

District 6 Newsletter
Vol 4 July 2008
Carolyn Billing
District 6 Field Officer
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Fergus Falls, MN 56537



Carolyn Billing says Thanks



I wish to take this opportunity to thank *each* and *every one* of you for a job well done this past year. Without you listening to me, implementing my suggestions, and assisting me, District 6 and especially Minnesota **NARFE** would not be where it is today. As reported at the state convention, Minnesota was one of the few states having positive membership numbers. All of you who worked on recruiting and retention played a large role in making this happen. Incidentally Pete and Janet Nordstrom (Alexandria) recruited *seventeen* new members this past year!

Working together as a team player makes NARFE a better organization! Let's continue to make it happen in District 6!

"STAR" Program Explanation *By Mary Burkett*

It seems there are still some members who do not completely understand the concept and purpose of this program. If you are one of these members, the first thing I would ask you to do is to obtain a copy of the newly revised version dated March 2008, find a nice, quiet spot, and sit down and read it through from beginning to end.



A brief summary might include its purpose: Motivate members to **ACTION**, whether as an individual, a pair, a team or even as a chapter to **"MAKE SOMETHING HAPPEN FOR NARFE."**

It would include someone or a team that has truly **made something happen from conception through execution** by taking the **initiative** and having the necessary **creativity** to sponsor an activity/event/program that promotes **recruiting, retention, and/or NARFE name recognition.**



The awards that were recently presented at the 2008 state convention were meant to recognize **efforts above and beyond the normal ~ STEPPING FORWARD AND MAKING SOMETHING HAPPEN** ~ as opposed to just kind of waiting around for an opportunity to magically appear on your doorstep or come to find you.

For those of you not present at the convention, you missed the opportunity to hear from the three individuals and one couple who received awards in this category. Each of them (or their proxy) made a presentation during the Strategy segment, describing their own individual and creative actions/projects that they originated, developed, executed, and **made happen for the good of NARFE!** If you still have questions or concerns, I suggest you contact one of these individuals or me so that we can insure that all dedicated NARFE members understand this program and, hopefully desire to become a motivated participant in next year's Membership Awards Program at the state convention. Please let me hear from you with any concerns, comments, or suggestions for improvement.

Editor's Note: Plans are to have the people---Darrell Strand, Ben Carnegie, John Hurlbert, and Pete & Janet Nordstrom present their initiatives at the September District Meeting.


District Meeting in Fergus Falls

A District Meeting will be held in Fergus Falls on **Wednesday, September 24th** at the Best Western (Bigwood Event Center). Registration with coffee is at 10:00 to 10:40 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10:55 a.m. with state legislators in a Town Hall Meeting format. Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. The meeting will resume at 12:30p.m. with Dick Thissen, Frank Boys, Mary Burkett, and Joyce Booher. The coffee and lunch cost is \$14.00. The meeting will adjourn at approximately 3:00 p.m. **The meeting is open to ALL NARFE members, spouses, 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 11th**. (218)736-5843; carolynbilling@charter.net; 1501 College Way, Apt 202, Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Chapters in District 6~~Plan to set up a display table bragging about your chapter at the District Meeting. This is your time to shine and to let others know what your chapter is doing.



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. **We must remain active and make "August Lobby Month" a success.** Be sure to thank Representative Collin Peterson, Representative James Oberstar, and Senator Norm Coleman for becoming co-sponsors of both bills. Senator Amy Klobuchar has co-sponsored GPO/WEP, but has **NOT** co-sponsored Premium Conversion. **See contact information for federal legislators listed on page 4.** Check your Minnesota Legislators and contact them also. **Remember, the bill numbers on both the federal and state issues will change in the 2009 legislative session. Some of the legislators may change also. Our priorities are:**

- 1) Protecting Our Earned Benefits.**
- 2) Premium Conversion S.773/HR.1110.** Pretax Dollars to Pay Health Insurance Premiums.
- 3) GPO/WEP Repeal S.206/H.R.82.** Pension Offset and Windfall Provision Elimination.
- 4) Income Tax Exemption H.F.0622/S.F.0705.** Minnesota Income Tax Exemption on Annuities.

