

# The Federal Reporter



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

January, February, March 2010

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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, Sandy Cagle



**Happy New Year.....** I always look forward to starting a new year as it gives me new hope that it will be better than the previous year with new opportunities, challenges and successes.

I am extremely disappointed and frustrated that the dues referendum did not pass. It probably would have passed if chapter officers had simply paid more attention to casting a correct ballot. Of the 1,508 ballots mailed, 1,252 (83%) were returned but 256 (17%) were not. I guess some chapters felt that by not casting a vote, this issue would go away. What I found more disturbing was that of the returned ballots, 224 (18%) ballots were voided. The reasons for the voided ballots were: the top address was cut off despite the instructions; using "x" to mark ballot instead of writing in the delegate number; giving an incorrect number; and not signing the ballot. What it boils down to is many chapter officers simply didn't follow instructions.

Discussions are already underway within federations about submitting referendums at the National Convention this fall. If there are referendums, we will want to encourage delegates to attend this convention to pass this badly needed change in our dues structure. Our Federation will discuss this at upcoming board meetings and at the Federation convention, so if you want to write or help write a referendum, let me know.

The Executive Board continues to work hard on the Strategic Plan update, evaluation of the Attention/Retention project, the 2010 budget, upcoming District workshops, and other key membership and legislative issues. Retention of members will continue to be top priority this year, as well as more effective ways to reach out to Active Federal Employees.

Now is the time to start promoting attendance at the Washington State Federation Convention, May 17-19 at the Holiday Inn in Everett, hosted by Everett and North Cascade chapters. They are already hard at work to make this a successful convention and information packets will be out shortly. Chapter secretaries and presidents should be on the look out for these very time sensitive materials. Forms and materials are posted on the NARFEWA.net web site.

This fall I sent out a call for volunteers to serve on the convention committees. Thank you to those who submitted an application already, but we need more volunteers on bylaws, resolution, audit, sergeant-at-

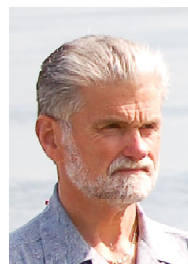
arms, ballot and teller and rules committees. It's not too late and the volunteer forms are in the convention packet and on the NARFEWA.net web site.

Your District Vice-Presidents are busy planning for district workshops, but you should be sure to let them know what your chapter would like to have presented at those workshops. Remember, this is your opportunity to exchange information, ideas, and get training for your chapter leadership. Please support their efforts by providing ideas and attending.

Thanks to each of you for your continued support of our chapters, WSFC and NARFE in this New Year.

**Sandy**

## VICE PRESIDENT – Richard Wilson



Greetings from Graham WA, and Happy New Year to you all.

Now that the holidays are past us, it is time to get back to the business of NARFE. We are still reeling from the defeat due to lack of interest of the Single Dues Initiative. If only people had submitted correctly

completed ballots the measure surely would have passed. While I don't know what the next step will be, I do hope there is a second initiative to vote on and chapters vote and vote correctly.

Membership continues to decline. I submit each of us is responsible for recruiting new members. But remember, while recruiting gets them in the door as a member, it is more important and difficult to retain them as members. The Retention Attention Program was designed to help chapter membership chairs retain their current members. Also, NARFE HQ has a number of form letters for chapter use to retain new members.

District Workshops will be held in March and April. This is a great opportunity for chapter members to get the most up-to-date information and training available. Your District Vice President will be letting you know when and where your district's workshop will be held.

Now is not too soon to be planning to attend the WSFC Convention to be held at the Holiday Inn, Downtown Everett on May 17-19, 2010. Registration information is available on the WSFC Web Page [www.narfenw.net](http://www.narfenw.net) (click on conventions, meetings, and workshops).

**Rich**

## SECRETARY – Paul Shell



Ya have your ears on?

We made it. It's 2010. We're getting ready for another convention - actually, two of them.

By the time you read this, the main mail-out will have hit the streets and, hopefully, being digested by chapter officers with word leaking out to your membership.

