



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 236 OLYMPIA –TIMBERLAND

Thurston, Mason, Lewis & Grays Harbor Counties, Washington
"Capitol to the Coast"

Chapter Meeting
Tuesday,
January 15,
1:00 p.m.
Speaker:
Tim Stelling
Financial Planner
ISI, Inc.
"Preparing for
the Finances of
Funerals"
U.S. Forest
Service Building
Olympia

Chapter Officers

for 2008

President:

Sandy Cagle
456-8509

1st VP

Al Driemeier
456-3718

Secretary:

Ida Sevier
432-9201

Treasurer:

Betty Fugazi
491-4970

Committee Chairs

Legislative:

National—Sam Sevier
State—Al Driemeier

Membership

John Cornette
456-8558

Alzheimers:

Merle Dingfield
426-6453

Service Officer

Loretia Cornette
456-8558

NARFE-PAC

Sam Sevier
432-9201

Newsletter Editor

Sam Cagle
456-8509

President's message:

Vote for

January 2008



Happy New Year!!....Did you make a resolution? More importantly do you intend to keep it! As we begin a new year in NARFE, it will be even more important that we resolve to: 1) keep NARFE issues before Congress as we head into national elections this fall; 2) become more active and involved in our local chapter which gives our effort more clout; and 3) recruit at least one new member to NARFE so we have the number of members that make a difference to Congress. Sounds like a lot, but that is what we are all about, isn't it?

The board will be making some major decisions and plans for the upcoming year, so your input is very important to us. Please don't hesitate to contact any board member and tell us your ideas, and thoughts on what it would take to make this a strong and vibrant chapter.

Due to schedule conflicts, we are moving the board meeting from Jan 4, as stated in the last newsletter, to Jan 11 at 1:00 p.m. at my home. If you are interested in attending or participating, please contact me for directions to the meeting.

Sorry so many of you weren't able to make our last meeting with our speaker from Elderhostel. She presented some wonderful options for travel and left lots of good

pamphlets and information. Realizing that although it was the holiday season and the weather was lousy, we can't continue to have only 12 members show up for meetings.

Our next meeting will be on Jan 15 at the Forest Service Headquarters and the program will be on a subject that may not be something any of us wants to think about but necessary in our life planning. Tim Stelling, Inter-Securities, Inc. Financial Professional, will be speaking to us on financial planning and preparation for funerals. Many of you have already had to deal with this issue and all of us will have to sooner or later, so let's be prepared.

The campaign season officially started this month and in February there will be local primaries and caucuses. Regardless of your political affiliation, these events are a very important step in the election process. Become an involved and informed voter.

Remember, we must continually lobby and convince members of Congress and the new administration not to diminish our benefits that we earned through years of service to this country.

Sandy Cagle
President



Congress and the White House kick the ball downfield

Amid a "going out of business" frenzy the Congress cleared, and the President signed, a fourth Continuing Resolution to extend spending authority through December 31st. Eager to leave the Capitol for holidays at home, the first session of the 110th Congress wrapped up its session and prepared for a conditional adjournment.

A massive omnibus appropriations bill, attached to the foreign operations appropriation moved back and forth between the House and Senate before going to the White House for signature. The omnibus contains the eleven unfinished annual appropriations and complies with President Bush's overall ceiling for discretionary spending, \$932.8 billion.

Furthermore, first the Senate, then the House voted to add Iraq war spending without the provisions opposed by the Administration. The omnibus contains pay parity for the civil service who will eventually see a raise of 3.5 percent that was approved earlier for the military services.

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National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Olympia-Timberland Chapter No. 236
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6049 Cotton Dr. SE
Olympia, WA 98513-5040

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NARFE Chapter 236 Meeting information

Tuesday, January 15, Olympic National Forest Headquarters, Black Lake Blvd, Olympia
Tuesday, February 19, Olympic National Forest Headquarters, Black Lake Blvd, Olympia

Membership Notes

We would like to welcome **Barbara Lister**, Shelton, who transferred in from another chapter, and current federal employee, **Michael Riordan** and Valerie Kvoool, both of Olympia who signed up through a national new member incentive program.

Congratulations to **Helen Krone** of Lacey, **Jean Skowronski** and **Dennis Vetter** of Olympia, and **Lee Walster**, Shelton, who renewed their memberships for one or more years. Anyone who reinstates an expired membership before April 30, 2008, will receive a \$10 rebate from the NARFE Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC).

Farewell to **Sandi Boughton**, who recently moved to Woodbridge, VA, and **Lester Sanders**, who moved to Austin, TX.

Unfortunately, we also note the passing of **Harold G. Cook** and **James J. Davis** of Olympia, as well as **Ethel-Faye Sprouffs** or Rainier. Our condolences to their family and friends.

We encourage each of you to enroll in dues withholding, if you are not already enrolled. OPM will hold less than \$3 per month, plus WSFC will provide a \$10 rebate to everyone who signs up for it before April 30, 2008.

Legislation

(Continued from page 1)

Congress also cleared legislation, S. 2499, to temporarily increase Medicare reimbursements to doctors by 0.5 percent. But for this six month patch, reimbursements would be reduced 10 percent beginning in the new year under Medicare cost containment formulas. S. 2499 also extends SCHIP funding for 15 months.

Another legislative patch also was cleared for the President. This one, H.R. 3996, suspends the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) for one year. Without any action, the AMT could have hiked the 2007 taxes of some 23 million taxpayers. But in passing the suspension, Congress defied its own PAY-GO rules and passed the tax extension without any offsetting revenues.

The second session of the 110th Congress begins when the House convenes at Noon on Tuesday, January 15, 2008. Premium Conversion, GPO/WEP Repeal, and all other pending bills will carry over from 2007 into 2008.

President Bush is to deliver his final State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Monday, January 28. One week later, February 4, the final Bush Administration budget (for fiscal year 2009) must, by law, be presented to the second session of the 110th Congress. The President's budget is his plan for tax and spending levels for the fiscal year that begins October 1, 2008.

Take part in the Political Process in 2008

We often talk about the importance of supporting those legislators and officials who support the NARFE position on issues. A key time for doing that is coming up shortly. If you are not registered to vote, please do it now.

If you think of yourself as a Democrat, then please plan to take part in the Democratic Precinct Caucus on Saturday, February 9, 1 to 3 p.m., in your area. Precinct caucuses are the only opportunity Democrats have to elect delegates and alternates to subsequent conventions, culminating in the national convention where the party will select its presidential candidate. Info on caucus locations will be out soon. There will also be a Presidential Preference Primary on February 19. While state Republicans will use it to select their candidate, it will be non-binding on Democrats, who will use the caucus system. Whichever approach you choose, take part to make a difference.