



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

March 2013

NUMBER 03-13

General Meeting Date & Time: March 11, 2013, 1:00PM

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

**Program: CONGRESSMAN KILMER'S REPRESENTATIVE, BRAD FORBES, WILL DISCUSS
"WHAT YOUR LOCAL CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE CAN DO FOR YOU"**

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.

➡ **NOTE CHANGE!! Executive Board meetings are held from noon to 2:00PM at the Westside Improvement Club the Wednesday prior to general meetings. Members are welcome to join us.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

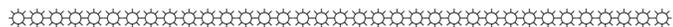
***2013 NARFE Legislative Training Conference
Arlington, VA March 9th - 12th**

***Chapter Meeting April 8th**

***Older Americans' Conference May 8th
(Senior Fair) Kiana Lodge, Poulsbo**

***Chapter Meeting May 14th**

***Region IX Leadership Training May 31st - June 1st
Quality Inn & Conference Center, Ellensburg, WA**



PRESIDENT

George Eads

Fellow Chapter Members:

Spring is just around the corner. I know most of us are looking forward to warmer days and longer daylight ahead. Congress will soon be back in session and, hopefully, they will start to do the business of the people of this great country in which we live. There are many newly elected officials so it becomes our duty to point out the importance of the American Public Servant. Federal employees are the Heartbeat of America.

America's public servants protect the heartbeat of America – caring for our veterans, ensuring seniors receive the resources they need to live in dignity, investigating and preventing threats to our security and supporting America's military, conducting research that improves our health and our defense, and other duties that keep our country a land of responsibility, opportunity and freedom. Protect America's heartbeat. Support America's public servants.

We need to share this message with every one of our elected officials, our friends and our neighbors. Both current and retired federal workers are real people doing an outstanding job in very trying conditions. One of our greatest assets in getting the NARFE messages out is our monthly NARFE magazine. I call to your attention articles in the January magazine pages 33-37 and the March issue pages 32-34. The national staff is doing their best to encourage us to be very pro-active in NARFE.

It is with sadness that I let you know our good friend and an outstanding NARFE member, Ed Saftich, Sr., passed away February 20th with his family at his bedside. Ed was a tireless worker for NARFE and so many other organizations in our community. He will be missed by so many people. Let us all keep the memories alive we have had with a fine man and gentleman in every sense of the word. Our prayers and love are with Ed's children and other family members.

NOTE: The registration form for the Region IX Leadership Training is on the District website at www.narfewadist4.org. When calling for hotel reservations, DO NOT call the toll free number.

CALL TO ACTION

What you can do:

- March is NARFE-PAC month! Use the postage-paid envelope at the center of your March NARFE magazine to make a contribution.
- Thank Congressman Kilmer for voting "NO" on continuing the federal pay freeze through the end of 2013.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

"Too bad that all the people who know how to run the country are busy driving taxicabs and cutting hair." -George Burns

Welcome to the new world of gladiatorial politics in the USA. This month's column is an attempt to provide the facts while they are standing still. No remedies are being suggested except to say that we have a strong ally in the form of NARFE.

Federal/Congressional Budget Timeline
2013 Federal Fiscal Year
October 1, 2013 to Sept 30, 2014

Chronology of current political events around the budget:

August 2, 2011

Budget agreement reached by President and Congress for spending cuts of \$1 trillion over 10 years starting with the 2012 budget year. No agreement was reached over an additional \$1.2 trillion in budget cuts for the same 10 year period. If no agreement could be reached by Jan.1, 2013, then cuts (sequester agreement cuts) would be made across the board on this date (fiscal cliff date).

October 1, 2012

Congress and the president do not agree upon a 2013 fiscal year budget for revenue increases and spending cuts. A continuing resolution is passed by Congress to allow all agencies to operate under their 2012 budget levels until Jan 1, 2013 initially, and then it is extended to March 1, 2013.

Jan 1, 2013

President and Congress agree upon \$800 billion in revenue increases in addition to replace sequester cuts, but no agreement is reached on spending cuts or further revenue increases.

March 1, 2013

This is when sequester cuts will be imposed if no congressional action is taken.

March 1 to April 1, 2013

The first month of sequester cuts will take effect with 10% cuts across the board for all agencies, but no cuts are to be made to entitlement programs.

President Obama is using his election mandate and current support in opinion polls to argue for increased revenues to provide a balanced, fair budget. The Republicans now appear poised to not allow any more revenue increases; they will allow the Sequester cuts to go into effect, and will probably pass a stopgap budget resolution that would provide cuts equivalent to the sequester cuts until October 1, 2013. At that time the new political races for the Congress will begin for the

2014 elections and the Republicans hope that 1) they will have more support for their position and 2) Obama may have run out of post-election steam to get his budget accepted and approved based upon a public mandate.¹

There are several continuing issues that affect active and retired federal workers in the continuing budget battle. These are issues that NARFE is lobbying against.

Active Employees

Congress wants: 1) to continue the current hiring freeze until Sept. 30, 2013; 2) to increase the retirement contribution by federal employees; and 3) switch to a Chained CPI to calculate the annual COLA.²

Retired Employees

The Chained CPI to calculate the annual COLA, if implemented, will affect both Social Security and federal pension benefits by reducing benefit amounts for almost all recipients.

Your NARFE magazine and the NARFE website are the best sources to keep you current on issues as they affect us as federal employees. Check them out and write or call your representative when NARFE asks you to do so.

