda also encouraged members to be diligent in reading about, understanding the possible changes and supporting their views to our US Representatives on the pending health insurance issues.

My remaining discussions involved our up coming Dues Referendum. There still remains lots of confusion and indecision in our members on the right avenue to support. I was able to answer many of their questions, referred them to published articles in our NARFE magazine, and strongly encouraged everyone to be present at their chapter meetings in November to cast their vote or to use the coupon in the August NARFE magazine (many chapters have duplicated the coupon in their Fall newsletter editions) to have their voice counted. I made sure each chapter understood their responsibilities for

timely reporting of their member's decisions so they will be counted.

At our October meeting in the Tri-Cities, we were pleased to welcome WSFC President Sandy Cagle as our featured speaker. I invited members from all District V chapters to join us and 5 came from our Yakima chapter. We were especially pleased to also have 3 members from Walla Walla chapter (District 1) to join us. This was an excellent turnout of support for Sandy from the Central/Eastern area of the state.

Most chapters are busy planning fall and Christmas programs including special recognition of Alzheimer's during the month of November.

**Carl**

### **MEMBERSHIP – John Cornette**

Permit me to summarize/update recent Membership decisions/commitments.

MAP 2009/2010 inputs have been received from Chapters 32, 163, 181, 238, 888, and 1192, with the review/approval cycle ongoing.

There is no rebate for reinstatement for 2009/2010.

Attention: Retention postcards are available on Chapter request to Rich Wilson. And reimbursement of postcard mailing expense is open to all Chapters, upon submittal of an expense statement to Rex Tauscher. The widest usage of these postcards is encouraged.

The continuing 18 month national membership competition has now passed the 9 month mark. NARFE HQ likely will provide a status report at the end of 2009.

A Membership Committee with a representative from each District is being set up. One of the Committees initial tasks is to work with an email routing for current employee members in order to permit their more immediate involvement via the GEMs system in on going congressional activities. Remember, earned benefits, Health Care Reform is not the end of these congressional activities. . .

Also recall that the National Executive Board in July spoke of establishing a position for Retention. . .

Finally, to summarize state membership statistics for the period 1 May through 1 October.

Total voting members dropped from 8271 to 8102, a decrease of 169.

There were 284 new members, 156 reinstatements, 128 deaths and 481 members dropped for non-renewal.

**John**

## TREASURERS REPORT – Rex Tauscher



The NARFE Dues Referendum (Single Dues Payment) was discussed at the Washington State Convention this year. National President Margaret Baptiste presented the views of the National Executive Board, with discussion and questions and answers about the details for the dues changes. The changes as detailed on the National Web site give the current recommended dues and payments to chapters and Federations. The following is an estimated breakdown of income to the Federation based on the proposed dues structure and the Federation income by the current 10% fund payment and Per Capita Tax payments.

<b>Current income structure;</b>		<b>Single Dues Structure;</b>	
10% CFE's	\$1,295.00	CFE's	\$1,295.00
New/Renewals	\$14,851.00	New/Renew	\$17,564.00
Dues Withhold	\$3,454.00	Dues Withhold	\$5,115.00
Life Member	\$1,615.00	Life Member	\$0.00
Per Capita Tax	\$12,865.00	Per Capita Tax	\$12,865.00
Total income est.	\$34,080.00		\$36,839.00

If the single dues structure is approved a revision to our bylaws will be required to reflect a change in the current Per Capita Tax calculations. Also the amount of reduction will have to be approved and budget changes implemented. Chapters should review their projected dues income using the changes identified in the dues referendum posted on the National Web site. Please review the changes for a vote in November.

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

1 September 2008	\$34,699.01
1 September 2009	<u>\$38,118.12</u>
Increase in Net Worth	\$3,419.11

Income from 1 July 2009 through 30 September 2009	\$7,534.55
Expenditures 1 July 2009 through 30 September 2009	\$4,000.91

Rex

### PREPARE FOR LIFE'S EVENTS – Dave Seesholtz, Editor

On October 19<sup>th</sup> Bonnie drove me to the Kaiser Clinic in Portland for an outpatient surgery. The plan was to be there at 11 AM and be headed home about 3 PM. Shortly after I was taken to the operating room, I was given an IV containing a drug to relax me. My heart started beating very slowly and missing a lot of beats. The surgeon and other doctors in the OR were having a conference to decide what to do. They went out to the waiting area to talk to Bonnie and get her consent to proceed with the operation using a spinal block.

The operation was a success and I was moved immediately to the hospital to have my heart

monitored overnight. My heart continued to beat slowly and missed beating for as long as 6 seconds. After much testing a decision was made to install a pacemaker. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> I was able to go home for what has been a two-week plus recovery.

