

District 6 News Letter
Vol 3 July 2007
Carolyn Billing
District 6 Field Officer
1501 College Way Apt 202
Fergus Falls, MN 56537



*******Joint District Meeting in Fergus Falls September 24th*******

A District meeting will be held in Fergus Falls on Monday, September 24th at the Best Western (Bigwood Event Center). Registration begins at 10:45AM with welcome at 11:40 and the meal served at 11:45. Dick Thissen will be the featured speaker. See below for details. The meeting is open to ALL NARFE members, prospective members, current and retired federal employees, and guests in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. If you plan to attend please let Carolyn Billing know by September 13th.

*****District 6 Joint Chapter Meeting: Promoting Membership Participation**

Alexandria, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, & Thief River Falls

*****ALL NARFE Members, Current & Retired Federal Employees, Spouses, & Guests:**

Minnesota, North Dakota, & South Dakota

*****Noon Meal & Meeting Including Awards & Door Prizes: Promoting Active Participation**

Registration 10:45--11:30, Welcome 11:40, Lunch 11:45, adjourns 3:00PM

*****Monday, September 24, 2007:**

Bigwood Event Center (Best Western) Fergus Falls Kempher Room

(I-94 210 West Exit 54. Go east towards town. Turn left at first stop light. Go north 3 blocks)

*****Luncheon:**

Roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, salad, dessert, & coffee

Cost \$12.00 (tax and tip included)

*****Speakers: Protecting Earned Benefits (Congressional Speakers are subject to change)**

Dick Thissen Region 5 National Field VP, **Frank Boys** Federation President, **Mary Burkett** Federation Membership VP, **Ed Keyser** Federation Federal Legislative VP, **Al Schacht** Federation State Legislative VP, **Sharon Josephson** (Rep Peterson District 7) **Andy Martin** (Senator Klobuchar), **Andy Burmeister** (Senator Coleman); Rep **Bud Nornes** (10A), Rep **Dean Simpson** (10B), and Senator **Dan Skogen** (10).

Minnesota Income Tax Exemption on Annuities

Bills covering state income tax exemption on our annuities will be re-introduced in the Minnesota House and Senate as soon as the 2008 Legislative Session begins. **The bill numbers are H.F.0622 and S.F.0705.** It will be important to contact your legislators especially those on the Tax Committee and the Ways and Means Committee early in the 2008 Legislative Session. Even though we were unsuccessful during the 2006 and the 2007 Congressional Session, we accomplished a lot thanks to your efforts. We have a better understanding of what needs to be done in order to accomplish our goals, and we are optimistic that things will go better this next year. Incidentally the state of Iowa was successful in getting a similar bill passed in 2006 and the state of Missouri was successful in 2007. **See contact information listed on page 4.**

National Legislative Priorities



Contact your legislators by phone, mail, fax, E-mail, and/or in person to let them know how you think on our issues. Also be sure to thank Representative Collin Peterson and Senator Norm Coleman for becoming co-sponsors of both bills. We need to work with Senator Amy Klobuchar to get her to co-sponsor both bills too. **See contact information listed on page 4.**

Our priorities are:

- 1) *Protecting Our Earned Benefits.*
- 2) *Premium Conversion S.773/HR.1110.* Pretax dollars used to pay health insurance premiums.
- 3) *GPO/WEP Repeal S.206/H.R.82.* Pension offset and the windfall provision elimination.

Thief River Falls Receives Membership Award for Third Consecutive Year

The Thief River Falls NARFE Chapter #2328 received the *Lawrence Biever Membership Award* for the third year in a row at the Forty-second annual Minnesota state NARFE convention in Alexandria. The award is given to the chapter with the largest percent of increase in chapter membership. Congratulations.

Detroit Lakes Receives Recruiting/Retention Incentive Award

Congratulation goes to the Detroit Lakes NARFE Chapter #1842 for participating in the Membership Recruiting/Retention Program. They earned the award at the State Convention. They had a long list of ideas which was read to the group. Their monetary award was donated to Alzheimer's. The chapter is also implementing a recruiting plan to recruit Boarder Patrol members. The idea originated with Ben Carnegie. By the way Ben won the TV grand prize at the state convention...a first time attendee.

Alexandria Receives Award for Legislative Postcard Returns.

The Alexandria Chapter #2213 received the monetary award for the best percentage response for the return of postcards on the Minnesota Tax Exemption. The chapter designated the money to be used for recruiting purposes. The chapter has decided as a group to set up and implement a recruiting plan. They plan to contact Federal Agencies including the Post Office giving them pamphlets, NARFE Magazines, etc with an all out blitz on recruiting current employees.



