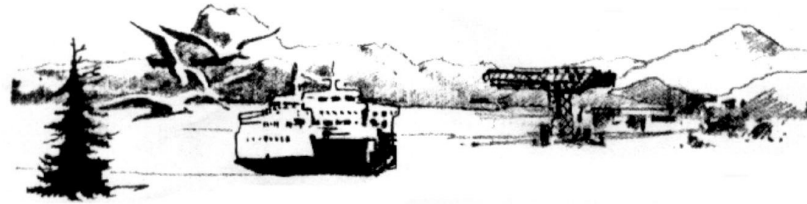




MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

February 2010

NUMBER 02-10

General Meeting Date & Time: February 8, 2010, 1:00PM

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

Program: PATTY LENT, BREMERTON CITY MAYOR

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.

Patty Lent will speak about the changes taking place in Bremerton and her view of the future of our fair city.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Rummage Sale
Saturday, February 6th
9:00AM**

Westside Improvement Club

**Chapter Meeting
March 8th 1:00PM**

**District Workshop
March 8th
9:00AM - 3:00PM
Westside Improvement Club**

**Chapter Meeting
April 12th 1:00PM**

**PLEASE NOTE
CORRECTIONS:**

**THE DATE FOR THE
RUMMAGE SALE AND
THE TIME FOR THE
DISTRICT WORKSHOP**

PRESIDENT: At January's meeting, our own Region IX (WA, OR, ID, MT, AK) VP, Lanny Ross, happily reported that, nationally, NARFE has had monthly membership gains for **three** consecutive months. This is after several years of membership declines. NARFE national membership now stands at 312,739.

Our COLA (cost of living adjustment) after the first three months of 2010 fiscal year stands at -1.8% (negative). It appears inflation will stay under control for at least another year with **no** inflation adjustment in 2011. Now for the bad news, our unemployment rate in Washington State went up to **9.5%** for January 2010. "*When Times Get Bad - Recruitment Is Good*".

Our **District IV** (Olympic Peninsula) **Workshop** will be held on **March 8th** (our regular meeting date) in Bremerton's Westside Improvement Club (our regular meeting place). Every year we switch host Chapter in District IV and this year is Bremerton's turn. The workshop will run from 9:30AM to 3:00PM with a hot lunch (ham and potatoes). The cost will be \$12.50 (same as last year) this also includes coffee and doughnuts in the morning. Our guest speaker will be Patty Murray's Kitsap and Olympic Peninsula Director, Kristiné Reeves. Plus Kristiné is planning on bringing Patty Murray's Health Care Specialist to the meeting. There is a scheduled agenda with specifics and *reservation information* on our website. ► **Contact me if you plan on attending.** ◀

I want each of you to review page 16 of February's NARFE magazine. It lists the present legislative accomplishments of our lobbyists in D.C. I also want to remind all of you retirees who did **not** receive a \$250 economic recovery payment in 2009, to fill out a schedule '**M**' for your tax credit. This item is on line 40, if you fill out an Income Tax Return Form 1040A.

In closing, first I want to thank our Executive Board for working on our completely revised/rewritten "*Chapter Constitution and By-Laws*". It is close to being ready for presentation to Chapter/State/National for approval.

Second, I am asking for a couple volunteers to help Joyce Libsack with the treasurer audit the morning of, and prior to, our February Chapter meeting.

Finally, don't forget Valentine's Day and thanks for supporting NARFE. Bill Powers

**TAX-AIDE OFFERS FREE INCOME TAX
RETURN PREPARATION AND FILING**

**Tax-Aide Sites
February 1 through April 15, 2010**

The IRS and AARP jointly sponsor a program staffed by volunteers to prepare and file income tax returns electronically at no cost to the taxpayers. Although intended for elderly and low-income families, all taxpayers are welcome. However, a taxpayer's return requiring the reporting of significant business income or loss, any rental income or First-Time Homebuyer credit are beyond the scope of this program. Tax-Aide volunteers are prepared to handle most other 2009 tax law changes.

Taxpayers **MUST** bring: (1) photo identification, (2) social security cards for all persons on the tax return, (3) all 2009 tax documents, such as statements of income from wages, retirement, social security, interest, dividends and brokerage statement & (4) your checkbook or other document from a financial institution that shows the routing & account numbers for direct deposit of refunds. A copy of the taxpayer's 2008 return is useful for various reasons. If in doubt about the paperwork, bring it all and let us sort it out.

Please plan to arrive early. We try not to begin preparation of a new return during the last half hour before closing time to ensure that returns are completed before volunteers are expected to vacate the space used.

