



# The Federation Reporter

## Washington State Federation of Chapters

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

February-March-April 2011

### NARFE Quick References

- Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 877.217.8234 (24 hours)
- Legislative Action Center: [www.narfe.org](http://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](http://www.narfe.org)
- WSFC: [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net)

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## From the WSFC President – Sandy Cagle

### "ABCs" to ponder

Did you make a new 2011 personal or NARFE resolution? No? Or, if you did, have you already broken it? A suggestion – rather than a resolution, how about a NARFE "commitment?" Here are some personal or chapter suggestions:

- Increase chapter membership numbers.
- Form and use phone trees and/or e-mails to involve all members in legislative action.
- Improve quality of and attendance at meetings.
- Recruit a full board, or run for an office.

A recent South Carolina Federation newsletter article got me thinking about why more people don't make a commitment to NARFE and their chapter. The author wrote that from observation she categorized members into types she labeled "As," "Bs" and "Cs."

The "As," she wrote, are **Apathetic** and believe it's not their responsibility to attend meetings; just paying dues is commitment enough – even if they receive second and third renewal notices. Their participation is minimal and attendance at meetings is

spotty, at best. They have little-to-no contact with other members. They always have excuses for why they can't "commit" to help or to a position of leadership. They believe "someone else will always do it." They just aren't willing to commit to something as important as being an active and participating NARFE member to retain their earned benefits. Not surprisingly, the "As" account for about 90% of the membership in any given organization.

An organization's "Cs," the author wrote, are those "**Committed**" members who the "As" count on to keep federations and chapters going. "Cs" truly believe in the word "commitment" as they often wear many hats in NARFE and in other organizations.

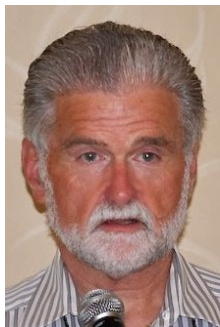
"Cs" take on leadership roles in the chapters, volunteer in their communities and make a commitment to further NARFE's mission in every way. When asked to do something, they complete the job or volunteer to take on a job or task without having to be begged. They are usually the busiest and most dedicated of our members; but because they are, they are prone to becoming "Bs."



The "Bs," the author wrote, are the "**Burned-Out**" members. They have given their all, year after year, receiving minimal help or cooperation from the majority of chapter members. They believe in NARFE and what it stands for, but are tired, fed up and demoralized at trying to keep things moving forward. While they maintain their membership, they just stop coming to meetings for fear of being asked again and again to take on yet another job or task.

So, how do you or your members stack up? Are you "**As, Bs or Cs**," and what are you going to do about it? Are you and your members willing to roll up your sleeves and make a serious commitment so we can meet the challenges facing us? Just some thoughts to ponder.

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## Save the Dates!

### 2011 WSFC Convention

May 15-17  
Mirabeau Park Hotel  
& Convention Center  
Spokane Valley  
*Planning is ongoing  
to make this a convention  
you don't want to miss.  
Check the WSFC web site  
for up-to-date information.*

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



## VICE PRESIDENT — Richard Wilson

With the holidays over, we are getting back to NARFE business. So, it is not too soon to start your planning for our Federation's 2011 convention, May 15–17, in Spokane.

Conventions are where much Federation business is conducted. Decisions are made that affect how the Federation will be run until at least the next Federation convention. Therefore, it is important to have all 22 chapters in the Washington Federation represented, and preferably, by all chapters sending delegates. Every chapter was represented at the 2010 convention, albeit some were by proxy.

Membership continues to be a concern. As of November, NARFE gained 27,074 new and reinstated members. However, the losses were 37,373, or a net loss of 10,299 members. For a comparison, the net membership loss for all 2009 was 7,597. The majority of losses were due to members being dropped for non-payment (non-renewal) of their dues (29,369). Hopefully, this can change in 2011.

The Federation's "Retention Attention Program" was designed to assist chapters in contacting and retaining members whose dues were ready to expire using a post card.

