



DECEMBER 2008

NUMBER 10-08

General Meeting Date: December 8, 2008

Meeting Place: Bremerton Elks Club, 4131 Pine Road NE, Bremerton

**Program: HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
Meet & Greet at 12:00, Lunch Served at 1:00**

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: Dear Chapter 181 Members - I wish to thank Amber, Rex and Bill for all their hard work in making this year's Health Fair a great success with about 150 people in attendance and lots of information made possible. Our annual election was held the same day as the Health Fair and our new Chapter 181 President will be Bill Powers. I know him and all the other officers will do an outstanding job for the Chapter and its members. For the last two years it has been truly an honor and pleasure to serve as Chapter President. I appreciate how hard the Executive Board worked to create a lot of positive actions in behalf of our chapter hosting last year's State Federation Convention. I think it was one of the best conventions held and it was due to the hard work by you chapter members and the Executive Board. If you have received your December Magazine, you will note our COLA is 5.8. It was NARFE in 1962 that pushed for COLAs to be awarded based on the Consumer Price Index. NARFE has always been the only organization that is looking out to ensure and maintain the benefits of active and retired federal employees. We all need to remember to support NARFE and its many projects that help us. May you and your families enjoy a happy and healthy holiday season. *George Eads*

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: For those who have signed up for the Annual Holiday Luncheon on 8 December, the Meet & Greet begins at 12:00 with the lunch served at 1:00. Installation of officers will follow the meal.

Don't forget to bring non-perishable food items to the Elks for their Holiday Food Drive. Donations of paper products such as paper towels and toilet paper are also needed.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ): The balance in our Alzheimer's Account is \$1,050.77. Donations in the amount of \$40.00 were received from Louis & Loraine Brockerman and Elsmar McKay. Our Members Raffle was not held at the November Health Fair/General Meeting because of state gambling restriction requirements for 'member only' raffles. Our next raffle will be held at our January general meeting.

The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection is still ongoing and doing well with 706 pounds at our collection site in the East Bremerton Wal-Mart parking lot. A special thanks to the State Park at Illahee and Bill Powers for collecting and sorting over 100 pounds of aluminum for our cause. We received a check for our aluminum collection in the amount of \$353.20. A check will be forwarded to Alzheimer's Research later this month in the amount of \$1,040.00.

Again this coming year we are planning to hold a rummage sale at the Westside Improvement Club and we will have two tables for NARFE Alzheimer's. The date will be 7 February 2009. If you have any items that you wish to donate, please contact me for pickup or bring them to our January meeting. Rex Tauscher

UPCOMING TAX SEASON: We have not yet received the location/times for the 2009 AARP Income Tax Preparation Service. Hopefully it will be available for printing in the January Newsletter.

JANUARY PROGRAM: There will be an overview of the AARP Senior Driving Course at our 12 January meeting.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Roy Alexander, Alfred Baston, Eileen Dicks, William Gross, Chuck Jones, Doreen Marshall, Danny Olsen, Raymond Robert and Alton Stedman. A Get Well Card was sent to David Graeff.

TREASURER: Financial activity for the month of November: Received \$66.46 with expenditures of \$757.93. Income excludes the Alzheimer's Research Fund donation. The overall value of our Chapter Life member Trust Account decreased an additional \$947 since last 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/cash these checks when you get 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 past years and we currently have collected year to date only \$282.19. 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.** Rex Tauscher

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE: NARFE's Legislative Conference will be held 7-10 March in Washington, DC. This is a fantastic opportunity for a chapter member who is truly interested in our legislative process to see first hand how our government works.

If you would like to attend the Conference and then return to the Chapter as Legislative Chair, please contact Bill Powers. Remember, our Federal salary/annuity/benefits are determined by the Congress.

