



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

February 2012

NUMBER 02-12

General Meeting Date & Time: February 13, 2012, 1:00PM

Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club (479-9061), 4901 West E Street, Bremerton, WA
National Avenue & 'E' Street

Program: A speaker from Harrison Medical Center will discuss 'The Role of Integrative Therapies
in Health & Healing'

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

***Chapter Meeting** March 12th

***District Workshop** March 27th
Hosted by Olympic Peninsula Chapter 1006, Sequim
9:30AM – 3:00PM Sequim Elks Lodge

***Chapter Meeting** April 9th

***Chapter Meeting** May 14th

***Washington State Federation** May 14th – 16th
Convention; Vancouver, WA
Red Lion Hotel – Vancouver at the Quay



PRESIDENT

George Eads

Greetings Chapter Members:

It looks like winter has arrived here in Kitsap County. With the snow and ice on the roads, be very careful in your driving or walking not to slip or fall down if you have to go out.

With Congress back in session, it would be nice if they could get something done that would help the citizens of this great country. The really important issue is to pass the payroll tax exemption. If this is not passed or extended, it will mean that federal employees will bear a third of the cost of future pay freezes and increased retirement contributions. NARFE members are to **CALL CONGRESS** on **FEBRUARY 15th**.

I encourage you to get involved by calling your elected representative and to encourage your friends and family in other areas to do the same.

This is how to do it:

Step 1. Call the Capitol using NARFE's toll free number, 1-866-220-0044. Ask the operator to connect you to your representative's and/or senator's office.

Step 2. Tell the staff person who answers the phone where you live so they know you are a constituent. Tell them you are a member of NARFE and whether you are a retired or an active federal employee. Tell the staff person a little about your work, then state, "(Representative Norm Dicks) (Senator Patty Murray) represents thousands of federal workers and retirees and their survivors. Any plan that pays for 1/3 of the payroll tax cut by taking money out of the pockets of fewer than 2% of America's middle class is unacceptable, unfair and certainly isn't shared sacrifice."

Federal workers, retirees and survivors have already done their part, saving the federal government \$50 billion over two years. Making \$65 billion in further cuts to pay, earned health and retirement benefits, or making changes to cost-of-living adjustments, would unfairly single out those who protected our nation, including many now on a fixed income.

We are at a time when EVERYONE has to get involved if we have any hope for retaining our hard earned benefits. Thanks for all your efforts in supporting Chapter 181.

CALL TO ACTION

What you can do:

- Stay on top of what is happening in Congress by going to the www.NARFE.org home page and clicking on the links under the "NEWS FROM NARFE" heading.
- Continue to contact your Congressional Representatives; our input is still important.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

The U.S. House has returned to Washington, D.C. after their Christmas adjournment. Congress set up a conference committee in December at the same time it cleared a bill (PL 112-78) extending the payroll tax cut, jobless benefits and Medicare reimbursement schedule for two months. Conferees are meeting on a year-long extension bill (HR 3630) passed by the House. There is no comparable full-year Senate language.

President Obama is determined to have the tax cut and benefit extension as one of the centerpieces of his job recovery effort (the last two-month extension was passed in Dec. 2011- SJ Res. 24). This would continue a 2% cut in the Social Security payroll tax, extend long-term unemployment benefits and continue a reprieve for doctors from a 27% cut in their Medicare payments.

Although unstated at this time, Republicans appear to still want a bill paid for by freezing federal employee hiring and pay increases. The Democrats remain determined to have the tax cut and benefit extension, but paid for by tax increases on high income earners (with incomes over \$1 million). Absent congressional action, each of those programs will expire at the beginning of March, potentially dealing a blow to the economy's recovery.

The main issue remaining for Congress in this session is the \$1 trillion debt reduction previously agreed to by Congress and which was set before the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction in late 2011. The effort fell apart in late November, setting the stage for the automatic cuts. If Congress does not act, half of the cuts will come from military programs, and half will come from domestic spending programs.

The automatic cuts, which would take place under a process called sequestration, would translate to roughly an 8% across-the-board cut for non-defense discretionary spending. Education would be hard hit, losing more than 40,000 teachers and paraprofessionals, according to the National Education Association, the largest teachers' union in the country.*

Make sure you are current with NARFE notices for you to call and write your federal representatives in Congress as we become more aware of bills that affect us as retired and active federal employees. I am also available to answer questions you may have or to locate

information you may need on legislative issues.