NARFE's Legislative Hotline
Toll free 1-877-217-8243

Voting is a Privilege & a Responsibility

With the elections approaching, it is important to vote for the **BEST** candidates to fill their respective offices. Take part in the political process! **As an American citizen, it is your right and your responsibility to make your voice heard.** Keep in mind NARFE's legislative priorities: **1)The Federal Side: S.773/H.R.1110** Premium Conversion and **S.206/H.R.82** GPO/WEP. **2)The State Side: S.F.705/H.F.622** State Income Tax Exemption on Retirement Income. We need to work together to make things happen! **Voting is important!**

Protecting our earned benefits
Requires Active NARFE membership

2.25 Million-Mile Career

Bus Driver Retires after 52 Years of Service
Kenneth Poolman (husband of Verona Poolman, Thief River Falls Chapter Secretary-Treasurer) watched the wheels on the bus go around and around and around. Poolman, age 70, drove school bus for the Warren-Alvarado-Oslo, MN High School for almost 52 years. According to Ken, he holds the record as the longest serving bus driver in Minnesota. Officially Ken began driving school bus in the fall of 1955. Actually Ken began driving bus two weeks before he even graduated from high school. The superintendent asked him to fill in for a sick driver. But Ken, after proving himself as a safe driver, the school hired the recent graduate as a full-time bus driver in the fall of 1955. He never stopped driving; he never got into an accident; he never got a ticket.

Three Generation Bus Driver

During Ken's 50 plus years of driving bus, Ken drove three generations of students. He even transported his own grandchildren. Former riders stated he is a really good driver; he is a very safe driver; he is good with kids; he says 'good morning' and 'good night'; he is very dependable; and he was well liked by the kid's. Ken drove the school bus in the rain, sunshine, and snow storms and always got the children home safely. He even took his bus students out for ice cream on the last day of school. Ken retired after fifteen buses and thousands of students who came and went during his almost fifty two year career; always driving the same route.



Chapter Meeting & Contact Information

Alexandria #2213: Meets the **third Thursday** of every other month during the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December at the Traveler's Inn in Alexandria at 2:00 p.m. Lunch off the menu at 1:00 p.m. Lunch is optional.

Pete Nordstrom

(320)246-3245 pandj@runestone.net



Bemidji #1049: Meets the **Fourth**

Wednesday of each month, except November and December are combined and is scheduled for the **first Wednesday** in December. They meet at the American Legion in Bemidji at 11:30 a.m.

Donna Eichstadt

(218)444-3836 donnae@paulbunyan.net

Detroit Lakes #1842: Meets the **Second Wednesday** during the months of April through December at the Clubhouse Hotel (was the Holiday Inn) in Detroit Lakes. The chapter does not meet during the winter months of January, February, and March. Lunch is at noon off the menu with the meeting to follow at 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Weston

(218)847-6483 aldercy@arvig.net

Fergus Falls #1207: Meets the **Second Monday** of each month at the Senior Center in Fergus Falls. The lunch is at noon with the meeting to follow at 12:45 p.m. The chapter does not meet during the summer months of July and August. The September meeting is the District Meeting at the Bigwood Center. The October meeting falls on Columbus Day, a Federal Holiday--an excellent meeting for current employees.

John Schmidt

(218)736-7123 schmidt1@prtcl.com

Thief River Falls #2328: Meets the **Third Wednesday** during the months of May, June, August, and September at the Senior Center in Thief River Falls. Lunch is at 11:45 a.m. with the meeting to follow at 12:30 p.m.

Ray Berg

(218)745-5778 snowbergs@aol.com



To Join NARFE:
Toll free 1-800-627-3394

To Renew Membership:
Toll free 1-800-456-8410

District 6 2008 Convention Awards

Lawrence Biever Membership Award

Alexandria **32.8%** membership increase **\$50.00**

The Lawrence Biever Award (given to the chapter with the largest percent of increase in membership) has been earned in District 6 for the past five years! Receiving this award regularly indicates District 6 has been consistently working hard with both Recruitment and Retention.