Fergus Falls World War II Vet - Larry Streif

This is the story of Lawrence R Streif (Larry) from Fergus Falls Chapter #1207, a 22 year old wood tick from the farming area of Northwest Wisconsin who was drafted into the U.S. Army on 5/14/42. After a few hours at Camp McCoy, WI and Fort Sheridan, IL he was shipped by train to Camp Shelby, MS where he became part of the 85th Infantry Division. More specifically he became a private in M Company of the 338th Infantry Regiment. The Custer Division (85th) and the Fighting Blue Devils (88th) were the first two infantry divisions to be all draftees in WWII. They were trained by a cadre of officers from regular Army and National Guard. While in training at M Company in the use of various weapons, Larry was assigned to operate water-cooled 30 caliber machine guns. During basic training Larry became a part of the communications platoon. This group dealt with radio, wire, and coded messages. He became a part of the wire section, which included telephone, telegraph, and the laying of wire to the outposts or the front lines.

A furlough was given to each soldier to visit home before shipment overseas. Larry had no idea where he would be sent. On 12/28/43 he left Fort Dix for Camp Patrick Henry near Newport News, VA. There he boarded the US General Mann and nine days later landed in Casablanca, Morocco in North Africa. He left Casablanca by train. On 1/12/44 he arrived in St. Dennis De Sig in North Africa. Larry trained daily for amphibious landings. He shipped out on 3/22/44 on a British troop transport, the Liberia, bound for Naples, Italy. Everyone got extremely seasick as a bad storm hit. It took five days for the convoy to cross the Mediterranean Sea. When Larry landed in Naples the gangplank was the side of a sunken ship in the harbor which was filled with sunken ships.

On 4/23/44 Larry relieved another battalion of American soldiers and was officially assigned to combat in a 2000 yard front from the sea to the town of Minturno, just north of the Garigliano River and due west from

Monte Cassino. On 5/11/44 at 11:00pm Larry's company began the initial attack on the German defense called the Gustav Line. Hundreds were wounded and killed. Larry states when you attack an enemy entrenched and waiting for you the price is high and often the losses to the attackers are 10:1 or higher. Because of injuries and death Larry became the new Communications Sergeant. After the capture of Minturno the division moved towards Formia and Rome. **During this time Larry had the Bronze Star Medal pinned on his lapel.** By the end of December 1944 Larry was on the front lines at Montzamo. Snow was two feet deep. He was locked into a holding action sleeping in fox holes. At night food and ammunition were brought to Larry and his men by mules. Front line troops do not have the luxury of beds to sleep in, hot food, or clean clothing. As a result filth is a major problem and diseases such as malaria, dysentery, and hepatitis takes its toll. Larry was sent to a hospital near Naples, Italy. After a month Larry recovered and he was sent back to his unit again. The war ended in Italy on 5/2/45. Germany officially surrendered in Europe on 5/8/45. At Feltre an incident happened that Larry remembers well. Three non-commissioned officers including Larry were selected for battle field promotion to be commissioned officers. A Major, a Captain, and a 1st Lieutenant gave Larry a spiel that due to his excellent performance as a soldier he could remain for four years in the army of occupation and be immediately rewarded with a commission. Larry and the others politely thanked them for their offer, but said no. The officers immediately turned on them like jackals and said that they were unpatriotic etc for not accepting. Needless to say, they walked away smiling to themselves. While in Feltre, Larry got clean clothing, hot food, and a bed to sleep in. This seemed a bit like paradise.

A few days later Larry received a shoulder injury and was sent to an evacuation hospital. When he recovered he was sent to a redeployment unit in the 88th Infantry Division. While traveling back to Naples for further duty in the Pacific Theatre, word came the bomb had been dropped and Japan had surrendered. Again good luck prevailed and Larry returned to the U.S. for immediate discharge. He did not hesitate to become a civilian again on 9/13/45 and was discharged and headed back to Clear Lake, Wisconsin.

In the early 1960's a few veterans from Iowa and southern Minnesota got together from the H.Q. Company 3rd Battalion of the 338th Infantry Regiment of the 85th Infantry Division. Their war experiences were not talked about much for ten to fifteen years after the war. In 1981 Larry attended his first 338th regimental convention in New Orleans. He attended many conventions after that including the dedication of the WWII memorial in Washington, DC. In 1994 one hundred and thirty veterans of the 338th returned to Italy fifty years after the Normandy invasion. They flew to Zurich, Switzerland and were met by three busses from Rome, Italy. They spent the next sixteen days retracing in reverse order the various WWII battle sites. On 6/3/94 President Clinton, Hillary, and six Congressmen including John Glenn and Bob Dole met them at the American National Cemetery near Rome. Many dignitaries from Italy, England, Germany, India, and the US sat down at the same table together. Food, drink, and conversation were abundant. In September 2007 Larry plans to attend his last 338th regimental reunion at Branson, MO. Larry has attended fourteen of the twenty-six reunions. Travel is not a viable option for the few WWII veterans still living

District 6 Chapter Tidbits

Alexandria Vikingland #2213 chartered on October 24, 1989: The chapter meets on the third Thursday every other month during the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December at the Traveler's Inn in Alexandria at 2:00PM.

Detroit Lakes #1842 chartered on August 3, 1981: The chapter meets on the second Wednesday during the months of April through December at the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes. The chapter does not meet during the winter months. Lunch is at noon with the meeting to follow at 1:00PM.

