



JUNE 2008

NUMBER 06-08

General Meeting Date & Time: June 9, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club (479-9061)
National Avenue & 'E' Street, Bremerton, WA

Program: KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY - 'NOT JUST BOOKS'

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: Dear Chapter Members - it is hard to believe we are already into the 6th month of the year. June 9, 2008 will be our last chapter meeting until September 8, 2008. I hope you have a very special, happy, and healthy summer and enjoy life with your family, friends, and loved ones.

There were 14 members of Chapter 181 that attended the Federation Convention in Walla Walla, Washington 19-21 May. It was a great convention. However, not to be biased or anything, I feel our 2007 Chapter 181 Federation Convention will be hard to beat - now or in the future. Our own Donald Palmer, was recognized by National and the Federation for his many years service working with the Alzheimer cause and raising funds in support of research.

Our elected representatives will be in their home districts from May 24 - June 2. I would encourage you to give their local offices a call and thank them for their support in helping us with our legislative issues.

Here is some information that should be of interest to all of us. The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased **0.7 percent in April 2008** according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/cpi or (202) 691-6994). Released on May 14, the CPI-W for April is 210.698. For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) the index is currently **3.5 percent** above the 2007 third quarter average base index of 203.6. May consumer price indices will be released on Friday, June 13. This could be a little bit helpful in offsetting the tremendous increases in the price of gas. Let us attempt to remain optimistic

May you all have a great summer. As your president, I thank you for all your support.
George Eads

SERVICE OFFICER: Have just returned from the NARFE State Convention over in Walla Walla. We really had a good convention with lots of friends from all the different State Chapters. Please try to keep these Conventions in mind - next year will be Wenatchee. These are fun ways to catch up with friends, catch up with what is happening in NARFE and meet your State Officers and, this year, we had Judy Park from NARFE Headquarters with us just before her retirement.

I know I am repeating stuff some times but now and again when we hear stuff more than once it sinks in. So - school vacations will soon be here for our grandkids so many of us like to take trips to visit with them. Not all grandkids live close to their grandparents. Make sure you take care of stopping things like newspapers being left at your house when you are not there. Good advertisement that nobody is home. If you do not have a large locking mailbox then have your mail put on hold at the Post Office until you come home. Try to remember to take copies of written prescriptions with you - we seniors seem to have plenty of them! Doctors used in emergencies away from home would not want to allow you to use your own medicines in their facilities without copies of written orders. Make sure somebody with you or who you are visiting with know where those printouts are in your luggage. I spent 3 weeks in England just before our Convention and, if there had been an emergency, it could have caused a problem if I had not had my printouts.

The doctors could have contacted the nearest American base to confirm the prescription printouts - even over there. Let one of your neighbors know how long you will be gone and they will often keep a watch on your house for you, just like you would for them. Enjoy your summer.
Megan Winans

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ): The balance in our Alzheimer's Account as of 24 May is \$268.46. Donations in the amount of \$125.00 were received thanks to Louis & Loraine Brockerman, Helen & Wayne Matz, Robert McLeod, Donald Serry and Roy Short. A donation in memory of Rubey Stansbury was received from Charles & Myra Clodius.

The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection is still ongoing and when the warmer weather gets here, the pounds should start adding up. Thanks to Bill Powers and Illahee Park for the assistance and addition of another source to our aluminum collection. 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.

The Washington State total for Alzheimer's Research presented at the State Convention in Walla Walla identified the receipt of over \$56,000.00 collected and forwarded to the Alzheimer's Research Fund.
Rex Tauscher

PICNIC PLANS CANCELLED: The Board of Directors has cancelled plans for a summer event however there will be an Ice Cream Social following the 8 September meeting.

PROGRAM: This month we will have a representative from the main branch of the Kitsap County Library who will bring information on their many programs, especially those assisting seniors.

The Kitsap Regional Library serves the community as a center for lifelong learning and a steward of access to stories, information and knowledge.

