



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

December 2012

NUMBER 10-12

General Meeting Date & Time: December 10, 2012, 1:00PM

**Meeting Place: Bremerton Elks Lodge
4131 Pine Road NE, Bremerton, WA**

Program: HOLIDAY LUNCHEON & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

- ▶ **Meet & Greet at 12:00PM**
- ▶ **Lunch Served at 1:00PM**
- ▶ **Please Bring a Non-Perishable Item for the Elks Holiday Food Drive**

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.

PRESIDENT

George Eads

Fellow Chapter Members,

Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to VOTE. The elections are now over and, hopefully, Congress is ready to go to work to help solve our many problems. I feel it is very important to let them know that we, as federal workers and retirees, are not the only group of people that can help balance the budget and get our nation out of debt. Be sure to contact your representatives whenever you have an issue with legislation that is being presented.

Many politicians claim that we are being given "entitlements" and that is why they target us. Those politicians may call them by any name they desire but we know them as EARNED BENEFITS that we worked many years to earn. We, as NARFE members, have much to do now and in the future to help build NARFE up and share our message with friends and other government workers. This holiday season consider giving a NARFE gift membership to one of your friends or relatives who is working for, or has retired from, federal service.

We hope to see many of you at our holiday luncheon on December 10th at noon at the Elks Lodge. We will be swearing in our Chapter 181 officers for the year 2013. As your President, I very much appreciate your support and all the hard work our Executive Board does on behalf of Chapter 181. I hope and pray for you and your families that you will have a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. Stay safe, warm and dry this winter season.



**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

Meet and Greet starts at noon; Lunch at 1:00PM

Meal choices are **salmon** or **chicken**, both **\$18.00**. Each meal includes potato, vegetable, roll and salad. The price includes tax and gratuity. Reservations and checks needed to reach Amber VanSantford by December 3rd. Members are encouraged to bring a non-perishable item for the Elks Holiday Food Drive box.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Chapter Meeting** **January 14th**
Happy New Year!
- *Chapter Meeting** **February 11th**
- *2013 NARFE Legislative Training Conference**
Arlington, VA **March 9th – 12th**
- *Chapter Meeting** **March 11th**



CALL TO ACTION

What you can do:

- Read the December NARFE magazine Cover Story beginning on page 18 to learn what Congress will be working on during the lame-duck session
- Contact your congressional representatives via www.narfe.org/heartbeat, www.capwiz.com/narfe/home/, or 1-866-220-0044 to remind them that “the federal workforce has already sacrificed \$75 billion in the ongoing budget process”

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

"Everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke."

—Will Rogers

Well, the lame-duck Congress is back in session (which ends Dec. 21) and they appear to be chagrined enough by the recent election results, which reflects the public's distaste for their stalemate in the last session, to take positive actions to avoid the coming “fiscal cliff”. The need to increase federal revenues is on the negotiating table this time, as are general benefits and entitlements.

Both parties in the Senate and The House and their stalwart constituencies are showing willingness to compromise. The ideologues in each party appear to be taking back seats in the negotiation process while a deal is worked out by party leaders and the administration.

The question before them is how big of a red-ink reduction to seek (the range is between the \$1 trillion needed to get back off the “cliff” and the \$4 trillion grand-bargain goal sought by the credit-rating firms). Another question is how to set the ratio of spending cuts to revenue increases. The range starts at 1-to-1, the goal of Democratic liberals, then goes to the 2-to-1 that the president has proposed, and stretches to the Republican 5-to-1 ratio.¹

“There's even a spreading hopefulness the agreement will come, and the lame duck Congress will ratify it, by the weekend before Christmas — a full 10 days ahead of the time limit. The reason Dec. 21 is becoming the new working deadline is that lawmakers, their aides, administration officials, lobbyists, the financial markets and, yes, the media, all realize they and the American public are clamoring for a genuine and decently long holiday break from the Washington melodrama before the next legislative year begins Jan. 3.”²

The impact upon NARFE members depends on whether Congress will continue to rely upon federal employee benefit and income cuts as part of any package to increase revenue.