We've done things a tad differently this year. In order to simplify all the hocus-pocus involved, a single mailing was sent to chapter presidents and secretaries with courtesy copies to Federation officers and DVPs. This mailing included all the Federation issues, convention committee issues and nominating committee issues. A one-page, all inclusive, straight-forward, no-holds-barred timetable was also included. I don't hope for perfection, but do hope for improved communication and understanding from all sides. It's a step forward....A baby step....Actually a crawl.

Convention forms and information is now on [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net), thanks to Webmaster, Sam Cagle. Copies can be made as needed from the mail-outs or off the website. Constructive comments are always welcome; destructive ones, not so much.

I also hope we have 100% chapter participation this year, either by direct representation or proxy.

**Paul Shell**

## DISTRICT I VP – Bob Elmore

I went to the Colville meeting in December and installed their new officers. The Colville Chapter is interested in having a state convention down the line some time. I will try to check out the facilities in the area before the 2010 State Convention and told them it would be determined by the by-law changes to be voted upon at the 2010 State Convention as to what year future conventions will be in and whether other chapters have applied.

Chapter 32 Spokane gave out 26 new memberships at the Health Fair we attended. Eighteen new memberships were also given out at the pre-retirement seminar that we put on at the VA Hospital. In December, Chapter 32 installed two new officers, a new president Arlene Patton and a new treasurer, Chris Boettger. We are also planning our 60th birthday party in March and in February our chapter will get committees lined up for our 2011 State Convention. I am in the process of contacting a woman in Spokane Valley to talk about a new chapter in the Valley.

I am planning a District Workshop some time in the middle of April, possibly on a Saturday so we can get

active federal employees to attend. I want to stress in the workshop how to get new officers - presidents, vice presidents, treasurers and secretaries - in our chapters and how to get new members to attend our chapter meetings.

Chapter 237 Walla Walla - Previous officers were once again installed in December.

**Bob**

## DISTRICT II VP – Quentin Gates

### Wrapping Up 2009 & Hello 2010!

Well, we're off and running in a new year... a new decade! I've been the District II VP only six months now but it sure has been busy. By the time this is published I'll have had the privilege of visiting six of the seven District II chapters... breaking bread, installing officers, harassing congressmen and just having a wonderful time. Many thanks to the folks of Chapters 193, 196, 1404, 1701, 1801 and 1966 for your hospitality, patience and good humor. Thanks also to Berry Crosby of Chapter 43 for the use of his excellent chapter survey.

Coming up next is the District II Workshop tentatively scheduled for early April in Everett. I'm hoping to build on Rich Wilson's excellent district workshops of the past by offering useful training sessions and interesting speakers during a full day of sharing and fellowship. Plan now to attend, especially if you're an aspiring chapter officer or committee chair. Your chapter needs your help and knowing what needs to be done and how to do it makes volunteering easier and more fun.

Following the April Workshop is the 51st annual WSFC Convention May 17-19 at the Holiday Inn-Downtown in Everett. It's a great time of year and a great location for exploring the many North Sound attractions. So... "Come for the Weekend... Stay for the Convention!" The hotel is offering convention rates for the whole week and the convention team is working hard to keep the costs in line with previous conventions. Watch for more details via e-mail... you can download the convention forms now at [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net).

I'm available to you anytime you have a question, need some help with a problem, or just want to chat: [qgates@juno.com](mailto:qgates@juno.com) or call me at 360-527-3142. Happy New Year!

**Quentin**

## **DISTRICT III VP -- Bonnie Seesholtz**

2009 has come to an end and 2010 is before us. I hope 2009 was all that you wished it would be and more and that 2010 will be better still. As we get older I've found that our expectations are not as high nor do we run as fast but that does not mean that we do not strive to do our best. Only that it takes us longer to get there. My hope and wish for 2010 is that we will all strive to bring NEW members into NARFE so that we can continue to protect our "Rights and Benefits".

