



The Federation Reporter

Washington State Federation of Chapters

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

August-September-October
2011

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

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From the WSFC President – Sandy Cagle

August: NARFE Grassroots Advocacy

Our May Washington State convention was just outstanding, thanks to the hard work of Spokane Chapter 32, its members, and to all who helped, attended and participated. The convention theme, **"Facing the Future: Involved, Informed, Connected,"** was most appropriate for these challenging times. NARFE National Secretary Elaine Hughes provided valuable information about NARFE's concerns. Robby Stern, our banquet guest speaker, definitely brought a powerful message – we are living in challenging times we haven't faced for decades; standing up and making our voices heard is our best defense.

This message ties in directly to NARFE's mission statement: **"To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interest ..."** It also clearly shows why NARFE is so important and why we must do everything we can to follow its mission by becoming involved.

So, what is your chapter doing to support or oppose

legislation, to advise individuals of their rights under the law and in regulations? Have chapter members written letters, sent e-mails, made a telephone call to their elected officials, or sent a letter to the editor regarding attacks on federal employees and retirees? Are your current programs and efforts structured to reach as many members/potential members as possible ... to **"protect America's heartbeat?"**

July 27 – an important date to have on your calendar, announce at chapter meetings and in your newsletters, and/or to send e-mails and make calls to those without e-mail. NARFE is having another "national call" day to Congress and the President. **The August NARFE magazine should arrive in your mailbox before the call date with phone numbers and a script.** Think about using a call tree to remind members to participate. The timing is critical – before the August 2 debt-ceiling deadline.

I will be at the NARFE Federation Presidents' meeting, July 18-22, Reno, to hear reports from several national committees about significant changes being



proposed: revised bylaws and standing rules; revisions to recruiting/retention approaches; and, recommendations for improvement in information technology. I will provide feedback to our Federation Executive Board at our August 18 meeting.

Speaking of August, this will again be NARFE's "grassroots advocacy" month. **See our legislative chairman, Mike Teefy's, article, page 6, for details.**

Thomas Paine said, "These are the times that try men's souls." Ben Franklin said, "We must hang together, or we will surely hang apart." Become involved, and hang together for your benefits and rights.

Sandy

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National Call Day, July 27.
Call: 866.220.0044 for
Congress; 888.225.8418 for
the White House. Details in
August NARFE.



NEWS IN BRIEF

For
NARFE Recruiting Materials
 Call: 800.627.3394
 E-mail: rr@narfe.org

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.

2012
NARFE National Convention
 August 26-30
 Reno, Nev.



VICE PRESIDENT — Richard Wilson

Since February, when I was named to NARFE's National Recruiting and Retention Committee's retention side, I have had the high honor of working with: National Secretary Elaine Hughes; Colorado Federation President Frank Impinna; Joe Staiano, immediate past president, Georgia Federation; Texas Federation's, Jack Elrod; and, Rick Whelan, president, Marketing General, Inc. We have been developing strategic and tactical goals for NARFE national, federations and chapters to use in retaining members. We have a computer presentation for the federation presidents' meeting, July 18-22, in Reno.

I was very surprised to

learn NARFE loses more members to non-renewals – about 80% – than to deaths – about 20%. I was also amazed to learn many chapters do not have a membership chairperson, a very necessary part of our committee's plan. Further, we are recommending a retention chairperson as one of the strategies.

I have just received a new supply of the Federation's Retention Attention Post Cards. If your chapter needs some, call me, 425.736.6689 (voice or text message), or narfe1404@comcast.net, for e-mail. Please include your name, mailing address and chapter number.

I know how difficult it can be to find a speaker for

chapter meetings. We have been very fortunate in Chapter 1404 – we have a few people who funnel leads to us. The idea came to me that it could help chapters to share information about speakers and organizations. So, I'll work to make this happen. It would be a "clearing house" or "speakers bureau" of sorts. If you have ideas, please let me know.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Richard
narfe1404@comcast.net
 H: 253.210.5609
 C: 425.736.6899

Wanted!
Speakers Bureau Ideas

Does NARFE have your current contact information? See page 10, this newsletter, for more information.

