



# CHAPTER 236 SOUTH PUGET SOUND

## President's Message

Doing Your Part.

Late last year, Chapter 236 was on the verge of dissolution. Earlier, the Tacoma Chapter lost its leadership, and its members were rolled into the Olympia Chapter. Then, circumstances, including COVID 19, caused the Olympia leadership to step aside. The Washington Federation began preparations to dissolve the combined chapter and distribute the members to chapters in Vancouver, East Lake Washington, and Everett.

Sam Cagle, a longtime chapter member, asked the Federation leadership if the dissolution could be put on hold. They agreed and offered to assist. In response to a message the Federation put out, three-chapter members who had not participated before – Bonnie Ecker, Baron Powell, and Milton Oster – agreed to join Sam in occupying positions necessary to keep the chapter operating: Sam as President, Baron as Treasurer, Bonnie as Secretary, and Milton as Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor. They have been heavily supported by Bea Bull, Bremerton based District 3 Vice President, Linda Wallers, Federation Secretary, and Steve Roy, Federation President. This team has accomplished a great deal of organizational work up to this point, but...

**We have an online chapter meeting scheduled for September 21 at 11 a.m.**

**The missing element in this effort is YOU!** We held two GoToMeeting Chapter Meeting, in April and June. The first meeting drew 6 participants, the second meeting brought 2. To say it was disheartening is an understatement. For us to develop successful chapter meeting programs, greater turnout is necessary.

According to current NARFE records, our chapter has 193 members along with 403 National Members. We need a number of you to be active by:

- Letting us know you are out there. Contact Sam, [caglels@comcast.net](mailto:caglels@comcast.net), 360-456-8509 (leave message) or Milt Oster at [narfe236@gmail.com](mailto:narfe236@gmail.com) or 360-292-9919.
- **Get on the e-mail and virtual meeting contact mailing list with Linda Wallers, Federation Secretary, [wallerl@yahoo.com](mailto:wallerl@yahoo.com), 360-606-9178. Respond to meeting notices.**
- Schedule and participate in (online) events and discussions.
- Be ready to take part in NARFE and chapter activities.
- Read the NARFE Magazine and keep up to date on the NARFE Website.

- Use the Advocacy section on the website to select, modify and send messages to our members of Congress. Most chapter members are in the districts of Marilyn Strickland-WA 10), Derek Kilmer-WA 06, and Kim Schreier-WA 08. Member letters sent to lawmakers in 2020 totaled 67,030 and phone calls were 21,849. Advocacy, reaching out to members of congress on issues and priorities of retired and active federal employees, is a full-time job for select members of NARFE headquarters staff, but they also need input from the grassroots-YOU. The final step is for selected chapter leadership to make direct personal contact with their congress members.
- Health Fairs. Last year, the risk of Covid-19 forced the FEHB Health Fairs to shift from in-person to virtual. It is highly likely the 2021 season, October and November, will be similar. We will keep you posted on details as they come available.

NARFE's 2021 Legislative Training Conference, LEGcon21 was held June 21 and 22 and meetings with our state congressional members on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Its purpose was to train NARFE members to be successful advocates for NARFE's legislative issues with their respective member of Congress. South Puget Sound Chapter 236 attendees were Sam Cagle, Chapter President and Milt Oster, Chapter Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor. Thirteen members from around Washington State signed up to attend.

The program was organized around sessions for members new to advocacy (Beginner) and those with experience (Advanced). Each day opened with a General Session with remarks by NARFE President Ken Thomas and remarks from members of Congress including Washington's Derek Kilmer and Pam Coleman, Associate Director, Performance & Personnel Management at the Office of Management and Budget. There were four training sessions each day, two Beginner and two Advanced.

Sessions included:

- Understanding Congress: the basics of the congressional process, which committees have jurisdiction over NARFE's legislative priorities, how a bill moves through the process and how that guides NARFE's lobbying and grassroots advocacy. (Beginner)
- Action. Impact; NARFE collaborates with federations and chapters to increase its effectiveness and visibility as a national advocate for federal employees and retirees and to speak with one voice, (Advanced)
- NARFE-PAC and its role in advancing NARFE's priorities. Participants will learn the purpose of NARFE-PAC and the role it plays as a part of NARFE's overall strategy. (Beginner)
- Relationship Building. Keys to influencing lawmakers. Participants will learn how to use the "factors of influence" to build and sustain trusting relationships with lawmakers and staff. (Advanced)
- Do you want to make a Difference? Participants learn about NARFE's advocacy framework and the vital role they play as constituents. Also, they learn the basics of advocacy campaigns, how to communicate effectively with lawmakers NAARFE's Legislative Action Center and accessing resources on the advocacy webpage. (Beginner)
- How to make the most of your meeting. Participants learned what to do and not do when meeting with lawmakers and staff, and how to tailor their "asks" to make the subject mater relatable. (Beginner and Advanced)
- Learn Why NARFE-PAC is the third leg of NARFE's advocacy strategy. Participants learn about the purpose of NARFE-PAC and the vital role it plays in the overall advocacy strategy. (Advanced)

On Wednesday 23 June, 30-minute virtual meetings were scheduled with each of Washington's House and Senate Members to practice our learned advocacy skills. Derek Kilmer and Marilyn Strickland participated in-person. The other meetings were with staff members only. Sam Cagle our chapter president was team leader in the meeting with Representative Strickland. In these meetings, we reviewed the legislative goals of NARFE and thanked the lawmaker for their support or urged support of them.

