



## CHAPTER 236 OLYMPIA –TIMBERLAND

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

Chapter Meeting  
Monday  
November 17,  
11:30 a.m.  
Chambers House  
Restaurant  
Panorama  
Lacey

Speaker:  
Frieda Ray  
Mason, Thurston,  
Lewis  
Volunteer Center

### 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:

Charlotte Hopper  
438-5296

#### Service Officer

Loretia Cornette  
456-8558

#### NARFE-PAC

Sam Sevier  
432-9201

#### Newsletter Editor

Sam Cagle  
456-8509

### President's message:

## Different meeting date and site in November with Monday lunch at Panorama and election of officers

During the campaign season, everywhere you turned you heard the word *Change*. Change can be a good thing but sometimes change can be very challenging.

Unfortunately, our chapter seems to have experienced a lot of change this year with our meeting dates and times. For that I apologize and yes, there is yet another change..... this time to the date of our November meeting.

Panorama Chambers House Restaurant, where we traditionally hold our Thanksgiving luncheon, was not available on our regular 3rd Tuesday. Our turkey luncheon and election will still be at Panorama, but on **Nov 17 (Monday) at 11:30 a.m.** I know many of you like to attend this luncheon, so I hope the switch to Monday will not prevent you from attending. The luncheon will cost \$15. Please contact **Al Driemeier (360-561-4943)** or [thedries@aol.com](mailto:thedries@aol.com)) for your reservation by **Nov 13**. We will collect money at the door but please note that we must pay for all no-shows. Our speaker will be **Frieda Ray** of the Volunteer Center of Mason, Thurston, and Lewis Counties. Because of construction at Panorama, parking is limited and you may have to park a little further from the restaurant than usual.

At the Nov 17 luncheon, we will conduct the elections of Chapter officers. Ida Sevier, Chair of the Nominating committee, reports the following candidates have stepped forward: for President, **Al Driemeier**; for Vice-President, **John Cornette**; for Secretary, **Ida Sevier**; and for Treasurer, **Betty Fugazi**. Our chapter bylaws allow nominations from the floor so anyone interested may still have their name placed in nomination at that time. There are also unelected committee opportunities for those who would like to serve in those capacities.

We had a good turnout for the October meeting for our speaker, Mr. **Marv Kopp**, who provided us with good and thoughtful

information about the current financial crisis and investments.

We want to say welcome to three members, **Norris Pearson**, Lacey, and **Bryan and Linda Walsh**, Shelton, who attended their first Chapter 236 meeting. Mr. Pearson is transferring from the Tacoma Chapter and the Walshes from Virginia.

By the time you receive this, the ballots will have been cast and the counting begun. With a newly elected President and members of Congress, there will certainly be *change* in the months ahead.

The final 2009 COLA has risen to 5.8% for retirees and 4.8% for active FERS employees. However, as NARFE President Margaret Baptist pointed out in a recent article carried in the Olympian, the increase is welcome to retirees, but with inflation many areas, including health insurance premiums, will outstrip those increases. In these tough economic times, helping to preserve our earned benefits, including COLAs, is going to be the most important thing NARFE members can do through participation and continued membership.

Speaking of continued membership, I recently received a call from a member who is in her late 80s and is on Dues Withholding. When you receive your next renewal notice, remember that a member is never too "senior" nor is it too late to *Change* to Dues Withholding or multiple year membership. Just think, for less than a \$3 deduction a month from your annuity, you will have peace of mind concerning your NARFE membership. In addition, there is a currently a bonus for signing up. You receive a \$10 rebate from the state Federation and a \$5 reduction in your national yearly membership cost by enrolling in Dues Withholding. It's as easy as filling out and mailing in the form found in the NARFE magazine.

Sandy Cagle  
President

November 2008



### **NARFE Chapter 236 Meeting information**

**Monday, Nov 17, 11:30 a.m, Chambers House Restaurant, Panorama, Lacey**  
**Tuesday, Dec 16, 1 p.m, Olympic National Forest HQ, 1835 Black Lake, Olympia**

#### **Membership Notes**

Kudos to **James Entenmann, David Lee and Dwight Medina**, who have switched to Dues Withholding, and the 22 others who renewed their annual memberships in September.

Thirteen of our members whose memberships expire in January will need to renew their Annual Dues by then:

**Roger D. Hanson**, Centralia; **James D. O'Daniel**, Chehalis; **Violet Helvie**, Lacey; **Lilian A. Belasco**, **Vincent C. Ely**, **Bill Harvey**, **Henry J. Nicponski**, **A. Smithdale**, Olympia; **Beverly R. Brathovde**, Packwood; **Richard A. Core**, Randle; **Richard T. Gibson**, **Alfred W. Jones**, Shelton; and **John C. Usleman**, Yelm.



NARFE sends out a renewal notice two months before the expiration date. We would certainly encourage you to renew quickly, and, if possible, sign up for a multiple year membership or Dues Withholding.

Currently, 75 chapter members are on Dues Withholding. If you join them, you will receive a one-time \$10 rebate check, plus a dues reduction of \$5 annually. OPM takes less than \$3 monthly out of your allotment, and you never have to worry about renewing. Whichever approach you use, please renew. Chapter 236 and NARFE value your continuing membership.

We also note the passing of **Robert Okagi**, Lacey. Our condolences to his family and friends.

#### **FEHBP Information online for Open Season**

The FEHBP Open Season runs until December 8. If you have not reviewed and made desired changes to your health care plans, you need to do so by then.

You might have already received materials from your current provider, but the OPM Web Site, [www.opm.gov/insure/health](http://www.opm.gov/insure/health), can give you information on all the 27 plans available to you in Western Washington, plus vision and dental coverage. You can find the 2009 brochures, plan comparison tools, and other resource materials at the OPM insurance website beginning November 3rd.

The site also shows the rates for postal and non-postal HMOs and Fee For Service plans. As you might expect, rates on all the plans have gone up, some more than others. Eligible individuals can enroll in a dental plan and/or a vision plan. They may enroll in a plan for **Self-only**, **Self plus one**, or **Self and family** coverage. The rules for family members' eligibility are the same as they are for the FEHB Program.