



July 09/June 10 will be my fourth year as District IV VP.

This last year has seen NARFE Honorary Members replaced by Distinguished Members, a CPI-W in October of 5.8% for our retirement benefits, and a new Referendum put forth by NARFE headquarters. Ballots will be distributed in September for a vote on a single "NARFE/Association Dues" structure. Through all of this our lobbyists in Washington DC continue work to retain both our active & retired federal worker benefits.

Our state unemployment rate is 9.2% and rising and it faces an estimated budget shortfall of \$8 billion. Nationally an unprecedented stimulus package has been put forth to revive the economy with household net worth is down 18%.

Locally we elected two new chapter presidents, Mary Aitchison stepped forward to become Poulsbo Chapter 881's new president, giving Carolyn Minder a well-deserved break. I am now the president of Bremerton chapter 181, George Eads, the previous president, was called to upstate New York to do missionary work. Port Orchard Chapter 888 has a new newsletter editor, Elaine Haywood. She is publishing a bi-monthly newsletter and is enhancing the publication with photographs. Poulsbo is also publishing a quarterly newsletter after a period of only issuing post cards for notification of their meetings. They hope to receive a monetary award at the 2009 WSFC Convention for reinstating their newsletter.

The Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006, Sequim/Port Angeles, hosted our District IV workshop on March 31st. This workshop was well attended by all four District IV chapter representatives, Congressman Norm Dicks' District Representative (Judith Morris), and our Region IX VP (Lanny Ross). Bremerton Chapter 181 is implementing WSFC's new "Retention Attention" postcards to assist with notification/renewal of those directly paying yearly dues. Bremerton had a successful Candidates Day in October 08 with Norm Dicks giving us a short talk about current issues that will be on the agenda for the 111th Congress if re-elected. Our current NARFE membership numbers have stabilized with Bremerton still the largest chapter in the state and District IV the largest district in the state.

Chapter 1006, Sequim/Port Angeles has actually gained memberships over the years. They are now meeting in Paradise Restaurant in Sequim with the restaurant meeting room filled nearly every month. Poulsbo, Chapter 881, has done a remarkable job of membership retention yet they have an extremely difficult time getting members to attend either monthly or quarterly meetings. Bremerton has noticed a significant increase in their death rate over the last two years as some of their elder members are now passing away. Port Orchard has a dedicated core of individuals that regularly attend their monthly potluck luncheon meetings at their Eagles Lodge.

Bill Powers; District IV VP