



APRIL 2008

NUMBER 04-08

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

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

**Program:** WORKING IN A CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE - Cheri Williams

*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:** Spring is here again. Hopefully winter is behind us now and perhaps we will have a great Pacific Northwest summer.

We enjoyed having our Washington State President, Dale Brighton, give what I thought was an excellent presentation of how NARFE is organized and carrying out its CORE mission to help us as, active or retired government employees, to understand the importance of NARFE and its organization. She also pointed out what we can do if we are united in a common cause.

We all need to ask ourselves, "What can I do as a chapter member?" A few suggestions may be to invite someone to a chapter meeting, recruit a new member, accept assignment as a chapter officer, share the monthly magazine with a friend, or donate to NARFE PAC. These are just a few ideas to help us all become more involved at the grass roots of NARFE.

I wish to thank Bill Powers, our District IV Vice President, who along with Port Orchard Chapter 888, for an outstanding District Workshop which was held on March 11. It was well organized and very informative. Our very own Don Palmer was recognized with a commendation from President Margaret Batiste, our National President, for his outstanding work in behalf of Alzheimer's Research in Region IX during the past ten years.

I would like to recognize Mr. Ed Saftich for a donation of \$15.00 on behalf of Helen E. Thompson to the Alzheimer's Research Fund. I am grateful to each and every one of you for your generosity towards Alzheimer Research. Each of us has been affected in some way by this dreaded disease called Alzheimer's.

It is both an honor and pleasure to be serving as President of NARFE Chapter 181. I am most appreciative of your continued support; and for the fine members who are serving as chapter officers.

Have a great month and remember to become involved in some way. *George Eads*

**ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ):** The balance in our Alzheimer's Account as of 20 March is \$921.59. Donations in the amount of \$165.00 were received since the last newsletter report, thanks to D. Arreola, Louis & Loraine Brockerman, Robert Brown, Vito & Jean Leone, Robert McLeod, Lanny Ross and J. R. Seibold. Marion Fossenness made a donation in memory of Edyth Olson, the sister of our member Roy Short who passed away on 7 February 2008.

The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection was picked up following our last monthly meeting. We had a total of 398 pounds as of 20 March. We also received aluminum from Poulsbo Chapter 881 again this month. Remember that it only takes between 32 to 36 cans to make a pound, so stomp the cans to help **"Stomp Out Alzheimer's"**. 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**. Note the collection site is closed on Sundays and Mondays. *Rex Tauscher*

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Ambrose Anderson, Gerald Henry, Ellen Hopkins, Dorothy Johnson, Donald Krause, Alfred McFall, Mable Radovich and Philip E. Turner. Cards were sent to Mary Francis Beedle on the loss of husband Charles and Dale Muhlemanon in the loss of his wife Mary Alyce. *Norene Torkelson*

**TREASURER:** Financial activity, excluding Alzheimer's funds, for the month of since February 10, 2008. We received \$975.18 and had expenditures of \$1,562.81. Our return mail for our newsletters has improved over the last several months, but keep sending in your address changes. The Chapter Address is listed at the top of each Newsletter (NARFE Chapter 181, PO Box 5025, BREMERTON, WA 98312-0462). *Rex Tauscher*

**PICNIC COMMITTEE:** We need volunteers to plan a picnic at the Elks on Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Amber VanSantford at 871-4439.

**DISTRICT IV NEWS:** All four of the chapters on the Olympic Peninsula sent representatives to the District IV Workshop this March. We had a very good turnout, forty-two people attended. I want to thank those from Bremerton Chapter 181 that attended this workshop. I also want to thank our Megan Winans, Rex Tauscher, Lanny Ross, and George Eads for participating in the workshop. We also had Ryan Dumm, a new representative from Norm Dicks Tacoma Office update us on NARFE issues. He also updated us on the Boeing airplane tanker contract Congressman Dicks is trying to get turned around.

In other district news, Poulsbo Chapter 881, voted to only hold four meetings per year. Port Angeles Chapter 1006 will host next year's District Workshop and may change their meeting location to Sequim. Port Orchard Chapter 888 is holding a Saturday NARFE meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> to encourage Active Federal Employees to participate. It will be at noon at the Port Orchard Eagles on Jackson Avenue. *Bill Powers*

**SPEAKER:** We've invited Cheri Williams from Congressman Norm Dicks Bremerton Office to be our April speaker. She will not be addressing NARFE's Legislative issues, but will come to tell us what it is like working in a Congressional Office.

**HELP WANTED:** The Chapter is in need of someone to take over the Historian duties. We also need a Sergeant-at-arms and someone to assist Rex with his Alzheimer's duties.

