



NOVEMBER 2008

NUMBER 09-08

General Meeting Date & Time: November 10, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

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

Program: FEHBP OPEN SEASON HEALTH FAIR - DOORS OPEN AT 11:00

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: Chapter Members, I am grateful many of you attended "Candidates Day" on October 13 and were very polite to all candidates running for office. Amber and Ralph are to be commended for their efforts to organize this event. If you have not voted your "Mail-in Ballot" I seriously urge and encourage you do so and remember to mail it in before November 4.

November 10th is going to be our annual Health Fair. It will begin at 11:00 am. This will be a good opportunity to invite your friends and introduce them to NARFE. While you are marking your calendars, remember to put down December 8 for our annual Holiday Lunch at the Elks Lodge. This is always a good time to come together and socialize with our friends and neighbors.

By now you have received your November NARFE magazine. As always, there is lots of up-to-date information about what NARFE is doing to help us in these troubled times.

Election of new officers is going to be in November. If you would like to run for an office within Chapter 181, please let J. R. Seibold at 275-4374 or a member of the Executive Board know of your interest.

I will not be running for president again. My wife and I are planning on going on a full time mission around February in 2009 and I will not be able to hold any office. Our strength as a chapter has to come from our own members who are willing to hold chapter offices.

I am grateful and honored to have been your president of Chapter 181. I will continue to be involved in NARFE and its causes wherever I may be. *George Eads*

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Alice Schrader and Donald Young. If you know of a member that is ill and should receive a get well card, please contact me so I can get a card out to them. *Norene Torkelson, 373-4696.*

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: Congratulations go to Joseph Piotrowski of Fox Island who was awarded a \$1000 NARFE Scholarship. Joseph, who will be attending WSU, is the grandson of Chapter Member Donald Claeys.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: Once again, Joyce Lipsack is coordinating the annual Holiday Lunch at the Bremerton Elks. The Luncheon will be held at 1:00 on 8 December, the same as our normal meeting time/date. Your meal choices are Salmon at \$15.00 or a Monte Cristo Sandwich at \$13.00. Both selections include a tossed green salad and fruit. The price includes tax and gratuity.

Please make your luncheon reservations with Joyce by Monday, 1 December 2008. Joyce will also be at the November meeting, so you can make your reservations then. If you want to mail in your check (made out to NARFE), please send them to Joyce at 154 Alta Drive, Bremerton, WA 98310. Her phone is 479-5007.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ): The balance in our Alzheimer's Account is \$657.28. Donations in the amount of \$115.00 were received, thanks to Louis & Loraine Brockerman, Robert Flomer, Kenneth & Dale Leatherman, Arthur & Norma Robinett, Lanny Ross, Roy Short, and Gerald Webb. I would like to give a special thanks to Jean Lenihan and Robert Flomer for their ongoing effort to conduct our raffles at each of our meetings.

The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection is still ongoing and doing well with 628 pounds at our collection site in the East Bremerton Wal-Mart parking lot. A special thanks to the State Park at Illahee and William Powers for collecting and sorting of over 100 pounds of Aluminum for our cause. In addition 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). 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. Keep up the good work! *Rex Tauscher*

MEMBERSHIP: Thanks to all of you who have chosen to renew your memberships for multiple years or by using payroll deduction. This saves NARFE time and money as well as being a convenience to you the member. Don't forget that that November is Health Fair Month and nominations and elections of officers, please come and participate.

So far this year we lost a total of 86 members from our chapter, this is above what we have been able to recruit to replace our losses. As we, Chapter 181, and our national organization become smaller, we become less effective in our dealings with Congress. If you have a neighbor or friend who is eligible to join NARFE please let us know and we will help you recruit them. Recruiting is everyone's responsibility, so let's get going! We will start by listing the new members in our chapter: Horace Daniels, Danny Fleming, John Glenn, Robert Newbill, Raymond Robert, and Laura Wright. Our reinstated members are: John Frender, Patrick Keller, Robert Nixon, Carolyn O'Neal, Blanche Wynne and Richard Yanss.

Now for those members who have been dropped for non-renewal: Margie Abelein, Marieta Barrios, Lee Carson, Harry Fannin, Kenneth Foshang, Eugene Goods, Mark Hagstrom, Randolph Hunt, Richard Jefferson, Patricia Kelly, Virginia McDonald, Carl Oswald, Vicki Smith, Raymond Smith, Leona Spencer, James St Clair, Tim Taylor, Janet Wagner and Ivan Weich. If you know any of these members please give them a call, thanks for your help.