I have listed here several websites that I use to keep myself updated on legislative issues during the month and when I create this column. Also, all congressional representatives now use Twitter and are on Facebook. I reviewed Rep. Kilmer's Facebook site and it was very informative and lets me know what he is doing in Washington DC and when he is back here in our district.

http://corporate.cqrollcall.com/content/4/en/CQ_Roll_Call_Daily_Briefing

<http://www.politico.com/morningscore/>

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/n2ksignup>

<http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/index.cfm>

<http://thehill.com/>

¹ Lopatin, Alan. "Pay, Benefits Assaults Expected as Budget Drama Continues." NARFE Mar. 2013: 6. Print.

² Hawkings, David. "Dueling Soapboxes", http://corporate.cqrollcall.com/content/4/en/CQ_Roll_Call_02/20/2013.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

This report is coming from California with data that I have gathered from sources both in Washington State and northern Virginia. The electronic age is great but there may still be some errors creep in here and there.

The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped for non-renewal in the March report: Geraldine Bartlett, Clyde Bennett, Lee Berndt, Alvin Cramer, N. Crawford, Haven Fowler, Gladys McCoy and Ethel Nosky. Thanks for renewing your membership.

These are the members showing dropped for non-renewal in the February report: Don Bergman, Robert Case, Dennis Fulton, Margaret Hereth, Howard Kramer, Holly McCoy, David Morse, Nina Morse, Robert Noll, George Nutsford,

Membership cont. Douglas Paschal, John Stevens, Evelyn Walton and Roy Walton. If you know any of these members, please urge them to reinstate their membership.

Welcome to those who have reinstated their membership in our Chapter: Randolph Hunt, Dale King, Albert Lind and Alfred Martinez. In these troubled times for active and retired federal employees it is more important than ever for all of us to maintain our memberships. 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 January was \$621.35 with expenditures of \$1,887.95. Our net worth as of 1 February was \$34,076.12. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting. Our budget for 2013 has been approved and is posted on our District IV web site (www.narfewadist4.org).

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. **There has been a significant drop in the number of receipts received over the past year and we may decide, in the next couple months, to discontinue the program.**

Reminder: To be honored, Red Apple receipts must NOT BE OVER THREE (3) MONTHS OLD.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)
Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 21 February was \$29.69. Our donations for the last 12 months totaled \$1,285.00; great work Chapter members!

Additional information on your tax deductible donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research fund:

- o Make checks payable to "**NARFE Alzheimer's Research**" (NARFE is the key word and is required!).
- o If you use the NARFE magazine contribution form, include "Chapter 181" on the form. The correct mailing address is Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., 17th Floor, Chicago, IL. 60601-7633.
- o If you mail it to NARFE headquarters staff, it may not get credited to our Chapter.

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**

To have the regular or large-print version of this newsletter emailed to you, please contact me at tbkbull@aol.com. It is also available on the District website (www.narfewadist4.org). Thanks!! Bea Bull

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Hazel Ferguson and Ed Saftich, Sr.

Special note: One of our National Only Life members, Myrtle Aasness just celebrated her 107th birthday on 22 January 2013. We did not have her current address, but she celebrated the day in Lake City (North Seattle) with 30 members of her immediate family. They celebrated the day with traditional Norwegian dishes including lefse and lutefisk. (How do you keep a candle burning in a serving of lutefisk???) "Happy Birthday Myrtle!"

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.

Can you ride ACCESS?

Kitsap Transit's ACCESS bus service is available to those in Kitsap County who are physically unable to use regular bus service because of a disability. Seniors 80 years and older are also eligible for ACCESS transportation, even if they are not disabled. Eligible passengers can schedule rides to medical appointments, shopping, events such as the NARFE meetings or even to a friend's house or the hair salon. ACCESS buses operate Monday through Saturday during normal bus operation hours. Trip requests must be made a day in advance.

Non-disabled riders between the age of 60 and 79 who live too far away from a bus stop may also be eligible for service to a transfer center where they can catch a regular Kitsap Transit bus.

To qualify, potential riders must complete and submit an eligibility application. For more information, or to complete an application, call 1-800-422-2877 or visit Kitsap Transit's website at www.kitsaptransit.org.

HELP WANTED

PSNBA Representative

A NARFE member is needed to represent Chapter 181 at Puget Sound Naval Base Association meetings in the Mayor's office at 4:45PM the second Tuesday of each month. Please contact Bill Powers at 360-377-7917 for more information.

Alzheimer Chair

Manage Chapter 181's Alzheimer's donations. Please contact Rex Tauscher at 360-479-0668 for more information.

Sergeant at Arms

Greet members and maintain order at Chapter meetings. Please contact George Eads at 360-698-6078

PRESIDENT

George Eads
698-6078

**1st VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

**SECRETARY
NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bea Bull

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Zora Davis

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Norene Torkelson

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Jim Strunk

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Vacant

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

SERVICE OFFICER

Vacant
contact Ralph Angulo
District IV Service Officer
(360) 452-6592
ralphangulo@yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

UNTIL DECEMBER 2013

Bea Bull

Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2014

Gladys Berteaux

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

District IV VP

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Region IX VP

Lanny Ross
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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

eNARFE WEBSITE

www.enarfe.org

**SENIOR INFORMATION &
ASSISTANCE**

360-337-5700 OR 1-800-562-6418

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL
MANAGEMENT (OPM)**

Phone: 1-888-767-6738

Hours of operation:

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

Mailing Address:

Office of Personnel Management
Retirement Operations Center
P.O. Box 45
Boyers, PA 16017

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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