PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

January 2013

Charlie Berg

We welcome you all to the New Year!

It seems like only yesterday we were in the last year. Please accept my hope for a good 2013 as we get underway with our programs seen and explained later in this issue.

Programs for the next two months re the following:

On January 28th, we will have Bob Hart, who will tell us about Oregon’s 150th birthday of statehood. This should be very interesting.

On February 25th, we will have Joe Riley, the Lane County Veterans Services Program Supervisor, and he will talk about veterans’ issues (good and bad). This should also be a very interesting meeting. We have been trying for months to get someone to talk to us about veterans’ issues. This will be news that we need to keep up on. Charlie

NOMINATING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers for the Chapter 79 Nominating Committee to put together a slate of nominees for our election of chapter officers for the June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014 year. The committee will be organized at the February 11th Executive Board Meeting. The committee would find candidates for the officer positions and announce a slate of nominees at the March meeting. We will vote for the officers at the April meeting. Then the elected officers will be installed at the May meeting. If you are interested in being on the Nominating Committee, please let one of the officers know by February 10, 2013.

NARFE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OPENS FEB. 1

The NARFE Scholarship Program for 2013 will run Feb. 1 through April 26. A copy of the official application will appear in the February issue of NARFE magazine, which is in the mail to members now. Members may also download the application from the NARFE website as of Feb. 1. (Click on “Member Log In” at www.narfe.org, then click on “Special Programs” at the left of the next screen.) Applicants must be high school seniors who plan to attend an accredited college in the fall/winter of 2013, and who are the children, grandchildren or great grandchildren of current NARFE members. More information can be found on the NARFE website by downloading a copy of the brochure “A Guide to NARFE’s Annual Scholarship Awards Program.” Sixty scholarships of $1,000 each will be awarded.

OPM ELECTRONIC 1099RS FOR 2014

From David Snell, Director,

NARFE Federal Benefits Service Department

"Many of you have voiced concern about the message on the back of their annual COLA notice they received in late December from OPM that said future form 1099Rs would only be available electronically. OPM has since informed NARFE they will provide instructions this year to annuitants on how they can "opt-in" to receive their 1099Rs electronically, indicating to us that if an annuitant doesn’t "opt-in" for electronic receipt then their 1099Rs will be mailed as they have been in the past. OPM added it will continue to work with all annuitants to ensure they get the information they desire in the format they find useful to the maximum extent possible. OPM will provide annuitants and survivors with additional information on this matter throughout the year. And as always, NARFE will provide up to date information throughout the year on this matter."

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM

Four Chapter 79 members logged 195 hours at the November meeting for the Oregon Federation Awards Program for Recognizing Community Service that began on April 1, 2012 and ends on March 31, 2013. That brings our total to 650 hours of volunteer service so far. Please keep track of your volunteer efforts, then come to a meeting and record your time.
Membership Update
By Becky Stiles, Membership Chair
For many years, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association has thrived economically, politically and socially due to the consistent support of dedicated NARFE members. This month we wish to acknowledge 113 current Eugene Chapter 79 members who deserve a special ‘Thank You’ for their continued support and service to NARFE and their fellow NARFE members. Any NARFE member qualifies for “Distinguished Member” status after 20 years of continuous membership.

Marie Buckner, who holds the longest membership in Chapter 79, joined on December 1, 1975. Here are our “Distinguished Members”:


Thank you for your confidence in our national leadership. Your support is greatly appreciated! We also offer condolences to the families of Virginia Van Atta, John Foley, and Betty Heiser, who have recently passed away.

New Social Security Field Office Hours
Effective November 19, 2012, Social Security field offices closed 30 minutes early each day. In addition, as of January 2, 2013, Social Security field offices closed to the public at noon on Wednesday. Agency employees continue to work their regular hours but this shorter public window allows them to complete face-to-face interviews and process claims work without incurring the cost of overtime. The significantly reduced funding provided by Congress under the continuing resolution for the first six months of the fiscal year makes it impossible for the agency to provide the overtime needed to handle service to the public as it has done in the past. The Eugene SSA Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 am to 3 pm and on Wednesday 9 am to noon.

January 28th
NOON LUNCHEON MEETING
Bob Hart
Museum Director.
Lane County Historical Museum
Oregon’s 150th Birthday
Sizzler Restaurant
Gateway Blvd, Springfield

We will have a $10 Door Prize this month. All NARFE members attending the meeting (except for the Chapter 79 Executive Board) are eligible for the Door Prize Drawing.

Let Your Voice Be Heard
The toll free number for the Capitol switchboard is 866-220-0044. Ask for Senator Wyden’s Office, Senator Merkley’s Office and your Representatives Office. Or you can call the Senators’ and Representative’s local offices. For the Eugene Offices, call the following:

Senator Ron Wyden
541-465-6750
Senator Jeff Merkley
541-465-1298
Representative Peter DeFazio
541-465-6732

If you make a call, please let Ruthann Couch know at 541-334-5108 so that we can report Chapter 79’s efforts. Thanks in advance for making a difference.

Next NARFE Legislative Training Conference will be held in Crystal City, VA March 9-12, 2013
Next Oregon Federation Convention will be held at the Agate Beach Inn, Newport, OR May 5-7, 2013.
Next NARFE National Convention will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL August 24-28, 2014.