As a reminder, I have a supply of post cards available for chapters to use. You need only to contact me by telephone or e-mail.

We are looking forward to the district vice presidents' upcoming spring workshops, which the VPs and their chapters are formulating. Encouraging members to attend these invaluable forums of information, camaraderie and fellowship is important. Hope to see many of you at these valuable workshops.

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***NARFE 2011 Scholarship Competition***  
See *NARFE* magazine, February 2011, pages 47/48,  
for eligibility and other details.  
***Applications must be postmarked by April 30!***

## SECRETARY — Paul Shell

2011 greetings! We are now entering some both exciting and gut-wrenching times. I hope you will take my comments in the former.

By the time you read this, I will be deep into the preparation and mailing of the annual boatload of paper for the Federation's May convention. This may be the last time for these mailings as the Federation attempts to move more and more to "paperless." NARFE National is going "paperless" and we should, too.

So ... the process for registration will be a dry run. Last year, we converted the elections and some of the

registration process from paper to electronic. Most of you didn't notice much difference, but folks running the show appreciated less paperwork and the speedier election process.

Our Federation Executive Board has approved several changes to update our forms. I will be working closely with Spokane Chapter President Arlene Patton and her crew to explore streamlining the registering process. With Public Relations Chairman Sam Cagle's expertise, forms and instructions will be on the Federation's web site, [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net). And one of these days, you will be

able to register on line with fillable forms.

Please try to get used to using our Federation's web site. If you do not have access to the Internet, I am sure one of your board members does. If you want to use paper, it will be easy to print.

Yes, changes. And yes, they'll bring both exciting and gut-wrenching times!

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**Reminder:**  
**2011 WSFC Convention  
registration forms will be  
on the Federation web site:**  
[www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net)

## TREASURER — Arlene L. Patton

Our Federation Executive Board quickly recognized that NARFE's new dues structure would result in revenue increases that the federations receive under the 10% fund. Therefore, at its November 17 meeting, the board took action to simplify the process and reduce our chapters' per capita tax rate.

Effective January 1, per capita tax will be billed annually at a rate of \$1.40 per "chapter voting member," based on the December 31, NARFE M-110, *Membership Summary Report*. Chapters can elect to make an annual

payment or 2 equal installments. The first payment is due April 1, and the second/ final installment on the balance remaining is due on or before October 1. For voting at the Federation convention, chapters will be considered in good standing if the whole or first half amount is received by April 1.

**Remember, NARFE is "Going Green." Are you ready?** All National's payments/checks will be processed electronically, by direct deposit, into a chapter's bank account. If your chapter is not set up for direct

deposit, complete NARFE's "Direct Deposit Authorization" form and submit it to National. **[Steps: Log onto NARFE's web site; then to Departments, NARFE Leadership, Forms, Fillable Forms in PDF Format, and Direct Deposit Form.]**

Finally, NARFE reports will be on line and not mailed to chapters. If chapters want reports mailed, they must pick up the mailing cost.

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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 so I can prepare a proposal for the agency. If you have questions or need information about these seminars, please contact me.

**Michael Ferri**

#### TREASURER REPORT SYNOPSIS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010

<u>Budget Balances</u>		<u>Bank Balances</u>	
Approved Annual Budget	\$ 37,915.00	US Bank Checking	\$10,737.85
Year-to-Date Expenditures	9,753.02	STCU-Savings/MM	\$ 8,502.50
Budget Remaining	\$ 28,161.98	CD (Matures 05/10/13)	\$25,028.63
		Total Bank Balances	\$44,268.98

## FINANCE — Michael S. Ferri

The Federation's 2011-2012 budget process is underway. The Federation Executive Board provided input at its November 17 meeting. Additional input

from the Executive Board will come at its February meeting. In the interim, if you have any specific requests for budget consideration, please submit them to Washington State

Federation President Sandy Cagle as soon as possible.

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE — Nancy Crosby

A reminder — under the new Federation bylaws, our WSFC officers will serve until the 2012 biennial convention. But, even with this change, the Nominating Committee is always looking for individuals willing to serve as officers.

