



September 2009

NUMBER 07-09

General Meeting Date & Time: September 14, 2009, 1:00 p.m.

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

Program: CONGRESSMAN NORM DICKS' DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

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.

For those members who will not attend our November 9th chapter meeting, the Health Fair, this message is for you. The August issue of our NARFE magazine, page 36, has an absentee ballot for the "2009 NARFE Dues Referendum". This referendum establishes a 'single dues' for yearly membership. This 'single dues' includes chapter, state, and national dues. Dues will be \$40 per year and will apply uniformly across America. Cut out and mail your "Special Voter's Coupon" to: Bill Powers, 3507 Perry Ave NE, Bremerton, WA 98310.

For those attending our September 14th meeting, our Treasurer, Rex Tauscher, will give a breakdown of the affect on our chapter & state finances (he is also the State Treasurer). Basically, when it is all said and done, there is very little difference for us. The main difference will be a single dues making bookkeeping much easier.

We have implemented a Kitsap Transit bus advertising campaign. We now have two queen size bus exterior displays (26" x 86") traveling around 'Kitsapland' that say: "FEDERAL EMPLOYEES: Laws can change, So can your Retirement___ (eraser marks) with National's website, the National toll free number, and PROTECT IT NOW!" We also have twenty interior bus overhead panel displays (9" x 17") that say: "FEDERAL EMPLOYEES: Don't let Congress target your retirement. Secure your earned retirement. Join NARFE today!" These advertisements will run through June 15, 2010. They cost \$2,555, half paid by National and half by us (Poulsbo & Port Orchard chapters each contributed \$100). If you happen to see one of these displays, drop me a line and let me know how you liked the display.

I have appointed Jean Lenihan as Nominating Committee Chair for election of officers this November. She will be sitting at the greeting table on meeting day. If you are interested in running for office, stop by the table for information.

August was "NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month". Due to the fact that our congressman, Norm Dicks, is well aware of our issues and that **healthcare** is the big issue presently, we decided to have Norm's District Representative, Ryan Dumm, speak at our September meeting. By that time we will have some idea how the "President's Health Care Plan" is materializing and how it will affect us.

Finally, NARFE magazine is looking for members who are artists or have taken up art as a hobby for a future story. If interested, contact NARFE through their website. Bill Powers

PROGRAM: Congressman Norm Dicks' District Representative, Ryan Dumm, will speak to us about the President's Health Care Plan as it affects our Federal Employee's Health Benefits. He will also tell us the latest on GPO/WEP and Premium Conversion.

AUGUST IS FOR ADVOCACY: August through Labor Day is when our elected representatives are on break and is our opportunity to contact them about healthcare reform, re-employment of retired federal employees, and crediting FERS sick leave to their retirement. But let's not stop at August! Let's contact them year-round about these important issues! Contact information for our elected representatives is on the back page of this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP: Welcome back to the world of NARFE. We hope you have had a wonderful summer, while your Executive Board continued to work on your behalf. I would like to remind you that our next general membership meeting will be September 14th (late in the month but that is the way the calendar works). We have a new Bulletin editor, Bea Bull. She and her husband are new NARFE members. Thanks Bea for stepping up and being a contributing member of our board and our chapter.

This report will combine two data months, July and August. In the month of August we dropped our voting membership to 1298 members, a new low. An audit of our membership lists this month brought out several discrepancies that have to be resolved with the national office.

Now for the bad news, these members have been dropped for non-renewal: Roland Christensen, Randal Crist, John Dean, Roland Jones, Delpha Jordan, Richard Kirchner, Bob Koch, Walter Konizeski, Alfred Larson, James Mathews, Curtis Naslund, Dorothy Richstein, S. P. Sageser, and Linda Smalley. Due to the lapse of time, letters have been sent and contacts have been made. Some of you on this list have already taken steps to renew your membership. I have no way of knowing who you are, so please accept my apologies for listing you and thanks in advance to all of you for renewing your membership.

On the more positive side, a listing of our new members and reinstatements:

Beatrice Bull, Todd Bull, Kendall Gholston, Diane Manning, Greg Pigeon, June Scott, Reta Ann Short, and Bonnie Stouffer. Thanks to all of you for joining NARFE or renewing your membership. To all members, please contact your Executive Board with questions or comments. We need your feedback and comments. See our listing on the back page of this Bulletin.
Ralph Sanders

SERVICE OFFICER: (Megan Winans)
I have decided that it is time for me to start looking into moving closer to one of my "little boys" instead of being here in Washington by myself. I will eventually end up living in Humboldt County, on the beautiful northern California coast. No sense putting my house on the market yet but am slowly getting rid of "stuff".