I had the privilege of attending Tacoma's Christmas Potluck meeting in December and getting to install their officers. One of their new members has agreed to fill one of the committee chair positions which is great. Wouldn't it be wonderful if more of the newer members would step forward to help the ones who have been so faithful for years. The more members who become involved, the easier it is for everyone.

Vancouver Chapter will be hosting the District III Workshop this year. It will probably be held the middle of April. The date has yet to be finalized.

**Bonnie**

## **DISTRICT IV VP -- William Powers**

Our District IV workshop will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the same date and place as our regular Bremerton Chapter 181 meeting. That is the Westside Improvement Club; 4109 "E" Street. Just off National Avenue and Loxie Eagans Boulevard exit off State Highway 3. It will run from 9:30 to 3:00 with coffee & doughnuts in the morning and a regular hot luncheon.

The cook for the Westside Improvement Club is giving us a treat by preparing a hot meal. The cost will be \$12.50, the same as last year. Contact me by phone, in person, or email for reservations. My information is on the inside of the last page of this issue.

I tentatively plan to have George (Sam) Sevier, our National Legislative Chair; Kristine' Reeves, Patty Murray's Kitsap & Olympic Peninsula Director; Lanny Ross, our Regional Vice President; and Ralph Sanders, our District IV Membership Committee Representative, as speakers. Emphasis again will be placed on "Retention Attention".

District IV has one new chapter president, Mike Kaaland, of Port Orchard Chapter 888. Poulsbo, Chapter 881, will have their 2010 slate of officers installed on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Poulsbo only meets once a quarter.

I do not have a report on our Kitsap County bus advertisement yet. I will have that ready for the spring issue of "The Federal Reporter".

**Bill**

## **DISTRICT V VP -- Carl Gallion**

Well, the holiday season has passed and the enjoyment of Christmas luncheons and installation of officers for the coming year is history. An ice storm prohibited me from the Ephrata chapter (thanks Dale Brighton, Past Federation President, for filling in for me at the last moment), but I enjoyed installing new officers in the other District chapters. It's always gratifying to see new/renewed leadership beginning another year of serving our chapters and I am pleased at the top quality of leaders we have.

The Dues Referendum results may not have been what we wanted to see. District V did overwhelmingly approve the initiative and I know submitted their results timely and correctly. It does distress us to see that in spite of our vigorous program to champion this effort, careless submission by 224 chapters and procrastination by another 256 easily cost everyone when the margin of loss was so small (just over 1%). I hope this will someday be revisited as clearly over 65% of our nation DOES want this change.

Spring workshop planning is underway and final details will be forthcoming soon. Yakima seems the befitting destination for hosting this year for our April gathering.

And finally, let me echo Don's NARFE PAC report. Our chapters in District V are to be congratulated for their stellar support to our mission-essential efforts that impact pending legislation. District V you are indeed the "heart of our great state!"

**Carl**

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT -- Al Driemeier**

The next State Legislative session begins on January 11. The state budget deficit for 2010 is \$2.6 billion. The legislature will soon again be working on cuts to the state budget and also considering revenue generating actions. There are two articles posted on the —Washington State Lobby website, <http://www.waseniorlobby.org>, that I recommend you read. One is entitled, "Our Taxation Identity Problem" and the other is "Gregoire Disowns Budget Plan; Favors Raising Taxes". The first article states: We have a taxation identity problem in Washington. When it comes to taxing the poor we are the worst in the country. Solutions have stalled for decades, in part because of the language we use to talk about it. As the state budget careens toward hitting the wall — hard — we need to find a more compelling way to talk about inequity in taxation.

In the second article, the Governor states she would not talk about what taxes she might propose, although she said she didn't like the idea of a property-tax or business-and-occupation-tax

increase. She also expressed concerns about raising the 6.5 percent state sales tax, but she said, "I'm not going to take it off the table.", however she stated that she will not increase property taxes.

On a related matter the "Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging "is asking people to CALL YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS TODAY AND ASK THEM TO PROTECT SERVICES FOR OLDER WASHINGTONIANS.

Senior Citizen's Services Act (SCSA) funding is reduced by 65% in the Governor's proposed budget.