SECRETARY — Paul Shell

The latest quarterly WSFC *Directory of Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs* is out, sent electronically. It is dated "July 4, 2011" with changes in red. **Request Federation officers and committee chairs, and chapter officers, review the information for themselves and their chapter, as appropriate. Please advise me of errors, omissions, changes, etc.** I'll be sending out the next quarterly edition in early October.

Also, there are a few chapter officers showing no e-mail address. If they have one, I need to know it; otherwise, they will be out of the information loop. The Directory is now only

sent via e-mail in our ongoing efforts to go "paperless" as much as possible. So, chapter officers who know of officers or others in their chapter without an e-mail address and/or e-mail address not in the *Directory*, please ensure they get a copy.

Soon, planning will begin in earnest for our 2012 Federation convention in Vancouver, Wash. Even more than before, we will be using e-mail and the Federation website, www.narfewa.net, to get information to you, including forms. Last year we did away with credentials and the process went smoothly. The goal is to continue to streamline the process for

the 2012 convention. Therefore, it will be very critical to keep your individual, and chapter, contact information current.

One more reminder – NARFE's next national convention will be in Reno, 2012. Headquarters will be sending much information electronically; so, it is most important that NARFE has your current contact information. See box, page 10, for details.

Paul
pshell@aol.com
 H: 253.475.0089

WSFC Directory of Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs only sent via e-mail!

TREASURER — Arlene L. Patton

The Federation's fiscal year (FY) ended June 30, so FY 2011 financial records are closed. The Federation's financial records/reports are recorded on a "cash basis" – which means, income is recorded within the year of receipt and expenditures are reported when actually paid.

Any expenses not received and paid within that time frame, July 1 – June 30, are carried over to the next fiscal year.

The Federation's non-profit 990 Tax Return will be filed before the end of July. Also, the Federation's State Nonprofit Renewal will be

filed. All Chapters were required to file a non-profit 990 before May 15. I hope all chapter have filed their returns!

Arlene

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C: 509.954.0382



TREASURER REPORT SYNOPSIS AS OF JUNE 30, 2011

Budget Balances

Approved Annual Budget \$ 37,915.00
Year-to-Date Expenditures \$ 36,148.29
Budget Remaining \$ 1,766.71

Bank Balances

US Bank – Checking \$12,311.35
STCU – Savings/MM \$ 8,543.56
CD (Matures 05/10/13) \$25,348.68
Total Bank Balances \$46,203.59

During fiscal year 2010/11, the WSFC refunded \$7,373.16 per capita tax to chapters. That refund is reflected in the expenditure figure of \$36,148.29. The Federation also lowered the per capita tax rate to \$1.40 per voting member, thus a \$.20 savings per voting member.

FINANCE — Michael S. Ferri

The Executive Board-approved budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011-2012 (July 1, 2011– June 30, 2012) was presented to the delegates at the May WSFC convention.

The FY 2012-2013 budget process will start this fall. As in the past, it will start with the Executive Board and a 3-year analysis of actual line-item expenses. If you have specific

requests for a line item, please submit them to President Sandy Cagle.

Michael

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H: 360.653.2342

C: 425.308.8626



NOMINATING COMMITTEE — Nancy Crosby

I truly was disappointed I could not attend the WSFC May convention. Best laid plans just did not materialize. I was planning to use that time to talk with those interested in knowing more about serving as an officer and/or interested in potentially nominating someone else. Now, time to regroup.

So, while no elections this year, there will be next year in Vancouver; and, while the Nominating Committee is always looking for individuals willing to serve, before too many months, committee members will be actively soliciting for those willing to serve in a Federation office.

If you have questions,

please feel free to contact me, and please continue to look in your chapters for those who may be willing to serve!

Nancy

ncrosby2b@charter.net

H: 509.735.3288

**Wanted ...
those willing to serve!**



PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS

NARFE is still in the Pre-Retirement Counseling business. I am still the Region IX coordinator.

Anyone having contacts with their current or previous federal agency that may be interested in NARFE Pre-Retirement Seminars, please provide me the information.

I can forward it to NARFE headquarters for the agency. Questions? Need more info? Please contact me.

Michael Ferri

DISTRICT I VP – Teri Sannar



We write letters of support for our issues; but, how refreshing it is to just volunteer to perhaps change lives, our community, and/or our own lives.

Volunteering can benefit so many, especially in these challenging times we are all experiencing. There are so

many who can benefit, so many ways to give and the rewards are numerous.

