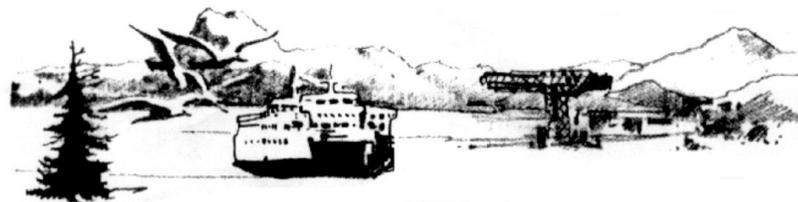




MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

June 2011

NUMBER 06-11

General Meeting Date & Time: June 13, 2011, 1:00PM

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

**Program: A SPEAKER FROM THE SOUTH KITSAP FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL DISCUSS THE
MERGER BETWEEN THE SOUTH KITSAP AND BREMERTON FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

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 .

UPCOMING EVENTS

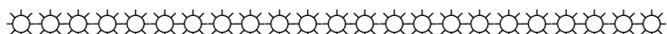
**No meetings in July and August.
Happy Summer! Safe Travels!!**

***Chapter Meeting**

September 12th

***Chapter Meeting**

October 10th



PRESIDENT

George Eads

I'd like to thank all Chapter 181 members who attended this year's conference in Spokane Valley. It was enjoyable, informative, and a chance once again to meet old friends and make new ones.

Many pertinent topics were covered at this conference but I want to focus on two presentations, one by NARFE National Secretary, Elaine Hughes and the other by Region IX Vice President, Lanny Ross.

Ms. Hughes informed us that the debt limit was reached Monday, May 16th, but that the deadline for increasing the statutory limit on the public debt has been extended to August 1st. All Federal employees and annuitants must remain vigilant and respond immediately to GEMS alerts as budget hawks apply their leverage while coming to a consensus on making unprecedented cuts in federal spending. Our pay, retirement, and health benefits are still on the line and we must be ready to defend them.

Besides the threats of which we are already aware, Senator Richard Burr, NC, recently introduced S. 644, which would eliminate any defined benefit retirement

plan for newly hired FERS employees; they would have only their TSP and Social Security. Without the FERS annuity, there would be no FERS Survivor Benefit; and, under this bill, future FERS retirees and survivors would not be eligible to participate in the FEHBP. This would be the first time since 1920 that the federal government would not have a defined benefit plan. We cannot allow this to happen. Now is the time to contact your Senators and Representatives and tell them to vote against this bill. Go to www.NARFE.org, click on the link to sign the petition to Congress and to tell your story. It's important for our Congress people to know who we are and what we do; our names and faces have more impact on them than a vague idea that some people out there don't like what's happening.

Lanny discussed how, even while threatening to reduce or do away with some federal benefits, the Government is now using the monies from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund and from the TSP G fund to make room under the debt ceiling. Until August 2, 2011, the government can free up \$17 billion by keeping the cash, by redeeming investments, and by suspending new investments in the retirement and disability fund. Also, by suspending reinvestment into the G Fund, the Treasury can generate an additional \$130 billion in headroom.

In a reassuring quote by Tom Trabucco, a TSP spokesperson, read by Lanny, we learned that "The fundamental message is G Fund investors are fully protected. This will have no effect on TSP activities. Participants may continue to contribute, borrow and withdraw. Their accounts will be updated every day. The fundamental message I would like to send is G Fund

Continued Page 2

President cont.

investors should not feel their investments are at risk and feel, 'I've got to protect my investments by moving to another fund.'"

By law, the funds will be made whole once the debt limit is increased; this has occurred five times in the last 15 years: in 1996, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006. However, the question this time is: What happens if the debt limit is not increased? I can't stress it enough; we need to be watching what is unfolding in real-time and be ready to act at a moment's notice. Get online, sign up for GEMS, and be ready to make your voice heard, loudly, on Capitol Hill!