SCSA provides vital services to over a half-million seniors statewide. A critical core element is Senior Information and Assistance, a service provided locally that helps seniors and their families make informed choices to avoid more costly nursing home care. Additionally, SCSA proposed cuts will cause severe reductions to home delivered and congregate meals, adult day health and adult day care, foot care, transportation to medical appointments, bathing programs, pre-Medicaid in-home services and case management.

Call the LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE (1-800-562-6000) with the following message:

"Please restore the Senior Citizens Services Act funds so that senior citizens will continue to receive vital services."

During the coming session, I'll try to keep you aware of important legislative actions that impact NARFE members.

AI

## **SERVICE – Charles Caughlan**

I've had several calls from members concerning the stimulus package where those who received Social Security received a onetime payment of \$250 and we didn't but instead were to get a tax credit. I'm sure many of you fellow Service Officers and/or Legislative Chairs have been getting similar inquiries. If you recall, Federal, state and local government retirees weren't eligible for the \$250 payment because they weren't entitled to Social Security. However, through NARFE's efforts, we will be eligible, for a \$250 per person refundable tax credit for the 2009 tax year.

The question I've been getting is just how we go about getting this credit. I contacted NARFE headquarters and here is what they sent me:

"The IRS 1040 instruction website provided the following information on the tax credit available to Government retirees when they complete their federal tax returns for the year 2009."

"You can take this credit if you received a pension or annuity payment in 2009 for service performed for the U.S. government or any U.S. state or local

government and the service was not covered by social security. The credit is \$250 (\$500 if married filing jointly and both you and your spouse received a qualified pension or annuity). However, you cannot take the credit if you received a \$250 economic recovery payment during 2009. If you file a joint return, both you and your spouse receive a qualifying pension or annuity, and both of you received an economic recovery payment, no government retiree credit is allowed. If only one of you received an economic recovery payment, the credit is \$250."

The IRS goes on to say you will use new schedule M (Form 1040 or 1040A) to figure the government retiree credit. Both credits are refundable. If you are filing Form 1040EZ, you can take the credit on that form and do not have to file schedule M.

I have discovered that this form and the instructions can be downloaded off of the IRS website directly. I'm also sure that in the near future you will be able to get it locally, also. One word of caution, I have found it to be a very difficult form to fill out. Good luck.

**Charlie**



## TREASURERS REPORT – Rex Tauscher



The Per Capita Tax (PCT) determination for total voting members for the 1st quarter 2010 period will be mailed out around the 20 January to all chapter treasurers.

Please check your “Honorary Members” and your “National Life Members Only” to verify they are still with us. I have currently checked those Honorary members that are on the National only list and found that chapter 163 and 881 lost those members in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009. In addition chapter 181 lost four (4) Honorary members from their voting membership during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009. Those deceased members should be reported to NARFE membership department using form F-9 to update the National membership listings. Members that are National Life Only non voting, Honorary either chapter or National only are not subject to dues payments so are not dropped for non payment of dues so the only notification must be sent in from the chapters. You can check for deceased members by going to the Washington State Secretary of State web site, and entering the persons first and last names. The web site is [www.digitalarchives.wa.gov](http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov).

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.

Treasurers and Presidents, please notify our Federation Secretary and me as soon as possible of changes following your chapter elections for your chapter treasurers, and mailing addresses to prevent mailing errors due to changes in chapter officers.

Notice that I will not be running for your Federation Treasurer this next fiscal year, so we need someone to step forward to fill the position. I have served the Federation in this position for the last 4 ½ years and am looking forward to a change.

### WSFC Treasurers Net Worth Report

31 December 2008		\$37,315.55
30 April 2009		\$45,461.50
31 December 2009		
Checking	\$10,398.52	
Savings	\$104.84	
Certificates of Deposit	\$32,467.26	
Total Net worth 12/31/2009		\$43,074.92

**Rex**

## LEGISLATIVE CHAIR, NATIONAL – Sam Sevier

In mid-July of this past year I agreed to take on the responsibility to our Federation Members of doing the best job I could for them as Washington State Federation Federal Legislative Chair. In this effort I've been somewhat successful, but haven't accomplished as much as I wished to.