I'm planning to be at the Federation's May convention and will be happy to talk with

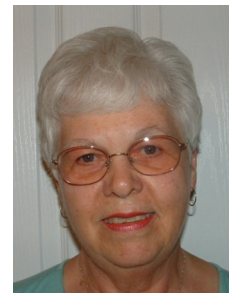
anyone wanting to know more about serving as an officer and/or nominating someone else. Feel free to talk with me then, or contact me at any time.

Also, Federation board members are reviewing their job descriptions to help ensure they accurately reflect their positions. This will help

those interested in serving to know more about what the positions involve.

Finally, with NARFE's push to "go green," future officers will be required to have e-mail to conduct Federation business.

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## DISTRICT I VP — Teri Sannar



District V Vice President Steve Anderson and I are combining our districts April workshops. While we don't know if this is a first for the Federation, we believe having such a combined workshop for our districts is a first.

So, to all the chapter members in our districts, if there is something specific

you'd like included in the workshop, please let either Steve or me know. And, I'm looking for someone to help host ... maybe tell a few jokes to help warm up and relax the group, or to lead one of the planned workshop exercises. Again, please contact either Steve or me if you can assist.

While recruiting and retaining members remains a top priority, I am pleased to report for 2010, District I chapters had the following new members: Colville, 7; Walla Walla, 8; Spokane, 38.

**Teri**

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## DISTRICT II VP — Quentin Gates



It was a very busy fall, and now it is a very busy winter for District II chapters. Health fairs, visits to and by congressional candidates and their local representatives preparing for November's mid-term elections, and of course, chapter officer elections, are just some of the busy things for our chapters.

Preparations are now underway for our District II

meeting and workshop, which is tentatively set for April 13, Everett Elks Lodge. **Luke Loeffler**, who is a NARFE member and community representative for Congressman Rick Larsen, has agreed to be the workshop's featured speaker. Given the challenging climate in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, Luke's presentation should be very interesting. We are also planning presentations on

"Completing the F-100" and on "Reviewing and Updating Chapter Bylaws."

On a personal note: I am recovering nicely from a series of surgeries last fall, so I should be able to resume visiting District II chapters this spring. Many thanks for your get-well wishes.

**Quentin**

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## DISTRICT III VP — Bonnie Seesholtz



With a new year and Congress, I am urging District III members, and all our Federation members, to **NOT** become complacent but to be diligent in their awareness of the dangers to our earned benefits. The best thing we can do is be aware of proposed legislation and let our congressional personnel know how we feel. They were elected by **The People** to serve and represent **The People** and each of us are

**The People**. If we don't let them know how we feel, how are they to know how we would like to have them represent us?

Example: I have been in contact with Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler's Vancouver office field representative, Pam Peiper, and I'm planning to meet with her. Also, she has agreed to speak at a chapter meeting.

Changing subjects, I would like to thank all the many

members who support and work for our NARFE chapters and organization. If it wasn't for each of you out there, we could never make it work. Keep up the good work, and if you can become more involved in any way, we'd like to hear from you. Remember: "**Many Hands Make Light Work.**"

**Bonnie**

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## DISTRICT IV VP — Bill Powers

Our District IV workshop is scheduled for St. Patrick's Day – Thursday, March 17, Poulsbo Sons of Norway Lodge #44, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$12.00, which covers the luncheon. All other costs will be covered by either Poulsbo Chapter #881 or the District VP. Contact me by phone, in person or e-mail for reservations.

My agenda is still being formulated, but I am planning:

- A congressional spokesperson to give us their

perspective on current actions and how they relate to NARFE.

- A chapter president update on NARFE's March Legislative Training Conference.
- An update from Region IX Vice President Lanny Ross on how the dues increase and spending cuts are working out at the national level.
- A run through from our District IV service officer

on the F-100, both paper and computer version.