CALL TO ACTION

Tell your story!

What you can do:

- Go to www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org and submit what you currently do or have done for this country;
- Read the article on page 20 of your June NARFE magazine, then tell Congress what you think about the \$375 billion in cuts over 10 years to federal pay and benefits.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

This is for folks who are online and have the ability to receive email. With our earned benefits being put at risk as the budget battles are waged on Capitol Hill, NARFE will continue to issue email Action Alerts if member advocacy is needed on an emergency basis. Make sure NARFE has your email address on record so you can help fend off cuts in retirement, pay and health benefits! Go to the NARFE website, www.narfe.org, sign in as a member, and click on "Join Gems" in the left panel of the Members Home Page under "What You Can Do Online." Do not be concerned about receiving advertising or other junk email. I have been a member of GEMS since it was started, over fifteen years ago, and none of that has been a problem.

Moving on, in our paperless society, first renewal notices will be issued via email. There will be instructions included in that notice as to how to respond. Please respond as soon as possible so that a second notice will not be required; this will help NARFE save lots of dollars in postage and mailings. If you are not an email user, use the national magazine and other periodicals as you always have and please continue to contact your members of Congress on issues important to federal employees/annuitants.

The following members were dropped for non-renewal: Steven Bladwin, Dedrick Easley, David Farr, Agnes

Hansen, Randolph Hunt, Dorothy Larson, James Leibensperger, Jean Parks, Sharon Prewitt, Christine Snow, Jewell Sollie, Tim Taylor, William Truemper and Mary Wofford. If you know any of these members please contact them about renewing their membership.

Welcome to those members who are new or have reinstated their membership in our Chapter: Hazel Colvin, Susan Dabell, Clifford Lightfoot, Roberta Plattner and Margaret Weems. We do appreciate your membership and, if we may be of service, please contact any Board Member listed in this bulletin.

Bremerton Chapter 181 received the award for "Most Reinstated Members" at the Federation Convention!

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ You can now sign up for dues withholding on the NARFE website: www.narfe.org;
- ✓ People 45 and older represent about 60% of voters in the U.S. **We have the voice; let's use it!**

SERVICE CENTER NOTICE

The Service Center will be closed until further notice. Please contact Ralph Angulo, the District IV Service Officer, with any questions you would have directed to Megan. See back page for contact information.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for April as reported at our May meeting was \$1,049.79 with expenditures of \$388.50. Our Net Worth as of 30 April was \$37,607.42. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting.

Please save your receipts from Red Apple Markets in Bremerton, Kitsap Lake, Silverdale, and Poulsbo for the collection and payment of 1% of their grocery receipts. We collected \$198.96 during 2010; year to date for 2011 we have collected \$42.39. You can turn in the receipts to Norene Torkelson or me, or bring them to our next meeting.

Reminder: Red Apple receipts must be current "NOT OVER THREE (3) MONTHS OLD" to be honored by the program.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 30 April was \$179.39. Donations in the amount of \$55.00, were

Alzheimer's cont.

received at the April general meeting. "Thank you" to Lorraine Brockerman, Robert Brown, Bea Bull, and Gerald Webb for their donations.

Please note: Checks should be made out to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research" (NARFE is the key word and is required!).

**A total of \$875.00 was raised for
Alzheimer's Research
at the Federation Convention.**

Thank you for recycling your aluminum! The last check of the Aluminum collection to date we had approximately 425 pounds.

ALUMINUM DROP-OFF POINTS

▶ Westsound Recycle

East Bremerton WalMart parking lot

▶ Port Orchard Mall

**Let them know your donation is for the Bremerton
Chapter - NARFE 181**

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to Shirley Darling (wife of member Cyrus W. Darling) and the families of Tina George, Darlene Heard, Lyle McDougall and Betty Spigler. 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.

KITSAP COMPUTING SENIORS

Monthly meetings are held at the Silverdale Community Center; 9729 Silverdale Way, Silverdale, on the ground floor; the third Monday of each month (except July and August) 10:00 am to 12 noon. You can attend a meeting before becoming a member.

