

Chapter 218
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Newsletter
August 1, 2007

President: Harlan Hayes 664-6848
Secretary: Clyde Blake 772-7171
Service Officer: Lyle Linnell 664-2961
Newsletter Editor: Karen Melton 773-1349

Vice President: Jan Linnell 664-2961
Treasurer: Bob Conquergood 699-9121
Legislation: Everett Headrick 772-7642

Don't Miss This! On August 20, 2007, we will have our annual picnic. This year it will be held at the home of Jud and Karen Melton. Come any time after 4:00 pm, and we will eat at 5:00. Meat, plates, place settings, coffee, and iced tea will be provided. You are asked to bring a potluck dish. The Spokane chapter has also been invited. This is a great opportunity to see old friends and to make new ones. Directions to Meltons' house: Take Exit 5 off I-90. Go south across the Spokane River on Spokane St. past the park and Hughes Greenhouses. When the road becomes a Y, take the left branch that goes east. Stay on West Riverview for about 1.5 miles. There will be a frontage road on the left that runs beside W Riverview. Get on the frontage road and follow it all the way to the east end. Ignore the "Road Closed" sign. The road dead-ends in the driveway. The house is brown with 11361 on the carport.

The Rookie Federation President's View:

Bob Conquergood

It all started at the May convention. When I got there I found that we were short nominees for two Federation Board positions, Secretary and Treasurer. Working with the nominating committee, I helped find and persuade two people to run for those offices. The election went by very rapidly especially since Harlan Hayes moved that we be elected by acclamation when there were no other nominees. Moments later were all elected. The District Vice Presidents were then elected by a caucus of the attendees from their district. The new officers, whose terms started July 1, are myself, Bob Conquergood, President, Gay Massie (Boise), Secretary, Linda Brugger (Twin Falls), Treasurer, Arnold Hartigan (Boise) SW VP, Carrol Owen (Idaho Falls), SE VP, Gordon Rubenthaler (Lewiston) Northern VP and Past President Dorothy Martindale (Boise).

To ease the mailing cost I've been asking those whose e-mail addresses are available to me to sign up to receive their Gemette by e-mail. Actually the message will consist of a link to the Federation website where the newsletter will be posted including color photos and links to addresses and other websites. Our Chapter is planning to do the same thing. Although only 90 people have signed up so far, my goal is 25% of our members or more than 420 members.

Big news on the legislative front! Ev Headrick is now the Federation's legislative chair and will be assisted by Arnold Hartigan. Arnold and I recently participated in a teleconference with Margaret Baptiste, Lanny Ross, Judy Park and all of the other Region IX Federation Presidents and their legislative chairs (Ev was unable to join in). We will be lobbying our congressional delegation during the month of August when Congress is not in session and, hopefully, we will meet with our congressional members at their local offices. The top issues are health benefit premium conversion, repeal of the "windfall elimination" provision and the government pension offset as well as working to maintain our current benefits.

We are planning to run ads in several Idaho newspapers, including the Coeur d'Alene Press, in September to help make current and retired employees aware of NARFE and, hopefully, recruit some new members. Each of us should be asking friends and acquaintances who are not now members of NARFE but are eligible to join us in NARFE.

Finally, I'm back from the Federation Presidents meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky in conjunction with the NARFE executive board meeting. Several good ideas came out of it including a possible means of getting the Gemette produced and mailed for free in return for the advertising rights, I'll be checking into that!

Upcoming Events

August 20--Picnic

September 17—Lunch at Templin's, Noon Program: *

October 22—Lunch at Templin's, Noon Program: *

*Marshall Cresrown or a representative will talk about his river project. Someone from the new CdA Library will visit us. The sequence of these programs is not firm at press time.

One of the largest diamonds ever found in the United States, nearly 20 carats, was discovered near McCall, Idaho. Appropriately named the "Gem State," Idaho produces 72 types of precious and semi-precious stones, some of which can be found nowhere else in the world.