The effort to get our elected Representatives and Senators to meet with us and listen to our concerns about guarding against the erosion of our pensions and earned benefits (principally our Federal Employees Health Benefits Program) was quite unsuccessful. Most of them were dedicated to transmitting their views, especially on the healthcare issue. The so called “town hall” meetings were the forum of their choice. Thus, emails and letter writing became the best tools we had to convey our concerns to their offices and I believe that does have an impact.

Our message is simple – we worked under a contract with the Government of the United States for certain salaries and benefits and with the promise of a specific portion of that employment “package” would be continued on in the form of a pension (and benefits) based on our years of service (employment). There are now two retirement “packages” that our members, and future members, work under - CSRS and FERS. Both “packages” would be affected if Congress decides the federal work force, past and present, is easier to apply cost cutting to than other areas. FERS is the most complicated as it has a third part, social security, that Congress has control over.

I learned several things from this experience, which weren't apparent to me when I started the effort. One was that a number of our members felt that some of the messages from the NARFE National leadership were at best, out of date. Attempting to press the issue on “fairness” items in a time of near depression, which we couldn't get either Party to rectify when times were good, seemed to be a waste of effort in and even a diversion of focus from, preserving our most basic interests - our pensions and earned benefits. The main point for all of us in leadership roles in NARFE, local State and National, should be – “stay on message”. This is not a time when we need to be pressing the extremes.

The fear was, and still is, that in attempts to legislate and pay for new initiatives like the healthcare system overhaul, Congressional budget committees would once again start attacking *entitlements*, employing such tricks as *means testing*, and other such terms to go back on the employment/retirement contract under which we worked. Those agreements are the basis of how the Federal workers – past, present and future, plan their and their families lives to meet their needs in their retirement years. This is our responsibility and we carry it out based on the “contract” we serve under with our employer, the United States Government.

I have been asked to be a speaker at a couple of chapter and district meetings on the subject and am glad to do that – it is part of my responsibility, and that goes for any chapter or district in our State. Please let me know and I'll do my best to travel to your location and do a good job.

Sam

### MEMBERSHIP – John Cornette

While NARFE HQ has not yet provided an updated status report, on national recruitment, statistics from the M-260 reports indicate that **Ken Kaul of Spokane Chapter 32 has recruited 76 new members** thru the 2009-year period. The competition concludes 1 July 2010. Continued **great work, Ken.**

WSFC membership statistics for the period 1 September 2009 through 1 January 2010 are as follows.

Month	Total Voting Members	New Members	Reinstatements	New Prospects	Deceased	Members Dropped
Jan 2010	8175	91	15	47	18	53
Dec 2009	8137	73	19	0	20	52
Nov 2009	8120	82	23	4	28	78
Oct 2009	8102	18	24	4	26	99
Sept 2009	8172	23	25	11	12	100

This period is generally the best for recruiting, and this continues to hold true, as number of members dropped is down significantly, while number of new members has an even greater proportionate increase.

Finally, repeating an earlier statement: 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.

John

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS – Sam Cagle**

The 2010 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.

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 [cagles@comcast.net](mailto:cagles@comcast.net).

NARFE Scholarship season is upon 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-grand children 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). Several 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). Be sure to carry articles on the scholarships in your chapter newsletters as well, to encourage members to have their children, grandchildren, etc participate.

Be alert to make use of community publications that provide contact information and mission statements about organizations like NARFE and the local chapters. For example, The Olympian newspaper annually publishes the “Sourcebook” which includes articles on recreation, schools, entertainment and organizations. Chapter 236 has had a free listing in Sourcebook for the past few years. “Senior Living Strategies” or “Innovating” resource guides are published for locations in Olympia, Spokane, Tri-Cities, Walla Walla and Yakima by Lawton Printing in Spokane. Check them out at [seniorliving@lawtonprinting.com](mailto:seniorliving@lawtonprinting.com). If you find similar publications or resources, please pass their information on so we can share it with the chapters.

