



JANUARY 2008

NUMBER 01-08

General Meeting Date & Time: January 14, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club
National Avenue & 'E' Street, Bremerton, WA

Program: Scott Bosch, President/CEO, Harrison Medical Center

NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.

PRESIDENT: Fellow Chapter 181 Members - My hope for you and all your families is that the year 2008 will bring you good health and happiness.

I know our lives sometimes are filled with challenges and difficulties. I have found even as we face many problems in our lives, there are many things to be thankful for and trying to keep a positive attitude seems to help.

The year 2008 is going to be a busy year for NARFE and its members. Our Washington State Federation Convention is going to be held May 19-21 in Walla Walla. Our National Convention is going to be held in Louisville, Kentucky September 7-11. I am letting you know this early in the year so you can make plans to go if you desire. There will be more details in the National NARFE magazine in the months ahead.

As we think about how we can recruit new members, we need to let them know what NARFE is all about and that they and their families can benefit by belonging. Share your National NARFE magazine with them. Let us, one by one, set a goal to recruit a new member or invite a former member who has dropped out of NARFE for non-renewal of dues. It would be a wonderful accomplishment to have our membership increase each month and stop the downward spiral of our chapter membership.

I wish to thank Joyce Libsack for planning a wonderful Holiday Luncheon on December 10th. Also, I want to send a thank you to her committee and all who helped to make it a wonderful time for us to be together.

Stay safe and healthy over the New Year and I hope to see you at our meeting in January, 2008. *George Eads*

PROGRAM: This month's speaker will be Mr. Scott Bosch, President and Chief Executive Officer of Harrison Medical Center. Mr. Bosch will be speaking on all the changes that have occurred at Harrison and even more changes expected in the future.

Amber VanSantford

NEXT STATE CONVENTION IS IN WALLA WALLA:

The 2008 State Convention will be held at the historic Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center, 19-21 May. The Government Rate for the hotel during the convention is \$70 plus tax - that includes a 'hot & healthy' breakfast buffet.

SERVICE OFFICER:

By the time you are reading this it will be 2008 already - time seems to go by quicker the older I get! Anyway, retirees and surviving spouses should have received the statement from the Office of Personnel Management about the annual cost-of-living increase, the long form. This is the one that gives you so much information on the back and is well worth saving. The shorter one will arrive later on when our health insurance increase will have gone into effect. Later on, statements will start arriving from various retiree type checks we get with our Income Tax information. I have a book with slots on various pages to save these types of tax notices throughout the year - easier than having to remember where I would have filed them somewhere else through out the years. Amazing how many places interest statements come throughout the year.

If you changed your health insurance during the past Open Season, those changes will have gone into effect on 1 January for retirees/surviving spouses and the first full pay period in January for those actively employed. Another reminder for the beginning of the year - if you have changed banks where your direct deposit checks are sent **DO NOT** close the old account until ALL checks from various retirement/employment places show up in the new account. Direct Deposit government type checks are not forwarded on to new bank/credit union accounts but electronically returned to the sending agency. It could take months to get the mess sorted out. I sure hope everyone has Direct Deposit for all these types of checks - lots safer than having them sit in a mail box. If you have dividends being paid out from stocks, investments etc., those can also be Direct Deposited.

It is winter, it can be rainy, snowy and not nice to be out and about so good time to start sorting out paperwork, clearing files and shredding some of the REALLY old stuff. *Megan Winans*

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ): The balance in our Alzheimer's Account as of 20 December is \$614.27. Donations in the amount of \$595.00 were received in December, thanks to Clara Brandewie, Louis & Loraine Brockerman, Robert Brown, and Paul & Shirley Southwell in memory of Olga Ramey and Dolores Steichen.

The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection has slowed down so far this month with the bad weather and the collection site closed for the week after Thanksgiving. We are still at a total of 146 pounds as of the middle of December. We are keeping the program active so keep dropping off your aluminum items at Westsound Recycle in the East Bremerton Wal-Mart parking lot. Your aluminum can be dropped off at that site and credited to **NARFE Chapter 181**. *Rex Tauscher*

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:

Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of: William Alguard, Palmer Brodahl, Margret Brown, Harold Colson, Walter Draper, Erik Edman, Marion Niemann, Delila Sinnock and Melvin Walter. *Norene Torkelson*

TREASURER:

Financial activity for the month of December: Receipts of \$1,205.92 with expenditures of \$2,029.86. A full year end report will be available at our January meeting and in our February newsletter.

