



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION, BREMERTON CHAPTER 181**

P.O. Box 5025, Bremerton, WA 98312-0462

December 2009

NUMBER 10-09

General Meeting Date & Time: December 14, 2009, 1:00PM

Meeting Place: Bremerton Elks Club
4131 Pine Road NE, Bremerton

Program: HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
Meet & Greet at 12:00, Lunch Served at 1:00

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.

**IF YOU HAVEN'T YET MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON, PLEASE
CALL JOYCE LIBSACK AT 479-5007!**

**THERE WILL BE A BOX AT THE ELKS FOR NON-PERISHIBLE GOODS
PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATIONS**

PRESIDENT: NARFE scored a major legislative victory last month with passage of the 2010 Defense Authorization bill. Read the Legislative Report in NARFE's December magazine for details. My main item is that the "FERS" unused sick leave can now be credited toward retirement. This has been a priority list item for two years. Its passage will increase productivity, decrease agency costs, and level the playing field between the old retirement system, CSRS, and the present retirement system, FERS. Another item in this bill that may affect me is the new provision for re-employed annuitants being hired part-time by a federal agency without offset of annuity from salary. I recently passed the test for 2010 census enumerator. I look forward to the job but don't look forward to visiting houses with Rottweiler guard dogs of those who didn't turn in their census questionnaire.

NARFE testified at a Senate hearing concerning Long-Term Care Insurance rate hikes for those of us who had automatic compound inflation protection. Another article in our December magazine covers this item. When I took out my Long-Term Care Insurance, I was also promised no rate increase. I got hit with a 35% increase, more than mentioned in the NARFE article. I chose a non-forfeiture benefit of paid-up insurance, plus I started my own personal account with the premium amounts I would have paid to my provider.

The National Dues Referendum results for our chapter are 92% in favor of single national dues. Our chapter gets 26 votes so we cast 24 YES and 2 NO. We will be notified of national results next month.

This year's Holiday Luncheon and Installation of Chapter officers is on December 14th, the same day that is projected to be the busiest shopping day before Christmas. Our Chapter historian, Gladys, will have several pictures displayed for those of you who are long-time members. Lanny Ross, our Region IX VP, will install officers plus be our guest speaker. If you plan to attend and haven't made reservations yet, call Joyce Libsack at 479-5007.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Chapter Meeting, January 11th 1:00PM
Chapter Meeting, February 8th 1:00PM

PRESIDENT cont.

As for the economy, our state's unemployment rate is at 9.3%, much better than the national rate of 10.2%. The CPI-W that calculates inflation only increased 0.1% last month. Stocks have been on a tear in the last six months and some analysts are saying that Wall Street got 'the sleigh in front of the reindeer'.

In closing I want to welcome Linda Sanders, Ed Saftich, Arleen Irion, and Bea Bull for filling ALL of our executive board positions for 2010. Bill Powers

MEMBERSHIP: We are hoping to see you all at the Elks Club on December 14 for our annual holiday lunch. There are details in this bulletin about where and when to send your reservations. I would like to thank all of you who signed up to receive the Bulletin electronically. Thanks to Editor Bea the bulletin is now available to all members who are on "E" mail. If you want to visit past editions of our Bulletin it is available on the District 4/Chapter 181 web site. Please avail yourselves to this extra service and other chapter information that we did not have available to us before the web site was established.

I would also thank those members who continue to sign up for multiple years of dues. You probably have no idea how much time and money that saves our organization. The better deal is still "dues withholding". This saves both you and the organization time and money.

Now for those members who have been dropped for non-renewal: Woodrow Arneson, Jean Inman, Norma Johnson, Frank Knowles, Geneva Lowe, Keith Mahaulu, Frank Mapes, Nancy Metcalf, Elizabeth Nordeen, Maryann Spires, and Patricia Stone. If you know any of these members, please urge them to reinstate their membership.

Welcome back to our reinstatements and a welcome aboard for our new members: Richard Albro, Kathleen Dulaney, Ben Hemstreet, Dorothy Jarvis, Alfred Larson, George Matanane, Judd Metzger, Joseph Phillips, Evelyn Walton, and Roy Walton. We thank you for your membership and hope that you will participate in your chapter. Ralph Sanders

SERVICE OFFICER: By the time you receive your December newsletter, you will only

have a few days left for the Health Insurance Open Season; December 14th is the final day!!! December also means that this year is almost over, so start collecting your information for income tax filing. Not good news I know. With some of us getting federal retirement, Social Security and, maybe, military benefits, end of year reports will be arriving before the January newsletter hits the mail boxes.