Alexandria.....2008

Thief River Falls....2007, 2006, & 2005

Fergus Falls.....2004



Statewide Team of Activated Recruiters "Star"
(Group Recruiting)



Darrell Strand Fergus Falls **\$37.50/Certificate**

Ben Carnegie Detroit Lakes **\$37.50/Certificate**

John Hurlbert Bemidji **\$37.50/Certificate**

Pete/Janet Nordstrom Alexandria **\$37.50/Certificate**

Outstanding Chapter Members



Pete Nordstrom Alexandria **\$50.00/Certificate**

John Hurlbert Bemidji **Certificate**

Arland Brase Detroit Lakes **Certificate**

Darrell Strand Fergus Falls **Certificate**

Verona Poolman Thief River Falls **Certificate**

Top Individual Recruiter

(Individual Recruiting)

Pete Nordstrom Alexandria **\$50.00/Certificate**



Membership Recruiting/Retention Ideas

Alexandria Chapter **\$25.00**

Grand Prize

Leonard Hanson Detroit Lakes **Television**



Alzheimer's Prize

Ray (Janet) Berg Thief River Falls **Quilt**



Congratulations! Job well done!

NARFE Headquarters Web Site.

www.narfe.org Sign up for **Gems** and receive E-mail alerts. National Legislators can be sent E-mails. It even contains sample letters for your use. Sign up for **Mega Vote** and receive. E-mail voting record updates of your congressional leaders. Personal information can also be updated.

Library of Congress Thomas Web Site.

www.thomas.loc.gov This site contains a wealth of information about bills, status, co-sponsors, and congressional leaders' voting.

Green Papers Web Site.

www.thegreenpapers.com/G08 This useful site provides a gateway to listings of Congressional candidates at the federal and state level.

Congress Merge Web Site.

www.congressmerge.com This site contains information about voting records for congressional leaders and other informational materials. You can E-mail your congressional leader from this web site.

Minnesota NARFE Web Site.

www.mn-narfe.org The site contains *Minnesota NARFE* information. This is *your* web-site. Send me information you would like to see on the site.

NARFE-Net.

raneider@brainerd.net Sign up with Richard Neider. Informative E-mails are received regularly from him.

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 introduced in the 2009 Session.

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.**

***District Meeting
Fergus Falls Best Western
September 24, 2008***

Senator Norm Coleman.

2550 University Ave West, Suite 100N, St. Paul, MN 55114. (651)645-0323

www.coleman.senate.gov.

Moorhead Office: *810 4th Ave So, Suite 203, Moorhead, MN 56560.*

Senator Amy Klobuchar.

1200 Washington Ave So, Suite 250, Minneapolis, MN 55415. (612)727-5220.

senator@klobuchar.senate.gov

Andy Martin, Legislative Aide.

Moorhead Office: (218)287-2219.

121 4th St So, Moorhead, MN 56560..

andy_martin@klobuchar.senate.gov

District #7 Representative Collin Peterson.

714 Lake Ave, #107, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

(218)847-5056. **www.collinpeterson.house.gov**

Sharon Josephson, Legislative Aide.

Detroit Lakes Office: (218)847-5056.

714 Lake Ave, #107, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

sharon.josephson@mail.house.gov

Wallace Sparby, Legislative Aide.

Red Lake Falls Office: (218)253-4356.

2603 Wheat Drive, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750

wally.sparby@mail.house.gov

District #8 Representative James Oberstar.

231 Federal Building, Duluth, MN 55802

(218)727-7474. **www.oberstar.house.gov**

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***2009 State Convention
Detroit Lakes Clubhouse Hotel
(Formerly Holiday Inn Lake Side)
May 19 - 21, 2009***

**What have YOU done for NARFE lately?
What has NARFE done for YOU?
NARFE needs YOU!
And YOU need NARFE!
Let's work together as a Team!
Continue to make it happen in District 6!**