While in the hospital I thought about how unprepared I was if I had died on the operating table because of the heart problem. I had filled out NARFE'S Form F-76 Guide for Annuitant & Survivor Benefits in 2000. When I got home I reviewed it and took a look at the **F100 - Be Prepared For Life's Events** Form (12 pages). I'm now filling out the F100 as it's so much better. What about you? Are you ready for Life's Events?

Dave

## ACTIVE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

### FERS

#### ***What is NARFE doing for Active Federal Employees under FERS?***

**Realistically NARFE does a great deal in support of active federal employees as follows:**

1. The obvious, but apparently not always considered, is the continued NARFE support to retain the retirement benefits of all federal workers and retirees. Specifically, this includes maintaining the approximately 70% while the remaining portion of 30% is paid by both active and retired federal employees; maintaining the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in retirement even though the percentage for FERS is less than that for CSRS retirees.
2. NARFE has continued to oppose increasing the number of working years used to calculate the retirement pension, i.e., from 3 years to 5 years which Congress has recommended changing on numerous occasions.
3. NARFE has continued to oppose reducing the percentage, from the current 55% to 45% that the surviving annuitant would receive.
4. NARFE has continued to oppose increasing the contribution the active employee makes to the retirement system; i.e. from the current 0.8% to a proposed 1.3%.
5. NARFE has opposed a change in the "Thrift Savings Plan" (TSP) whereby the government's match of 5% to the employee's 5% contribution continues versus the proposed increases of 10% by the employee while the government match remains at 5%.
6. NARFE continues to oppose any adverse changes to the Social Security Program; specifically privatization of the program and/or increase to the percentage contribution to the retirement plan.
7. NARFE continues to oppose any adverse changes to the Federal Employee's Group Life Insurance Program.
8. NARFE continues to oppose any adverse changes in the Medicare Part B Program.

***(The above list is from the Colorado Federation Newsletter)***

## SERVICE – Charles Caughlan

Open season for our Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) plans will be from November 9 to December 14, 2009. As of this writing, I only have the 2010 premium rates. They have all basically increased with the exception of GEHA High Self and Washington KPS Health Plans. Over all premiums have increased 8.8 percent. The most popular plan, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Standard option will jump 12.4 percent for family plans (an increase of \$44.38 per month) and 15.1 percent for Self only (an increase of \$23.02 per month).

I recommend that all members who have a computer or access to a computer to go to the OPM's website at [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov) to get the latest information. Once you are on OPM's site look to the right side of their home page, locate "Featured Sites" and under that find "Health Insurance" and click on it. Unfortunately, all the information, except for the increase in 2010 premiums, is still the old 2009 information. When they do update their site you will find a very good comparison tool to compare the various plans you may want to consider.

They also have direct links to the website for the various health plans. Most of the FEHBP providers have the 2010 available on their websites for you to download or request a copy by mail copy. This is the only way for you to get timely information on the various health plans and 2010 changes to the health plans. Remember, members will only have from November 9 to December 14, 2009 to make any changes.

**For those of you who may be wanting to make a change it can be done by:**

\* Using OPM's Open Season Online  
<<http://retireefehb.opm.gov/>>

(<https://retireefehb.opm.gov/default.asp>) system.

\* Using Open Season Express by calling 1-800-332-9798.

\* Sending us email to [retire@opm.gov](mailto:retire@opm.gov)  
<<mailto:retire@opm.gov>> <<mailto:retire@opm.gov>>  
or

regular mail to:

Office of Personnel Management  
Open Season Processing Center  
P.O. Box 5000  
Lawrence, KS 66046-0500

Any questions please give me a call at 360-693-0435  
or by email [csquare@pacifier.com](mailto:csquare@pacifier.com)  
<<mailto:csquare@pacifier.com>>

**Charlie**

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS – Sam Cagle**

Are you the Public Relations Chair for your chapter? According to the 2009-2010 Federation directory, 15 of our chapters have PR chairs, while six do not. Most chapters will be holding elections and installing new officers and committee chairs at the start of the year. As part of that process, I would recommend that all of the chapters make an effort to recruit and designate a member to handle their public relations functions. It should be someone who is comfortable with writing brief articles about NARFE and chapter activities, and who can work with local media and the PR staff at local federal agencies. These days, being familiar with computers and the internet will also be a real plus.

This year, I will be making a real effort to contact and support chapter public relations chairs, through the internet and phone contact, at the district workshops and at the state convention. If you have any questions or want to discuss ideas for enhancing public relations in your area, please contact me at (360) 456-8509, or [caglels@comcast.net](mailto:caglels@comcast.net).