We are still receiving many postal returns. For December, the cost to the Chapter was \$8.55 for items not deliverable or 'forwards expired'. Please remember to notify us of your change of address in a timely manner as it takes at least a month to get the changes into the system for our newsletter mailing. If you change apartment numbers that it will also require notification as the postal service will normally return those to us and charge the return fee. Send us your change of address to **NARFE Chapter 181, P.O. BOX 5025, BREMERTON, WA 98312-0462**. *Rex Tauscher*

MEMBERSHIP: Welcome to the New Year. We have great hopes for our chapter and the whole of NARFE. To start out with, our Current Federal Employees (CFE) are going to be called Active Federal Employees (AFE), in case any of you are having identity crises. It is our hope that all members, Active and Retired, may be as active in their chapters as they can be. The average age of our membership, I am told, is in the mid 70's, so some of you younger active employees will have to start taking some of the leadership in this organization if it is going to survive. Help us old people out.

For those of you who are, or would like to get your monthly bulletin on line it is available on our web site. Go to, www.narfewadist4.org, click "Chapter Pages", click "Bremerton Chapter 181", click "News Letter" you will find current and back copies there. If you want to go electronic let me know and I will stop the mail copy or if you just want to check a back copy it will be there.

Our additions to Chapter 181, new members: Carol Janowski, Walter Jaynes, Dennis Kabel, Larry Ohman and James Paull. Reinstatements: Janice Smith and Richard Noonan. Thanks to all of you for participating in NARFE.

Now for the members who have been dropped this last month for non-payment of dues: Laura Derion, Michael Hansen, Donald Johnson, Blossom Watkins and David Bloom. Please contact these members and urge them to reinstate their membership.

Ralph Sanders

DISTRICT IV VP NEWS: Our annual "District IV (Olympic Peninsula Area) Workshop" will be on Tuesday, March 11th, in Port Orchard. It will be held at the Port Orchard Eagles, 4001 Jackson Avenue. It is being held at the same time as Port Orchard's regular meeting, so we will have a good turnout. The meeting will be "Pot Luck", but be reassured that there will be plenty of food if you do not want to bring anything. We will be accepting donations to cover the added costs for the district workshop, morning doughnuts, and coffee. Those that choose not to bring a food item can make an additional donation.

For the workshop, I have invited Clark Mather, our District Director for Norm Dicks' Tacoma office. Also for the workshop, we will have a critique of our website, <http://www.narfewadist4.org>. Our site will have been active for one year and we should be getting some ideas from problems or ways to improve the website. The Port Orchard Eagles has wireless internet access so we will be able to pick up our website and go over any area that people want to discuss.

Rex Tauscher, our State Treasurer, will give a session on his proposed per-capita change he wants passed at May's State Convention in Walla Walla. Also, we plan on covering the differences between the CSRS and FERS retirement systems now that some FERS employees are actually retiring.

For district news, I turned in our thank you letter to Norm Dicks Bremerton Office signed by most everyone at Bremerton's November Health Care Fair. Norm Dicks signed on as a co-sponsor for Premium Conversion Legislation.

Poulsbo Chapter has been having trouble getting members to their monthly meetings so they will switch to quarterly meetings, send out postcard notices of the meeting, and telephone tree their normal attendees.

Port Angeles/Sequim Chapter has had a small drop in attendance at their monthly meetings. Their regular meeting place, "Secret Garden Buffet", sold out to the "Salad Station" so the menu was changed to a more vegetarian selection. However, their meeting is still in the same location, just different owners.

Finally I would like to remind everyone that the National Office wants us to always refer to "Active Federal Employees" as "Active" not "Current". We are to drop the "Current" and refer to those still working as Active Federal Employees. The reason is the NARFE acronym stands for National **Active** and Retired Federal Employees Association.

Bill Powers

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Newsletter Editor
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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J. R. Seibold

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SERVICE CENTER
1140 Nipsic Avenue
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

District IV VP
Bill Powers

Region IX VP
Lanny Ross

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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