Membership is \$20 per year; you receive hundreds of hours of computer classes. Beginner's classes have a waiting list and require membership. Visit their website at <http://ffogynews.org/> or contact President Larry DuSavage, (360) 792-6972, LADLAD@comcast.net, or Vice President Roberta Messinger, (360) 613-0421, RobertaM160@telebyte.com.

"Thank you!" to the **132** people who have signed up for the e-mailed newsletter plus **3** who receive the large print version! Remember, it saves our Chapter money, plus you have the benefit of receiving the newsletter sooner. If you would like this service, please contact me at tbkbull@aol.com. Thanks!!
Bea Bull

Total Membership: 1140 Percentage receiving emailed newsletter: 11.84% (Last month was 11.26%)

NEED A LARGE-PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

A large-print version of this newsletter is available via email only. It is in size 16 font, is formatted in a single column, and runs about 14 pages long. Email me if you'd like to sign up for this version of the newsletter. tbkbull@aol.com

SIZE 16 FONT looks like this

HELP WANTED

**SERVICE OFFICER; 1st VICE PRESIDENT;
LEGISLATIVE CHAIR; and TELEPHONE CONTACT**

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

The Chapter Legislative Chair keeps track of legislative actions in the House of Representatives & Senate in Washington D.C. and makes regular but brief reports about significant items at our Chapter meetings. This is done in three ways:

1. Read the NARFE magazine legislative articles monthly.
2. Sign up for GEMS and read the email alerts put out by our National NARFE headquarters.
3. Read the email information forwarded by our current Washington State Federation of Chapters Legislative Chair, Mike Teefy.

The Legislative Chair also attends local area briefing sessions when Congressional Representatives or Senators return from Washington D.C. during break and leave periods. This item is sometimes difficult because the Senators and Representatives are either booked or fundraising when home from Washington D.C.

The Legislative Chair attends the Legislative Training Conference in Washington D.C. in March of odd years (2011). This trip is partially funded by previously budgeted Chapter funds.

SERVICE OFFICER

Chapter 181 is looking for someone willing to be Service Officer. Please consider volunteering for this position. NARFE Headquarters has some good pamphlets that make it easy to explain things.

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Primary duties are finding speakers and arranging monthly programs; coordinating the annual Health Fair; contacting candidates and organizing Candidate's Day; and filling in for the President in his/her absence.

TELEPHONE CONTACT

Chapter 181 needs someone to call dropped members.

Please contact George Eads at 698-6078 or Jean Lenihan at 308-8165 to volunteer or for more information.

PRESIDENT

George Eads
698-6078

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Ralph Sanders

SECRETARY

Bill Powers

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Zora Davis

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Ralph Sanders

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Norene Torkelson

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Ed Saftich, Sr.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

SERVICE OFFICER

Vacant

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bea Bull

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

UNTIL 2011

Bea Bull

Arleen Irion

UNTIL 2012

Gladys Berteaux

Donald A. Palmer

J. R. Seibold

District IV VP

Bill Powers
377-7917
powersw@silverlink.net

Region IX VP

Lanny Ross
692-9741
lannyjean@comcast.net

NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster – Bob Edwards
www.narfewadist4.org

NARFE STATE WEBSITE

www.narfewa.net

NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE

www.narfe.org

SERVICE CENTER

Closed until further notice; contact Ralph Angulo, the District IV Service Officer at <http://www.narfewadist4.org/>; (360) 452-6592; or ralphangulo@yahoo.com

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
Local Number (360)-479-2126
www.house.gov/dicks

Congressman Jay Inslee
17791 Fjord Dr. NE #112
Poulsbo, WA 98370
(202) 225-6311
Local Number (360)-598-2342
www.house.gov/inslee

**SENIOR INFORMATION &
ASSISTANCE
360-337-5700 OR 1-800-562-6418**