



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

April 2012

NUMBER 04-12

General Meeting Date & Time: April 9, 2012, 1:00PM

Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club (479-9061), 4109 West E Street, Bremerton, WA
National Avenue & 'E' Street

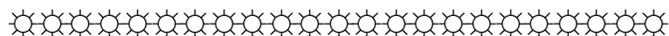
Program: Lanny Ross Will Discuss Current NARFE Concerns

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.

Executive Board meetings are held at 1:00PM at the Elks Lodge, 4131 Pine Rd NE, Bremerton, the Wednesday prior to general meetings. Members are welcome to join us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Chapter 181's 60th Anniversary! May 14th
Cake will be served. Come and share your personal stories about NARFE and your employment with the Federal Government.
- *Washington State Federation May 14th – 16th
Convention; Vancouver, WA
Red Lion Hotel – Vancouver at the Quay
- *Chapter Meeting June 11th
Reports at Noon; Speaker at 1:00PM
- *Chapter Meeting September 10th



PRESIDENT

George Eads

I just finished reading my April 2012 NARFE magazine. Like always, it has all the most up-to-date information about what is going on with regard to legislation that affects us as both current and retired federal employees. I encourage you to read your magazine and share it with others; and I encourage you to contact our elected representatives by phone, e-mail or letter. The NARFE magazine is a great tool you can use to let people know what NARFE is about; and remember to encourage people to renew their dues so they stay informed about their hard-earned benefits.

I wish to thank Congressman Norm Dicks and his staff for their many years of supporting NARFE and our concerns. Congressman Dicks, a local hometown person, has worked tirelessly on our behalf and for the people of the Puget Sound area and Kitsap County. Norm and his wife, Susie, desire to spend time with their children and grandchildren. We will all miss them, but wish them all the happiness they both deserve.

I encourage you to come to our Chapter meetings. The Willows Retirement Living is going to provide lunch for us in April. Our Chapter anniversary is in May and we will have cake and the opportunity to mingle and visit with one another. Amber and Rex will be there; however most of the other Chapter officers will be in Vancouver at the State Convention. Our Chapter meeting in June will be starting at 12:00 noon. We have a very informative speaker who will discuss Alzheimer's Disease and how to deal with some of the problems that can occur when a person becomes violent. This is a very timely subject about a terrible disease that takes its toll on many people. Please invite your friends and other members to attend.

I am very grateful for all the board members and you, as Chapter members, for your support in keeping our Chapter going. Let us all work together to get new members and retain the ones we have. I wish you a sunny Spring and a peaceful and happy Easter.

CALL TO ACTION

What you can do:

- Use the website, www.NARFE.org, and GEMS messages to stay informed. Continue to contact your Congressional Representatives; our input is always important.
- Donate to NARFE-PAC. Use the form on page 13 in the April issue of your NARFE magazine; come to a membership meeting and give your donation to Don Palmer; or visit the website and make a donation using a credit card.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

I am never sure about the contribution that I make here in interpreting events in a Capital that is light years away in miles and understanding. My job is just to give you the facts. I do need to use caution in my remarks so I am not construed as a political editor, for as Mark Twain once said, "I shall not often meddle with politics, because we have a Political Editor who is already excellent and only needs to serve a term or two in the penitentiary to be perfect." Such as they are, then, here are some brief remarks about the politics in recent weeks in Washington.

House Republicans under Majority Leader Cantor (R-WI) have continued to push for further reductions in federal spending for the 2013 Budget (to begin on Oct.1, 2012) that are intended to cut even further the agreed upon cuts by the Super Committee in 2011; \$19 billion less than under the bipartisan debt limit deal of August. The Senate under Senator Reid, Senate Majority Leader (D-AZ), recognizes that any House budget proposals will not pass the Democratic Senate unless it is in line with the original bipartisan debt limit which calls for \$98 billion in cuts in 2013, and which reflects the President's budget proposal.

The House Republicans will continue to espouse further budget cuts with no balanced revenue increases as we move into the election year. They are doing this to secure the support of their Republican voter base and use them to secure election support from their members. The 2013 budget that is finally proposed will be that which is passed after the November elections when House, Senate, and Presidential races have been decided, and not before then despite numerous budget proposals that will be made.

Recent attempts at legislative proposals and future proposals reflect continued pressure by conservative Republicans to have federal employees bear a larger share of the cost of federal expenditure. The Democratic Senate has largely stopped these efforts.