**NARFE TROUBLED BY OPM CALL FOR SEPARATE FEHB RETIREE COVERAGE AND OPPOSES PLANS TO EXPAND CONTROVERSIAL HSA's:** National President Baptiste expressed NARFE's concerns about proposals at OPM which would create separate health plans for Medicare-eligible federal annuitants and expand Health Savings Accounts. She said this could open the door for separately rated retiree plans with substantially higher premiums.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Linda and I are back at work after a short vacation. The weather was great and as they say "the living was easy" - now back to the rain and cold. I would like to thank all of those members who are paying multiple years dues. The number of multiple dues paying members is growing all of the time and that is good for NARFE. I still appreciate the members who faithfully pay their dues every year right on time every time. All of you are still missing the best deal 'dues withholding'. Never need to pay a bill again and save money too.

Our new additions to Chapter 181 this month are: Kim Bergsma, Randal Crist, Richard Kirchner, James Matthews, Curtis Nasluno, and S. P. Sageser. Thanks for joining Chapter 181. You may look in this bulletin for meeting times or call any of the Executive Board located on the back page for questions. We would also like to thank Jack Brower for reinstating his membership. Good to have you back.

Now for the members who have been dropped this last month for non-payment of dues: Ginette Alden, Elroy Bohlin, John Dean, Judy Ferreira, Raymond Ginn, Alfred Martinez, Loy Mcinturff, David Miller, Verdell Pool, Thomas Spetter and Robert Sweet. Please contact these members and urge them to reinstate their membership. Thanks to all of you recruiters out there. *Ralph Sanders*

**HISTORIAN:** (October 1986 chapter newsletter): "Membership: New members are the life blood of our organization, so at the last meeting I asked all NARFE members to help on a recruiting campaign by becoming members of the Membership Committee. Chapter 181 now has a membership of just over 3600. I have set a goal of 4000 members by next September 1. Carl R. Berg, Chairman."

"President's Message: National Convention was held in Reno Nevada. There were over 150 resolutions and amendments to the constitution and bylaws - a couple mentioned - The National NARFE dues will be increased from the present \$9.00 to \$12.00 per year beginning January 1, 1987. Resolution was passed to have the National NARFE establish a unified dues structure. This is supposed to be accomplished by January 1, 1988 and will not dictate local dues rates" Earl Mosbarger 1<sup>st</sup> VP. (President Don Serry and wife Shirley not back from California for input to newsletter).

"Addresses. Thanks to each of you who have notified the Editor when you change address. In order that all our members be kept informed of NARFE happenings, be sure to notify the Editor of your address changes, permanent, as well as temporary; e.g., those leaving this area for a matter of months."

Historian's comments: It appears that over the last 20 years we are still facing the same, or similar problems, in NARFE. We are losing ground on our membership, our chapter dues have gone from \$4.00 to \$10.00, National dues have increased from \$9.00 to \$33.00, and the unified dues structure may be unified but the structure is as complex as a ten story building. *Rex Tauscher*

**ECONOMIC STIMULUS REBATE CHECKS:** Most taxpayers, including federal retirees, are entitled to receive the tax rebate, but you must file a 2007 Tax Return.

Those who don't earn enough to pay income taxes, but have eligible income of at least \$3000 (including Social Security) will be eligible for rebates of \$300 if filing singly or \$600 if filing jointly.

The IRS has set up a toll-free telephone line and website. The phone number is 1-800-829-1040 and the website is 'www.irs.gov'. If you don't file an annual Tax Return, you can file a Form 1040A and write Economic Tax Stimulus on the upper right-hand corner.

**2008 STATE CONVENTION:** You still have time to sign up for the State Convention next month in Walla Walla. Please see Secretary Linda Sanders for registration forms.

**NARFE'S SPRING NOTE CARDS:** You will soon be receiving Spring Note Cards in the mail. Members are asked to give a voluntary contribution to assist NARFE in its task of advertising and publicizing NARFE, as well as in recruiting and retaining members.

If you do not wish to receive the cards or the yearly calendar, just notify NARFE Headquarters and your name will be removed from the master mailing list.

**PRESIDENT**  
George Eads

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
Bill Powers

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
Larry Vancil

**SECRETARY**  
Linda Sanders

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**  
Zora Davis

**TREASURER**  
Rex Tauscher

**ASSISTANT TREASURER**  
Norene Torkelson

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**  
Larry Vancil

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[www.narfewadist4.org](http://www.narfewadist4.org)

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Don Serry

Amber K. VanSantford

**SERVICE CENTER**  
1140 Nipsic Avenue  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays  
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

Senator Patty Murray  
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Senator Maria Cantwell  
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Congressman Norm Dicks  
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**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**  
Ralph Sanders