



The Federation Reporter

Washington State Federation of Chapters

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

May-June-July

NARFE Quick References

- Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 877.217.8234 (24 hours)
- Legislative Action Center: www.narfe.org
- NARFE Toll-Free Number: 800.627.3994
- NARFE Service Officers: 800.456.8410
- NARFE is on Facebook (Go to "NARFE National Headquarters" then "Like.")
- NARFE: www.narfe.org
- WSFC: www.narfewa.net

Inside this issue:

WSFC President	1
Vice-President, Secretary	2
Treasurer,	3
Finance, Pre-Retirement,	
Nominating Committee	
Chairmen	
Districts I to V VPs	4, 5
Region IX VP	
National Legislative	6
State Legislative	7
Chairman,	
NARFE-PAC Chairman	
Alzheimer's and	8
Membership Chairmen,	
Service Officer	
Public Relations and	9
Web Chairman	
Editor	10

From the WSFC President – Sandy Cagle

"Protect America's Heartbeat"

I hope you have heard or read about NARFE's major campaign to counter the serious challenges to federal employees and retirees. While the campaign initially will target 10 states with high federal employee/retiree populations and/or crucial members of Congress in key committee positions, all NARFE members are expected and need to be involved. So, what actions can or should we take?

Begin by encouraging chapter members to help dispel the negative views about federal service, and its pay and benefits. By going to NARFE's web site, www.narfe.org, or the campaign's site, www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.com, you can take easy steps to contact your members of Congress and tell your "story" about your federal career contributions. At chapter meetings, begin writing down or collecting members' stories to send to NARFE. We are just now receiving information on campaign tools to use with media, congressional members, editorial boards and in local communities to

help argue against the misinformation being spread about public service and its workers. Our Federation will develop an action plan as we receive more information. If you have ideas or suggestions on how to engage members in the campaign, please let me know.

NARFE's 2011 Legislative Workshop reinforced for me the huge challenge ahead of us to preserve our earned benefits, and for current employees ... their jobs. We repeatedly heard – this is the most polarized Congress in 30+ years, and the greatest threat in years for federal workers/retirees and their earned benefits.

Washington State is fortunate to have support from most of our congressional members on our issues. However, we must constantly carry the message to lawmakers that federal employees have done and continue to do real work, adding real value to real peoples' lives. Remind them that we are willing to make fair sacrifices, but don't unfairly single us out to solve the deficit.

It is hoped that this threat and this campaign will revitalize current members and attract new members to NARFE. We simply cannot



afford **not** to recruit younger people into joining NARFE and chapters so we can offset losing our older generation. For example, to hopefully attract younger federal employees and recent retirees, NARFE's National Executive Board is launching a test "virtual" chapter termed "eNARFE."

Lastly, I hope to see many of you and your chapter members at this year's "transition" Federation convention. It is going to be a great opportunity to learn more about NARFE issues from National Secretary Elaine Hughes, and receive valuable training at roundtables, breakout sessions and special seminars.

Sandy

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"Federal employees have done and continue to do real work, adding real value to real peoples' lives."



NEWS IN BRIEF

**Government
Reorganization and Reform**
Have ideas?
Federal employees
can go to:
WhiteHouse.gov/FederalVoices
to share their ideas.

**New from NARFE
eSeminar Plus**
3, easy-to-use, online
retirement planning tools.
Details: www.narfe.org.

**2012
WSFC Convention
May 14-16
Red Lion Hotel
Vancouver at the Quay,
Wash.**



VICE PRESIDENT — Richard Wilson

Yes, NARFE membership continues to decline, and surprisingly, the greatest losses are from members failing to renew their membership! We do a fantastic job recruiting new members; the problem is retaining them.

This is where personal contact is needed – from chapter membership chairs, presidents or other members. In my opinion, nothing beats personal contact. For example, when I update my chapter's database using the M-112 report, I see the names of members receiving their second renewal notice. Many times I will contact them by e-mail or telephone, and often I am successful in

retaining them as members. It is very gratifying.

Further, the Federation's Retention Attention program remains an adjunct to NARFE notices to retain our members. If a chapter needs more "Retention Attention" reminder postcards, I have a supply. E-mail me and include mailing information. And, a reminder, the Federation reimburses for the postage to mail the postcards.

