



Chapter #1959

National Active & Retired Federal Employees
Magic Valley Newsletter

VOLUME IX ISSUE 2

MARCH 2010

Presidents Report

Did you hear, the Ground Hog "just one more snow storm, and then more sunshine".

Our Guest speaker on March 8th is Jeff Ross, he is an ARCHEOLOGIST. What will he talk about? You must come and find out. In FEB. are speaker was Arnie Witestein, from the National Conservation office.. This is a Federal office that provides assistance to anyone requesting help, with water conservation issues. What could be more important than Water conservation, and Health Care?

At our meeting in April, our speaker will be A TAX Assessor. Do you think you might have a question or two for Him??? There are two conventions coming up, the Federa-

tion of Idaho Chapters in May and the National convention in Aug. Do You have an Issue that should be brought before the Federation Convention?

The Chapter Budget needs to be presented again at the next meeting, due to a lack of a quorum in Feb.

CAN one man make a difference?

Scott Brown was elected to the Senate. He stopped the steam roller from changing our Health Care. and he wasn't even sworn in yet. It may just be short term, but who knows what will happen now. So can a group such as NARFE, make a difference? We saw what happens when the Tea parties started rolling across the country.

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Legislature Report

Maegret Baptiste, President of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), said today she was pleased that President Obama's budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011 does not recommend any reductions in the earned retirement and health security of federal annuitants and workers. In addition, NARFE's President lauded the Administration's decision to renew traditional support for pay parity between federal civilian employees and military personnel. However, Baptiste said she was concerned about a plan to force onto the retirement rolls federal workers sidelined by workplace injuries or illnesses and currently receiving workers' compensation.

"Many lawmakers have called for sacrifice and responsibility as the nation grapples with unparalleled economic upheaval and an unprecedented \$1.4 trillion budget deficit and \$11 trillion national debt. 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," Baptiste said.

"However, we are happy that the Administration has proposed restoring equity between federal civilian and military personnel by recommending that both groups receive the same pay increase in 2011. Pay parity is an important acknowledgement that civilians and uniformed military personnel often work side-by-side in defense of our country," Baptiste said. "While we recognize that times are tough, it will be especially difficult for lower income civilian employees and military personnel to pay higher living expenses on the proposed 1.4 percent raise."

In addition, NARFE applauded the Administration's suggestion that older Americans who received no COLA in 2010 be offered a one-time payment of \$250. When the Administration first endorsed this proposal in October 2009, it was argued that federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security should also be offered relief. Baptiste said NARFE will work with Congressional leaders and the Administration to ensure that all retired public employees receive equivalent compensation.

The President's budget recommends that Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) benefits for future participants be replaced at age 65 by annuities paid through the federal retirement system. Although current FECA beneficiaries would not be affected, NARFE is concerned that

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SERVING OUR MEMBERS

January 27, 2010

To: Idaho NARFE Chapter Presidents and Members

From: Ken Barr, President, NAFRE Chapter #763, Idaho Falls

SUBJECT: 2010 IDAHO FEDERATION CONVENTION

The Idaho Federation convention for 2010 will be held at the Red Lion “On the Falls” in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Convention registration activities begin Wednesday noon, May 26, 2010. Convention business sessions will take place on Thursday, May 27, and continue the following morning. Hotel checkout time has been delayed for convention attendees to 12:30 pm to accommodate the noon convention closing.

The registration form transmitted by this letter shows several optional sightseeing activities for Wednesday following registration. Also, a pre-convention buffet and mixer, “Katie’s Night Out”, is scheduled for Wednesday evening starting at 6:30 pm.

The Idaho Falls Chapter is pleased to announce that NARFE’s National President, Ms. Margaret Baptiste, will attend this year’s convention. This will be her first trip to eastern Idaho and we’re looking forward to making it a memorable one.

I have also included a map of the Idaho Falls area. Please provide your chapter members with a copy of the registration form and map. Both the form and map will also be available on the Chapter and Federation web sites in the near future.

The registration form should be filled out by each attendee and forwarded to the address shown on the form.

We suggest you make your lodging reservations at the hotel or campground as soon as you can to assure you get the lodging you want.

Two additional items:

- (1) please bring your chapter banners for display at the convention, and**
- (2) each chapter is expected to provide a wrapped gift worth about \$25 to be raffled off at the banquet.**

If you have any questions, please contact me at 208-785-0258 or by email at kbarr9@q.com.

Ken

James Davis and Lee Urie, are shown with some of the items collected at our December meeting.

It has been our Chapter's tradition to collect food items for the Salvation Army at Christmas time. This food is shared with the needy. Once again our Chapter Members were very generous, and helped to brighten the holidays for many Magic Valley families.



Program Chairperson Zenia Williams

I would appreciate any suggestions for our special speakers that can come during 2010
Call 208.324.7613.

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2010 Convention Preparations

On September 12th, the chapter signed housing and catering contracts with the Red Lion on the Falls to host the 2010 State Federation Convention. As in the past, the primary registration day will be Wednesday, May 26 with the business sessions to be held on Thursday May 27 and Friday May 28. The room costs will be \$66 plus 6% state tax and 2% occupancy tax for Tower and Cabana, single and double occupancy rooms. At this time, we are estimating that the banquet dinner will be in the \$27 - \$30 range and the food choices will be Chicken Supreme, Roast Baron of Beef, Char grilled King Salmon Filet, and Medley of Roasted Vegetables in Pastry. We continue to anticipate that our National President, Margaret L. Baptiste, will be able to attend the convention. The chapter is continuing to work on making the convention a positive experience for all attendees. Plan now to attend. The March 2010 Gemette will contain the convention registration form.

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Did you contact one of our Senators, or Congressmen in the last few weeks, about Health care, or the national Dept. If so did you get a response. ??

Do you read the NARFE news releases on the Federation web page?? You can read all the latest publications, as they are posted every Friday. Simply type in WWW.idnarfe.org, on your Browser page.

We need your help at our Chapter meetings each month. We need to get the call committees going again. We need a greeter at each meeting. We can use some help on the newsletter. What are you good at. Please help us out. This is your Chapter, don't let it slowly drift away too nothing.

Roy Killgore

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SERVING OUR MEMBERS

The advertisements seen in this Newsletter help pay for the costs of printing and mailing.



Greetings from your Membership Chairman. Due to a few glitches beyond my control, my colum has not been in the last two news letters. Here is a recap: I went to a family reunion in Siren, Wisconsin last summer. It was nice to see old friends and family whom I have not seen in 30 plus years. The town sure has changed and grown a lot and now has a population of about 1,00, but It's still a nice small restor town. While on this trip I visited an old friend, a retired postal inspector. I noticed a NARFE magazine on his table. It was nice to see that NARFE is known there too. Driving back to Twin Falls I stopped to eat lunch in North Dakota. I sat next to a letter carrier and he said he was getting close to retirement. I mentioned NARFE to him and he said he never heard of it. This just tells me that we all need to get the word out. The last printout from NARFE I got for Feb 2020 states 5 members were sent 2nd notices for dues and 1 member dropped her membership. For those who don't have dues withholding, it might be a good idea to get it and not have to worry about when it is due. Well spring is around the corner. Let's hope the weather gets a lot nicer. I'd like a nice warm spring, say starting next week!

Here is a joke for you all:

Taxing down the tarmac, the jetliner abruptly stopped, turned around and returned to the gate. After an hour long wait, it finally took off. A concerned pasenger asked the flight attendant "what's the problem"? She responded "The pilot was bothered by a noise he heard in the engine" and it took us a while to find a new pilot!!!!

Respectfully,
Tom Burnikel
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