



CHAPTER 236 SOUTH PUGET SOUND

Next Chapter Meeting is on Tuesday 15 March at 10 am via Zoom. The link for the meeting will be emailed to the membership.

President's Message

So we have turned the corner into 2022 and the second year of the newly revived and combined (Olympia and Tacoma) South Puget Sound Chapter 236. Happy New Year.

Yes, we have filled the legally required officer positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and treasurer, but now we have to start working on those folks in the organizational structure who help the chapter move forward in keyways. **(Here's where you come in...)**

Congressional Liaison, Congressional District 9. We have 36 members in Congressional District 9 (Derek Kilmer). We are looking for a volunteer to represent Chapter 236 in dealing with Congressman Kilmer and his staff. Congressman Kilmer has been very supportive of NARFE positions. Our volunteer would attend town hall meeting, provide information about NARFE advocacy issues and attend local fundraisers as a Chapter and NARFE-PAC representative. This person would work closely with the Chapter 236 Congressional and NARFE-PAC chair. Contact Sam Cagle.

Alzheimer's. NARFE and its members have long been a major support of actions regarding Alzheimer's research. Over \$14,000,000 in donations has been raised. The Chapter 236 Alzheimer's Chair would keep members updated on the campaign's activities, solicit voluntary donations, and coordinate fundraising activities such as the annual Alzheimer's walk.

Membership Chair. Membership is a task with several functions: recruiting new members, retaining existing members, and keeping track of membership records. Milt Oster has been handling membership on an ad hoc basis but would definitely appreciate a hand.

NARFE-PAC. A major portion of the NARFE mission is Advocacy, reaching members of Congress who write or vote on issues of interest to federal employees and retirees. One of the best ways to reach them is through coordinated funding. All NARFE-PAC funds come voluntarily from individual NARFE members, with the average donation amount of \$52.50. NARFE-PAC month will be MARCH. We are looking for chapter members interested in helping with NARFE-PAC.

...Please let us hear from you! Pick an area, work with others, take the lead or be an assistant.

Election of Officers

At the December 14th chapter meeting the election of officers for 2022 was held. The current officers Sam C [REDACTED], President, Bonnie E [REDACTED], Secretary, and Baron P [REDACTED], Treasurer, agreed to continue to serve in their positions. Tony Merola agreed to serve as Vice President. We now have a full complement of officers. Volunteers are needed for non-elected positions: Membership, Alzheimer's Legislative, PAC, and Service Officer.

Treasurer's Report

Our income for December was \$69.46 with expenses of \$149.75. Our month end balance is \$14,653.60. A Treasurer's report for January and February will be available at the March 15th meeting.

Membership

Our current membership is 182. We have 3 new members, Cheryl B [REDACTED] of Bonney Lake, James P [REDACTED] of Shelton and Joseph E [REDACTED] of Olympia. A hearty welcome to our new members. One member was dropped for non-renewal and 2 members were reinstated. We have learned of the passing of 2 members, Diana A [REDACTED] and Lorraine S [REDACTED] of Lacey. Diana was Olympia Chapter President around 2015 and 2016. Lorraine Was 100 years old. Our heartfelt condolence to each of their families.

Our membership was about 200 in early 2021 while only 6 new members have joined. Feel free to promote NARFE membership to any friends or neighbors who are current or former federal employees. The efforts of your current chapter officers to bring Chapter 236 back to active status is continuing but we need your help to make this process a success. To continue meet online or return to in-person attendance at meetings, we need members to volunteer for chapter positions and greater overall member attendance to enable us to invite speakers and develop programs of interest to members.

Scholarships

Do you have any children or grandchildren or great grandchildren who are high school seniors this school year who are planning to attend college? Scholarship money is available? Information about, and the online application form, is at www.feea.org/scholarships. The application deadline is Noon-PDT, Thursday, 24 March 2022. \$1000 dollar scholarships will be awarded.

OPM Retirement Accounts - Important

Do you have online access to your OPM retirement account? You need to access your account at least once a year or your password will expire. So, make it a habit to log on to your OPM, TSP or Social Security accounts as one of the first things you do in the new year.

Federation Reporter – The 2021 edition of this statewide NARFE newsletter is out and available on the Federation website, narfewa.org. On the opening page, click on *More, Library, Federation Reporter*.

Legislative Action – WSF President Steve Roy

There are two pieces of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that we need our congressional representatives to co-sponsor:

- H.R. 5834 – “Support the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2121”. Introduced in the House by Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Tx, this is the latest bill that would provide financial relief to more than 1.9 million Social Security beneficiaries affected by the WEP.

- H.R. 4788 – Support the Wellbeing for Every Public Servant Act. This legislation would fully repeal the WEP for retirees with a combined non-Social Security covered annuity and Social Security benefits of \$5,500 and lower. For those with benefits above \$5,500, the WEP repeal gradually phases out, and for combined incomes at \$6,333 and above the WEP is fully applied.

To date no congressional representatives from Washington State have co-sponsored these two bills. I urge you to contact them by either using the NARFE Legislative Action Center at NARFE.org to write a letter; or by calling the NARFE Legislative Hot Line at 800-456-8410 option 5. Follow the prompts to reach your congressional representative.

Alzheimer's

In 2021, NARFE members donated \$278,127 to the Alzheimer's Fund. Two new research grants were awarded to Pablo Contreras, Ph.D. – “The Role of Bassoon in Tau Pathophysiology” and Yi-Chen Hsieh, “Ph.D. – “The Ubiquitin-Proteasome System in the Degradation of Tau in Alzheimer's Disease Neurons”. You will find an interesting article about the grants on page 60 of the December NARFE Magazine.

You may have read that the new Alzheimer's drug ADUHELM developed by Biogen, was conditionally approved by the FDA for use in cases of mild Alzheimer's-related cognitive decline. This approval was not recommended by the FDA advisory panel and has been criticized by many doctors in the Alzheimer's treatment field. The drug is administered once a month by intravenous transfusion. Biogen initially set a price of \$56,000 for a one-year treatment, but because so few patients were receiving this treatment, Biogen reduced the price to \$28,000 in December. In the meantime, the Part B Medicare premium increase for 2022 was in part based on the \$56,000 price. Medicare issued a preliminary decision on 17 January that they would cover the cost of this treatment only for patients enrolled in randomized controlled trials which would greatly limit the number of people who would receive the drug. The preliminary decision is open for public comment. A final decision is expected by 11 April. The Secretary of HHS has directed the Center for Medicare Services to review the premium decision for Part B considering the reduced price for ADUHELM. Stay tuned for further developments.

NARFE-PAC. NARFE has partnered with the OPM to allow members to contribute monthly from their annuities directly to NARFE-PAC. This enables NARFE to avoid paying transaction fees for donations made by credit card. Further information is on page 10 of the December NARFE Magazine. This provides NARFE-PAC with a steady flow of funds that they can rely upon.

Calendar Contest

Attention all you photographers, submission deadline for the 2022 NARFE Photo Contest is February 28. All the details are in the November NARFE Magazine.

Chapter Officers

President – Sam Cagle – [REDACTED]

Vice President – Tony Merola – [REDACTED]

Secretary – Bonnie Ecker – [REDACTED]

Treasurer – Baron Powell – [REDACTED]

Newsletter – Milton Oster – [REDACTED]
Narfe236@gmail.com

Membership – Milton Oster (temporary)

Chapter Website: narfewadistiv.org/Olympia-chapter-0236

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Vacant Positions: Alzheimer's, Legislative, PAC, Service Officer

Our Elected Representatives

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