



April 2009

NUMBER 04-09

**General Meeting Date & Time:** April 13, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

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

**Program:** NARFE'S 2009 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

*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:** Our Treasurer, Rex Tauscher, has returned from NARFE's Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. He will discuss this experience as part of our April program.

As for legislation, our priority items have been introduced in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, however with the various economic stimulus packages before Congress, I doubt we will see much progress. "TALF", Term Asset Backed Securities Loan Facility, is the latest one. This is a trillion dollar program designed to revive consumer lending. But there is little desire among consumers to take on further debt. Home refinancing being the exception but banks have little incentive to lower fixed 30 year mortgage rates to 4% as advertised. For additional information see the "Managing Money" article in our April NARFE magazine.

Our December 2008 issue of NARFE magazine had an article, Celebrate Healthy Eating. Some of our Bremerton NARFE members are still practicing turning their eating habits around based on this article. Congratulations to them and their health. For the rest of us, remember to shop the periphery of your grocery store and buy local and fresh whenever possible. There is another article in April's NARFE magazine, Metabolic Syndrome. This is another informative article for people that think they might need lifestyle changes.

As president, I am also a member of the PSNBA (Puget Sound Naval Base Association) General Board. They also sent a group of board members back to Washington, DC during the first week of March. Though they were not able to discuss the Navy's 2010 budget, Navy authorities were pleased with our Kitsap Naval facilities performance and the Navy plans to add 500 new jobs to PSNS.

Finally I would like to report that our membership numbers have stabilized so far this year. I would like to thank our membership committee, those of you that have shared NARFE with a friend, and those that have recruited new member. Keep up the good work. *Bill Powers*

**PROGRAM:** Rex Tauscher will report on his recent trip to Washington, DC where he attended the 2009 National Legislative Conference.

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Earl Carpenter, Edwin Danks, Wayne Edwards, Jack Fleming, and Eugene Ludwick and to the family of Mary Nelson (wife of member Oliver). A Get Well Card was sent to Thomas Ringstad.

If you know of an individual who is NARFE member and is ill and should receive a card, please contact us so we can verify the information and get a card out to them. Please note that if your name appears here as 'deceased, and you are not, we would appreciate a contact so we can welcome you back! We comb the available press releases and compare them to our membership list of over 1300 members, so we do miss a few and add a few. *Norene Torkelson*

**SERVICE OFFICER:** It's that time of the year when grandparents start thinking of their trips to visit with grandkids all over the country, or just a regular vacation, so plan for it. Make sure you have a listing of all your meds that you are taking. I keep mine right behind my health insurance card. If I am in an emergency room and unable to speak, trust me, somebody will look in my wallet to see what health insurance I have. Hopefully they will notice a list of my meds right behind it. Make sure you also have something with a list of your contacts with you. I have a 'day planner' that I carry in my handbag and, if I was a health care person in ER, I would look in something like that for somebody with the same last name as the patient. So..... they would find the names, addresses and phone numbers of my four sons.

A decision was made at the last meeting that the Service Center will only be open once a month. With the

way things can be done by telephone or email with the Office of Personnel Management and other government type places, the number of retirees and their family members has dropped off drastically over the past few years. Last year only 8 retirees or family members visited me as your Service

Officer at the Bremerton Senior Center on Nipsic Avenue in Manette. I will be there on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month to assist anyone.

We have a very large Chapter and would love to see more of you are out at the monthly meetings. This a get together of many people you worked with and people with many of the same interests you have. Come to the meetings and bring up suggestions for things you would like to do at monthly meetings. THIS IS YOUR ORGANIZATION!!! *Megan Winans*

**MEMBERSHIP:** If you are aware of a member's passing, please let us know or have the family call. This information is appreciated and necessary for keeping a current status of our membership. The same is true for change of address notices. The chapter spends hundreds of dollars each year on returned mail. Thanks to all of you who have helped us keep our membership status current. We would also like to thank all of you who pay multiyear dues or use dues withholding. This makes our lives easier and saves NARFE money.

Now for those members who have been dropped for non-renewal: Julito Balong, Helen Boyer, Colin Edwards, Claudine Elliott, Jim & Marjory Galbraith, Ruby Hanberg, Ann Hoyt, Ron Miller, Ronald Shinoda and Janice Smith. If you know any of these members please urge them to renew their membership.