I also really believe we need to get new members involved and participating in our chapters. For example, provide new members with information such as an F-100, "Be Prepared for Life's Events." A fillable Adobe Reader form is available at

www.narfe.org, which can be updated without having to complete an entire new form. Another example – send a survey to new members asking, "How are we doing?" Use your imagination, but get your new members involved and coming to chapter meetings.

Lastly, I am looking forward to hearing about our districts' workshops, which have been crammed with great information and training, and am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Federation convention.

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Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Program

Open season for current employees, April 4 thru June 24. Go to www.ltcfeds.com/.

SECRETARY — Paul Shell

The Federation's May convention will kick off my final year as WSFC secretary. While there are still things I want to do, I am hoping our recent push toward paperless has set the stage for the Federation, including the 2012 convention in Vancouver. A focus for me this coming year will be continuing to work toward being paperless as much as possible. Therefore, I will be using our Federation web site and e-mail even more.

Thinking of conventions, currently at least one representative from each chapter is registered to attend the May convention – that's

100% participation! So, all chapters should be receiving convention feedback from their delegates.

Also regarding the convention, I would like feedback on the registration process, especially from chapter presidents and secretaries as they received the registration packets. For example, how did you feel about the: materials provided; access to forms and information on the Federation's web site; decreased use of paper; elimination of the credentials requirement. Please feel free to contact me at:

pshell@aol.com or

shellpaul1129@comcast.net.

Finally, taking a look back, I was lucky enough to be one of the dozen Washington delegates to attend NARFE's recent Legislative Training Conference. It was the most impressive of those I have attended. Now, of particular interest to me – how NARFE and M&R Strategic Services will move forward with NARFE's *Protect America's Heartbeat* campaign and then, what we can do as a Federation, and at the chapter and individual levels, to help support the campaign.

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TREASURER — Arlene L. Patton

Per Capita Tax

The Federation quickly recognized that NARFE's new national dues structure would increase revenues paid to federations under the 10% fund. Therefore, at its November 17 meeting, the Federation Executive Board took action to simplify the process and reduce the Per Capita Tax Rate charged to the Federation's chapters.

The first billing under the new procedures was in January, with payments due by April 1. The process went smoothly! Nine chapters elected to pay in full; 13 elected to pay in two installments, with

the second payment due by October 1.

Audit of Financial Records

Chapters should complete an annual audit of their financial records. An audit checklist can be found on the NARFE web site, www.narfe.org.

990 Tax Return

According to a recent NARFE reminder, "the IRS requires all NARFE chapters and federations, without exception, to file a tax return regardless of how much income they earned in 2010. If your chapter did not have any taxable income in 2010, you will still need to file IRS Form 990-N, *Electronic Notice*

(e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations. This form is only available on the Internet."

Other chapters may need to file the IRS Form 990, *Return of Organization Exempt for Income Tax*. Forms and instructions are at IRS offices or online at:

<http://www.irs.gov/app/picklist/list/formsInstructions.html>.

The IRS will revoke the tax-exempt status for chapters failing to file taxes for three consecutive years.

Arlene

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PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS

Anyone having contacts with their current or previous federal agency that may be interested in NARFE Pre-Retirement Seminars, please provide me the information and I can forward it to NARFE headquarters for the agency. If you have questions or need information about these seminars, please contact me.

Michael Ferri

TREASURER REPORT SYNOPSIS AS OF MARCH 31, 2011

Budget Balances

Approved Annual Budget	\$ 37,915.00
Year-to-Date Expenditures	\$ 23,270.04
Budget Remaining	\$ 14,644.96

Bank Balances

US Bank Checking	\$18,541.53
STCU—Savings/MM	\$ 8,527.33
CD (Matures 05/10/13)	\$25,211.67
Total Bank Balances	\$52,280.53

FINANCE — Michael S. Ferri

The WSFC budget process for 2011-2012 is complete. The Executive Board approved the budget at its February 17 meeting; it will be presented at the Federation's upcoming convention.