RETIREES ONLY FEHBP PLANS? Please take time to read the article on Page 10 the June 2008 NARFE Magazine. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is encouraging FEHBP insurance carriers to create separate health plans for Medicare-eligible federal annuitants.

STIMULUS REBATES: People filing a tax return only to receive the economic stimulus payment have until October 15th to file an IRS Form 1040A.

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER: Please mark your calendars - there are no Membership Meetings during the months of July and August - see you September 8th.

TREASURER: Financial activity for the month of April, we received \$1,395.36 with expenditures of \$1,349.63 excluding the Alzheimer's Research Fund donation.

For all of our members that are returning from the warmer weather of the south and all the members that have changed your apartment numbers, please send us your change of address to NARFE Chapter 181, PO BOX 5025, BREMERTON, WA 98312-0462. You may also call Membership Chair, Ralph Sanders with your new address.

I have been reelected as your Washington State Treasurer for my fourth year with my new term starting July 1. This year will have some additional tasks requiring more of my time to support changes in Per Capita Tax procedures and Membership rebates and incentives for our NARFE State Federation. Please consider taking on a couple of the committee positions that I currently am assigned to - Sergeant-at-Arms and Historian.
Rex Tauscher

MEMBERSHIP: It appears that this is the last bulletin we will be printing until September, so the June, July and August data will show up in the September Bulletin. Just to confuse you more, this is May data that is printed in this report. After we come back to our September General Membership Meeting it seems to be a few short weeks until we sit down to the Holiday Lunch at the Elks. Time does fly. Linda and I attended the Federation Convention in Walla Walla the 19th through 23rd of May.

A member asked the question, "what do you accomplish at those conventions"? I did not have a great answer to that question; even though I have attended numerous conventions and helped put on two. First is the social aspect, meeting old friends that you may see only once a year and making new ones that you hope to see next year, hardly a reason for the chapter to support such a meeting. The business part of the meeting includes reports from National, Regional and Federation officers and work shops where we chapter officers can learn better ways to accomplish the business of NARFE. We also passed two resolutions that will make the Federation run better and more efficiently. On a personal note, I was able to say good buy to Judy Park, the head of the National Legislative Department.

She is retiring soon and will be missed by all of us who have worked with her over the years.

Our new members for this month are: Glen Adrig, Sindy Collins, Carrie Wheeler and Ken Wheeler. Our reinstatements for this month are: John Dean, Loy Mcinturff, Thomas Tyler and Nelis Vanderpol. Welcome to all of you. We hope that you will be able to attend General Membership meetings and if not, we will still value your membership in NARFE. If you can not attend meetings for any reason, please feel free to contact any Executive Board member with your questions, comments and suggestions. There were no members dropped for non-payment of dues in the month of May. Thanks to all of you, for paying your dues promptly and using our multiple year and dues withholding plans.
Ralph Sanders

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Edward Durkin, Eula Hallman, Lillian Kirk, Charles Litaker, Norman Nelson, David Setterberg and Beryl Sherwood. Get Well Cards were sent to Alice Evans and Ruth Legault. If you are aware that an individual that you know is ill and should receive a thoughtful message please contact us so we can verify and get a card out to them.

This year at our NARFE State convention, our chapter recognized sixty nine of our members during the memorial services. The NARFE chapters for Washington State honored approximately two hundred members for the memorial services.
Norene Torkelson

WELL DONE WASHINGTON: In National President Margaret Baptiste's letter in the June 2008 issue of the NARFE Magazine, she said that so many people volunteered to serve on Committee's during the upcoming National Convention, they could not find assignments for all of them - but the Washington State Federation is well represented. Johanna Caylor from the Tri-Cities Chapter will be serving on the Ballot & Teller Committee, Terry Sanaar from the Walla Walla Chapter is on the Sergeant-at-Arms Committee, Sigrid Preston also from Tri-Cities is on the Timekeeper Committee and our own George Eads is on the Legislation Committee.

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