



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 236 OLYMPIA –TIMBERLAND

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

Chapter Meeting
Tuesday,
May 15, 2007
1:00 p.m.
Forest Service
Headquarters,
Black Lake,
Olympia
Speaker:
Jan Carrington
Elder Law Attorney

Chapter Officers for 2007

President:
Sandy Cagle
456-8509

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456- 3718

Secretary:
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Legislative:
Ray Dingfield
426-6453

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426-6453

Service Officer
Loretia Cornette
456-8558

Newsletter Editor
Sam Cagle
456-8509

Hospitality
Helen Peterson
456-2141

President's message:

Help Chapter to "Spring back" into action with Program and Membership

Spring always makes me think of growth and rejuvenation. Is NARFE and Chapter 236 experiencing growth and rejuvenation as happens in Spring when the sun comes out and the ground warms up? Or are we still stuck in the cold winter ground just waiting for something to happen.

Recent articles in NARFE magazine have emphasized the loss of members in NARFE and closing of chapters. What we need to do now is "Spring" back so we can bloom into a vital and vibrant organization we should continue to be. There are many approaches being taken at this time at all levels of NARFE to improve membership. The biggest challenge is not getting new members but retaining the members we have. This past month our chapter alone lost five members for non-renewal and eight members were sent second notices that they would be dropped.

Why is there even a need to have a second notice sent when one of the easiest ways to continue uninterrupted membership is through dues withholding. Just the simple act of not letting your dues lapse will make a huge difference in keeping members and this organization alive and well. Ask yourself, what is stopping me from signing up so my membership will be ongoing? It is as easy as going to the NARFE magazine and completing the form. Dues withholding takes less than the cost of a cup of fancy

coffee from your monthly annuity to continue your membership in an organization that helps you retain your earned benefits. Aren't your benefits worth more than that cup of coffee?

We had a good turnout at the April meeting at Panorama Chamber Restaurant. Our speaker, Jerry Reilly of the Senior Lobby, caught us up on all the happenings of the State Legislative session and the budget for the coming two years. The budget may have some significant impact on services and issues affecting seniors so the information was very much appreciated.

Remember --- we will be meeting at our regular meeting place at the National Forest Service at 1:00 p.m. on May 15. Our speaker will be Jan Carrington, Attorney at Law, whose practice is Elder Law. She will talk about such important areas as Wills, Powers of Attorney, guardianships and other legal matters that we should all know about and keep current. Prior to this meeting, it might be a good time to look at the NARFE F-100 "Be Prepared for Life's Events" to make sure yours is current and complete. If you don't have a copy of the F-100, we will have some at the meeting.

See you on May 15.

Sandy Cagle
President

May 2007



April Speaker discussed state elder care issues

The April speaker was Jerry Reilly, with the Eldercare Alliance, part of the Washington Senior Lobby, who gave an update on state legislation concerning elders. This presentation was given near the end of the Legislative session, and they were waiting for information on the final bills.

Senate Bill 5520, the Public Guardian Bill. Can we provide low-income senior with Guardianship Services at public expense? This bill, which came out of the Eldercare lobby, was headed to the Governor for signature. This could wind up saving individuals and the state a lot of money, because people with low income put off care, then are in worse shape when they eventually get support.

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National Assn. Of Retired Federal Employees
Olympia-Timberland Chapter No. 236
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Olympia, WA 98513-5040

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NARFE Chapter 236 Meeting information

Thursday, May 15, 1 p.m., Olympia National Forest Headquarters, 1835 Black Blvd, Olympia

Tuesday, June 19, 1 p.m., Olympic National Forest Headquarters, 1835 Black Lake Blvd, Olympia

Member News

Congratulations to Gudrun Berg, who recently reinstated her membership. Unfortunately, six members were sent second notices in March, and five were dropped for non-renewal. Members should sign up for Dues Withholding through OPM.

Progressive Drawing

The monthly drawing for members present at the chapter meeting was for \$75. Names drawn were Gregory Kaiser, Donald Grendler, Thomas Beck, William Brunskill and Richard Scott. None were present, so the next drawing will be for \$100.

State legislature

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House Bill 1447, the Long Term Care Ombudsman program. Under this bill, the state has the option of changing management of boarding homes in difficulty, without moving residents.

They were also promoting extending Ombudsman services into all licensed Adult family homes. This had progressed through both the House and Senate. They were also trying to increase the funding and services available for in-home family support. DSHS has asked for \$7 million, the Governor's budget called for \$2 million. The Senate budget was also \$2 million, while the House had approved \$4.7 million.

According to Reilly, the Eldercare Alliance, which is the lobbying organization for the elderly, started out the legislative session by asking for programs that would have cost around \$27 million, but their requests were cut to something between \$14 and \$15 million.

They are already looking ahead to the next Legislative Session, working with Representatives and Senators to increase awareness of the needs of the elderly. Reilly notes that the changing demographics in employment, education and health care will be trumped by the realities of an aging population. Reilly said that the Eldercare Alliance did not want to create the picture of elderly doddards who only call for help from the state. Many seniors are active, intelligent, focused and working toward their goals. They provide a great deal of caregiving and volunteer support of the community.

He pointed out that during the last election, 52 percent of the voters were 50 and above, and 50,000 "Boomers" are turning 50 every day.

NARFE issue status in Congress

NARFE supported Premium Conversion legislation, H.R. 1110 and S.773, sponsored by Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA) and Sen. John Warner (R-VA), added co-sponsors, bring the total up to 133 in the House and 22 in the Senate. In the previous Congress, the total co-sponsors for these bills were 340 and 64, respectively. None of the Washington delegation have yet signed on to either of the Premium Conversion bills.

Bills to repeal the Social Security Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision, H.R. 82 and S. 206 also won new co-sponsors. The total in the house is 289, including Representatives Brian Baird, Jay Inslee and Rick Larson. S. 206, now has 26, including both Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell.

Chapter members can best reach legislators through their local district staff offices. The telephone number for Senator Murray is 206-553-5545, and Senator Cantwell is 206-220-6400. Representative Smith can be reached at 253-593-6600, Representative Baird is at 360-352-9768 and Representative Dicks is at 360-479-4011.