



OCTOBER 2008

NUMBER 08-08

General Meeting Date & Time: October 13, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

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

Program: MEET THE CANDIDATES

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 Members, the 30th NARFE National Convention was a very well organized and smooth convention due largely to President Margaret L. Baptiste's leadership and the NARFE staff from national headquarters. She was elected to a second term by unanimous consent from the floor of the convention. Our Region IX Vice President, Lanny Ross, was elected in our Region IX caucus. I encourage you to read about the National Convention in your upcoming NARFE magazine.

I think one of the highlights of the convention was our National Legislative Director, Dan Adcock's report to all of NARFE. He called it the 'Perfect Storm.' The existing national financial condition is why he called it the 'Perfect Storm.' With the recent financial crisis our government is experiencing, there is not going to be a quick fix to the ongoing problems. We all know when budgets are tight, Federal Employees, both active and retired become the natural target for cost cutting. This could mean our benefits could be compromised or cut. We will need to stay alert and informed and be INVOLVED in protecting and keeping our benefits for now and into the future. I quote Dan Adcock, "Instead of focusing on what we have yet to accomplish, we should concentrate on what we have done."

I hope you have had a great summer and have set a goal to attend our chapter meetings. We appreciate your support and hope you will help our Chapter 181 become even stronger. *George Eads*

TREASURER: Financial activity for the month of September: We received \$553.39 with expenditures of \$908.48, excluding the Alzheimer's Research Fund donation. The overall value of our Chapter Life member Trust Account decreased an additional \$284 so far this month with the stock market decline.

Several members have been sent "Rebate Checks" as part of the Washington State Federation of Chapters Membership Incentive Program. This program will continue until May of 2009. Please deposit these checks when you get them and do not dispose of them in the trash as it makes more work balancing the books. It also makes us wonder if we have your correct mailing address. We received several returns after our 2 month pause in newsletter mailings.

I would like to thank Louise Brockerman for relieving me of the duties of Sergeant-at-Arms and Gladys Berteaux for taking over the Historians position. We do need these and more volunteers in the upcoming months to help our organization to operate at its best.

For all of our members that are returning to warmer weather in 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.**

Rex Tauscher

PROGRAM: This months program will be candidates running for the U. S. Congress, the Washington State Legislature and Kitsap County Commissioner.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: A Sympathy Card was sent to the family of Leo R. Wocher. A Get Well Card was sent to Donald Serry. If you suspect that an individual that you know is ill and should receive a card please contact us so we can verify and get a card out to them.
Norene Torkelson
373-4696.

OPEN SEASON: Prior to the upcoming 'Open Season' (November 10 - December 8), OPM will mail CSRS and FERS annuitants detailed information about costs and benefits in FEHBP and about the Dental and Vision Plans.

Responding to OPM's release of FEHBP rates for 2009, NARFE President Baptiste acknowledged that while the overall average premium increase of 7% is within the range of increases in other large group health insurance plans, she is troubled that the share paid by employees and retirees in the most popular plan, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, will jump by 13.3% and that enrollees will pay significantly higher copayments and coinsurance for brand-name prescriptions. NARFE is pleased that a hearing aid benefit will be added to the FEHBP plans.

If you would like to check on the 2009 premiums for your FEHBP plan, you can go to www.opm.gov/insure/health/09rates/index.asp.

NARFE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE

CONFERENCE: The next Legislative Conference will be held 7-10 March 2009 in Crystal City, Arlington, VA.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ): The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 20 September is \$542.06. Donations in the amount of \$90.00 were received thanks to Louis & Loraine Brockerman, Robert Brown, Willard Heyer, Arleen Irion, Bito & Jean Leone, Roy Short, Thelma Taylor, June Smith, and Gerald Webb.

The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection is still ongoing and doing well with 528 pounds at our collection site in the East Bremerton Wal-Mart parking lot. A special thanks to State Park at Illahee and Bill Powers for collecting and sorting of over 100 pounds of Aluminum for our cause.

For our members that live in the South end of the county, you can drop off aluminum at the South Kitsap Mall on Mile Hill. The collection account is listed for NARFE Alzheimer's Chapter 888 (Port Orchard). The total at the South Kitsap site currently is at 114 pounds. Remember that it only takes between 32 to 36 cans to make a pound, so stomp the cans to help **"Stomp out Alzheimer's"**.

The recycle site does not except aluminum foil, pie holders or aluminum with the plastic film (cat food cans). If you have extruded aluminum parts (door or window frames, lawn chairs, thresholds) make sure the steel screws, rivets or pins are removed. The recycle site also collects brass and copper but it must be separated from your aluminum. Note the collection site is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

At our National Convention, the State of Washington NARFE received an award for the highest total

giving \$60,845. The new goal for our Alzheimer's research fund is the collection of \$9 million dollars by 2011, the 90th birthday anniversary of NARFE. Keep up the good work!
Rex Tauscher

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS: At the recent National Convention A resolution was passed that establishes a new category and does away with 'Honorary Memberships.' The new 'Distinguished Member' will be those who have been a member of NARFE for 20 years and reached the age of 85. These Distinguished Members will be issued special ID cards along with a newly designed pin. They will be required to continue to pay National Dues as well as Chapter Dues (unless the Chapter waives that portion of the dues). All current Honorary members have been grandfathered.

CONVENTION SITE SELECTION: The convention delegates approved a change to allow the National Executive Board to select the best possible site for all future National Conventions. The site for the 2012 Convention will be the Nugget hotel in Sparks, Nevada.

ONE MEMBER/ONE VOTE: The resolution to allow each member a vote failed to obtain the required 2/3 vote and was rejected by the delegates.

HEALTH FAIR: Don't forget the Health Fair, next month (10 November). Representatives from the major FEHB Plans will be there to answer your questions.

PRESIDENT

George Eads

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Newsletter Editor
Amber VanSantford

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Membership Chair
Ralph Sanders

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Linda Sanders

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Zora Davis

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

ASSISTANT TREASURER**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Larry Vancil

NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

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Gladys Berteaux

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

J. R. Seibold

Don Serry

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