



FEBRUARY 2009

NUMBER 02-09

General Meeting Date & Time: February 09, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

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

Program: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION - 'RE-CONDITIONED YOU'

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: The new 111th Congress is now in session in Washington, DC with Barack Obama's administration now in place. One of the first items on their agenda is a massive economic stimulus package. This package was originally supposed to be 'shovel ready' for infrastructure rebuilding, giving the economy immediate short term gains. However, the Congressional Budget Office is now saying that government can't spend this money fast enough to help our economy in 2009.

How does this effect NARFE? (1) A while back Dan Adcock, NARFE's Legislative Director, talked about a 'perfect storm' brewing concerning our nation's financial woes. We are now entering that perfect storm. (2) NARFE's advocacy efforts seeking action on GPO-WEP continue. At press time it was expected that legislation would again be introduced to repeal these provisions. (3) NARFE is presently urging Congress to include Premium Conversion in the above pending economic stimulus package legislation, H.R.598 & S.1. Premium Conversion means allowing civilian and military retirees to pay certain health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis, the same as active federal employees presently enjoy. You can help by calling Congressman Dicks, 6th Congressional District, Congressman Inslee, 1st Congressional District, Senator Cantwell, and Senator Murray by using the NARFE toll free number for the Capital Switchboard, 1-866-220-0044. You can ask each office to transfer you to the next office. That way you only make one phone call. Tell each aide that this legislation was introduced as H.R.1110 & S.773 in the last congress. (4) NARFE, along with thirteen other national organizations sent a joint letter to President Obama urging him to exercise his authority "to instruct the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to apply for the Medicare employer payment" which would help contain the amount paid for Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premiums. Rex Tauscher will be our representative going to Arlington, Virginia for the Legislative Training Conference from March 7 through March 10.

Our NARFE District IV (Olympic Peninsula area) Workshop is to be held at the Sequim Elks Lodge on March 31st (this is a one week slip from the original date due to a scheduling conflict with the lodge). All are welcome. The cost will be \$12 which includes a buffet luncheon. Contact me for reservations. The Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) 50th Anniversary Convention will be held in Wenatchee on May 14 & 15. We will be having our National President, Margaret Baptiste, as a speaker.

Finally, don't forget Valentine's Day. Have a great February. Thanks for supporting NARFE. *Bill Powers*

AARP/IRS TAX-AIDE: Jointly sponsored by AARP and the IRS, volunteers provide this service at no cost. This program is for taxpayer's returns and not intended for any business or rental income. You must bring photo identification, your Social Security Number, all your 2008 tax documents and your checkbook (to verify your account number for and electronic refund). You should also bring your 2007 return.

These are some of the locations open between 1 February and 15 April. Please note that this information is being printed before the dates/times have been made official - there could be changes:

Olympic College
Tue/Wed/Thu, 12:30 - 4:30

Sheridan Park Center
Wed/Thu, 9:00 - 2:00

Westpark Community Center
Mon/Sat, 12:30 - 4:30

Givens Community Center
Thursday, 9:00 - 1:00

Port Orchard Library
Saturday, 1:00 - 4:00

St. Gabriel's Catholic Church
Tuesday, 10:00 - 4:00

Martha & Mary Rehab, Poulsbo
Thursday, 1:00 - 5:00
Fri/Sat, 10:00 - 2:00

PROGRAM: February is National Heart Month so Mr. Richard Huddy, Director of CAPRI will be speaking on an innovative new heart attack prevention program they are starting called 'Re-Conditioned You'.

NARFE SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION OPENS:

Please check out the Scholarship information on Page 41 of the February 2009 NARFE Magazine. Our Chapter had a winner last year, let's do it again!

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Melvin H. Adams, Joyce Carter, Clyde J. Karst and Jane Paulus (wife of member Fattie R. Paulus). A Get Well Card was sent to Walter Ruef. If you know of a Chapter Member who is ill and should receive a card please contact us so we can get a card to them.
Norene Torkelson

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ): The balance in our Alzheimer's Account as of 23 January is \$76.27. Donations in the amount of \$70.00 were received in December, thanks to Louis & Loraine Brockerman, Robert Brown and Wayne Matz.