The 2011-2012 budget is 7.5% (-\$2,840) below the current approved budget ending June 30. As revenues come from member dues and member numbers are down, we all need to recruit

new members to ensure our revenue stream remains constant.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE — Nancy Crosby

A reminder – the WSFC's new bylaws provide for the current Federation officers to serve until the 2012 biennial convention. However, the Nominating Committee is always looking for individuals willing to serve! I'm sure there is agreement that a year passes quickly; therefore,

before too many months, the Nominating Committee will be actively engaged in soliciting for those willing to serve in a Federation office.

So, I will be most happy to talk with anyone interested in knowing more about serving as an officer and/or interested in potentially nominating

someone else. I am planning to be at the Federation's May convention, so for those attending, feel free to talk with me then, or contact me at any time.

Nancy

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DISTRICT I VP — Teri Sannar



When the media lashes out at federal workers, often they not only don't have all the facts, they also don't look at what federal jobs are really about. We need to help correct this, and it is what NARFE wants with its *Protect America's Heartbeat* campaign.

So, to start, I looked at my own situation. I was a VA night nurse, working nights but also weekends, holidays and even double shifts on occasions. As I reflect on

what would happen to our veterans deserving and needing care without dedicated people caring for them, and then reflect on how we can attract and keep those wanting to provide the care for our veterans, I know it is very important for the media and general public to know about such workers and what they do. We all have stories to tell, and I believe we need to tell them so the media and public know government

workers are dedicated, caring and hard working. This will then also help correct misinformation.

Therefore, I am looking forward to coming together and supporting one another at our Federation's May convention, and learning more about how we can use and support NARFE's *Protect America's Heartbeat* campaign.

Teri

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DISTRICT II VP — Quentin Gates



A few years ago, my chapter invited the local county disaster preparedness officer to give us ideas about what to do in an emergency. One item he provided was a disaster preparedness handbook that covers everything from how to use 911, to preparing for terrorism to natural disasters. It also covers emergencies especially applicable to the Pacific Northwest — emergencies

such as earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis.

In light of recent "Rim of Fire" disasters in Japan, Chile and New Zealand, I highly recommend you obtain a copy. Go to:

http://www.ci.bonney-lake.wa.us/UserFiles/File/Community_Downloads/Disaster%20Preparation%20Handbook.pdf.

A PDF of the handbook will come up that you can down-

load and print. Take time to read through it. Each subject is presented in an easy-to-read bullet format complete with checklists.

Finally, you may wish to invite your own county's emergency management expert to speak at a chapter meeting. Be safe, eh?

Quentin

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H: 360.527.3142

DISTRICT III VP — Bonnie Seesholtz



Speakers from our area's congressional offices, Region IX VP Lanny Ross and WSFC President Sandy Cagle highlighted our recent District III workshop. Besides the speakers, our workshop covered topics such as the federal budget, debt limit, possible government shutdown, keeping in contact with our members, membership and NARFE's recent Legislative Training Conference. An important and packed-filled day!

We all know of the

problems with retention and recruiting, and the need to increase our membership, our activities and public awareness. Now, more than ever, we need to do something about Congress and the public's attitudes toward federal workers, and their health and retirement benefits — our health and retirement benefits.

We continually need new blood in our NARFE organization with new ideas that reflect what the active federal employees need and want to

keep the federal civil service a viable work force.

So, at the coming Federation convention, I am looking forward to learning more about how we can tackle the threats to our benefits and walk away with ideas in hand to implement as soon as possible. Strength is in numbers; therefore, our efforts have to be unified across the country.

Bonnie

(Note: Phone only)

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DISTRICT IV VP — Bill Powers

Responding to NARFE's *Protect America's Heartbeat* campaign, I am developing a PowerPoint presentation as a handout for new or prospective District IV members (who have the necessary computer equipment). I am using some of the older information I have from previous NARFE recruiting tapes coupled with this current campaign's research, data and info-graphic information. I bought a multi-format recorder for this purpose.

I believe this presentation will help solidify relationships with new members and help build our organization's brand. Hopefully, it will also encourage these new/prospective members, along with current members, to adopt this campaign and want to take a feel-good role as they engage with NARFE.