However, even with the benefits that can come with volunteering, it is often very challenging to get people to do so. Getting volunteers for NARFE is no different, but so important for the organiza-

tion. Therefore, a suggestion – let's share ideas, success stories and other information among our chapters and in our Federation so as to better help us all.

Teri

katielove@pocketinet.com

H: 541.938.7657

DISTRICT II VP – Quentin Gates



An interesting session at this year's WSFC convention was *How To Recruit Volunteers*. Michone Preston of Habitat for Humanity outlined ways to attract volunteers by **"selling the experience"**... making people feel good about what they're doing. She explained steps that help new volunteers assume their tasks and develop expertise – **"training to roles."**

After matching a task to a volunteer, the leader: (1) ex-

plains the task's basics; (2) demonstrates how it's done; (3) encourages the volunteer to take over; (4) follows up with corrections; and, (5) provides positive reinforcement. Ms. Preston outlined tips for retaining volunteers: communicate frequently and clearly; introduce variety and new challenges; explain the impact of the volunteer's contribution; and, show appreciation through praise and awards.

Yes, NARFE is different than Habitat for Humanity, but the basic elements for encouraging members to volunteer is similar. Finally, a note from my personal experience ... let potential volunteers know you're available to help them and that the task has an end ... it doesn't go on forever!

Quentin

qgates@juno.com

H: 360.527.3142

DISTRICT III VP – Bonnie Seesholtz



With summer here, and people coming and going, my chapters have been fairly quiet. Some don't hold regular meetings during this time, while others just have a summer picnic.

We have been saddened to say a "final farewell" to four of our members who were quite active in not only their own chapters but also in the district and state – Clay Campbell (Kelso/Longview); Marion Wilson (Tacoma); and, Judy Caughlan and Dan Jones (Vancouver). We will miss them very much.

Looking ahead – **the 2012 WSFC convention will be at The Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver, May 14 - 16.** Our Vancouver chapter, along with the Kelso/Longview chapter, are hosting. For planning purposes, the hotel room rates will be: **single queen, \$89.95; two queens or single king, \$99.95; two queens or single king (Riverside), \$109.95.** These rates include a buffet breakfast for up to two people per room. The cut-off date for these rates is: **Monday, April 30, 2012.**

Also for the convention, we have been working on getting speakers for the legislative luncheon, and looking into the cost of providing a boat cruise or a jet boat ride on the Columbia River.

Yes, we hope to see many of you in Vancouver for the Federation's 2012 convention.

Bonnie

(Note: Phone only)

H: 360.694.6356

C: 360.609.0130

**Mark your Calendars!
May 14 - 16, 2012**

DISTRICT IV VP — Bill Powers

We are accomplishing a couple of new tasks this summer. First, we are planning to film a DVD presentation of NARFE's F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events*. Our District IV service officer, Ralph Angulo, will be the presenter. Mike Kaaland will film; Bob Johns, the stage hand. We will let you know the results. If successful, we plan on making copies and providing them to members who want a copy. This could be a good selling point for new recruits!

Secondly, Joe Dacca, district representative for Congressman Norm Dicks, proposed we develop a listing with phone numbers of NARFE members interested in meeting with the congressman during the August Congressional recess. However, with the current Congressional budget negotiations, the date is still open; but, we have tentatively set the Bremerton Westside Improvement Club as the meeting place. I will make

notifications when the date is set.

Region IX Vice President Lanny Ross will be the point man for this discussion, but I am sure Congressman Dicks will be receptive to additional questions. If you would like to be on the telephone list, please contact me.

Bill

powersw@silverlink.net

H: 360.377.7917

F-100 video planned!



DISTRICT V VP — Steve Anderson

The WSFC May convention was invigorating. The most interesting presentation for me was "**Effective Communication - Application of Social Media to Organizations.**" Yes, I'll readily admit I'm behind the times with social media. However, I know we need to engage such technology, especially when communicating with current federal employees.

So, I am pleased our Washington federation is exploring establishing a Facebook page! This will help us "old fogeys" piggyback in-

to current technology we do not know how to use, or maybe are afraid to engage.

Yes, it is so important to stay current. For example, I separate our membership into three categories: those who attend chapter meetings, typically 10% or less; active federal employees, a growing segment in my chapter; and, our members who, for many valid reasons, do not attend meetings. Yet, our power as an organization rests in our members' activism, 90% or more with whom we have no face-to-face communication.