The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection has slowed down so far this month with the bad weather. We are currently at a total of 57 pounds as of the middle of January. 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.** *Rex Tauscher*

MEMBERSHIP: How do we get our Active Federal Employees (AFE's) more active in NARFE? There are any number of ideas - change meeting day and time, make 'at large' AFE chapters, etc. Or would you like to keep a status quo and let us more senior members run NARFE as we always have. I don't think that we senior members are doing a very good job and we need some help from you who are still employed by the Federal Government. I would like to hear from some of our AFE membership as to what they think would work for them and NARFE.

Now for those members who were dropped for non-renewal: Ursula Hedt, John Stemack and Ed Weaver. If you know any of these members, please urge them to renew their membership. On the more positive side, our new members and reinstatements: Steven Baldwin, Janet Cummings, James Finney, Richard Jefferson, Marilyn Landreth, Holly Light, Shannon Odell, Christine Read, Christine Snow, Melvin Thies, Ivan Weich and Fred Wise. We thank you all for your membership and hope that you can become an active part of the Chapter.

We are presently looking for a "Chapter Legislative Chair". This job could be filled by an AFE member or a retired member. The job consists of staying current on legislative issues and keeping the rest of us advised on what is going on in the legislative process in regards to NARFE issues. This is normally done by a small monthly report in this bulletin.
Ralph Sanders,
'sandyandblake@wavecable.com'

SERVICE OFFICER: I am watching the Inauguration of our new President while doing this newsletter article. I have been to Washington, DC and thoroughly enjoyed seeing many of the marvelous sites there. I am glad I live in Washington State though. This is also the time of the year when we start collecting our documents for tax purposes. Remember that some of our Chapter members are volunteers at the AARP tax sites and the dates they are available will be in our newsletter. I have a folder called Tax Planner that I purchased many years ago (don't ask me where) that has separate folded pages for various types of documents. One of the pages is for medical expenses and I keep the odds 'n ends throughout the year that I personally have had to pay for just in case, with the insurance premiums, it amounts up to enough for a deduction. Don't wait until the last minute to look for all the documents you will need.

Some of us already have travel plans for this year - I will be going to Hawaii in October for the 81st Fighter Interceptor Wing reunion - so make sure you know what your health insurance coverage is if you are out of this area. I'm tentatively planning a driving trip back down to the Denver area in April to catch up with sons and many, many friends from living there for many years. Let close friends know where you are going and give them your phone number while away. I always give one of my neighbors information when I will be away and let them know how to contact me just in case anything happens to my house while I am gone. Don't forget to put a hold on your mail and newspapers when you travel - newspapers piling up on your doorstep is a good sign that nobody is home. Our retirement is a time for us to enjoy - we have earned it so plan for your vacations and make sure your health insurance card and Medicare card is in your wallet - even if they are only copies.
Megan Winans

2009 STATE CONVENTION BOOSTERS: If you want to show your support for the Washington State Federation of Chapters, now is your opportunity to become a 'Booster'. For a mere \$1.00 donation, you will have your name printed in the Convention Program Book. Bill Powers and Rex Tauscher would be happy to take your donation at the February meeting.

TREASURER: Since the last newsletter, we received \$1,743.56 with expenditures of \$2,375.60. Income excludes the Alzheimer's Research Fund donation.

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 and we currently have collected \$282.19 this year. 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.**

This year's preliminary Budget will be presented at the February meeting.
Rex Tauscher

BIG TSP CHANGE: On December 23rd, President Bush signed Public Law 110-458 - 'The Worker, Retiree and Employer Recovery Act of 2008'. This new act places a one year suspension on receiving a required minimum distribution payment from individual retirement accounts and defined contribution plans for 2009. The primary reason for the law is to reduce the impact of the economic downturn on retired Americans who might otherwise have to sell assets in their IRAs or 402(d) plans at a loss to satisfy their minimum distributions.

This law affects TSP participants who are separated from Federal service and who are, or will turn 70-1/2 (or older) by December 31, 2009. Please check out 'www.tsp.gov' for more information.

FUTURE SPEAKERS: If there is a special speaker or subject you would like to hear at our monthly meetings, please let Vice President Amber VanSantford know.

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers
377-7917

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

Norene Torkelson

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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Megan Winans

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Myra Clodius

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Gladys Berteaux

Donald A. Palmer

J. R. Seibold

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SERVICE CENTER

1140 Nipsic Avenue
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