The Federal-Postal Coalition - a group representing more than two dozen federal employee unions - presented their case to Congress on Monday, November 19, 2012, asking them to spare their members in any deal related to the “fiscal cliff.” According to the coalition, federal employees have funded \$60 billion in budget savings in 2011 and 2012 as a result of their ongoing pay freeze and an additional \$28 billion in savings will be derived from the freeze extension through March 2013. Federal workers also contributed \$15 billion toward the budget in 2011 when the contribution rate toward retirement pensions was raised to 2.3 percent for new employees.³

There are also proposals before Congress to substitute a “chained CPI” calculation for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It is being considered as a “technical adjustment” and will substantially reduce the current and future benefits of retirees. The chained CPI looks at price increases on the reduced purchasing levels of seniors and the areas in which they purchase, not upon the entire range of price increases in the economy as a whole. As a result a CPI increase is reduced. All beneficiaries will feel the impact of this change, but the impact will be greatest on those who draw an annuity at an earlier age (e.g. military and disabled) and on those who live the longest. NARFE lobbying is attempting to convince Congress to stick with the existing CPI and not move to a chained CPI.

Remember to watch for NARFE requests for you to contact your representatives, in writing or by phone, when legislative issues of importance arise that affect us as active and retired federal workers. While NARFE does not have all federal employees as members, we do represent all of them in protecting their income and benefits so we are really the “canary in the cage” for them.

As a final note, I will be conducting a random telephone survey of some of our NAFRE Chapter 181 members in the next month. This is to determine member involvement in our Chapter activities and programs, and how the organization could better serve you. I am hopeful that it will give the Chapter officers ideas on how to make the Chapter responsive to you as active and retired employees.

¹ Congressional Quarterly 11/16/2012

² Congressional Quarterly 11/19/2012

³ National Journal 11/21/2012. Eric Katz, Government Executive

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

The December General Membership meeting will be at the Bremerton Elks Lodge. This will be our Holiday Luncheon; please see page 1 for details.

Membership cont. We will start this report with a list of members whose membership expired in September. These members will be dropped in December for non-renewal if they do not renew soon: Virginia Alguard, Kathleen Balmer, Billy Eder, Dale King, Walter Nordleaf, Robert Westbrook and Frederick Winge.

These are the members whose membership expired in August and were dropped for non-renewal in November: Ricky Baker, Robert Bixenmann, Theodore Gill, Randolph Hunt, Dorothy Kidrick, Albert Lind, Katherine Nevijel, Beverly Siegel, Mary Jane Thayer and Elizabeth Zeitler. If you know any of these members please urge them to reinstate their membership.

Welcome to those new members and those who have reinstated their membership in our Chapter: James Backs, Dallas Conley, Audrey Datema, Venna Munro and Stephanie Peterson. If you have any questions please contact any member of the Executive Board listed on the last page of this newsletter.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for October was \$630.65 with expenditures of \$200.98. Our net worth as of 1 November was \$35,092.83. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting along with the totals for the income and expenses for 2012.

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 21 November was \$138.69. Aluminum for Alzheimer's had collected 954 pounds through October, so keep the collection growing for our research funding.

Additional information on your tax deductible donations to the NARFE -Alzheimer's Research fund: If you use the contribution form in your NARFE monthly magazine make sure that you include our Chapter number, 181, and that the mailing address is Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., 17th Floor, Chicago, IL. 60601-7633. Note that if you mail it to our NARFE headquarters staff, it may not get credited to our Chapter.

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

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?

- ✓ Federal annuitants will receive a 1.7% COLA in 2013
- ✓ Medicare has announced its Part B premiums will increase \$5.00 a month in 2013

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Charles Collins, Mildred Crossman, Frank Ewing, Marvin Lillie, Harold Schraw and George Yoder.

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 MAC USERS GROUP

Kitsap Mac Users Group (KMUG) meets at 10:30AM on the third Thursday of each month in the Solarium Room in the restaurant of the All Star Lanes Bowling Alley on NW Myhre Rd. in Silverdale.

A presentation by a member of the group, or by an invited vendor, is followed by a round-the-room discussion of recent problems or discoveries. Visitors are welcome; the next meeting is December 20th.

To have the regular or large-print version of this newsletter emailed to you, please contact Bea Bull at tbkbull@aol.com. Thanks!! Bea Bull

Office of Personnel Contact Information:

Phone: 1-888-767-6738

Hours of operation: 7:30AM – 7:45PM ET with the best time to reach someone being 6:30PM – 7:30PM or at 7:30AM.

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P.O. Box 45
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Bea Bull

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UNTIL DECEMBER 2013

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NARFE STATE WEBSITE

www.narfewa.net

NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE

www.narfe.org

eNARFE WEBSITE

www.enarfe.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

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