**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 at [caglels@comcast.net](mailto:caglels@comcast.net).

Sam

### NARFE-PAC – Don Binder

Following is the PAC Contribution Report for Washington State for the period from 01/01/2009 to 12/31/2009.

Chapter	Contributors	Approximate Members 11/09 M114	Amount
Spokane #32	19	956	\$485
Seattle #43	8	609	\$231
Vancouver #131	9	642	\$160
Tacoma #163	14	763	\$285
Bremerton #181	19	1317	\$460
Everett #193	1	212	\$20
NW Cascades #196	8	396	\$370
Olympia-Timberland #236	8	382	\$360
Walla Walla # 237	4	230	\$170
Yakima #238	7	218	\$225
Wenatchee #239	17	226	\$450
<b>Columbia Basin #856 *****</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>\$470</b>
Poulsbo #881	4	268	\$145
Port Orchard #888	5	441	\$195
Olympic Peninsula #1006	3	359	\$170
Kelso/Longview #1070	4	105	\$85
Tri-Cities #1192	14	383	\$516
Colville #1247	1	107	\$20
Eastlake Washington #1404	1	324	\$20
Emerald #1701	1	252	\$20
Evergreen #1801	1	183	\$15
Sno-King #1966	5	342	\$220
<b>Total for WA State</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>8864</b>	<b>\$5092</b>

There is good news and bad news in this report. **Columbia Basin had over 25% of their members make a PAC contribution. Wow!!!** Imagine the difference we could make if all of our chapters could motivate their members like Columbia Basin Chapter. Fortunately, we have part of 2010 to contact all of our members and ask them to donate to PAC. It has never been more important to have PAC money to protect our earned benefits than in this election year.

Comments by Editor -- Dave

## WSFC EDITOR – David Seesholtz

The team of experienced editors to judge the chapter newsletters is complete. There will be one judge from each of the five Districts. One exception, is District II where a husband and wife team, Joyce and Mike Kaaland, will be judges. There are actually 6 judges.

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 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.

Within the next couple of weeks I will email the criteria that will be used to judge the newsletters to all the editors in the state. We will be putting more emphasis on content than in the past.

Mail your newsletter to the judges listed here.

### 2009 NEWSLETTER JUDGES

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### The Value of Chapter Newsletters

Once again I would like you to think about the value of a good Chapter newsletter. The general rule throughout the state is that less than 10% of our members will come to a chapter meeting. How do we communicate with the other 90%? In most chapters I would guess that the only contact is the

chapter newsletter.

On page 9 of this Federal Reporter we had the NARFE-PAC Report. Could we have increased participation by explaining the value of the PAC in the newsletter? It's certainly worth a try in the months ahead. We need to include information on how and where to send the donation.

We really need to harness the power of the 90% of our members that do not come to the meetings. We must not assume that they aren't concerned about protecting their earned benefits just because they don't show up at the meetings. They could be working at a job to supplement their retirement benefits, still working for the government, physically unable to attend, or they may be away snow-birding. They may be willing to write or call their elected officials when there's a need, donate money to PAC and Alzheimer's or work in a supporting role. It won't happen, if you don't communicate with them on a regular basis.

I believe we would all like to increase attendance at our chapter meetings. If you have an interesting program and important meeting planned, you need to get the word out to the entire membership. The newsletter needs to be timed so it is not too early or too late with this information. My experience is that it's best if the newsletter is mailed about two weeks before the meeting.

Many members fail to renew their membership after the first or second year when they receive their dues renewal notice. We need to provide well written information about the convenience and savings that can come from switching to dues withholding. We should present an easy way for them to switch in the newsletter.

Many members are looking for answers to questions about their benefits. The service officer should keep them informed of potential problems and where to go for help.

Members need to be informed of who the chapter leaders are and how to contact them.

The newsletter is one of the biggest expenses we have in our chapter budget. The leadership believes it is worth the expense.

**Dave**

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