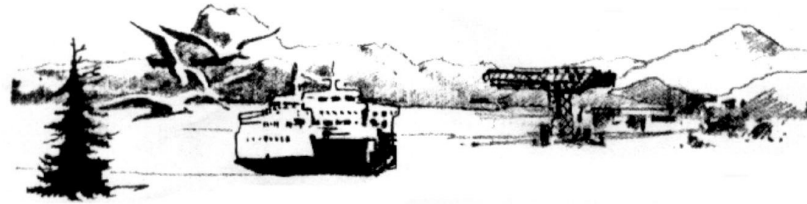




MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

January 2010

NUMBER 01-10

General Meeting Date & Time: January 11, 2010, 1:00PM

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

Program: REGION IX VICE PRESIDENT, LANNY ROSS
"STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION"

NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned

Every year the President of the United States reports to Congress on the State of the Union. Chapter 181 is very lucky to have the most senior member of the NARFE National Board as a member - we've invited Lanny Ross to give us a "State of the Organization" speech.

PRESIDENT: The National "Single Dues Referendum" was defeated at the national level. The referendum required a national 2/3 majority (66.7%) but fell short by 1.3% with 65.4% voting yes. NARFE will have a follow-up article in the February magazine.

Based on October's and November's membership reports, our Region IX Regional Vice President, Lanny Ross, is reporting that NARFE membership roles have finally made a turn around at the national level. After years of declines in membership numbers, it is nice to see gains in membership. Lanny will be our guest speaker at our

January Chapter meeting and will give us some insight.

Healthcare reform continues to be followed very closely by our NARFE lobbyists in Washington D.C. It is anticipated that any legislation passed should have little effect on our Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP). NARFE continues to withhold endorsement of any House or Senate plan. A key item that we are watching is a separate risk pool for any broadening of participation in the FEHBP. Also NARFE considers any reform should have efficiencies and savings to help lower the double-digit FEHBP premium increases that have become commonplace over the last decade.

I enjoyed our Holiday Luncheon put on by Joyce Libsack and her committee at the Elks Lodge 1181 to close out 2009. Our 2010 slate of officers were sworn in and I am looking forward to working together in the coming year. Bill Powers

UPCOMING EVENTS:	Rummage Sale, Saturday, February 7 th		Westside Improvement Club
	Chapter Meeting, February 8 th	1:00PM	
	Chapter Meeting, March 8 th	1:00PM	
	District Workshop, March 8 th	9:00AM - 3:00PM	Westside Improvement Club

MEMBERSHIP: This will be our end of the year report, with a few numbers for you to look at. We finished this year with 1270 voting members, 67 fewer members than we started with. Our greatest loss was in the non-payment of dues category. This is something that all Chapters are struggling with. We need to do a better job of retaining our member base. At the present time we are not recruiting enough members to offset the deceased members and those dropped for non-payment of dues.

Bea, the editor, is doing a great job on this newsletter as a whole. She is working on increasing our electronic delivery and it has increased every month but we still have a ways to go. We have about 200 members with a listed e-mail address but only 27 are receiving their newsletter via e-mail. If you think you would like to try the e-mail version, let one of us know. If you find that you do not like it, we will gladly shift you back to postal mail.

Also, it would be beneficial to all members with e-mail capability to sign up for GEMS, (NARFE Global Email Messaging System). This will allow you to receive information from the national office as it is happening. No waiting for next month's magazine. Please sign up at the national web site.

Now for those members who have been dropped for non-renewal: Charles Dominy, Gloria Dumas, Gregory Fessler, James Grider, Michael Hunter, Patrick Keller, Hilma Swanson. We need your help to reinstate these members; 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: Clara Barr, Richard Beahm, Joanne Cornell, Barbara Heym, William Lorraine, Edith Lowe, Patricia Lund, Ronald Lund, Loretta Pedigo, and Harry Steinkraus. We thank you for your membership and hope that you will participate in your Chapter. Ralph Sanders

TREASURER: Our December general meeting report showed total receipts

of \$1,483.88 and expenditures of \$744.84. Our Net Worth as of 30 November was \$38,123.23 with the Life Member trust portion at \$24,366.69 for an operating balance of \$13,756.54. 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 me, 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 16 December was \$471.54. Donations in the amount of \$70 were received since our last report. Thanks to donations from Loraine Brockerman and a memorial donation in memory of Donald Serry received from Rex and Carol Tauscher.

We have collected 405 pounds of aluminum to date since the beginning of April, so keep up the good work. Hopefully the price per pound will 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 recycling 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.**

We are also planning on holding our **Rummage Sale** again this year, with a table at the Westside Improvement Club Saturday 7 February 2010. If you have any items that you wish to donate to the cause, please contact me at **360-275-5769**, or bring the items to our 11 January 2010 general meeting.

Charitable donation receipts for 2009 will be mailed out by mid January to all members who donated \$10 or more. Thanks again for supporting the effort to find a cure. Rex Tauscher

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Joseph Arena, Carol Bayes, Dorothy Cokelet, Henry Graber, Elma Morrison, Dwight Pace (Past Federation President), and Joseph Showman.

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

EDITOR: Bea Bull Ralph stated in the Membership article that signing up for GEMS (NARFE Global Email Messaging System) is beneficial. To sign up go to the National NARFE website <http://www.narfe.org/home/> and click on MEMBERS in the center directly below the masthead. There will be a blue box where you'll enter you last name and your membership number, which you'll find on the back of your NARFE magazine. The first time you attempt to log in you'll receive a message that you can't access the site; there will be an option to contact the webmaster. In your message to the webmaster, state that you're trying to log in for the first time and include your name, membership number, and your date of birth. I believe you'll receive a message back from the webmaster when your information has been updated and you can access the website.

Once you're logged in, you will find a blue banner down the left side of the page. Under the heading WHAT YOU CAN DO ONLINE, select JOIN GEMS. Simply enter your membership number and your date of birth and you're all set.

Here's what I like about GEMS: When something important is happening in the Senate or House of Representatives, GEMS send me an e-mail telling me about how it will affect our benefits. In the email there will be a link to a site where an already-formatted email to Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and/or Norm Dicks is simply waiting for me to click on the SEND button. Getting involved and having a voice in what happens to our benefits couldn't be any easier!

So, be heard! Sign up for GEMS and let our Congress People know what we want them to do!

"Thank you!" to everyone who has signed up for the e-mailed newsletter! This saves our Chapter printing and mailing costs of \$4.50 per member per year. PLUS, you get the newsletter a couple weeks sooner! If you would like this service, please contact me at tbkbull@aol.com. Thanks!

A LOOK BACK AT OUR HISTORY

By our former Historian, Rex Tauscher

The chronological events from our charter date of 12 May 1952 to the date of May 1977 are of interest to me as your Historian. We had a slow start with 122 members in December of 1953 and 176 in 1959 with dues of 50 cents per year. In 1959 the chapter urged raising the dues in order to put out a monthly circular or newsletter to members to arouse their interest. This move was stopped in its tracks by the strong opposition by the Chapter treasurer. Finally in 1962 when the dues were raised to \$1.00 the Chapter and NARCE (National Association of Retired Civil Employees) started a rapid growth. In 1963 additional Chapters were assisted by Chapter 181 for the formation of Poulsbo Chapter 881 and Port Orchard Chapter 888 and later the Sequim Chapter 1006.

In 1976 Chapter 181 ranked 2nd in the nation with 2,192 members with Manhattan Chapter 23 of New York City as number 1 with 2,786 members.

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers
377-7917

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Amber VanSantford

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Membership Chair
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SECRETARY

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UNTIL 2010

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12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

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