Chapter communication with the majority of our retired members is via newsletters – phone calls when urgent matters arise. And, while newsletters and phone calls can also be used to contact our current federal employee members, more and more, "social media" is being used and needed. So, while not always easy to venture into new territory, I know I/we need to do so!

Steve

steveanderson@genext.net

H: 509.663.1291



REGION IX VP — Lanny Ross

[Editor's note: Lanny is "**on the road again,**" meeting, greeting and, as always, working for NARFE, our region and our WSFC Federation. As this edition of the *Federation Reporter* is going to press, Lanny is in Reno

representing us at a NARFE executive board meeting. And as always, he will be keeping us informed of critical issues, actions we need to take, etc. Thank you, Lanny!

Meanwhile, help Lanny and our NARFE leaders help us

... **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** is just a click away.]

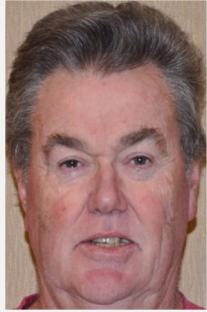
Lanny

lannyjean@comcast.net

H: 360.692.9741

C: 360.731.6145





NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN — Mike Teefy

Normally, summer is when many chapters have their annual picnics, their last meetings were in June and nothing much is going on until September. But, this is not our normal summer. The debt ceiling issue and potential ramifications of proposed cuts to benefits remain real; therefore, federal employees and retirees, and programs like Medicare and Social Security, remain chopping block items.

NARFE knows this. So, it has two critical target events this summer.

First, **July 27 is National Call Congress, President Obama Day.** NARFE President Joe Beaudoin is asking members to call President Obama and their two senators and representa-

tive on that day. Details are: in NARFE's Legislative Hotline, number 763, July 1; on NARFE's website under "Legislative;" and, are in the August NARFE magazine, out now. Pertinent information is also on this page.

Second, **August is Grassroots Advocacy Month.** With Congress normally in recess, NARFE encourages members to meet with their elected officials while they're in their districts.

These two critical events provide key opportunities for each chapter president, legislative chair and all members to unite to have our voices heard, and to protect federal jobs, our retirement and medical benefits. Use whatever means you can to get the word out about these

events to our members – e-mail, telephone trees, a special flyer or newsletter.

Also, encourage members to sign up for GEMS, if they've not done so. Further, consider having a chapter e-mail and telephone tree, which can be good tools for keeping members informed and active, and contacting them quickly when needed.

Finally, we need thousands not hundreds to make calls to Washington D.C., and we need to pack our local Congressional offices with members insisting on our demands: fair and equitable treatment for federal employees and retirees.

Mike

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H: 360.892.9410

OPM NEWS FOR NARFE MEMBERS

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.



NATIONAL CALL CONGRESS, PRESIDENT OBAMA DAY *Wednesday, July 27*

NARFE President Joe Beaudoin is asking members to call President Obama, and their 2 senators and representative, Wednesday, July 27, to let them know their views.

Here are some details from NARFE:

- White House toll-free number: 888.225.8418.
- Capitol switchboard: 886.220.0044. Ask for your legislators by name or provide your ZIP code. (Note: Only contact your own elected senators and representative. Messages are disregarded if you are not a constituent.)
- Message: *"My name is _____, and I live in (name city/town). I am a federal retiree (or worker). Don't single us out with more cuts to the retirement and health benefits we earned through years of serving the public. Federal workers and retirees have already sacrificed pay and benefits."*
- Whether talking with a Congressional staff person or leaving a recorded message, request your lawmaker respond in writing to your call. Leave your mailing address.
- More details in the August NARFE magazine.

(Editor's note: Megan Winans submitted this letter for the Federation Reporter.)

Greetings to all my NARFE friends in Washington State! I truly enjoyed being part of your wonderful get-togethers and doing my time as State and Bremerton Chapter 181 service officers.

It is worth being a member just to get the monthly NARFE magazine, of course; but, being part of chapters and attending meetings is also very important. I am now a resident of McKinleyville, Calif. Our NARFE Chapter is Eureka #608. It is lots smaller than our Bremerton chapter.

