



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 16, 2007
Forest Service HQ
Olympia
Speaker:
The Judy Parks
presentation on
Legislation
at the 2006
NARFE National
Convention

Chapter Officers for 2007

President:

Sandy Cagle
456-8509

1st Vice President

Al Driemeier
456-3718

Secretary:

Ida Sevier
432-9201

Treasurer:

Earl Peterson
456-2141

Committee Chairs

Legislative:

Ray Dingfield
426-6453

Membership

John Cornette
456-8558

NARFE-PAC

Sam Sevier
432-9201

Alzheimers

Merle Dingfield
426-6453

Service Officer

Loretia Cornette
456-8558

Newsletter Editor

Sam Cagle
456-8509

Hospitality

Helen Peterson
456-2141

President's message:

Taking a forward look at 2007 chapter, district and Federation plans, events and possibilities

January 2007



Happy, Happy New Year. Did everyone survive the wind storm without too much discomfort? I hope 2007 will come in much calmer and better than ever.

The new 110th Congress has probably convened by the time you receive this newsletter. With new leadership, it will be important that we continue to keep our elected officials aware of our issues.

At the December meeting, 2007 Chapter officers were sworn in by District III VP, Auti Bergman. The Alzheimer's "spare change" fund has resulted in a collection of \$129 since September. Ray Dingfield won \$75 in the progressive raffle for attendance at the meeting. The January prize will \$25.

This month's chapter meeting program will be the speech about NARFE's position with Congress that Judy Park, NARFE Legislative Director, presented to the National Convention in Albuquerque in September. It is important that her remarks be heard by members since many issues she spoke about will undoubtedly be carried over to the 110th Congress.

The Chapter board has been busy planning and preparing for Chapter activities this coming year. One of our constant and main concerns is loss of members or rather I should say lack of growth of new members and participation in our chapter's activities.

If you're a current employee, you probably aren't able to attend chapter meetings. To remedy that, we will be holding a current member meeting sometime around the middle of March at 5:30 p.m. at a location to be determined. As soon as we have a location and exact date, it will be in the newsletter and by email to those we have address for. This meeting is intended to inform you not only about current benefit issues but to prepare you for retirement whether it is a month, a year or years down the road.

The National NARFE Secretary, John Clements, is asking members who have ties with their former agencies and who might have in their possession names and

addresses of Alumni Associations, retiree groups, picnics, get-togethers, etc. to please forward those list to the National Secretaries Office. They are comparing names with existing NARFE members to find source names to be considered for the OPM blind mailings. The blind mailings continue to be one of the keystones of our recruiting program.

Business items scheduled for the near future include votes on the budget in January and chapter bylaws in March.

Did you know that our chapter dues are among the lowest in the area? We have been able to keep them low because of the free meeting space and also many of our current active members are chipping in at their own expense to provide services and goods for the chapter meetings. Are you still paying the same amount for electricity that you did 5 years ago? I'm sure you are not. but we are still paying the same amount for chapter dues that we did nine years ago even though our expenses, particularly the newsletter, have gone up. At the March meeting, we will be voting on an increase in chapter dues from \$6.00 to \$7.00. This is a very small amount to pay to keep abreast of those issues that affect you as a federal retiree.

The District 3 Workshop will be April 4, from 9 to 3 in Longview, WA. This informative workshop is open to all members and chapter board members. We will try to car pool to the event so let Sandy Cagle know if you wish to participate. Cost is \$12.00 for lunch and all materials. Also it will soon be time for the Washington State Federation Convention and annual meeting in Silverdale, WA May 16-18, 2007. Those interested in attending should make reservations very quickly as there is a big festival in the area during the same period. Go to the Federation Website at www.NARFEWA.net to make reservations.

Sandy Cagle
President

National Assn. Of Retired Federal Employees
Olympia-Timberland Chapter No. 236
C/O Earl V. Peterson, Treasurer
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Olympia, WA 98513-5040

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NARFE Chapter 236 Meeting information

Tuesday, January 16, 1 p.m., Olympic National Forest HQ, 1835 Black Lake Blvd, Olympia
Tuesday, February 20, 1 p.m., Olympic National Forest Headquarters, 1835 Black Lake Blvd, Olympia

January paychecks to reflect new COLA

The next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for millions of retired and disabled Americans will be **3.3 percent**. Social security beneficiaries, as well as most civil service annuitants, foreign service and military retirees will be among those receiving the adjustment in their January 2007 checks.

Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuitants age 62 and over, as well as FERS survivors and disability retirees, will receive a full Social Security COLA, but the adjustment in their FERS annuity will be **2.3 percent** COLA. Don't spend it all in one place.

Address Changed?

- Have you changed your address? Don't forget to let NARFE know... please notify Member Records toll-free at 1-800-456-8410, send an e-mail message to memsrvcs@narfe.org, or mail the notification to NARFE Headquarters, ATTN: Member Records. The same applies for phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Don't forget to pass the same information to the chapter, attention Earl Peterson, 6049 Cotton Drive SE, Lacey WA 98513.

New Year's Legislation: Out with the Old, In with the New

The second session of the 109th Congress adjourned *sine die* (not to return) on Saturday, December 9 (H.C. Res. 502). If the 109th Congress was a painter, it would be called a minimalist. If the 109th Congress was a football team, its best play was the punt. After enacting only 2 of 11 annual appropriations bills (defense, P.L. 109-289, and homeland security, P.L. 109-295), the 109th regularly punted its duties to the 110th. The 109th Congress' 3rd punt, House Joint Resolution 102 (P.L. 109-383), provides stopgap funding through February 15, 2007.



While members of the 110th Congress will have to complete the FY '07 appropriations before they can receive any pay raise, January pay checks for other federal workers will show a 1.7 percent hike in base pay, plus a bit more in locality pay for most. Successful last minute negotiations also cleared for the President long-debated Postal Reform legislation (H.R. 6407), and rescinded a scheduled 5 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors (in a final tax and trade measure, H.R. 6408).

The 110th Congress will convene on January 4, 2007 to elect officers. The 110th Congress plans to remain in session, working five days a week, to meet the above referenced deadline of February 15 to enact some or all of the nine unfinished appropriation bills. Before that deadline, President Bush will deliver his State of the Union Address and present his fiscal 2008 budget (February 5, 2007).

Runoff elections were held in Louisiana's 2nd district and in Texas' 23rd district. Incumbent William Jefferson (D-LA) won re-election in Louisiana but incumbent Henry Bonilla (R-TX) was defeated by former Rep. Ciro Rodriguez in Texas. Rodriguez is the 30th Democrat to win a previously Republican House seat.

It should be an interesting year!