Also, when Washington's redistricting is completed and boundaries are set for our new 10th Congressional District, I foresee a NARFE

congressional district liaison so our representative will identify NARFE with a particular constituent. This person will have the facts and talking points to reframe the debate that currently exists around an overpaid and unnecessary federal workforce to one centered on public servants vital to keeping America's heartbeat going strong.

Bill

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DISTRICT V VP — Steve Anderson

It is difficult to find good news lately, particularly relative to federal employment and retirement. We frequently hear misinformed accounts about overpaid federal workers and retirees. Even legislative leaders who we think to be "friendly" to the federal workforce are sometimes not as staunch in their support as we would desire. The gravity of the situation underscores the importance of NARFE's *Protect America's Heartbeat* campaign.

Like everything NARFE

attempts to do, *Protect America's Heartbeat* will only be successful with wholehearted support from the field. Therefore, I am encouraging the District V chapters to reach out to their members to assist and encourage campaign participation. This includes going onto the NARFE web site and signing the petition to our elected officials, as well as telling their individual stories about their public service.

However, more is needed. For example, in my home chapter of Wenatchee, more

than half our members do not have Internet access. I suspect the situation is similar across the Federation.

So, how do we assist these members, many of whom are elderly? This is a problem for chapters.

One idea is to provide pre-printed post cards for these members to mail to their elected representatives. I am eager to hear other ideas! Please share with me.

Steve

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REGION IX VP — Lanny Ross

GEMS – NARFE's Global Electronic Messaging System. With rapidly changing events, it is even more important than ever to quickly get information to NARFE members. By way of example, I used GEMS to send my March report from the National Executive Board (NEB) meeting to 4,167 Region IX members on GEMS.

Therefore, please encour-

age your members who have computers to sign onto this system. It's as easy as providing their e-mail address to NARFE by going to NARFE's web site, www.narfe.org, and then to "Update My Record." Members can now choose to receive: all GEMS messages from all sources; only NARFE headquarters messages on legislative and membership topics; or, messages from

federation and local sources.

At the March NEB meeting, NARFE President Joe Beaudoin provided a draft of NARFE Policy 720 regarding national officers/staff visits to federations, regions and chapters. It includes regional vice presidents' visits to federations and chapters, which must be necessary and

(Continued on page 6)



REGION IX VP — *continued*

(Continued from page 5)

within the member's budget. The actual text will be on the NARFE web site, www.narfe.org. This policy is an attempt to provide controls on budgeted funds.

Options if in-person visits are not doable? The NEB is exploring electronic communications such as Skype or Go-To-Meeting. For example, recently, Florida's federation used Go-To-Meeting and saved \$5,500.

And speaking of ways to communicate," NARFE's web

site for its *Protect America's Heartbeat* campaign will have more information about the campaign in months to come. Keep checking the site. Look for such things as: sample "letters to the editor;" tool kits to help states; advocacy training; brochures and other handouts. Now, in particular, is our time to stand up, be heard and be involved in protecting federal employment, federal retirees and their earned benefits.

Finally, NARFE and membership — did you know that only about 15% of federal

retirees and 1% of current federal employees are NARFE members? To help reverse these statistics, and reduce NARFE's declining membership numbers, the NEB has engaged the services of Marketing General, Inc. MGI has a successful track record in helping associations like NARFE grow brand awareness, members and also, membership engagement. More details to come.

Lanny

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OPM NEWS FOR NARFE MEMBERS

NEW Tax Hotline

Retirees can change their federal tax withholding on their monthly annuity payments by calling: 800.307.8298.

Keep PINs Current

Retiree Personal Identification Numbers must be used at least once every 15 months to stay current. Go to the OPM web site, www.opm.gov, to use the PIN. For expired PINs, call: 888.767.6738.