McKinleyville and Eureka are in Humboldt County, basically an isolated county. It is, however, a gorgeous county with lots of beach access and Redwoods. My first introduction to Redwoods was when I came to the USA in 1958, almost 2 years after marrying one of those darned Yanks where I worked. My in-laws lived in San Francisco then. They drove my husband, 8-month-old son and me up to Washington, using mainly Hwy 101, to meet the other two brothers and sister, and their families.

Again, a big "thank you" to all for the good times I had up there with the Washington State chapters and all their members.

Megan Winans

STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN — John Thurber

The Washington State budget finally passed during the special session and was effective July 1. While this may not directly impact federal active and retired individuals, indirectly it may. Examples: tuition increases for colleges or universities; library closings; state park fee increases; reduced public transportation. Stay tuned.

Although \$182 million was recovered through tax amnesty, it is uncertain where or how it will be disbursed. Many special-

interest groups descended upon the legislature wanting a part of it. Again, stay tuned.

The federal poverty level is set at \$10,200. Here in Washington State, the cost of living per individual is \$18,000. The average Social Security payment for Washington residents is \$14,532. As one can see, there can be a shortfall if Social Security is a sole source of income. Once again, stay tuned.

Finally, while federal retirees have other sources

of income, if a deceased federal retiree's surviving spouse has only one income source, and it is less than the average Social Security payment, help from Washington State resources could be limited due to the budget and reduction of services. Yes, stay tuned.

John

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H: 253.531.8526

**State budget impacts ...
yes, stay tuned!**



NARFE-PAC CHAIRMAN — Don Binder

“The Second of Eight Laps in the Congressional Term”

The 112th Congress and President Obama continue promising to find “a way” to resolve the budget deficit, debt ceiling and FY 2012 budget issues. Therefore, NARFE-PAC becomes an even more important source for us to “have a voice” with our House and Senate elected officials.

As I previously reported, WSFC had 120 members who contributed a total of \$4,455 to NARFE-PAC for the first quarter of the 8-quarter Congressional cycle. For the 2nd quarter, we increased our contributions

to \$8,720 and to 252 members. However, our average contribution decreased from \$37.13 to \$34.60.

The 2nd quarter numbers are still impressive; but, considering we had 1,168 contributors and \$45,000 in contributions during the 8 quarterly cycles for the 111th Congress, we have much work to do if we expect to impact the 2012 national elections.

As you are most likely aware, we receive data quarterly from NARFE's legislative staff, thus the information above. Details on each chapter's contributions through June 30 are on www.narfewa.net, the

Federation website.

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

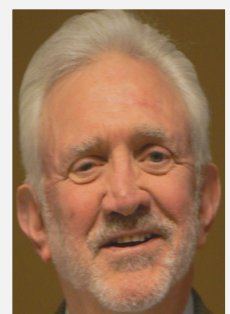
While political campaigns have just started heating up, we need to continue working to outdo our previous total PAC contributions. The work we do now will pay off as we approach the November elections.

Don

don_binder@msn.com

H: 509.585.1393

C: 509.378.1013



What is NARFE-PAC?

NARFE-PAC is a separate, segregated NARFE fund comprised only of voluntary contributions from NARFE members specifically for political purposes.

There can be no commingling of monies contributed to NARFE-PAC and other NARFE monies (membership dues or other non-dues revenue).

The four NARFE national officers constitute NARFE's Political Action Committee.

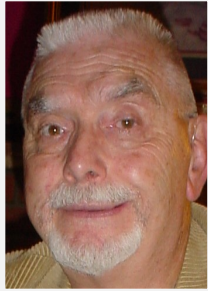
The Committee is responsible for the final decision on which candidates for the House and Senate will receive NARFE-PAC contributions.

NARFE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE

Updated weekly with legislative messages.

To access:
call 703.838.7780 or toll free,
877.217.8234;
for NARFE-Net Coordinators,
go to www.narfe.org;
also, sent to
over 67,000 GEMS
e-mail addresses.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIRMAN — Ray Patterson



First, “thank you” – to all Federation chapters for helping make my first year as your chairman a success; and, to Chapter 32 for making the convention a gigantic success.

At the convention, awards went to: Chapter 32, highest dollar amount raised for the 2011 campaign (\$4,049.79); and, Walla Walla, Chapter 237, highest per capita (\$5.80 per member). Now, our 2012 campaign is underway!