*Hotakainen, Rob. "A New Year Begins." *News Tribune* [Tacoma] 11 Jan. 2012
<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/01/18/1987593/dicks-congress-will-avoid-automatic.html>

TAX-AIDE OFFERS FREE INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARATION AND FILING

The IRS and AARP jointly sponsor a program staffed by volunteers to prepare and file income tax returns electronically at no cost to you the customer. Our volunteers are trained to handle most changes in the tax law for 2011. There are a few topics that are out of scope for the program (rental income, depreciation, home office, business income involving losses, expenses exceeding \$10,000 or having employees). When in doubt, drop in and ask your question.

Taxpayers **MUST** bring: (1) photo identification, (2) social security cards for all persons on the tax return, (3) all 2011 tax documents, such as statements of income from wages, retirement, social security, interest, dividends and brokerage statement & (4) your checkbook with a check showing your routing number and account number for direct deposit or withdrawal of your amount due. Also, please bring a copy of your previous year's tax return as it may contain information we need to correctly file this year's return. Please summarize the information relating to your deductions. When in doubt, bring in any information you suspect we might find helpful 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.

Locations:

Bainbridge Island Main Library, 1270 Madison Ave. N, BI
Mon & Wed: 10:30 AM to 1 PM
Mon: 5:30 to 7:30 PM; Fri: 1:30 to 4 PM

Givens Community Center, 1026 Sidney Ave., Port Orchard
Thu: 9 AM to 1 PM

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

Port Orchard Library, 87 Sidney Ave., Port Orchard
Sat: 10 AM to 3 PM

Martha & Mary Health/Rehab, 19160 Front Street, 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

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

The Summit (formally Westpark), 4650 Bay Vista Blvd., Bremerton
Mon and Sat: 10 AM to 2 PM

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

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

This is a very brief report on membership status for the last year. In January of 2011 we had 1185 voting members; in January of 2012 we have 1076 voting members. This adds up to a loss of 109 members over this last year. It is obvious that we need to do everything we can to change those numbers for next year.

The following members were dropped for non-renewal: Stephanie Krause, Francis Rosinski, Laura Rosinski, Helen Sieck, Janice Smith, Thomas Spetter, Randall Stegemeyer and Patricia Swam. 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: Gwyndolin Jennings, Larry Ohman, Gerald Patraw, Paul Savage and Ann York. We do appreciate your membership and if we may be of service please contact any board member listed in this bulletin.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for December was \$1,437.29 with expenditures of \$2,057.63. Our net worth as of 31 December was \$37,471.29. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting.

Please save your receipts from Red Apple Markets in East Bremerton, Kitsap Lake and Poulsbo for the collection and payment of 1% of their grocery receipts. 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 20 January was \$9.75. Donations in the amount of \$34.00 were received from the meeting raffle in January. "Thank you" to Lorraine Brockerman, Don Palmer and Dorothy Hopkins for their donations. We also received our year-end check from Westsound Recycling in the amount of \$580.57 for 1,562 pounds of recycled material. We have forwarded our donation to the Alzheimer's Association for the NARFE research program in the amount of \$1,205.00. Great effort on the ongoing goal to help find a cure!

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

Thank you for recycling your aluminum, copper and brass!

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**

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Are you receiving multiple phone calls and e-mails from Naval Base Kitsap regarding base closures and delays and want to be removed from that calling list? You may contact Alan Tajimulla at 360-476-7111.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Lillian Walker and Louise Alsted. 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.

"Thank you!" to the **151** people who have signed up for the e-mailed newsletter plus **4** 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!! Be a Bull

Total Membership: 1117 Percentage receiving emailed newsletter: 13.88% (January was 13.50%)

NEED A LARGE-PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

A large-print version of this newsletter is available in size 16 font via email only. Email me if you'd like this version of the newsletter. tbkbull@aol.com

► ◀ **HELP WANTED** ▶ ◀

SERVICE OFFICER

1st VICE PRESIDENT

TELEPHONE CONTACT

For more information or to volunteer, contact George Eads (698-6078) or Jean Lenihan (308-8165).

PRESIDENT

George Eads
698-6078

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

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Bea Bull

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UNTIL DECEMBER 2012**

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UNTIL DECEMBER 2013

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NARFE HOTLINE NUMBER

1-877-217-8234

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
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Senator Maria Cantwell
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