This is for our 73 active members in our chapter - because you are still employed, it may not be convenient for you to attend our regular membership meetings. How can we accommodate you? I know that you have lots of good ideas about how to make NARFE a better organization. Let us discuss what role you would like to have in this chapter. I will be waiting for your calls or E mail. Thanks.
Ralph Sanders, 275-9793,
sandyandblake@wavecable.com

SERVICE OFFICER: Welcome to winter in Washington - rainy, windy, wet and not too much snow and ice hopefully. Winter means it is also the time to take care of any health insurance changes and to look forward to big COLAs (cost of living allowances). I know we have heard of 5.8% and hopefully that will follow thru on other retirement type checks we get.

The big item in November though is our health insurance. You should have received the Open Season material from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the pamphlet from the insurance company you are currently enrolled in. Look for the page in your current coverage pamphlet that explains the changes for next year. Will these changes mean you need to look for a different plan? Our November meeting is the annual Health Fair when some of the local and national insurance companies will have representatives there to answer your questions and give you one of their pamphlets. Obviously being a busy Open Season time, not all the companies will be present, so read your Open Season package you received from OPM and find the toll-free number to call to order any pamphlets you need. I tried this a couple of years ago just to see how it worked and within a week I had two packages with the pamphlets I had requested. Just remember - NEVER CANCEL YOUR FEDERAL HEALTH INSURANCE AS A RETIREE. You have cancelled it forever!!! I know some of our NARFE members are also retired military (or retired military family members) and eligible for the military health care. If you also have health insurance from being a Federal Employee you may 'SUSPEND' your Federal Health insurance any time. You have not cancelled it and as it is suspended it can be reactivated later. Our health insurance is a very important item - be careful with your choices and cost is not always the best reason to change. One or two of my constant reminders: When you change banks NEVER close the old account out until ALL the checks you have automatically deposited are showing up in the new account. You will need to notify the companies that automatically deposit checks for you all the information needed for the new bank account. I have 4 checks automatically deposited in my own account every month, plus some stock dividend checks. I do not want checks showing up in my mail box - even locked ones can be pried open!!

See you are the November NARFE meeting and bring your federal active employee and retiree friends - even if they are not members. *Megan Winans*

TREASURER: Financial activity for the month of October: We received \$3,431.93 with expenditures of \$2,767.94, income excludes the Alzheimer's Research Fund donation. The overall value of our Chapter Life member trust account decreased an additional \$588 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 receive them.

Our chapter still has an active agreement with Red Apple Markets in Bremerton, Kitsap Lake and Silverdale for the collection and payment of 1% of their grocery receipts. This program has been falling behind in past years and we have collected only \$282.19 this. If you shop at any of the Red Apple stores please turn in the receipts to Norene Torkelson or myself, or bring them to our next meeting.

For all of our members that are returning to 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**. Each returned newsletter from the post office costs the chapter at least 50 cents, this amount added to the \$4.50 per year cost of printing and mailing the newsletter to each member uses a large portion of our \$10 yearly chapter dues.
Rex Tauscher

HEALTH FAIR: With Open Season upon us, it's time for our annual Health Fair. Representatives from the major FEHB Plans will be present along with over 35 local businesses and services specializing in products and issues for our good health.

The doors open at 11:00. The General Meeting will begin at 1:00 when the FEHB representatives will brief us on the changes for 2009. This will be a joint meeting with Port Orchard and Poulsbo - See You There!

PRESIDENT

George Eads

1st VICE PRESIDENT**Newsletter Editor**

Amber VanSantford

2nd VICE PRESIDENT**Membership Chair**

Ralph Sanders

SECRETARY

Linda Sanders

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Zora Davis

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

ASSISTANT TREASURER**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Larry Vancil

NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster - Bob Edwards

www.narfewadist4.org

SERVICE OFFICER

Megan Winans

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Gladys Berteaux

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

J. R. Seibold

Don Serry

SERVICE CENTER

1140 Nipsic Avenue

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

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Region IX VP

Lanny Ross

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OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Maria Cantwell

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Congressman Norm Dicks

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Congressman Jay Inslee

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