The *Chapter Alzheimer's Coordinator's Manual (March 2011)* is now on the WSFC website, www.narfewa.net.

Personal checks made payable to the chapter, but intended for Alzheimer's, may be deposited in the chapter's treasury. A chapter check in like amount and made payable to “**NARFE Alzheimer's Research**” should be written immediately and sent to me. Journal entries in chapter general ledgers should satisfy accounting issues. Chapters will get credit for such donations. **Note: these donations are not tax deductible; so, encourage members to make checks to “NARFE Alzheimer's Research.”**

Chapters receiving personal checks payable to “**NARFE Alzheimer's Research**,” please send them to me. I will process them; the chapter receives credit. **These donations are tax deductible and contributors will receive (required) acknowledgements/tax receipt letters from the Alzheimer's Association.**

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Ray

rallen927@frontier.com

H: 360.653.5357

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN — Frances Titus



May's convention was a great success – I felt inspired by the enthusiasm. About 100 people attended the membership panel discussion. Some questioned whether our Federation was doing enough for chapters. Examples, not enough incentives, guidance.

So, here's what I see from my first 6 months – honest; no sugarcoating.

NARFE headquarters puts a lot of pressure on us to build our membership rolls and our financial commitment to its programs. We are their base; they need us. We also need our national officers to

keep the organization intact. But even if we grow vast numbers of new members, we're not going to keep them unless chapters step up and provide leadership. Members must be motivated to be involved and committed to their chapter, and national.

To me, some Federation chapters are unable to inspire their membership. It doesn't seem to matter whether the chapter has 50 or 500 members – there seems to be too little participation. Perhaps some leadership is missing.

This doesn't involve Federation incentives or

guidance; it involves a willingness to work for NARFE and its principles. An example: **Chapter Membership Action Plans were due July 1.** As of mid-July, very few had been submitted. Chapter leadership was told – to date, with little response.

So, while I don't have the answers, I know it is up to our members to keep this organization viable. Do we want to do this? The decision has to be had soon by all.

Frances

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SERVICE OFFICER — Charlie Caughlan



I think we all feel anxious about how the budget crisis is going to affect our FEB health insurance, Medicare payments and future COLAS. Some of our benefits probably will be affected.

I don't know about you, but when I have taken action

on something concerning my benefits – even if the outcome isn't what I wanted – I feel some better. At least I didn't just sit there.

You, chapter service officers, have great opportunities to get the word out when you get a call from a

concerned member. Ask them if they have signed up for GEMS and if they have, are they participating in **PROTECT America's Heartbeat?** Are the participating in the letter writing and calls? Do they know

(Continued on page 9)

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN/WEBMASTER — Sam Cagle

Thanks to the folks who supported the four postal union conventions in the state this spring and early summer. We are continuing to work on ways to enhance and extend our contacts with these organizations.

Now, we need to be alert to similar opportunities to reach federal employees as we move into the fall. This is the period when we move into the FEHBP open season health fairs. The schedules are being finalized and should be out to chapters for review shortly. Therefore, it is time to review the events in your chapter's area, start making contacts with agencies and ordering the appropriate recruiting materials.

As you know, the battle lines are still being drawn in Washington, D.C., and employee and retiree benefits are being threatened more

than in generations. NARFE's **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** campaign is currently scheduled to run through August. The supporting materials for letters to the editor, presentations and contacts with legislators are still available on NARFE's and our Federation's websites. Please feel free to draw on this material at any time, and make use of it throughout this period. Contact me if you have specific questions or are looking for support in a particular area.

Reminder – the Federation purchased tablecloths, with "NARFE" imprinted, for use in tabling events such as at health fairs. We provided one tablecloth to four of our district vice presidents, and to the Spokane Chapter president, District I. I have retained one that I can send out with the ZAP display unit.

Please use the tablecloths when you are representing NARFE to the public.

We have moved into a new fiscal year for public relations funding, including matching funds. This spring, chapters were sent a paper copy of public relations actions plans. These materials are designed to walk you through building a PR plan for your chapter, and for requesting matching fund support from the Federation or NARFE headquarters. If you can't find your copy of the letter, that same information is on the Federation website, www.narfewa.net, under Public Relations, Public Relations Plans and Policy. If you have questions, please contact me.