MEMBERSHIP: Linda and I had a great cruise to Mexico, but we missed all of you at the Health Fair. I hope that you found the information and the fellowship that you were looking for. One of NARFE's jobs is to provide the membership with positive and current information. Some of this is at our monthly meetings, in this Bulletin and in the NARFE magazine. When we retire there is no longer that internal government pipe line of information that we were accustomed to in the work place. Pass this on to your friends and neighbors who have recently retired or are about to retire, join NARFE be a part of the solution! Now for those members who have been dropped for non-renewal: Gerald Kaeder, Charlotte McCarty, Collis McGraw, Jewell Sollie, Leland Stice, Thomas Taylor and Nadine Westmiller. If you know any of these members, please urge them to renew their membership. Thanks to all of you. On the more positive side a listing of our new members and reinstatements: Barbara Anderson, Rhoda Bunn, Hazel Colvin, Josephine Erickson, Garry Gower, Lillian Hankinson, Fred Herricht, Clifford Lightfoot, Kay Massie, William Millar, Terry Novak and Robert Wieman. We thank all of you for your membership and hope that all of you will become an active part of our Chapter. We need your ideas, your suggestions and your participation. For any questions please call any member of the executive board listed in the back of this bulletin. *Ralph Sanders*

SERVICE OFFICER: The deadline for changing your Federal Health Insurance - December 8th, if you are 'snail mailing' changes. The toll-free number for Open Season Express is: 1-800-332-9798. You may also use your computer at: www.opm.gov/retire/fehb. Make sure you have your annuitant number when you call or email. The NARFE magazines have had some good information on the different health insurance plans.

If you do change your health insurance, it will be effective 1 January 2009 and the first deduction will show up on your retirement check for 1 February. It is also almost the end of 2008, so it is time for you to start collecting receipts and other information in order to file your Income Tax claims in a timely manner in 2008. *MEGAN WINANS*

PRESIDENT ELECT: As the president elect of Bremerton's Chapter 181 for 2009, I wanted to write an article for December's newsletter letting everyone know how pleased I will be as your new president. Also, I am setting some 'retention attention' goals for 2009. Along with Ralph Sanders, Membership Chair, and Myra Clodius, I want to see if we can stabilize our membership numbers. However, first I wanted to discuss the 5.8% COLA that will be in the retirees January benefit check. This is the highest COLA since 1982. Our NARFE lobbyists will be watching for any proposals to alter the federal retirement system, including cuts to COLAs, as part of the 2010 budget process.

It looks like America is headed for a prolonged recession with a current worry in Washington DC being deflation. Core inflation (excluding food and energy) dropped 1/10 of 1% this last month, this is the first drop in core inflation, now at 2.2%, in a quarter century. With the current credit crunch, budgets are being stretched which means layoffs and a rise in unemployment. High unemployment combined with inflation is known as the 'misery index'. Also, many of us have retirement nest eggs in the financial industry and unfortunately we have seen them plummet in value over the last four months.

For now all I can say is do not do any knee-jerk reactions that you will regret later. Remember that NARFE is here to protect your retirement. *Bill Powers*

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www.narfewadist4.org

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Don Serry

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OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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Congressman Norm Dicks

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Congressman Jay Inslee

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NARFE CHAPTER 181 - 2009 MEETINGS:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
7-Jan-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
12-Jan-09	1:00	General Membership Meeting	West Side Improvement Club
15-Jan-09		Federation Board Meeting	Tacoma
4-Feb-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
9-Feb-09	1:00	General Membership Meeting	West Side Improvement Club
4-Mar-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
7-Mar-09		NARFE Legislative Conference	Washington, DC
9-Mar-09	1:00	General Membership Meeting	West Side Improvement Club
24-Mar-09		District Workshop	Sequim
8-Apr-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
13-Apr-09	1:00	General Membership Meeting	West Side Improvement Club
6-May-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
11-May-09	1:00	General Membership Meeting	West Side Improvement Club
14-May-09		Federation Convention	Wenatchee
3-Jun-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
8-Jun-09	1:00	General Membership Meeting	West Side Improvement Club
5-Aug-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
9-Sep-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
14-Sep-09	1:00	General Membership Meeting	West Side Improvement Club
7-Oct-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
12-Oct-09	1:00	General Membership Meeting	West Side Improvement Club
4-Nov-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
9-Nov-09	1:00	General Membership Meeting	West Side Improvement Club
9-Dec-09	1:00	Exec Board Meeting	Elks Club
14-Dec-09	1:00	Holiday Lunch/Installation	Elks Club