Example: Four Republican senators have introduced legislation designed to improve Medicare, but with federal employees paying a price. Under the Congressional Health Care for Seniors Act, Medicare recipients would enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP). Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), the main sponsor of the bill, said it would save taxpayers

\$1 trillion over 10 years. He acknowledged, however, that the legislation would result in higher premiums for federal employees. "Federal employees including myself will have to pay [more]. It's about \$30 a month more," said Paul at a Capitol Hill press conference Thursday. "But I think that's something we have to do to make it fair and to help save Medicare." Senator Rand Paul (R-KY). (JONATHAN ERNST - REUTERS)

Example: The Senate, on March 13, rejected an amendment to freeze federal pay for a third year. Senator Pat Roberts, (R-KS), proposed adding another year to the current two-year pay-scale freeze to help pay for a wide range of tax deductions and credits, but the Senate voted down his amendment, 41-57. He introduced the amendment to the Senate's transportation bill, S. 1813, on March 8. Federal employee unions and other groups denounced the pay freeze proposal and urged senators to reject it, saying a longer freeze would cost federal employees another \$26 billion over a decade. NARFE, with the Federal-Postal Coalition, was instrumental in lobbying for that defeat. (Losey, Stephen. Federal Times "Senate Rejects Extension of Pay Freeze." Web. 13 Mar. 2012.)

Example: The week of March 5th, the Senate voted to approve another transportation bill amendment allowing federal employees to work part-time and phase into retirement at the end of their careers. Senator Max Baucus, (D-MT), who sponsored that amendment, wants to use the estimated \$465 million saved by phased retirements to pay for public roads, schools and forest-related economic development projects in rural areas. This is a neutral change but shows the use of federal employees' pay and benefits to pay for overall federal expenditures. (Losey, Stephen. Federal Times "Senate Rejects Extension of Pay Freeze." Web. 13 Mar. 2012.) <http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20120313/BENEFITS01/203130306/>

By the time of the May newsletter I am sure I will have more to report on Republican attempts to have federal employees and retirees pay more than their fair share to cover annual federal budget expenditures and reoccurring deficits. Stay tuned to your NARFE email alerts (GEMS) and read your NARFE magazine to stay updated.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

The report from National was late this month, so we were unable to give a membership report at the March general membership meeting. The March report shows six members passed away, fourteen were dropped for non-renewal and we have two reinstatements with one new member. This is a loss of 17 members. We have not had a number that large in a while. Our voting member strength is approaching one thousand; the lowest number that I have seen since I joined NARFE.

Membership cont. These are the members who were dropped for non-renewal: Eugene Breitenstein, Randy Colson, David Curley, Fredrick Graeff, Irene Hammond, William Lorraine, Richard Maples, George Matanane, Stanley Napora, Burton Parker, Roy Short, Kevin Sorbello, Samuel Tolbert and William Weidenhoft. 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: Bill Mackem, James McGonigle and Thomas Morse. We do appreciate your membership and if we may be of service please contact any board member listed in this bulletin.

REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR MAILING ADDRESS UP TO DATE! EVEN IF YOU RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL, NATIONAL STILL NEEDS YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS FOR YOUR NARFE MAGAZINE AND OTHER MAILINGS. THANK YOU!

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for February was \$843.21 with expenditures of \$384.06. Our net worth as of 29 February was \$37,191.01. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting. Copies of the 2012 Chapter budget will be available at our April 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.

TAX-AIDE LOCATIONS

Please see the February newsletter for Tax-Aide Instructions or visit www.narfewadist4.org, click on CHAPTER PAGES, then BREMERTON CHAPTER

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 22 March was \$184.40. Donations in the amount of \$90.00 were received from the meeting raffle in March. "Thank you" to Lorraine Brockerman, Robert Gossett, Dorothea Speed and Donald Taylor for their donations.

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

**Alzheimer's Association nonprofit Tax ID number:
13-3039601**

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?

- ✓ 2012 NARFE Scholarships are still available; refer to your April NARFE magazine, page 45, for the scholarship form. For more information and to download forms, go to www.narfe.org, login, click on SPECIAL PROGRAMS in the left column, then select SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.
- ✓ Due to redistricting, **ALL** Kitsap County residents will receive new Voter's Registration cards by the second week in May. If you have questions about redistricting or do not receive your new Voter's Registration card, you may contact Dolores Gilmore, Elections Manager, at 360-337-7130 or dgilmore@co.kitsap.wa.us.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Max Evans, Edward Henneman, Carl Neuswanger, Florence VanLimburgh and Melvin Wortman. A Get Well card was sent to Edward A. Saftich. 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 **162** 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!! Bea Bull

Total Membership: 1117. Percentage receiving emailed newsletter: 14.86% (March was 14.50%)

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

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698-6078

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

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UNTIL DECEMBER 2013

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NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster – Bob Edwards
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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

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