



JUNE 2009

NUMBER 06-09

**General Meeting Date & Time:** June 8, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

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

**Program:** WHAT'S NEW AT THE KITSAP HISTORICAL MUSEUM

*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:** We had eight chapter members attend the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) convention in Wenatchee last month. Our state organization now has a new President, Sandra Cagle, Vice President, Rich Wilson, and Secretary, Paul Shell. Our own Rex Tauscher is still WSFC Treasurer (he says one more year). The convention had a few glitches and one entertainment group didn't show. I think our 2007 Chapter 181 WSFC Convention in Silverdale will be hard to beat.

There was one resolution passed, "Federal Pensions and The Term Entitlement". This simply means that our lobbyists in Washington DC should resist any attempt by congress to apply the term "entitlement" to our federal retirement accounts, both FERS & CSRS. Entitlement implies some form of welfare as opposed to an "earned benefit". Our pension is part of our contract, a portion of our salary, deferred for old age.

Our chapter had a booth at the "Older Americans Workshop" at the fairgrounds in May. We handed out lots of brochures, answered questions, and signed up a new member for the Port Orchard chapter. Good job Ralph!

Recent news is that cost of living adjustment, CPI-W, for May is now at a -3.5% (negative) due to deflationary pressures. As I said in January, the law does not provide for a reduction in our benefits in the event of deflation over the fiscal year ending in September. Economists are now predicting 6% inflation for 2010/2011 due to our current administration's economic stimulus package. However, our state's unemployment rate presently sits at 9.1%.

I was recently reminded how fortunate we are as FERS/CSRS employees/retirees. The Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC) announced in May that it has a \$33½ billion deficit and rising. This is the organization that takes over the retirement accounts from bankrupt corporations such as airline carriers and automobile manufacturing. The PBGC deficit has tripled in the last six months. That means it might not be able to pay pensioners if their company plan fails. (continued on Page 2)

**President continued:** A number of companies that sponsor pension plans are now in bankruptcy. Also several pension plans are substantially under funded plus declining interest rates over the last year haven't helped the situation. Our country's social safety net is getting increasingly frayed.

Read your NARFE magazine this summer to keep up with current changes starting with unified NARFE dues. Ballots for a chapter vote will be mailed to chapter secretaries in September. Also we are in the process of setting up a nine-month contract to advertise on Kitsap Transit busses for community exposure next fall.

*Bill Powers*

**SERVICE OFFICER:** It is that time of the year when so many grandparents are off visiting their families. I recently put almost 5,000 miles on my car down the Northern California Coast, over to Aurora/Denver, Colorado and then back home. Caught up with all my sons and their families and many other friends in Colorado. My federal health insurance card is in my wallet and right behind it is a list of my meds. Trust me, if I am taken to an emergency room and unable to talk, somebody will check my wallet to see if I have health insurance. When they pull the card out hopefully they will notice what meds I take. Being in a strange emergency room can be very difficult.

I have not received my 2<sup>nd</sup> Stimulus Check yet - some friends have. Not sure what determines the order they are paid out - they should be paid by end of May. If you have automatic deposit for your Social Security, then it will automatically go into your checking account (only those receiving Social Security will receive this stimulus check). *Megan Winans*

**TRAVELING TO CANADA?** You've probably seen the ads on TV about the Washington State Enhanced Driver's License which can be used to travel in/out of our neighbor to the north. Unfortunately this license is not available in Kitsap County. There are only a few locations in Western Washington and you have to make an appointment to get one. The locations closest to us are Bothell, Lacey, Parkland, Port Angeles, Marysville and West Seattle. To make an appointment, please call (866) 520-4365.

When you go, you'll need (1) proof of U. S. citizenship, such as a passport, a birth certificate or a certificate of naturalization, (2) proof of Washington State residence such as your homeowner's insurance policy, utility bills or mortgage documents with your name and address and (3) proof of identity, such as a passport, a driver's license, or an identification card. Copies are not accepted, they must be original documents.

A regular driver's license costs \$25.00 - the enhanced version is \$40.00.

**ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ):** The balance in our Alzheimer's account is \$88.11. Donations in the amount of \$65.00 were received thanks to Loraine Brockerman, Vito Leone, Ralph Sanders, June Smith and Rex Tauscher. We collected 76.4 pounds of aluminum since the beginning of April, so keep up the good work over the summer months. Even though the price per pound has dropped, it still makes a difference in our collection to help with research for a cure.

Bremerton Chapter 181 received a "**Citation for Distinguished Service**" at the Washington State Convention for our contribution of \$1,425.00 to Alzheimer's Research.

We are keeping the Aluminum for Alzheimer's Program active so keep dropping off your aluminum items at Westsound recycle in the East Bremerton Wal-Mart parking lot. If you live in Port Orchard you may also drop off your aluminum at the Port Orchard Mall site and let them know the donation is for the "Bremerton Chapter of NARFE".

*Rex Tauscher*

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:** Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Elliott Burks, Robert Fletcher, Walter Loomer, Helen McCausland, Thomas Shay, and William Thompson. A Sympathy Card was sent to the Family of Donna Rich (wife of member Jennings Rich).

Again this year at our State Convention our chapter exceeded all others with a memorial listing of 69 members deceased in the last 12 months. If you know of a chapter member who is ill and should receive a get well card please contact us so we can get a card out to them. *Norene Torkelson*

**MEMBERSHIP:** I would like to again thank all of you members who pay your dues promptly or for multiple years. Thanks to all of you who call me with membership status, you are my eyes and ears. This is a great help to NARFE and saves lots of money for our organization. It does not seem possible that this will be the last report until September after our summer break. Your Executive Board does not take a break in the summer, just no general membership meetings; we will be working hard for you to help NARFE in its fight to save our benefits. In the FY 2010 Budget Resolution, an amendment was presented and rejected by the House that would have cut earned compensation by \$10.263 billion dollars over 10 years. This would have come out of your COLA's and your FEHBP insurance. Fortunately NARFE was there to urge the House members to oppose this amendment and it did fail. We must be eternally vigilant if we are to keep our earned benefits.

Now for those members who have been dropped for non-renewal: Joyce Carter, Arnold Heitzman, Clarence Lyman and Dave Short. If you know any of these members, please urge them to renew their membership.

Now a welcome aboard for our new members: Theodore Anderson, William Bond, Sue Brooks, Richard Damlo, Brian Grad, David Hughes, Laurie Moore, Deanna Niesen, Frederick Rice, Frank Rogers, and Margaret Williams. Thank you to Harold Richardson for reinstating his membership. Thanks and welcome to our newer members. We hope that you will become an active part of our chapter. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact any member of our Executive Board listed on the back of this bulletin. *Ralph Sanders*

**TREASURER:** Our May meeting report showed interest and dividends of a positive \$455.27. For those of you who follow the report closely, the cause of the prior months negative numbers was the market value of our Life Member Trust Fund, for every dime change in value we gain or lose \$190. So far this month we have gained \$0.32 or \$606, but still have a long way to go for full recovery. Our net worth as of the end of April was \$35,689.78 with the Life member trust portion at \$22,219.55 for an operating balance of \$13,470.23.

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. 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*

**NEWSLETTER CHANGE:** Karen Powers, wife of President Bill Powers, has agreed to temporarily take over the Newsletter Editor position until a new Editor comes forward. Karen has new and innovative ideas for our Chapter Publication, so look for a 'new look' in September. *Amber VanSantford*

**GRASS ROOTS ADVOCACY MONTH:** The Bremerton Chapter will not be meeting in August, but each of our members has the opportunity to speak to their Congressional representatives during August NARFE's 'GRASS ROOTS ADVOCACY MONTH' which used to be called Lobby Month.

Please take time to contact Congressman Norm Dicks or Congressman Jay Inslee and our two Senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. You can make an appointment to speak to their staff at their District Office or write them a letter or send them an email. Let them know how important 'Premium Conversion' (H.R. 1203/S.491) and the Social Security offset correction (H.R. 235/S.484) are to federal employees and those still working for the government.

**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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Rex Tauscher

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Norene Torkelson

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

George Eads

**NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE**

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

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**CHAPLAIN**

Myra Clodius

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Gladys Berteaux

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Don Serry

Vacant

**SERVICE CENTER**

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