



MAY 2009

NUMBER 05-09

**General Meeting Date & Time:** May 11, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

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

**Program:** ?

*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:** May is Chapter 181's 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will be serving cake after the meeting as part of our celebration. May is also our state convention in Wenatchee. We will report on that in June. There will be a change in state leadership because two officers are stepping down. There will also be a leadership workshop at the convention. We had a successful District IV (Olympic Peninsula) workshop in Sequim on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Congressman Norm Dicks' Port Angeles/Sequim representative, Judith Morris, was our guest speaker. She took questions from participants at the workshop and promised timely answers for all questions. Congressman Dicks was the guest speaker at the Puget Sound Naval Base Association (PSNBA) membership kickoff breakfast on April 14<sup>th</sup>. In his talk he stated that the next biennium's Congressional (112<sup>th</sup>) election campaign may be his last. Speaking of that, we still have some 2009/2010 NARFE-PAC pins for sale and PSNBA memberships available.

Now for more change! The national NARFE organization is in a process that will be finalized by ballots being distributed this September. It is an "Association Dues" Referendum. NARFE's national leadership is proposing a referendum vote on a single dues system for all. This referendum will not have much effect on Bremerton's dues because most of us are already paying close to the proposed rate of \$40.00 per year. The battleground will be on the East Coast where there is a wide variation in dues structure. Our NARFE magazine will provide additional information on this subject in the coming months.

Don't forget that our NARFE lobbyists are continually looking out for our rights and benefits. Recently, legislation was proposed that would take away the pretax healthcare payment benefit of active (current) federal employees. Our lobbyists were there to stop this legislation and explain that a large portion of private enterprise also has this benefit.

Finally, for those who are retired - don't forget the "Older Americans Workshop" at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Dana Gargus from Kitsap County Division of Aging & Long Term Care will have additional information at our May NARFE meeting.  
*Bill Powers*

**MEMBERSHIP:** Your Executive Board needs help! Some of our members have decided that they need to move on and are looking for a replacement. Who could blame them? Others have been holding more than one position for several terms of office. Personally, I have served on this board for over sixteen years. This is far longer than is good for me or for the organization. At this time we should be far more concerned about the existence of the Chapter than how many members we can maintain.

At our present rate I believe the Chapter will close long before we run out of members. This chapter needs to face the realities and make the changes necessary to stay in existence.

Now for those members who have been dropped for non-renewal: Kendal Gholston, Karen Taylor, Fred Veatch and Leo Wochoer. If you know any of these members please urge them to renew their membership.

This is a listing of our new members: Frances Davey, Gordon McKay and David Peeler. We thank all of you for joining NARFE and becoming a member of Chapter 181. *Ralph Sanders*

**ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ):** The balance in our Alzheimer's account is \$23.07. Donations in the amount of \$157.22 were received thanks to Loraine Brockerman, Charles Clodius, Robert Flomer and Rex Tauscher. We also received a check for our 308 pounds of aluminum in the amount of \$77.22. Even though the price per pound has dropped, it still makes a difference in our collection to help with research for a cure.

We forwarded a check in the amount of \$375.00 this month to the Alzheimer's Association for research in the name of NARFE.

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*

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Paul Amis, Robert Burgess, Edith Emery, John Forbes, Kenneth Johnson, Vernon Quartermass and Calvin Riggins. A Sympathy Card was also sent to the family of Clara Aaro (wife of member Melvin).

Get well cards were sent to Herbert Criss and Yma Dahlke.

If you know of a Chapter member that is ill and should receive a Get Well Card please contact us. 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 come 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*

**HELP WANTED AD:** Is there anyone in the Chapter who would like to take over the job as Newsletter Editor?

It is not difficult, but would require that you have Internet capability. Please contact a Board Member if you are interested.

**HBO ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT:** The HBO television channel will be presenting a series on groundbreaking Alzheimer's discoveries. The Alzheimer's Project is a presentation of HBO Documentary Films and the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health in association with the Alzheimer's Association, the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund and Geoffrey Beene Gives Back Alzheimer's Initiative.

Leading scientists will explain the effects this debilitating and fatal disease has on those with Alzheimer's and their families.

They shows will be presented on:  
Sunday, May 10 at 9 p.m. EST  
Monday, May 11 at 7:30 & 8:00 p.m. EST  
Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 & 8:00 p.m. EST.

Check your local listings to make sure what time they will be showing in our local area.

**GREETINGS FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY:** It looks like Chapter 181 is moving along just fine. Ann and I are busily engaged. I hope all my friends and fellow NARFE members are doing well. The rivers and Lake Champlain have finally thawed out after a long and hard winter. We are glad we got here for the long end of winter. As you know, we are in the North Country serving our Church on a 12-month mission.

Ann is giving a piano instruction class on Wednesday evenings and has even started a tiny choir! We go out daily to visit. We also volunteer 2-3 hours a week in the local hospital. Ann works in the medical library and I am in charge of the lending library on a cart.

We have learned that this is a VERY important historical area. Lake Champlain runs into the St. Lawrence waterway - a main means of the British coming inland to attack. The final battle of the War of 1812 was fought here and is re-enacted annually. We hope to be able to see the re-enactment in September. The winter of 1812 in the North Country is said to have made Valley Forge look like a picnic. More than 200 men lost their lives to exposure that winter as they attempted to stand off the British forces, who were also hunkered down on the Canadian side.

There is an island called Gunboat Island - The Patriots placed lanterns on the island in such a manner that they looked like the lights of a gunboat. The British lobbed canon after canon and other artillery of the time at the deserted island, thus giving away their positions to the Patriot forces and helping them defeat that battle for Plattsburgh. During the War of 1812, Plattsburgh was actually invaded - street by street. We are constantly learning more.

This is also great apple country - all varieties, but two specials are the McIntosh and the Pippin. We are looking forward to the apple harvest. We also got to go to a celebration of the Maple Sugaring season. I actually stuck my fingers under the top of the bucket attached to the tree to sample the drippings. The sap is honestly sweet. We met a former Vermont State Senator who informed us that Vermont's maple syrup is much superior to New York's.

We are about 65 miles from Montreal, Quebec, Canada. I miss all my friends in Chapter 181.

Our address here is: 85 Wall Street, Apt 2, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Former President *George Eads*

**JUST A REMINDER:** The Service Center located at the Nippsic Avenue Senior Center is now open only on the first Tuesday of the month from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Monthly Treasurer's Report will be available at the May Meeting.

**PROGRAM:** The name of the May speaker is unavailable as the newsletter must be sent to the printer in order to get it to you in time. Please come to the meeting to find out who it will be.

**SENIOR FAIR AT THE FAIRGROUNDS:** Don't forget the annual Senior Fair at the Fairgrounds Pavilion on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Check your local newspapers to see when the doors open and for the phone number to register for the free lunch.

**SENIOR CITIZENS MONTH:** President John F. Kennedy first designated May as 'Senior Citizens Month' in 1963. Traditionally, every president since then has issued a formal proclamation asking the nation to pay tribute to older persons in their communities during the month of May. Since President Jimmy Carter's 1980 designation, May has been known as 'Older Americans Month.'

This year's theme is 'Living Today for a Better Tomorrow.' The Administration of Aging, an agency of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, bestowed this theme to reflect on efforts to avoid and prevent chronic disease, injury and disability.

**REMINDER:** 'Public Service Recognition Week' is May 4 - 10. Please make an effort to thank a government employee.

**PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers  
377-7917

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

**Newsletter Editor**  
Amber VanSantford

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

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

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Vacant

**SERVICE CENTER**

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

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