- A Power Point presentation from one of our chapter members on what NARFE does for us. District IV will have 4 new presidents installed this year – one in each chapter. Poulsbo's president will be installed after the District workshop as the chapter only meets quarterly.

**Bill**

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## DISTRICT V VP — Steve Anderson

District V's workshop is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, Pillar Rock Grill, Moses Lake. It will be a combined workshop with District I, as Teri Sannar wrote in her District I VP article.

Combining workshops should not only increase attendance, but allow both districts to learn best practices from each other. We're also hoping it helps our Federation officers and regional vice president as

they'll only have one workshop east of the mountains! When the agenda is finalized, I'll share it with Federation officers, district VPs and our regional VP.

As we await action by the new Congress, I have challenged District V chapters to find effective ways to communicate with the 90% or more of members we do not see at meetings. Further, getting members to respond who do not have access to

the Internet is problematic.

However, it will be more important than ever to "get our oar in the water" when Congress begins to deliberate on changes to benefits for current and retired federal employees. I believe a goal should be to ensure the federal community receives a fair shake in the sacrifices to correct our economic deficit.

**Steve**

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## REGION IX VP — Lanny Ross

Dan Adcock, NARFE's legislative director, was asked recently to provide NARFE's view on legislation that might be considered or passed in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. I believe this information is **very important** for our members. The next 2 years will be very critical to our federal family – both retired and current employees. Because I believe

it is important, here is a synopsis of what Dan provided:

The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform's final report proposed cutting federal civilian retirement and health benefits, freezing federal pay and reducing the federal workforce by 10%. While the report failed to garner the votes for immediate action,

these proposals could receive consideration.

"Of 45 proposals, the National Commission co-chairmen made, only the 2-year federal pay freeze was unilaterally embraced by the President. This demonstrates that our policymakers in Washington have the political will to single out civil servants

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Chapter Anniversaries!

### Evergreen Chapter 1801 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Special Invitation

Monday, February 28  
12:00 p.m.

Church of Good Shepherd  
345 S. 312<sup>th</sup> St., Federal Way  
Special guests include  
Lanny Ross, NARFE Region IX VP,  
and

Thomas Murphy,  
Retired Federal Way School  
Superintendent  
Refreshments served

### Tri-Cities Chapter 1192 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pictures & More

Wednesday, March 2  
11:30 a.m., Social Hour

Noon, Chapter Meeting/Program  
Kennewick Red Lion  
Clearwater Room C  
Lunch, \$14

For reservations, call  
509.492.4304



## REGION IX VP — *continued*

(Continued from page 5)

for budget cuts," said NARFE President Joe Beaudoin.

During previous periods of "entitlement reform," policymakers first discussed cutting the "big 3" – Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. However, when they realize the political liabilities of cutting a program like Social Security, which has 40 million beneficiaries (77 million by 2030), they have turned to the "captive audience" of federal retirees – a much smaller constituency (2.3 million retirees and survivors).

In fact, during the budget crises of the 1980s and early 1990s, federal retirees and survivors lost \$50 billion in deferred, reduced and canceled cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) while 40 million Social Security beneficiaries never missed their annual cost-of-living increase.

"Times are tough, and patriotic federal workers and annuitants want to do their

part, but not if it means they are singled out for budget cuts while others are not asked to make similar sacrifices," said Beaudoin.

Even in a challenging budget and political environment, NARFE will be looking for "opportunities:" Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP): These unfairly and arbitrarily eliminate or reduce the Social Security benefits of federal, state and local government retirees. Key members of Congress have been reluctant to address GPO and WEP until Congress reforms the entire social insurance program. If that occurs, NARFE will work with other organizations representing federal, state and local government retirees to urge lawmakers to repeal or reform the offsets.

Creating Survivor Annuity Amount Options: NARFE supports providing retiring federal employees the option of electing and paying the actuarial cost of additional

survivor annuity amounts in 5% increments, up to 75% of an unreduced annuity. This legislation would be budget neutral.