Winter-time with cold, rainy, and even snowy days is a time when we spend more time inside our houses, so this makes it a good time to do some sorting of paperwork. My filing tray seems to get full very quickly, so this is a good time to get the papers sorted out and filed away.

I keep monthly billing folders in my file cabinet, but clean them out now and again and shred or burn the stuff in them. Lots of the billing stuff we really do not need to keep for very long but anything to do with our filing of income taxes really should be kept for a longer time.

While you are sorting thru your own files, maybe it would be a good time to check out your legal documents and make sure they are still up-to-date. I feel this is my duty to make things easier for my sons when anything happens to me. Working in Human Resources, I learned very quickly how much inaccurate documents could slow things down for everyone. I had my Will redone last year since there had been some changes that needed to be taken care of.

Many of us may be traveling over the holidays - a wonderful time to be with family. Prepare your house when you travel - make sure your newspapers are stopped or put on hold. I like to read the local newspapers after a trip, so I have a hold put on them when gone for a while. Newspapers stacking up on your driveway is an advertisement that you are away from home. (Editor's Note: If you prefer, you can "stop" your newspaper while you're away, which extends your subscription by that many days.)

Before you leave, make a list of things you need to take care of prior to your departure. I do this every time - put the list up on a kitchen cabinet and check things off once you have taken care of them.

Some of your Chapter officers were at the Conference Center, downtown Bremerton, when they had the Open Season Health Fair - mainly for current employees. Bremerton Chapter is very lucky to have enough members to also make it possible for our own Chapter to have a Health Fair. Hope you did not miss it this year. Megan Winans

TREASURER: Our November general meeting report showed total receipts of \$1,655.78 and expenditures of \$1,125.62. Our Net Worth as of 31 October was \$37,384.49 with the Life member trust portion at \$24,263.24 for an operating balance of \$13,121.25. Detailed treasurer reports are available at our general and executive board meetings.

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 in 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 have decreased so keep reporting any changes in your addresses including 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 18 November was \$401.44. Donations in the amount of \$45.00 were received since our last report. Thanks to the following people for their donations: Loraine Brockerman, Ms. Lund, memorial donations in memory of Donald Serry, Elaine Youngs-Lovlie, and Richard and Rosetta Bobbitt. We have collected 356 pounds of aluminum to date since the beginning of April, so keep up the good work. The price per pound will hopefully go up some before we request payment.

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". Your aluminum can be dropped off at that site and credited to **NARFE Chapter 181.**

The State Federation is still looking for a replacement "Alzheimer's Chairman" so I am holding off sending in our quarterly donation at this time. Rex Tauscher

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Hobart A. Bailey, Norman L. Cook, Thelma B. Fisher, Dorothy Graber (wife of member Henry Graber), Frank L Mapes, Gordon D McGill, Clarence A Radford, and Eric Vehrs. Get Well cards and wishes were sent or delivered to Norene Torkelson and Joseph Showman.

If you know of a Chapter members who is ill and should receive a get well card, please contact us so we can get a card out to them. Norene Torkelson

EDITOR: A few more tips for when you'll be away from home for an extended period of time:

1. Place a hold on your mail so that it isn't sitting in your mail box while you're away. I prefer to take the "Place Hold" card to the Post Office so I know they got it.

2. Put your lights on timers. We set up two: One in the living room to turn on in the evening and off around 9PM, and one in the bedroom to turn on around 8PM and off around 10PM.

3. If it is at all possible, find a neighbor, friend, or family member to make sure all your safety precautions are working properly. Our neighbor reports newspapers and mail being delivered while we're gone despite our best efforts. Also, a package may be left, a phone book dropped on the doorstep, or some other little thing that can't be foreseen.

4. We also give our neighbor our cell phone number so he can let us know if a tree falls on the house or the place burns to the ground. That's the phone call we DO NOT want to get!

Happy Traveling, Everyone!! May the flights be on time and the baggage not lost!! Bea Bull

"Thank you!" to everyone who has signed up for the e-mailed newsletter! This saves our Chapter printing and mailing costs. If you would like this service, please contact me at tbkbull@aol.com. Thanks!!

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers
377-7917

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Amber VanSantford

2nd VICE PRESIDENT**Membership Chair**

Ralph Sanders

SECRETARY

Linda Sanders

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

ASSISTANT TREASURER

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Megan Winans

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Myra Clodius

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**UNTIL 2010**

Gladys Berteaux

Donald A. Palmer

J. R. Seibold

UNTIL 2011

Bea Bull

Arleen Irion

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Bea Bull

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