TOOLKIT TALKING POINTS

Protect America's Heartbeat Campaign

- Nearly 1 in 100 Americans is a federal employee — they are your friends, next door neighbors
- There are about 3.5 million full/part-time federal employees
- There are about 1.2 million retired federal employees
- 55% of federal employees are between ages 45 and 64 vs. 36% in the private sector
- 44.3% of federal employees have college degrees or higher education vs. 29% in the private sector
- 62% of federal employees earn between \$25,000 and \$75,000 annually
- 1969: 3 million federal employees served 203 million Americans; 2009: 2.8 million served 307 million
- 84.3% of federal employees work outside the D.C. metro area — that's 2,392,742 across the country
- Washington State — pop: 6,664,195; federal employees: 57,894; federal retirees/annuitants: 64,965

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN — Mike Teefy

Our state's delegation was a strong force at NARFE's March Legislative Training Conference and its *Protect America's Heartbeat* campaign. We met old friends, fostered new friendships and contacts, and experienced an extremely active three days. It was a highly successful conference as we adjusted our goals from passive legislation endeavors to focus on a new, dynamic, proactive mindset.

Speakers and informative programs energized delegates and provided an informative overview of the legislative challenges we face to protect wages, medical and other

benefits of our active and retired members.

Overall, our visit to "The Hill" went well with our Federation delegates indicating their discussions with our elected officials, or their staff members, were positive. But, as was emphasized at the conference, educating new members of Congress is important, and we experienced this first hand with Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler from Washington's 3rd District.

One issue I raised at the conference is — NARFE national needs to assertively secure the right for NARFE

access to federal worksites. Federal management associations and unions are united with us; therefore, onsite visits could provide a venue for us to reach large numbers of employees and inform them of who we are, what we stand for, and what we do to protect their pay and benefits. It could be a win-win situation for management, employees and NARFE for both legislative action and recruitment, and then, making our organization truly stronger today and into the future.

Mike

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STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN — John Thurber

At a recent Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby meeting, President Walt Bowen said, "Social Security is still at risk" and "recent bills passed at the federal level may affect senior programs such as senior housing." He encouraged those at the meeting to "... follow these issues and contact their elected officials." Sound familiar? Are state and federal issues interwoven? In many cases, yes!

Attending these meetings and hearing about furloughs,

revenues being down, and healthcare, retirement and other benefits issues brings to light even more the inter-connection between many state and federal issues, and the importance of staying informed, connected, and establishing and maintaining relationships with state representatives and others in organizations working issues that are also NARFE's agenda.

This is one reason our Washington NARFE Federation is a member of the Washington State Senior

Citizens' Lobby. Formed in 1977, it is "a volunteer, non-profit advocacy organization for seniors. Its activities include everything from studying issues of concern to seniors to developing a legislative agenda, lobbying, providing legislative updates, contacting legislators/staff and maintaining a communications network for seniors. For more information, go to: www.waseniorlobby.org.

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NARFE-PAC CHAIRMAN — Don Binder

"A Fresh Start"

As the 112th Congress was sworn in January 5, NARFE was ready to start another two-year congressional cycle and redouble its efforts to find additional NARFE-PAC contributions. We receive information from NARFE's legislative staff at the end of each quarter, so we can track how we — as individual chapters and as federations — are doing.

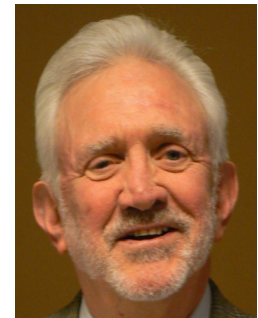
While we do not have information for the other federations as of press time,

we do know that as of March 31, 120 Washington Federation members contributed \$4,455 to NARFE-PAC. The entire breakdown by chapter is on the WSFC webs site, www.narfewa.net. This is a great start! However, given all that is happening on Capitol Hill, all you are reading or hearing about, or all you are watching each day as it relates to issues that can impact active and retired federal employees, it is even more important for NARFE members to contribute to

NARFE-PAC. The funds are used to support candidates for Senate and House races who support NARFE's legislative agenda.

If you are a chapter NARFE-PAC coordinator and need PAC pins for those who contribute \$20 or more, or if you need forms to record donations or want to discuss NARFE-PAC, feel free to send me an e-mail or call me.

Don
don_binder@msn.com
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 C: 509.378.1013



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Celebrated the first week of May since 1985. A nationwide public education campaign honoring the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees, and ensure that our government is the best in the world.



GOOD TO KNOW! "UNCLAIMED PROPERTY"

This is property held by an organization that has not had contact with the owner for an extended time period. Examples: bank accounts; insurance proceeds; stocks, bonds, mutual funds; safe deposit box contents; utility and phone company deposits; uncashed checks.