**On the Web:** Have you read through the Public Relations section on the Federation Website, [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net)? It contains a wealth of information about your PR duties and the resources available to help you with them. The National NARFE Public Relations Handbook (FH-9) is also available online at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) in the Members section under Public Relations.

**Your Mission:** Your Public Relations charter is to reach outside the chapter to tell the NARFE story. Look for creative ways to inform those active Federal workers in your area, along with the Federal retirees and annuitants in your community about NARFE. You also need to work closely with your Chapter Membership Committee chair and newsletter editor to be sure that your outreach efforts coincide with chapter recruiting programs, and are consistent with the information being made available to your members.

**WSFC Public Relations Committee:** In addition to Public Relations chairs in the chapters, the Federation is also working on developing a Public Relations Committee to share some of the responsibilities of a statewide program. We are still working out the details, but if you think you would like to take part, please contact me.

**Health Fairs:** The 2009 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. Many 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. Now chapters need to follow up with the leads that might come as a result of those events.

**Displays:** The ZAP and Tabletop display units continue to be available for use in public appearances and events. If you are aware of events or conventions conducted by federal agencies or organizations with a significant numbers of potential NARFE members where these displays might be appropriate, please contact Sam Cagle to schedule them.

**PR Guidance:** Work is underway to prepare updated public relations planning guidance. Once approved, it will be included on the Federation web page and made available to the chapters.

**Matching funds:** There are still public relations matching funds available at both the Federation and NARFE Headquarters. These are meant to augment chapter efforts to reach Federal employees and retirees. If you see opportunities where these funds might be of value, please contact me to discuss availability and procedures. This dialog will need to involve Chapter public relations chairs and presidents as well as the Federation public relations chair and president.

**Scholarships:** The NARFE annual Scholarship season is set to start Feb 1. This provides an exceptional opportunity to promote this aspect of the NARFE program through agency newsletters and newspapers, as well as to high schools and local media such as weekly newspapers and radio/TV outlets that could effectively reach the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Federal members and retirees who are members of NARFE. Guidance and support materials will be out shortly.

**Slide Presentation:** Do you have opportunities to speak to groups of Active Federal Employees or retirees, but are unsure of what to say? We have developed a NARFE recruiting slide presentation that is updated regularly and is posted on the Federation web site, under both Public Relations and Membership. It can be downloaded and used on laptops and projectors. If that equipment is not available, the presentation can also serve equally well as a script or talking points for a speech. Please check it out.

Sam

## WSFC EDITOR – David Seesholtz

I have been assembling a team of experienced editors to judge the chapter newsletters for presenting awards at the WSFC Convention in Everett next spring. There will be one judge from each of the five Districts.

It is very important for every chapter that produces a newsletter to participate. Please send a copy of each issue of your newsletter to each of the five judges. If this is too extravagant, please at least send a copy to the judge in your district. If you are doing an electronic mailing, please send us a copy of it, also.

We will be using the same criteria as in past years, with some updating, to put a numerical value on your newsletter. After all the evaluations have been completed, each newsletter will be given a blue, red or yellow ribbon. The judges will give you feedback about your newsletter and some ideas for making improvements.

We will be putting more emphasis on content than in the past. Chapter leaders need to discuss their newsletters and agree on the most important messages to communicate to the membership.

My suggestion is that at least once a year the chapter leadership team should discuss the chapter newsletter. They should ask the following question. **“What do we want to happen as a result of sending this newsletter to all of our members?”**

The following are some possible answers:

- larger turn out at the chapter meetings
- more members contacting their elected officials about NARFE issues
- improve membership retention
- more volunteers
- increase contributions to NARFE-PAC and Alzheimer's

These are just a few of the objectives of producing a newsletter.

The chapter leadership team needs to give the editor the authority to edit out comments that are obviously partisan. Over the past 12 or more years that I have been involved with chapter newsletters this has given me more grief than anything else. I believe it is one of the main reasons for people dropping out of NARFE. The judges will be deducting points for partisan comments.

Please participate in the newsletter contest.

Mail your newsletter to the judges listed here.

Dave

## 2009 NEWSLETTER JUDGES

Paul Robisch  
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360-871-3002

Johanna Caylor  
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Richland, WA 99354  
[caylorX2@aol.com](mailto:caylorX2@aol.com)  
509-375-0739

I still need a judge from District I. If you are interested in taking on this task, please send me an email or a phone call.

Dave

## **WSFC OFFICERS**

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