This is the listing of our new members, reinstatements and transfers: Gary Baker, Edwin Collins, Shirley Hausdorf, Kaye Massie, Colin McKay, Erma Robertson, Curtis Thom, James Wilson, and a special welcome to our transferee, Irene Hammond. We thank all of you for joining NARFE or becoming a member of Chapter 181. *Ralph Sanders*

**WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION CONVENTION:** Remember that NARFE's National President, Margaret Baptiste, will be the guest speaker at this year's convention in Wenatchee. Please let Linda Sanders know if you are going to attend.

**ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ):** The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 20 March was \$235.76. Donations in the amount of \$57.00 were received thanks to Charles Mitchell in memory of his wife Ethel and a donation received at our meeting raffle on 9 March. (Please note that I was not there so did not get the name of the donor). The name is necessary as I send out receipts at the end of the year for donations to these charitable donations.

Just released information as of 16 March 2009, NARFE Members have reached the \$8 Million mark in giving for Alzheimer's Research. This project started in 1985. Thanks are given to all those making the effort to support the ongoing research effort.

The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection is currently at 189 pounds as of the middle of March. 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*

**TREASURER:** Our March meeting report showed interest and dividends of a minus \$297.98. For those of you who follow the report closely, the cause of the negative number was the current value of our Life Member Trust Fund, a decrease in value of \$379.15 for the month of February. Our net worth as of the end of February was \$36,158.75 with the Life Member Trust portion at \$21,720.23 for an operating balance of \$14,438.52.

Our chapter budget for this year is posted on our chapter web site '[www.narfedist4.org](http://www.narfedist4.org)'. This year's budget based on projected income for the year is a total of \$13,610. Copies of the budget were available at our 9 March General meeting for those wishing a hard copy.

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 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.

Our return mailings appear to be increasing again as Spring attempts to return to our area. 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*

**LEGISLATIVE TRAINING CONFERENCE 2009:**

Keep your ears and eyes trained to the actions of our legislators on Capital Hill and at home. The training sessions, offered to the attendees at the Conference, may have been repetitive from prior Conferences, but as a first timer it was an eye opening experience. The presenters of each of the five presentations along with guest speakers at the general sessions were well versed and some presenting information above and beyond the needs of meeting attendees. I hope to give a brief summary of the Conference at the April 13 general meeting and take a few questions. Items of interest so far at this session of Congress are: House resolution HR 958, Sick Leave Credit FERS employees. As of 3/20/2009, 36 co-sponsors. House resolution HR 1205 and Senate bill S 491; Health Insurance Premium conversion; House resolution HR 235 and Senate bill S 484 Government Pension Offset GPO and Windfall Elimination Provision WEP.

As your treasurer I found it very interesting on the details on how the government budget presented and enacted and the review and approval cycle. You learn something new each day. See you at our next meeting.

If interested in the progress or lack thereof on the above Congressional actions or any new actions, you can track them at '[www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov)', this is the site for the Library of Congress. Just type in the bill number or if you are brave go for a word search such as Social Security or Retirement. *Rex Tauscher*  
(Temporary designated Legislative Chair)

**OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET NARFE MEMBERS AND**

**SEE THE USA:** Please check out Page 25 of the April 2009 NARFE Magazine. Three great opportunities to see our wonderful country and meet NARFE members - or get a group together from our own Chapter.

**PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers  
377-7917

**1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

**Newsletter Editor**  
Amber VanSantford

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

**Membership Chair**  
Ralph Sanders

**SECRETARY**

Linda Sanders

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**

Zora Davis

**TREASURER**

Rex Tauscher

**ASSISTANT TREASURER**

Norene Torkelson

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

George Eads

**NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE**

Webmaster - Bob Edwards  
[www.narfewadist4.org](http://www.narfewadist4.org)

**SERVICE OFFICER**

Megan Winans

**CHAPLAIN**

Myra Clodius

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Gladys Berteaux

Donald A. Palmer

J. R. Seibold

Don Serry

Vacant

**SERVICE CENTER**

1140 Nipsic Avenue  
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12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

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