For more details in Washington State:

<http://ucp.dor.wa.gov>; or,
 call: 800.435.2429

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIRMAN — Ray Patterson



NARFE has exceeded its national goal of \$9 million for Alzheimer's research. As of January 31, total contributions were: \$9,017,483.89. Now, we are focused on the next national goal – 2012 and \$10 million!

The issue of dues and charitable contributions has been resolved. **Chapter dues cannot be used for donations to charities.**

The revised Alzheimer's

Chapter Coordinators Manual can be found on either the WSFC or NARFE web sites, www.narfewa.net, or www.narfe.org. However, please contact me if you would like me to e-mail you a copy.

At the end of each month, I will publish a status report to chapter representatives. I am also making every attempt to process donations in an expeditious manner.

Finally, thank you to each chapter for its participation in NARFE's Alzheimer's Research Fund drive. I am looking forward to meeting chapter Alzheimer's chairs and other Federation members at the May Federation convention. Meanwhile, please feel free to contact me with any questions or issues you may have.

Ray

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN — Frances Titus



My first trimester as your membership chair has been very interesting! I have learned a lot about duties of chapter membership chairpersons, and I believe they have the most important chapter position. Why? If it is neglected or left vacant, the chapter's drive, motivation and purpose can be lost.

Keeping this in mind, I have strived to keep in contact with all chapter membership chairs either by e-mail, phone or snail mail. Some have been very receptive and

maintained these lines of communication.

I recently surveyed chapters about the Attention/Retention post card program. To date, I have received 11 responses and of those, the majority indicated they are aware of the program and have found it useful. But, what about the chairpersons who haven't responded? Do they take their position and duties seriously? Do they need help? Are they the right person for this important job?

I urge chapters to carefully

consider persons selected for leadership positions. Require them to read the NARFE guidance on an office's or chairman's duties and responsibilities. Ask them to do these tasks enthusiastically and with NARFE-provided tools. Use reports and handouts, get other members involved – they may have some good ideas, too – and keep your chapter motivated. Finally, please keep in contact with me!

Frances

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SERVICE OFFICER — Charlie Caughlan



I'm always looking for ways to make life easier for service officers. Just like you, I get questions from NARFE members who need help with a variety of problems. When I first became a chapter service officer about 12 years ago, I was handed a carload of boxes with outdated forms, handbooks, etc.

At first I tried to keep up with form changes, but I eventually gave up. I learned the NARFE handbook is a good resource. I also found the *Federal Employees Almanac* a very helpful resource. It is published annually by Federal Employees Digest, Inc., <http://www.fea-gea-iea.org/default.htm>.

But now there are even more helpful resources; one of them is the OPM web site, <http://www.opm.gov/>. Most forms can either be filled out on the web site or downloaded. The retirement section is amazing – even the forms to report a death are there.

A reminder – when you

(Continued on page 9)

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN/WEBMASTER — Sam Cagle

Today, federal employees and retirees are facing unprecedented attacks on their earned pay and benefits. NARFE is taking the lead on fighting back through contacts in Congress, programs such as *Protect America's Heartbeat* and working closely with other organizations with related goals. To succeed, however, NARFE needs its members' participation and support in getting the word out about NARFE: to those current federal employees, retirees and family members who have not yet joined; to members of other organizations who have related interests; to members of Congress; and, to the general public. What can you do?

Use the *Protect America's Heartbeat* web site, www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.com, to send a letter to your elected congressional members and then, encourage all your chapter members to do so. Also at that web site, download and print the campaign's poster. Place it in as many local agencies as you can.

Next, ensure you have your members' e-mail addresses, if possible. This

may require calling all your members and then building a separate mailing list; but, this can help you get important information to them quickly and inexpensively.

What else? Ask your current or recently retired federal employee members to act as conduits to pass NARFE information and messages to their agency's/ former agency's co-workers.

Then, too, part of the campaign at the local level involves NARFE members writing letters to the editor of local newspapers and making presentations to appropriate audiences. Suggestion: have specific chapter members designated to write or present. If you let me know who they are, I will provide them with templates they can use or speaking materials.