I have also been looking into what other things, apart from being with my kids, I can find to do down there. I made contact with the Eureka NARFE Chapter and they invited me to their BBQ in August. Apart from being a Life NARFE member, I am also a member of a Nationwide British Group and, although the group down there is different, it still gives me another group to find. And, I do water aerobics so will look into where they are available.

I am eligible to use the military TRICARE system since my husband was retired USAF so will find out if the Coast Guard station has a pharmacy. I have kept my civil service health insurance (can suspend it anytime since I am eligible for TRICARE) so this next Open Season I am going to request brochures from OPM for California.

My point is if you feel you need to move, start looking into what's available in that area that you can do and don't wait until the last minute to do your homework.

Pretty soon our monthly NARFE magazine will begin putting articles in about the Open Season for our Federal Health Insurance. Take time to make notes of anything you see that tells you about big changes happening to your insurance company. Allow plenty of time to do this and keep the Open Season material you get handy so you can order pamphlets from OPM Headquarters before the Open Season ends.

The serious part of being a Service Officer is getting information out to our members. But, as a retiree, I can relax and enjoy the rest of this gorgeous, but very dry summer. I hope that you, too, can enjoy time with your families and, perhaps take a ride down Humboldt County, California. The ride down there is beautiful, especially thru the Redwoods on the highway over to the coast from Grants Pass, Oregon. See you all at the meetings in the fall.

HAT'S OFF TO ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

Chapter Member Lillian Walker has been honored by the State of Washington. Mrs. Walker will have her oral history enshrined as part of the Washington State Secretary of State's Legacy Project for being a Kitsap Civil Rights Pioneer. Congratulations Lillian!

TREASURER: Our August board meeting report showed interest and dividends of a positive \$926.87. For those of you who follow the report closely, the cause of the prior newsletter report was the market value of our Life Member Trust Fund, for every dime change in value we gain or lose \$190. Our Net Worth as of 31 July was \$35,842.73 with the Life member trust portion at \$23,345.68 for an operating balance of \$12,497.05.

Our chapter budget for this year is posted on our chapter web site 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 also 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 me, or bring them to our next meeting.

Our return mailings appear to be increasing again. For all of our members who are returning to warmer weather of the south, and all members who have changed your apartment numbers, please send your change of address to **NARFE Chapter 181, P.O. Box 5025, Bremerton, WA 98312-0462**. Rex Tauscher

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ): The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 31 July was

\$146.21. Donations in the amount of \$58.00 were received since our last report. We have collected 264.4 pounds of aluminum to date since the beginning of April, so keep up the good work. The price per pound has dropped but it still makes a difference in our collection to help with research for a cure.

A reminder that the Alzheimer's Memory Walk is again being held locally at the Silverdale Waterfront park on 19 September 2009.

We are keeping the Aluminum for Alzheimer's program active so keep dropping off your aluminum items at Westsound recycle in the East Bremerton WalMart 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" and should be credited to **NARFE Chapter 181**.
Rex Tauscher

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Rose Ann Bergsman, Carmen Boe, Cecilia Cook, Lilian Fitzwater, Vera Giannotti, Alice Gragert, Fen Hunt, Grant Moshner, Wesley Stansbury, James Stark, and Floyd Wright.

Get Well wishes were sent to Myra Clodius, Alyce Eagans, Richard Fewel, and Weiferd Wells.

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: (Bea Bull)
I'm honored to be the new editor for our NARFE newsletter! I first heard of NARFE when my husband and I attended our retirement seminar two years ago. I mentioned it to my mom, Pearl Lewis, and discovered that she's a member; she began passing along to me her copies of the NARFE magazine and the newsletter. I kept procrastinating about joining, even though I could see what an important organization NARFE is, until I saw the "Help Wanted" notice for a newsletter editor. I contacted Amber and, as they say, the rest is history. My husband and I are now NARFE members and I have found my way to contribute to this important organization.

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers
377-7917

1st VICE PRESIDENT

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

George Eads

NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster - Bob Edwards

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

1st & 3rd Tuesdays

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

District IV VP

Bill Powers

377-7917

powersw@silverlink.net

Region IX VP

Lanny Ross

692-9741

lannyjean@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bea Bull

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Patty Murray

950 Pacific Avenue #650

Tacoma, WA 98402

(202) 224-2621

www.murray.senate.gov

Senator Maria Cantwell

915 - 2nd Avenue #512

Seattle, WA 98174

(202) 224-3441

www.cantwell.senate.gov

Congressman Norm Dicks

345 - 6th Street #500

Bremerton WA 98337

(202) 225-5916

www.house.gov/dicks

Congressman Jay Inslee

17791 Fjord Dr. NE #112

Poulsbo, WA 98370

(202) 225-6311

www.house.gov/inslee