

ONLINE NEWS

NARFE CHAPTER

763

Issue No. 2

REGION IX TO HONOR MARILYN

Chapter 763's own Marilyn Brower has been selected as the Region IX "Service Officer of The Year." It is expected that formal acknowledgment will be made at the state convention in May.

Region IX covers five northwest states and Alaska.

NO COLA, BUT NET TAKE HOME PAY GOES DOWN AS WITHHOLDING AMOUNTS INCREASE

Did you expect your check to stay the same when Federal employees and retirees were frozen out of a COLA? A recent **Notification of Annuity Adjustment** from OPM shows that pay was frozen only from moving upward. Pay is moving downward as withholdings increased. Your editor's experience (in round numbers) shows monthly increases in Medicare (\$5), health care premiums (\$6) and income tax (\$27). Even NARFE dues withholding went up by \$1.

THIS STATE LAW NEEDS FIXING - continued

As reported in the last online newsletter, Idaho has a "conscience" law that allows health care professionals to refuse to honor certain things that run against their conscience. We reported that parts of the law need to be changed so that health care professionals can't thwart the intent of living wills or end of life advance directives if they disagree with them.

A couple of bills are being considered but at least one of them would only make things worse. House Bill 187 shouldn't see the light of day. AARP is leading the opposition. There is a patient's rights hotline at 1-800-855-4004.

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

NARFE magazine reports that our goal of raising \$9 million to support the Alzheimer's Association has been exceeded. (\$9,017,483 as of Jan. 1) The goals have been raised previously as they were met, so let's support a new one. The membership has really been behind our

alliance with the Association.

State coordinator Gen Boguslawski reports she has received Chapter 763's annual donation which came to \$104.48. The chapter raises its donation by taking up a voluntary collection at each meeting.

FEDERATION CONVENTION- Repeat from last issue

Our federation convention is planned for May 18-20, 2011, at the Coeur d'Alene Inn (800-251-7829). The Inn is two stories, without elevators, but it is likely that those needing a first floor room can be accommodated by reserving rooms early. The rate is \$72 dollars (ask for the NARFE rate). There are a limited number of wheelchair accessible rooms. Some accessible rooms are also available at the nearby Shilo Inn (208-664-2300) at the same rate. More convention information will be sent in the spring *Gemette*.

Any member can attend the convention. But put your name in to be a delegate or alternate. Chapter 763 is entitled to six of each. Coeur d'Alene is a nice place. Some reimbursement will also be available.

USE THE CHAPTER WEBSITE

The website is found at www.ida.net/org/ifnarfe. Volume 11 March Issue 1-2011.

Thanks to webmaster Jay Greenberg.

STAY IN CONTACT WITH CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS THAT AFFECT YOUR EARNED BENEFITS

Sign up for the GEMS notification system from NARFE HQ. To sign up, go to NARFE.ORG and scroll down to the "membership" tab on the left. From the drop down menu, click on "Join Gems" and enter your membership number from the mailing label on the cover of your *NARFE magazine*, and click "submit."

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Location: DIXIE'S DINER on Channing Way across from the Mall. Cost of \$11 includes beverage, tax and tip.

When: First Wednesdays of the month from noon to about 1:30 (recess July, August and September).

April Meeting: April 6. Barbara Moulton, trainer for the Rocky Mountain Diabetes and Osteoporosis Center, will give a presentation on diabetes and osteoporosis.

(May meeting next page)

May Meeting: May 4. Ken will give a slide presentation on Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, Monument Valley and the Kennecott Copper Mine.

GET A CALL ABOUT CHAPTER MEETINGS

If you would like a “meeting reminder” telephone call, or if you need a ride to the meetings, call Gary Grothaus at 523-9098.

CHAPTER 763 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President 785-0258	Ken Barr
V. President/Legis 552-0559	Chloe Addison
Secretary/Treas 524-4062	Sandy Hart
Webmaster 521-1628	Jay Greenberg
Newsletter 524-0901	Don Shadley
Membership 523-9098	Gary Grothaus
Publicity 529-0718	Gail Johnson
Alzheimer’s/NARFE PAC 524-3199	Bob Bates
Service/Sunshine 552-2880	Marilyn Brower

About the newsletter:

For the time being, the chapter will issue an online newsletter. Don Shadley, our regular hardworking editor, is still hardworking, but not on newsletters. He has had to concentrate on real estate matters. To reach members online, WE NEED E-MAIL ADDRESSES. If you know of members who are online get them to telephone or mail their addresses to Ken Barr, 624 South Stout Ave., Blackfoot ID, 83221. Or: kbarr9@q.com

READ AND PASS ALONG NARFE MAGAZINE

Don’t throw your magazine out. Bring it to a meeting when you are done with it. But use it first. It contains a membership application, order forms, addresses for the national office, transmittal forms and instructions for charitable funds and donations and much more.

Did you know you can probably get scholarship money for your grandkids merely by filling out the application form often included in the magazine? The competition for 2011 just opened. Region IX is allotted 6 scholarships and some years they are not all used.

Information and forms for contributing to the following causes can be found in the magazine. Besides the Alzheimer’s Fund you can contribute to the NARFE Disaster Fund, the Scholarship Fund, NARFE-PAC, and Silver Circle. Be sure to route any contributions through

Chapter 763 so the chapter gets credit.

www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org

NARFE is launching an aggressive national campaign, “**Protect America’s Heartbeat,**” to send NARFE’s message to your congressional delegation.

The following are quotes from President Beaudoin:

“All the biased and uninformed attacks on federal workers and retirees have one thing in common: They’re intended to build support for slashing our earned retirement and health benefits .“

“Our goal is to raise \$1 million for the Campaign to Protect America’s Heartbeat in the next 30 days. **Will you help us fight?**” (A link was provided to easily contribute \$25, \$15, \$10, or whatever.)

He goes on: “America is in crisis. Our economy is only now coming out of the biggest recession since the Great Depression and our federal deficit is at a record high.”

Another message from President Beaudoin states:

“Times are tough and patriotic federal workers and annuitants want to do their part, but not if it means we are singled out for budget cuts while others are not asked to make similar sacrifices. Of 45 proposals made by (the) Fiscal Budget Commission, the only one unilaterally embraced by the president has been a two-year federal pay freeze.”

“The website is only the first step in NARFE’s national campaign to Protect America’s Heartbeat. Soon we will be providing tools, resources and materials for you to take action in your state and at your chapter.”

www.ProtectAmerica’sHeartbeat.org

DOOR PRIZES NEEDED

We raise money for incidental meeting expenses by selling tickets at 4 for a buck. The drawing is at the end of the meeting. But we can do that only if we have some good door prizes. We want good stuff! See what you might be able to part with, or solicit things like free meal tickets or goods. **GOOD STUFF PLEASE!**