At the national level, NARFE works in several coalitions with over 100 organizations sharing similar goals; at the state level, federations are working with many of these. For example, make presentations and staff tables at these organizations' state or regional conventions, or other functions. We have

a table at the Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby's functions. Longview/Kelso chapter's Auti Bergman represented NARFE at the state National League of Postmaster's April convention, and Everett chapter members will be manning a table at the American Postal Workers Union's state convention. Further, we are working with the state's Washington Rural Letter Carrier Association and the National Association of Letter Carriers about being at their upcoming state conventions. Finally, a leader from The Association for Retired Americans – a coalition member organization – will be speaking at our May convention.

We are looking for information on other coalition organizations in the state where we might be able to get out NARFE information. Do you know any? If so, please let me know.

Sam
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**PROTECT
 America's
 Heartbeat**



WEBMASTER NEWS

www.narfewa.net

The Federation web site is continually reviewed and updated! Check the "What's New" navigation button, left side, home page.

Recent updates include:

- ✓ 2011 WSFC Convention, forms, links
- ✓ 2012 WSFC Convention information
- ✓ Links to *Protect America's Heartbeat* campaign
- ✓ Region IX VP notes, March 2011, National Executive Board Meeting
- ✓ Links to Partnership for Public Service clipping service with news of interest to federal employees and retirees
- ✓ NARFE's 90th anniversary Power-Point presentation
- ✓ *Federation Reporter* – current and past editions
- ✓ WSFC Form F-1 (Dec 2010), expense form, in PDF and Excel
- ✓ 2011 dues distribution chart
- ✓ NARFE *Alzheimer's Coordinators Manual* and contribution reports
- ✓ Federation NARFE-PAC reports

SERVICE OFFICER — *continued*

(Continued from page 8)

are working with a retiree's survivor, tell them not to expect an annuity deposit for 5 to 6 weeks after an annuitant's death. OPM stops all annuity deposits to the survivor, and there will be no interim deposits to the

survivor until all paperwork is in and OPM has calculated the survivor's annuity.

However, if an individual is an annuitant, has elected a survivor benefit for their spouse and the spouse dies, the annuitant's annuity continues; but, they need to notify OPM of the spouse's

death. OPM recalculates the annuity without the reduction for spouse benefits; and, the annuitant then gets a higher annuity, retroactive to the spouse's death.

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EDITOR, *FEDERATION REPORTER*— Mary Binder

“Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!” This line has been running through my mind for days. Ever have that happen?

So, since I couldn’t get rid of it, I stopped, thought and said, OK, what’s going on here? Why now? I mean, *The Wizard of Oz*? Heck, it’s not the holiday season when I see this on TV!

But as I reflected more on this famous line, thought about all I’ve read, heard and seen about federal employees and retirees over the past weeks, “Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!” started seeming more and more appropriate. And, as Dorothy told Toto, “We’re not in Kansas anymore.” No, we’re certainly not.

However, as Dorothy learned as she “followed the yellow-brick road” and made new friends, together they helped each other, used each other’s talents and skills, and together solved their problems

while also helping others along the way, too. What a concept!

So here we are, also facing challenges — as federal employees, retirees and/or annuitants; as just citizens in this country; and as people in a world that is just sometimes hard to understand. “Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!” What do we do?

Guess we can either just give up, sit back and hope for the best, or face the challenges head on, together. I’m banking on the latter and hoping that with “brains,” a “heart” and lots of “courage,” we can collectively work together on the challenges facing us, our country, and the world.

Yup, it will take work and working together — whether at chapter meetings, district workshops, or, our upcoming Federation’s convention; whether in our communities, churches, schools; or, whether

in the vast array of other areas where assistance is needed.

And yes, we do need to tell our story as federal or retired federal employees. We need to help ensure our friends, neighbors, elected officials and the media know what service federal employees provide, that public service is honorable, and that they have correct information or that misinformation is corrected.

We can do this. We have the tools, and will have even more with NARFE’s *Protect America’s Heartbeat* campaign. And, collectively, we can “follow the yellow brick road” to face the “lions and tigers and bears, oh my,” so we can continue to say, “there’s no place like home,” for us and future generations.

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