



SPOKANE CHAPTER 32 NEWSLETTER

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Advocates for Current and Former Federal Employees

October 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Arlene Patton*

NARFE Chapter 32 is looking for new leaders to run for office in 2012. The election will take place at the November 14, 2011 Chapter meeting. If you are interested in running for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Director of the Chapter please contact the Nominating Committee. Also, if you are interested in serving on any of the Chapter's committees, please contact me. Serving on a committee or as a Director is a wonderful way to get familiar with the inter working of the organization.

A special thanks for all your input in the proposed revised bylaws. We hope to take action to approve at the October 10, 2011 Chapter meeting. These revisions will bring us more in line with changes made by the Federation and other Chapters.

Also, if there are any programs that you would like to suggest for future Chapter meetings, please contact our Program Coordinator, Pat Hegerberg. We are always looking for new and exciting topics and speakers to present during Chapter meetings.

LEGISLATION *Bill Beatty*

I ran across an interesting article posted at Federal News Radio.com on Monday, September 19. According to the article the government is required to establish a dollar cap on the amount federal agencies can reimburse contractors for the compensation of their senior executives. The cap does not limit a contract executive's pay, but only the amount the executive will be reimbursed. The cap, which is based on a statutory formula, rose to \$700,000 last year. The White House proposes a reduction to \$200,000, arguing that the reduction "will bring greater parity between federal and contractor executives' compensation."

The contract executives understandably object. It is unfair, they argue, to tie their reimbursement rate to the salaries of federal employees because "federal employees' salaries have lagged behind the private sector." Put another way, the private executives feel the government is not reimbursing them "at fair and reasonable compensation levels based on what the market demands," but rather on data that is faulty because it is based on the unduly low pay of employees in the federal sector.

What am I missing here? According to some lawmakers, federal employees and annuitants are grossly overpaid when compared to those having similar positions in the private sector. Yet when the government takes a step to bring the pay of both groups "into greater parity," the private executives cry, "Foul!" Perhaps, just perhaps, those lawmakers on the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction will find this information useful when someone raises the tired refrain that federal workers are overpaid drones. If you think so, please let them know.

SERVICE OFFICER *Lennie Husa*

Do you know that retirees and their spouses have the option of having their NARFE annual dues deducted automatically from their annuity on a monthly basis? It is a painless simple way to pay your yearly dues without having to pay the entire amount at one time. You can even save a bit by having dues withholding. Check your NARFE Magazine for a withholding application form, which you can fill out and mail to NARFE headquarters as indicated on the form.

OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING

Monday, October 10, 2011
Old Country Buffet
5504 N Division Street
Lunch at 11:30 Meeting at 12:30

Program: Mary Verner
Mayor, City of Spokane

PROGRAM NOTES *Pat Hegerberg*

At our meeting on October 10th, Mayor Mary Verner will speak to NARFE Chapter 32 members. Balancing the city budget will be the focus of her presentation.

At our last meeting David Condon, candidate for Spokane mayor, emphasized his business experience and leadership skills in his presentation. He believes that we can find local solutions to the challenges we face: creating jobs, fixing the streets, and running city government efficiently.

Condon stressed that the mayor needs to lead the effort to recruit new business to our area. A strong mayor would target agriculture, health care and energy (key areas locally) for recruitment.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS *Frances Baker*

Election of officers and directors will be held at our November Chapter meeting so time is short. Nominations are open for ALL offices, but in particular for vice-president. Also, let us know if you would be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

. . . Harold (Josh) Brown, Lennie Husa, and Jack Rasmussen who recently were guests of the Honor Flight Network to visit and reflect at their memorials in Washington D.C. The Network is a nonprofit organization to honor America's veterans for their sacrifices.

. . . Judith Personett, who received the "Exception Contribution Award in Nursing" from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Oct 6-9	Sprague Rest Stop, Westbound
Oct 10	Chapter Meeting
Oct 17-21	Health Fairs
Oct 24	Board Meeting
Nov 14	Chapter Meeting
Nov 14-Dec 12	FEHBP Open Season
Nov 28	Board Meeting

NEWSLETTER OPTION *Kathy Brooks*

We are encouraging the use of the internet for viewing our Chapter newsletter, in lieu of the hardcopy. To ensure you receive notice as to when the newsletter is available, I plan on sending out emails with the website link each month. If you are interested in participating in this method of receiving the newsletter, please provide me with your email address. My email address is Kmbrooks49@gmail.com. My goal is to have the notification process up and running by December.