Bainbridge Island Main Library
1270 Madison Ave. N, Bainbridge Island
Mon, Wed, and Fri: 10:30 AM to 1 PM
Mon: 5:30 to 7:30 PM

BHA Admin Office (Westpark)
110 Russell Road, Bremerton
Mon and Sat: 11 AM to 3 PM
Closed Feb 13th & 15th)

Givens Community Center
26 Sidney Ave, Port Orchard
Thu: 9 AM to 1 PM

Silverdale Community Center
9729 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale
Tue and Thu: 10 AM to 2 PM

Olympic College
1600 Chester Ave. Bremerton
Tue, Wed, and Thu: 12:30 to 4:30 P

Manchester Library
8067 E. Main St. Manchester
Mon: 4 to 8 PM

Port Orchard Library
87 Sidney Ave. Port Orchard
Sat: 1 to 4 PM

St. Gabriel's Catholic Church
1150 Mitchell Ave. Port Orchard
Tue: 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Martha and Mary Health/Rehab
19160 Front St. Poulsbo
Thu: 1 to 5 PM
Fri and Sat: 10 AM to 2 PM

Sheridan Park Center
680 Lebo Blvd. Bremerton
Wed: 9 AM to 2 PM
Thu: 9 AM to 1 PM

MEMBERSHIP: Last month we talked about joining the e-mail delivery system of our monthly newsletter. You responded in a big way! We've jumped from 27 members receiving e-mailed newsletters to about 75. Thank you for your response.

Let me address e-mail address security. I assure you that we **do not, will not**, give or share your e-mail address with any one or any organization. If you provide your e-mail address to the National Office, they will share that information with the Chapter and State Federation along with your phone number and mailing address. That is necessary to carry on the business of NARFE. However, we the Chapter, will not share your e-mail address with the National Office or anyone else.

We do urge you to share your e-mail address with the national office so that you can avail yourself to the program called "GEMS" (NARFE Global Email Messaging System). This also allows you to get updates and feedback from the National Office on a regular basis; send letters to your member of Congress; keep track of their voting record; and much more.

The following members were dropped for non-renewal: Wayne Burnside, John Frender, Agnes Hansen, Arthur Knowles, and Robert Muhleman. We urge these members to reinstate their membership. If you know any of these members, please give them a call.

A hearty welcome for those members who are transferring, reinstating, or are new to NARFE: Lois Forbes, Robert Green, Emil Griebel,

Frank Knowles, Walter Konizeski, Benjamin Lewis, Patricia Maroon, Howard Ruscin, and Inga Shay. We thank you for your membership and hope that you will become active in our Chapter.

Now for a category that we do not see very often any more, Prospective Members: Paul Bragg, Dedrick Easley, James Mathews, Marion Mittet, and Michael Wastel. We hope that you will find NARFE interesting and useful and that you will join our Chapter in the near future. If you have issues or questions please contact any of the executive board members listed on the last page of this bulletin. Ralph Sanders

SERVICE OFFICER: Megan Winans I know it is only February but it's never too early to start collecting your paperwork for income tax purposes. I have a folder that has pockets on each page in which to put my documents. I keep it near where I read my mail; anything I may need for income tax purposes (i.e. interest paid statements, income from stocks notices, or any other documentation of money I receive) goes into my folder. It is also where I keep receipts for medical expenses I paid out of pocket. The Office of Personnel Management statement shows what I paid for health insurance and the 1099-R shows what income tax I paid.

You could get similar documents from the military if you receive retired military pay or military survivor benefits. Just don't wait until the last minute (April 15th) to track down all the forms you will need.

TREASURER: Our January general meeting report showed total receipts of \$1,845.22 and expenditures of \$2,148.50. Our Net Worth as of 31 December was \$38,091.39 with the Life member trust portion at \$24,242.96 for an operating balance of \$13,848.43. Detailed treasurer reports are available at our general and executive board meetings.

NARFE Scholarships: There are six NARFE Scholarships available in Northwest's Region IX. They are open to children, grandchildren, stepchildren, and great-grand children of any NARFE member in good standing.

All Applicants must be current high school seniors with at least a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Detailed information and application forms will be in the February, March, and April editions of NARFE magazine and on the web at www.narfe.org. You can also check with your high school counselors for information.

The Chapter budget has been approved by the Executive Board and the total budget is set at \$14,531.00. Copies of the budget are available at our general meetings and will also be available on line at www.narfewadist4.org.

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. Rex Tauscher

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ): The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 21 January was \$521.65. Donations in the amount of \$50.00 were received since our last report. Thanks to donations from Loraine Brockerman, Robert Brown, and Donald and Thelma Taylor. We have collected over 400 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.

Charitable Donation receipts for 2009 were mailed out in January to all members who donated \$10 or more. Thanks again for supporting the effort to find a cure. Rex Tauscher

ALUMINUM DROP-OFF POINTS

- ▶ Westsound Recycle
East Bremerton WalMart parking lot
- ▶ Port Orchard Mall
Let them know your donation is for the Bremerton NARFE Chapter

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of Howard Bungard, David Hersch, Warren Hicks, Edward Kalmbach, Eldon Kindt, Harry Lohman, and Clinton McCorkle.

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

"Thank you!" to everyone who has signed up for the e-mailed newsletter! We now have just over 75 members receiving their newsletters via e-mail. If you would like this service, please contact me at tbkbull@aol.com. Thanks!! Bea

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1st VICE PRESIDENT

Amber VanSantford

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Ralph Sanders

SECRETARY

Linda Sanders

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Zora Davis

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Ralph Sanders

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Norene Torkelson

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SERVICE CENTER

1140 Nipsic Avenue
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