Equity for Deferred Annuitants: NARFE supports basing deferred annuities, paid at age 62 to separated workers who do not withdraw their contributions, on the workers' pre-separation pay, indexed from the time of separation until the annuity commences. The bill would also eliminate the disparity in spousal protection for deferred annuitants between the older CSRS and newer FERS systems. According to a preliminary Congressional Budget Office cost estimate in 1995, this proposal would result in \$2.7 billion in cost savings over 7 years.

Lanny

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**The next 2 years will be critical to our federal family — retired and current employees.**

## NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN — Mike Teefy

With the swearing in of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, I am sure fireworks are just beginning. Therefore, I am requesting each chapter, if they haven't already done so, create member telephone and e-mail trees. I believe National will request that we not only provide greater information on legislative issues to our membership, but also disseminate it more rapidly. Our members not only need to be informed of proposed legislation but they

also need to aggressively take action to contact their respective congressional members about protecting our earned benefits.

The number of NARFE members on "GEMS" vs. the number who actually contact their congressional representatives is a very small percentage. We need to contact them, inform them and request that they make their voices heard. While we can write articles for chapter newsletters to inform them of

events in Washington, D.C., there may be proposed legislation that will need our immediate action – either to support or reject – and we cannot wait for the next meeting or newsletter. So, I challenge each legislative chair or chapter designee to work with their chapter officers to establish a rapid-response mechanism for contacting our members.

Mike

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## STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN — John Thurber

The Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby's first 2011 meeting was January 10 – also the first day of the 2011 Washington State Legislature's session. I attended the Lobby's meeting as NARFE's Washington State Federation of Chapter's representative.

At the meeting, those attending received much information, including:

- A review of State House and Senate members, committees and contact information.
- A discussion concerning budget revenue vs. spending cuts. This generated responses as

to which cuts could/ would affect the most individuals and with what long-term consequences.

- That the Legislature will hear from organizations about low-income housing, renter/tenant rights, manufactured housing affordability/ availability, guardianship representation for the elderly and disability programs for those in need.
- A spokeswoman for Social Security led a short question/answer session.
- A brief overview history of Washington State's

education system. There was also an accompanying handout with more details and information.

- Two panel discussions with questions/answers – topics were legal guardianship issues and the challenges when manufactured home parks close and residents are evicted.
- For those not familiar with wanting more information about the Washington State Senior Citizens' Lobby, the web site is:

[www.waseniorlobby.org](http://www.waseniorlobby.org).

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## NARFE-PAC CHAIRMAN — Don Binder

The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress is in session, and Washington's delegation has Jamie Herrera Beutler, the new representative for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District. This was an open seat; all other Washington incumbents won re-election.

Rep. Herrera Beutler, ran against Denny Heck. Denny Heck requested and received backing from NARFE-PAC. After the election, he called me to personally thank NARFE for its support. He is the only person receiving NARFE-PAC backing to personally contact us.

NARFE-PAC's 8<sup>th</sup> quarter report – the final for 2009–

2010, the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, is now on our Federation web site, [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net). Some highlights:

- Total contributions to NARFE-PAC during this time, \$1,345,160.69.
- 3,127 of our Washington members contributed \$45,242.00, ranking our Federation 8<sup>th</sup> in contributors and 7<sup>th</sup> in total contributions.
- Average Federation contribution, \$27.45, above NARFE's average of \$24.67.

As the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress begins its work, it's time for NARFE's bi-annual Legislative

Training Conference, this year in Arlington, Va., March 5-8. Last day for registration is February 8. You can register online at NARFE's web site. Although titled a "legislative training conference," there will be PAC information!

NARFE-PAC pins for contributions of \$20 or more should be available soon. For chapter presidents or PAC chairs, please let me know how many pins you need along with a mailing address.

**Don**

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### ***NARFE 2011 Legislative Training Conference***

See *NARFE* magazine, February 2011, page 17,  
for registration and other details.

***Registration must be returned by February 8!***

## ALZHEIMER'S CHAIRMAN — Ray Patterson



Chapter members have been very faithful in their support of the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Thank you to all who have donated! Our Federation's donations as of December 31 totaled \$3,692.38.