NARFE on the Web:

National: www.narfe.org
 WSFC: www.narfewa.net
 Spokane: www.narfespokanewa.org

MEMBERSHIP Ken Kaul

You may think, here we go again with another tired and worn out message about how we all need to step up our recruitment and retention efforts. The fact is, this is exactly what we need to do. While our message remains the same, I am confident that we can make a difference in our recruitment and retention numbers. However, we must be aware of the potential impact to all active and retired federal employees and their survivors being targeted by Congress.

NARFE's mission remains the same! Just paying your dues is a step in our organization's ability to represent us to the Congress. To complete our mission we must demonstrate a collect and outspoken force to our elected representatives. We need members who act collectively by voice, letter, and fact-to-face meetings to let Congress know to stop using us as sacrificial lambs in these economically depressing times.

Recruit new members, be an advocate for the entire federal family, and stay a member for your own sake.

NARFE NEEDS YOU AND YOU NEED NARFE!

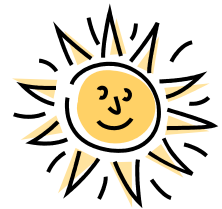
HEALTH FAIRS 2011 Ken Kaul

We are requesting chapter members to volunteer to staff a NARFE table at the Health Fairs. Please call Ken Kaul at 448-3542 to volunteer and more information.

The 2011 Open Season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), The Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) and the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS) runs from Monday November 14, to Monday, December 12, 2011.

One way to get information is to attend one of the 11 Health Fairs in the Spokane area. Please call me, 448-3542, if you want information on location and hours of scheduled fairs.

SUNSHINE Estelle Bailey and Tina Kaul



A great time was had by all who attended Chapter 32's annual summer picnic in July at the Riverview Retirement Center. A warm welcome to John and Shirley Goldberger who also joined us.

Cards of condolence have been sent to the families of deceased members Raymond C. Daves, Loretta Thompson, Isabel Carlson, Robert Vanzee, and Wilma Jones, wife of Honorary Member Paul Jones.

A warm welcome to new NARFE members Angela Erskine, William Knigge, Kathy Kovalesky, Gloria Thies, Debra Trowbridege, and to newly transferred members Carma Jacobson and Bette Rogers.

.ALZHEIMER'S Jean Flechel

Thank you to all donors to our September Alzheimer's collection. You gave \$166.00, which included \$12 from recycled aluminum cans, and generous contribution from Mr. Knudsen as a memorial to his wife. This is a wonderful way to assist in Alzheimer's research efforts.

FEHBP RATES FOR 2012

OPM has announced Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) rates for 2012. The average premium for 8 million people enrolled in FEHBP will increase by 3.8% for nonpostal employees and annuitants in the coming year. This is approximately one-half of last year's increase of 7.3%. For more information on premium rates, see <http://www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/factsheet.asp>.

CHAPTER 32 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Officers and Directors:

President	Arlene Patton	747-1589
Vice President	Bob Elmore	838-4061
Secretary	Roger Bosky	443-0686
Treasurer	Chris Boettger	468-9438
Fin. Secretary	Lani Boldt	325-3031
Directors	Jean Flechel	838-8081
	Ken Kaul	448-3542
	Janet Toone	466-3147
	Pat Hegerberg	448-5343
	Tina Kaul	448-3542
	Lois Pace	325-9245
	Gary Johnson	928-2322
	Gene Owen	922-7800
	Milton Maas	448-8722

Committees:

Alzheimer's	Jean Flechel	838-8081
Awards	Gary Johnson	928-2322
Legislation	Bill Beatty	747-2249
Membership	Ken Kaul	448-3542
NARFE-PAC	June Christie	443-6819
Newsletter	Lois Pace	325-9245
	Harry Lippincott	443-0570
Nominating	Frances Baker	226-5391
	June Christie	443-6819
	Art Hathaway	235-8509
	Ardyce Pangerl	
Program	Pat Hegerberg	448-5343
Public Relations	Kathy Brooks	624-9465
Raffle	Frances Baker	226-5391
Service	Lennie Husa	924-1298
Sunshine	Tina Kaul	448-3542

Service Center.....625-1359

ELECTED OFFICIALS

President Barack H. Obama
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Senator Patty Murray
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 Spokane, WA 99201
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Senator Maria Cantwell
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www.cantwell.senate.gov

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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