



CHAPTER 236 OLYMPIA/TIMBERLAND

President's Message

Welcome to your first NARFE Chapter 236, Olympia/Timberland Newsletter.

The goals of the new Chapter 236 leadership are to revitalize the chapter by retaining current members, recruiting new ones and increasing our activities in support of the chapter's mission.

A first step is to recognize our chapter now includes members from other chapters, including Tacoma, which have closed in recent years, and our area of interest includes much more than Olympia and its immediate environs. Given the true nature of our membership and the multiple Congressional districts we now embrace, we are working toward re-branding ourselves as Chapter 236 South Puget Sound. Because of administrative requirements, it will take some time for our new brand to become official. While we work with the WA State Federation and NARFE National to accomplish this change, you will continue to see Chapter 236 Olympia-Timberland on web sites and other documents. Make no mistake, however, Chapter 236 represents members from Tacoma to Longview to Ocean Shores. We truly look forward to working with you to make Chapter 236 South Puget Sound a strong voice to raise your concerns to our congressional representatives and to tie together our community of active and retired Federal employees.

Because of the limits imposed by Covid-19, and possibly beyond, we are holding virtual meetings. This should be an effective means of reaching members throughout the extent of the chapter. However, at our April 20 Go To Meeting, 21 members, plus the officers, signed up in advance, but only five attended. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 24th. We hope you will join us online. We will send out a new notice for that meeting.

Legislative

Want to bring yourself up to speed on the current NARFE issues and actions as they are working with Congress? Get the information and the experience without travelling to D.C. Registration is now open for NARFE's legislative convention LEGCON 21 and the Centennial Celebration. Both events will be virtual. The conference is 21 to 23 June. The Centennial Celebration is an evening event on June 21st. All times shown on the schedule are Eastern Time. For more information, go to www.narfe.org. Registration costs are \$135 for the conference if you register on or before 14 May and \$150 thereafter. The fee for the Centennial Celebration is \$50.00. The Washington State Federation will reimburse members in good standing up to \$250.00 for attending these events. However, you must contact WSF President Steve Roy at stevenroy1@comcast.net before registering. You will not be reimbursed if you do not get advance approval.

Go to: <https://s7.goeshow/narfe/legcon/2021>.

Alzheimer's

NARFE has long been a major supporter of the Alzheimer's program. The 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's is on Sept 26 in Tacoma and October 16 in Olympia. If you would like to join either of the walks as a representative of NARFE, you can register to walk at the following website: 2021 walk to end alzheimer's – south sound, wa, Email: piercecountywalk@slz.org or southsoundwalk@alz.org or call 206-529-3861 for further information. It is planned to register a NARFE Chapter 236 group at each location.

To make a tax-deductible donation by check, make it payable to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research and write your chapter number on the check memo line. Mailing address is: Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60601-7633.

Membership

Our current chapter membership is 200. There are 404 national only members in the chapter area.

We have two centenarians on the membership roles: J. Worth Gurley age 102 of Lakewood and Lewis W. Larson age 101 of Olympia. Congratulations to these two gentlemen.

We have a new member we wish to welcome to our chapter. Bertha Hines of Tacoma joined 03/17/2021. On the opposite side, we have been informed of 2 deaths: Robert Dally, age 81, of Shelton died January 25th and Thomas W. Hazen, age 87, of Fircrest died March 6th.

NARFE national dues are \$48 for 1 year; \$92 for 2 years; and \$126 for 3 years. Chapter 233 members also pay annual dues of \$7. If you want to save some money, NARFE dues are \$42.00 per year if you elect the 3-year option of \$126 or elect dues withholding from your annuity. With the Dues Withholding option, OPM will withhold \$4.33 monthly. The OPM Dues withholding form is available on the NARFE website at www.narfe.org and in every copy of the NARFE Magazine.

Cost of Living Index

The Bureau of Labor released the March CPI-W value on 13 April. The numbers came in at 258.904. The July, August and September 2020 average value was 253.1366 which means inflation stands at 2.238% as it relates to our next cost of living adjustment. For comparison, fuel you buy at the gas pumps increased 24.6% since the December value was reported.

Let Your Voice Be Heard

Advocacy, representing the thousands of US Government retirees before Congress, is the most pressing tack of NARFE in its' 100 years of existence. The "usual" image of advocacy is one of a team of professional advocates walking the halls of Congress. Another aspect of Advocacy is YOU reaching out to your Congress-members to talk about bills affecting us.

NARFE has made this possible on the NARFE.org website and you can now play your roll. It is quick, simple and easy to do. Ready? Sign in to the NARFE website. You will need your member number. It is the eight digit number on the top of your NARFE magazine mailing label. Once in, click on the Advocacy button at the top of the opening screen. You will be sent to the NARFE Legislative Action Center. Here's where you go to work.

You will be given optional letters on current topics of interest to NARFE. Pick one, several or all. You can take the letters "as is" or add your own comments. Then you can send the letters to your congressional district Representative and both Senators...with the click of a button. Do it now, Do it often. Let your Voice be heard.

The current topics are:

- Support Reform of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) H.R. 2337
- Ask Lawmakers to Cosponsor NARFE's Centennial Resolution
- Support the USPS Fairness Act H.R. 695/S. 145
- Support the Equal COLA Act, H.R. 304
- Support the FAIR Act, H.R. 392
- Support Statehood for the District of Columbia, H.R. 51/S. 51

Chapter Officers and Board Members

President – Sam Cagle - 360-359-1775

Secretary – Bonnie Ecker

Treasurer – Baron Powell

Newsletter – Milton Oster

Membership – Milton Oster (temporary)

Alzheimer's - vacant

Vice President - vacant

Legislative - Vacant

PAC - Vacant

Service Officer – Vacant

Chapter Website: <http://narfewadistiv.org/Olympia-chapter-0236>

Chapter email address: narfe236@gmail.com

**Mailing address: NARFE Olympia Chapter 236
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Lacey, WA 98509-8554**

Our Elected Representatives

Senator Patty Murray
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Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone # 253-572-3636

Senator Maria Cantwell
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Marilyn Strickland
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Marilyn Strickland
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