The purpose of NARFE is to represent the interest of Federal workers and annuitants before Congress and the administration. A survey of congressional staff members shows the top ways to influence undecided lawmakers are:

In-person visits or video meetings from constituents

Contact from constituent representatives such as NARFE headquarters, federations, or chapters

Personalized emails or letters

Comments during a town hall meeting

## **NARFE-PAC**

The NARFE-PAC is a separate fund supported by member contributions. The funds are used to support the election of congress members who are friendly to NARFE legislative proposals. They support both GOP and Dem candidates. PAC funds are not used to support candidates for president. Contributions to the NARFE-PAC in 2020 totaled \$2,173,898; \$1,436,000 was disbursed.

## **Alzheimer's**

Nationally and locally, NARFE has long been a strong supporter of Alzheimer's research having raised over \$14 million in individual donations. Here is another opportunity to do you part.

Walks to end Alzheimer's: There are sixteen walks planned for Washington State, including one in Tacoma on September 26<sup>th</sup> and another in Olympia on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Tacoma Walk will be held at Dune Peninsula Park registration beginning at 11 am. The Olympia Walk begins at Heritage Park registration at 9:00 am.

While the South Puget Sound Chapter 236 is not formally establishing walking teams. We do encourage our members to identify as NARFE 236 when you register.

## **Cost of Living Index**

The CPI-W increased by 0.51% in July 2021. The CPI-W figure for July was 267.789 which is 5.67% higher than the 3-month average CPI-W for third quarter 2020. This follows a month to month increase of 1.06% in June. If the CPI-W increases at a similar rate in September, the COLA in 2022 will be one of the highest in recent years.

## **New Chapter Name**

With the merger of the Tacoma Chapter members into the Olympia Chapter, it was apparent the old Olympia Timberline name was no longer appropriate for the geographic spread of the membership. South Puget Sound was selected after some discussion among the current chapter officers and District and Federation leaders and will be used in the future.

## **Membership**

We have a new member of NARFE and of Chapter 236. Mary Traxler of Shelton joined NARFE in August. Timothy Leadingham transferred his membership to 236 in July and lives in Olympia. Connie Knight of Olympia recently joined the chapter. A hearty welcome to our new members.

On a sad note, we have received word of the passing of 5 long time members: Charles Ryder of Enumclaw, Alice Kerstine of Lacey, Edward Staiger of Olympia, William Freer of Olympia, and James Holly of Aberdeen. Our heartfelt condolences go to each of their families.

### **WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING**

You are invited to join Steve Roy, Federation President, for the Virtual Annual Meeting on 29 September from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. By attending you will learn what has transpired during the past year and a peek at what is coming up. There will be 2 speakers from NARFE. Jessica Klement who will provide a legislative advocacy update and Dave Bowman who will speak about membership recruitment and retention with focus on a new online community resource (FEDHUB) about to be released. You do not need to register if you have registered for a federation event in the past. If you are a new participant, please register on the federation website narfe.org. You will receive a link from our federation webmaster, Linda Wallers, a few days before the meeting.

### **2022 Federal Pay Increase**

The President sent a letter to Congress authorizing a 2.7% pay increase for most General Schedule employees. It is broken down as a 2.2% increase for base pay and 0.5% for locality pay.

### **Chapter Officers and Board Members**

President - Sam Cagle - 360-359-1775 - [caglels@comcast.net](mailto:caglels@comcast.net)

Secretary - Bonnie Ecker - [REDACTED]

Treasurer - Baron Powell - [REDACTED]

Newsletter - Milton Oster - [REDACTED] - [narfe236@gmail.com](mailto:narfe236@gmail.com)

Membership - Milton Oster (temporary)

Chapter email address: [narfe236@gmail.com](mailto:narfe236@gmail.com)

Mailing Address: NARFE Chapter 236, PO Box 8554, Lacey, WA 98509-8554

### **SUPPORT NARFE**

[Donate to NARFE! Join the Century Club](#)

[Give a Gift Membership / NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund](#)

[NARFE-FEEA Scholarship / NARFE Alzheimer's Fund](#)

**Alzheimer's - vacant**

**Vice President - vacant**

**Legislative - vacant**

**PAC - vacant**

**Service Officer - Vacant**