Please continue to make checks payable to: **NARFE Alzheimer's Research.**

The mailing address for donation is: *Ray Patterson, WSFC Alzheimer's Chair, 6115 57<sup>th</sup> Drive NE, Marysville, WA 98270-9538.*

Also, using a transmittal letter when sending donations is very much appreciated. This will help ensure chapters and individuals receive the proper donation receipts.

Finally, the *Alzheimer's Coordinator's Manual*, dated October 2010, is on the Federation web site at: [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net).

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**Reminder:**  
*Make donation checks to:*  
"NARFE Alzheimer's Research"

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN — Frances Titus



*[Note from WSFC President Sandy Cagle: Frances Titus was recently appointed the new Federation membership chairman. As this was a recent appointment, I'm providing the following information for this Federation Reporter.]*

NARFE gained 2,669 members from OPM's October mailing and 667 members were reinstated for a total membership of 303,356. Washington State lost 183, November 2009-2010, but had 27 fewer dropped members than the previous year. Current state membership is 8,620.

With the new dues increase, there is a revised

Life Membership Fee Schedule, which is based on age. A single payment or quarterly installments can be made. See the December NARFE, page 58, for an application and fee schedule.

Regarding renewing memberships, starting in March, members who provided National their e-mail address will receive electronic renewal notices. If no response, there will be second and third e-mails. If still no response, the NARFE magazine will have a special "final-issue wrap" indicating when the final issue will be sent. If still no response, members will receive a final

paper notice. To further help National, there are plans to survey those who receive the e-mail renewals between magazine wrap and final notice to see why they didn't respond. Please share this with members and encourage prompt membership renewal.

Finally, from Frances: *I just wanted to add that this position will be a challenging task, but I believe in NARFE and plan to focus all my attention on the year ahead with my ultimate goal of increasing our NARFE Federation membership!*

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## SERVICE OFFICER — Charlie Caughlan



Chapter service officer duties and responsibilities are in NARFE F-58, *Chapter Service Officer*. For example, they provide members assistance on government procedures and programs when a spouse or member dies, and answer questions on such things as health and life insurance, Medicare and the Thrift Savings Plan.

There is another area of responsibility I believe needs more of our attention — "support to members having serious problems with their benefit arrangements and particularly, surviving spouses when they suffer the trauma of a death or serious illness." This particular responsibility often is a gray area that does not fit into any federal pro-

gram, so a service officer needs to be aware of local and state resources that may be available.

For example, I have found these two resources particularly useful:

- State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services,

*(Continued on page 9)*

## PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN/WEB MASTER — Sam Cagle

So, what do I see for February, March and April?

- Up/functioning chapter programs/committees.
- Training for new officers/committee members.
- Training through district workshops/other opportunities.
- Promoting the National Scholarship Program.
- Efforts to ensure current federal employees know of NARFE's role in protecting pay, annuities and benefits.
- Efforts to ensure federal retirees/annuitants know your chapter's presence in the community, including meeting times, place and speakers.

Both chapter leadership and their public relations committee have roles in these programs. How?

- Take advantage of training materials on the WSFC web site, [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net); participate in district workshops/other training events.
- Know the federal agencies in your chapter's area – use 2010 health fair agency

contacts for other uses (if you don't have them, contact me); if possible, distribute literature and put up localized posters; seek occasions to staff a NARFE table, conduct an event such as a "lunch 'n learn" presentation in the workplace.

- Use your chapter's current federal employee members as contacts/information conduits/recruiters to their peers.
- Promote NARFE's Scholarship Program through meeting announcements, items in your newsletters and contacts with high school counselors. There are six, \$1,000 NARFE scholarships available in Region IX (WA, OR, ID, MT, AK).
- Contact your local reporters/media. At a minimum, send them a release monthly, either by mail or through their web sites (contact information is available at [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net) under "Public Relations"). This release could be as simple as your meeting time, date, location and

possibly, speakers. Focus on weekly newspapers/senior news publications.