Sam
cagle@comcast.net
H: 360.456.8509



WEBMASTER NEWS

www.narfewa.net

Your Federation website is continually reviewed and updated. Site navigation has been clarified.

As items are added, they are also posted at the "What's New" button, left side. Here are some of the new items you will find on the site:

- ✓ 2011 WSFC Convention photos
 - ✓ 2011 Region IX VP's
- Washington Convention Notes
- ✓ 2011 WSFC Convention Volunteerism Presentation — Habitat for Humanity

As soon as they become available, we will publish:

- ✓ Health fair schedules and contacts
 - ✓ **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** campaign materials
- ✓ Federation committee chair updates
- ✓ *Federation Reporter* — current and past editions

NARFE Web Security

(Editor's note: The following was sent May 16, 2011 from Fred Hamidzada, NARFE director of information technology. Federation President Sandy Cagle requested distribution to all Federation members.)

Currently our web server is using 256-bit Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol, which is the most secured encryption available to protect private communications over the Internet. Our credit-card processing is using the same security protection to ensure all credit-card processings are safe.

What is an SSL Certificate? An SSL certificate is a bit of code on your web server that provides security for online communications. When a web browser contacts your secured web site, the SSL certificate enables an encrypted connection. It's kind of like sealing a letter in an envelope before sending it through the mail.

SSL certificates also inspire trust because each SSL certificate contains identification information. When you request an SSL certificate, a third party (such as Thawte) verifies your organization's information and issues a unique certificate to you with that information. This is known as the authentication process.

SERVICE OFFICER — *continued*

(Continued from page 8)

about the July 27 national call day? If they need help and you don't have the answers, check NARFE's website, contact

your chapter legislative chair — or whoever in your chapter can help you/your caller get the information. Remember, even if the outcomes are not all we want, at least we will

have tried and done something, and not just sat there!

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eNARFE

Click here for
eNARFE website



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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This newsletter is mailed to all elected officers and committee chairs listed in the Federation directory, and to a courtesy listing. Notify the editor if you prefer NOT to receive this newsletter.



Layout/design: Dominique Vetrano

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Does NARFE have all your current contact information? When was the last time you checked?

If not recently, following are steps to help you:

- Go to www.narfe.org
- Click "Members"
- Sign in with your last name and membership ID
- Click "Departments"
- Click "Membership — Update Your Records"
- Again insert membership ID, and DOB (a must!)
- At information screen verify/update address, e-mail, phone, etc., and sign up for GEMS

EDITOR, *FEDERATION REPORTER*— Mary Binder

"Summertime and the livin' is easy" ... Where? Let me know ... I want to go there!! Don't know about you, but at least in the communication business there isn't much down time, ever. Always something to do – information to get out; a new way to try to communicate; deadlines to meet.

Then this summer, more than others, there are the ongoing federal budget challenges – debt ceiling issues; attacks on federal employees and retirees, and their benefits; and, a myriad of other things, including state budget issues. So, communication is more challenging than ever. Definitely no down time.

How do we manage these challenges? My opinion – **maximum return for minimum effort**. By staying connected with each other, we aren't reinventing the wheel. We can share information and ideas, learn from

each other, help each other ... which will, ultimately, help us better keep our Federation members informed, engaged.

An example – NARFE's **PROTECT America's Heartbeat** campaign. Much work has already been done for us and our chapters. Let's capitalize on that and use it to its full potential in getting information to and participation from our members.

Speaking of remaining connected, I very much enjoyed meeting many chapter newsletter editors at our breakout session during the May convention. Putting names with faces, talking through issues, sharing ideas and suggestions ... I enjoyed the time, and found it most beneficial. The time we had went VERY quickly, too quickly in fact. Look for some follow-up information soon.

And, I've enjoyed getting the chapter newsletters. It is most helpful to see what

other chapters are doing and the information they are sharing with their members. Please continue to send me your newsletters, and where possible, share them with other chapters!

Finally, if at anytime I can be of help, please feel free to contact me! Your question or challenge is most likely something I've either experienced or someone else has. Again, let's not reinvent the wheel. Also, if you have ideas or suggestions for future *Federation Reporters*, please let me know. This is a Federation communication tool – let's use it to get **maximum return for minimum effort!**

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**Maximum return for
minimum effort – a goal
for all of us!**