Fergus Falls Lake Region #1207 chartered on September 21, 1971: The chapter meets on the second Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Fergus Falls. The chapter does not meet during the summer months. Their next meeting will be October 8th Columbus Day...a Federal Holiday. The October meeting would be a great date for current employees to attend as they are not working. Lunch is at noon with the meeting to follow at 12:45PM.

Thief River Falls #2328 chartered on September 20, 2000: The chapter meets on the third Wednesday during the months of May, June, August, and September at the Senior Center in Thief River Falls. Lunch is at 11:45AM with the meeting to follow at 12:30PM.

Computer, Telephone, and Mail Contact Information

Headquarters Web Site. www.narfe.org Sign up for Gems on this Site. You will receive E-mail alerts including the Friday Letter and learn what is going on in congress as well as other information. National Legislators can be sent E-mails. It even contains sample letters for your use. Sign up for Mega Vote E-mail updates which lets you know how your congressional leaders are voting on issues. Personal information can also be updated. This site has been designed for your use. Use it regularly to your advantage.

Minnesota Web Site. www.mn-narfe.org The site contains *Minnesota NARFE* information. Chapter officers and contact information are posted under the *Chapters Section*. *Minnesota Happenings, News and Notes, Membership, and Legislation Sections* are updated regularly. Check the site often.

NARFE-Net. raneider@brainerd.net Sign up with Richard Neider. Informative E-mails are received regularly from him. He will keep you up to date on what is happening with NARFE.

National Legislative Leaders. **1-886-220-0044** Toll free number contact in Washington DC.

Minnesota Legislative Web Site. www.leg.state.mn.us E-mail can be sent to State Legislators. Your Representative has a web site which lists an address and a phone number. It will be important to use this information when our income tax exemption bills are re-introduced during the next Minnesota Legislative Session. The bill numbers will be **H.F.0622 and S.F.0705**.

Minnesota Senate. **1-888-234-1112** Toll free out-state informational number only.

Minnesota House. **1-800-657-3550** Toll free out-state informational number only.

Senator Norm Coleman. *2550 University Ave West Suite 100N St. Paul, MN 55114*
(651)645-0323. E-mail by use of the web form at www.coleman.senate.gov.

Senator Amy Klobuchar. *1 Federal Drive, Whipple Federal Building Suite 298 Ft Snelling, MN 55111*
(612)727-5220. E-mail senator@klobuchar.senate.gov
OR Andy Martin. *Moorhead Office* (218)252-2410. E-mail andy_martin@klobuchar.senate.gov

Representative Collin Peterson. *714 Lake Ave #107 Detroit Lakes, MN 56501*
(218)847-5056. E-mail by use of the web form at www.collinpeterson.house.gov/email.htm
OR Sharon Josephson. *Detroit Lakes Office.* (218)847-5056. E-mail Sharon.Josephson@mail.house.gov
OR Wallace Sparby. *Red Lake Falls Office.* (218)253-4356. E-mail Wally.Sparby@mail.house.gov



Minnesota State Congressional Leaders in NARFE District 6

<u>Senators</u>			<u>Representatives</u>				
1	LeRoy A. Stumph(DFL)	Rm208	1-A	Dave Olin	(DFL)	Rm593	<u>ALL Representatives and All Republican</u>
			1-B	Bernard Lieder	(DFL)	Rm423	
2	Rod Skoe	(DFL) Rm303	2-A	Kent Eken	(DFL)	Rm575	<u>Senators</u> State Office Bldg 100 Rev Martin
			2-B	Brita Sailer	(DFL)	Rm577	
4	Mary Olson	(DFL) Rm124	4-A	Frank Moe	(DFL)	Rm369	Luther King, Jr. Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155
			4-B	Larry Howes	(R)	Rm287	
9	Keith Langseth	(DFL) Rm122	9-A	Morrie Lanning	(R)	Rm259	<u>ALL Democratic</u> <u>Senators</u> State Capitol 75 Rev. Martin
			9-B	Paul Marquart	(DFL)	Rm597	
10	Dan Skogen	(DFL) Rm303	10-A	Bud Nornes	(R)	Rm277	Luther King, Jr. Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155
			10-B	Dean Simpson	(R)	Rm295	
11	Bill Ingebrigtsen(R)	Rm132D	11-A	Torrey Westrom	(R)	Rm273	Luther King, Jr. Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155
			11-B	Mary Ellen Otremba(DFL)	(DFL)	Rm445	
13	Joe Gimse	(R) Rm105	13-A	Bud Heidgerken	(R)	Rm237	Luther King, Jr. Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155
			13-B	Al Juhnke	(DFL)	Rm485	
20	Gary Kubly	(DFL) Rm301	20-A	Aaron Peterson	(DFL)	Rm451	Luther King, Jr. Blvd St. Paul, MN 55155
			20-B	Lyle Koenen	(DFL)	Rm439	

District Field Officer Carolyn Billing *1501 College Way #202 Fergus Falls, MN 56537*
(218)736-5843. E-mail carolynbilling@charter.net