- Ensure recruiting materials are current/available, particularly those with new dues structure. (Note: Use the F-14C, *Membership Application*, with self-mailing envelope, or the H-140A, *Membership Application*.) Discard other versions.

Switching topics, for the 2011/2012 WSFC *Public Relations Action Plan*, and the procedures for requesting PR support and matching funds, go to: [www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net), then to "Public Relations." Hard copies are also being sent to chapter presidents. Please take time to plan and implement your PR activities.

If you have questions or ideas on any of the above, please let me know!

**Sam**

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*NARFE Photo Calendar Contest deadline, February 11.*

*Submit photos to NARFE's PR Department.*



### Web Master News

[www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net)

Check the "What's New" navigation button, left side, home page.

Recent updates include:

- ✓ The 2010/2011 legislative recap affecting NARFE members and "not yet" members.
- ✓ Revised NARFE *Alzheimer's Coordinator's Manual*, December 2010.
- ✓ Region IX VP notes from the most recent National Executive Board meeting.
- ✓ New WSFC Form F-1, *Expense Report*, December 2010.
- ✓ The 2011 Dues Distribution Table.
- ✓ NARFE Life Membership Dues.
- ✓ PR Action Plan for 2011/2012.

### Updated NARFE Forms

The following forms are available online or in NARFE's mailroom.

- H-140A, *Membership Application* (10/10)
- F-14C, *Membership Application (w/Envelope)* (10/10)
- DW-2, *Dues Withholding Card (Retirees)* (10/10)
- DW-3, *Dues Withholding Card (New Member Retirees)* (10/10)
- F-53, *Life Membership Brochure* (10/10)
- F-58, *Chapter Service Officers Duties & Responsibilities* (12/10)
- F-85, *Gift Membership Application* (10/10)
- F-86, *Dues Withholding Brochure* (10/10)

## SERVICE OFFICER — *continued*

(Continued from page 8)

- [www.dshs.wa.gov/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/default.shtm)
- Southwest Washington has the Agency on Aging and Disabilities [www.helpingelders.org/](http://www.helpingelders.org/) (Look for something similar in your area.)

Other resources for you to consider are:

- The Alzheimer's Foundation, [www.alzfdn.org](http://www.alzfdn.org)
- AARP [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)
- Senior fairs
- Local Chambers of Commerce

- Local hospital – talk to a social worker. Bottom line, a chapter's service center should be a true "service" center.

**Charlie**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Washington State Federation of Chapters

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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.



[www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)



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## EDITOR, *FEDERATION REPORTER*— Mary Binder

Well, whew, we did it! Inaugural issue as your new editor behind me and Dominique, my design and layout right-arm partner in this undertaking. Also, a special thank you to all who provided feedback on the new look, focus, etc. Both Dominique and I have found this helpful and encouraging.

As I previously wrote, we view the newsletter as an evolving communication tool; therefore, to help us even better help you, and our members, chapters and the Federation, **we will continue to need feedback.** It not only helps the two of us, but it can also help all those writing articles to better target their content. So, what's next?

**Ongoing** – reviewing and updating the mailing list, a never-ending challenge! Please keep me posted on address changes and/or mailing list additions or deletions for those in your chapters who need and/or don't need the newsletter. Although the newsletters can be mailed at a non-profit bulk rate, to resend returns, the Federation pays first-class postage. So, help save time/money by providing address changes for those you know who receive mailed copies, need to be added to the list and/or deleted.

**Underway** – a newsletter procedures/training manual.

**Looking ahead** – the May Federation convention and newsletter competition.

Questions being explored include can we continue to make this a meaningful competition, and if so, how.

**Your thoughts, ideas and suggestions would be most appreciated.**

Again, thanks to all for the support, and please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need to discuss something regarding the *Federation Reporter* and/or your chapter newsletters.

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*Question:*  
*Is the annual chapter newsletter competition still meaningful and relevant? Your thoughts, please!*