



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

May 2013

NUMBER 05-13

General Meeting Date & Time: May 13, 2013, 1:00PM

Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club (479-9061)

4109 West E Street, Bremerton, WA (National Avenue & "E" Street)

Program: STATE SENATOR NATHAN SCHLICHER, 26TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
Senator Schlicher replaced Derek Kilmer in the State Senate

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.

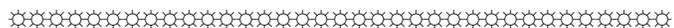
Executive Board meetings are held from noon to 2:00PM at the Westside Improvement Club the Wednesday prior to general meetings. Members are welcome to join us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

*Chapter Meeting June 10th

*Chapter Meeting September 9th



PRESIDENT

George Eads

Editor's Note: President Eads is unable to write his column this month so 1st V.P. Ralph Sanders has some wisdom to share with us.



"FEHBP and Health Care Reform."

One of the most misunderstood pieces of legislation to be passed in recent years is the Affordable Care Act, what many referred to "OBAMACARE". There is a lot of bad or incomplete information available in our local news or national information centers. To find out how it will affect you in 2014, open the May copy of NARFE magazine to page 30 and read "FEHBP and Health Care Reform". You will be glad that you did.



**SIGN UP FOR THE NARFE
GLOBAL eMAIL
MESSAGING SYSTEM**

If you have a computer and are online you should sign up for NARFE's Global eMail Messaging System (GEMS). Why? Because GEMS will give you the Legislative Hotline every week while Congress is in session. You will be advised of legislative actions we need to take. It is presently being sent out to over 78,000 of our members and you should be one of them. Please go to the national website and follow the directions to sign up. Thanks for being well informed on NARFE issues.



**"NARFE Grass-Roots
advocacy Month"**

We need to gear up now for "NARFE Grass-Roots advocacy Month". Our members of Congress are already preparing their schedules for the August 2 through September 9 congressional summer recess. This is an opportune time for us to meet with our senators and representative; we can make it a multi-chapter or district-wide visit. We will keep you informed on our plans and progress with this event.

CALL TO ACTION

What you can do:

- Senator Patty Murray is the Senate Budget Committee Chair; use the contact information on the last page of this newsletter to write or call her staff and let them know your views.
- Stay informed and keep those calls and letters going out to your congressional representatives.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

“I am not worried about the deficit. It is big enough to take care of itself.” Ronald Reagan.

The House returned on April 22, to working session for the first time since the Boston Marathon explosions. While most will want to have a say on the Boston explosions and express their need to address it, what is really on their minds is the sequester and how it impacts their constituents. At this point in time, about 15,000 air traffic controllers have been given eleven-day furlough notices.¹ These furloughs are now resulting in three-hour delays for many commercial flights at major airline hubs. Also, 90,000 IRS employees have received furlough notices for five to seven days and, in addition, the IRS has cut spending on travel and training and is beginning to review grant and contract funding.² Both of these are in conjunction with the hiring freeze which has been ongoing for two fiscal years and will continue through the end of fiscal year 2013. If you were to expand the sequester impact of these few “butcher block” cuts to the overall federal service, which do not allow for managed or smart program and employee cuts, you can see there are going to be major impacts on the basic federal services we receive and that keep the country going.

How is sequestration affecting retirees? It’s affecting us if we, as citizens, use the services of federal employees; but because sequestration does not affect entitlements, there are few retired federal employee impacts at this point. However, if Congress decides that it cannot handle the political pressure from its constituents over the cuts, and need to stop sequestration and reach a budget deal with the president, then retirees will see major impacts occurring. One is the Chained CPI (Consumer Price Index) proposed by the president which will reduce inflation increases in the CPI for Social Security and federal pension benefits. Another possible change may be in the federal employee benefit programs which we have as a condition of retirement. This may be diluted through changes proposed previously by Congress, such as making it the medical insurance program used by all Medicare beneficiaries, thus increasing our premiums.

Active federal employees are now seeing old budget cutting proposals being re-discussed as ways to cut spending if there is a new “big” budget deal between Congress and the president. Proposals being made are as follows: To increase retirement contributions from the current .8 percent employee contribution to up to a 50 percent matching contribution³; eliminating the Social Security supplement given to an employee when they retire before reaching Social Security retirement age; cutting back on the size of the federal employee workforce by a specified percentage each year; and using an average high-five to determine final retirement pay. Expect to see more of these and similar proposals as Congress and the Administration attempt to move toward a budget deal. Continue to read your NARFE magazine, respond to email alerts from NARFE, and attend our local chapter meetings or read the chapter newsletter to keep apprised of current political events affecting us.

Our 6th Congressional District Representative Derek Kilmer has been outspoken in Congress and back in his district in support of federal employees, as have our Senators Cantwell and Murray. Write or call their offices to request their support on issues affecting you as a federal employee or retiree. Your Chapter 181 officers stay in contact with Congressman Kilmer and his staff at their public events and fundraisers to ensure your interests are made known.

¹ NARFE NewsWatch (narfe@multibriefs.com). April 23, 2013
Federalexecutive.com [Airport Furloughs May Cause Flight Delays, FAA Says](#). [Charles S. Clark](#). April 19, 2013

² NARFE NewsWatch (narfe@multibriefs.com). April 23, 2013 as reported by Federal News radio.com [IRS to furlough all 90,000 employees Friday - 4/19/2013, 3:48pm](#) Edit By [Julia Ziegler](#)

³ [Federaltimes.com](#). April 19, 2013 Sean Reilly, [Simpson, Bowles renew call for cuts in employee benefits](#).

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped for non-renewal in the May M-112 report: Mary Erickson, James Houk, Walter Lee, Gerald Patraw, Gladys Robinson, Glenna Sanchelli, Helen Sieck, Harry Sittauer, Jerome Twogood and Gary Walters.

These are the members showing dropped for non-renewal in the April M-112 report: Geraldine Bartlett, N. Crawford, Alvin Kramer, Ethyl Nosky, Pauline Nute, Larry Ohman, Marvin Romack, Donna Tabert and Josephine Witte.

The following member has transferred his membership to the e-NARFE chapter: Randy Colson. Thanks Randy for maintaining your membership.

Membership cont. Now, for the positive side of the chapter membership ledger, the following members have renewed their membership or are new members of NARFE: Virginia Alguard, Clyde Bennett, Barry Divine, June McFadden and Joseph Roberson. Thanks to all of you for becoming members of Chapter 181. We hope that you will become active in our chapter and make yourselves available to what NARFE provides. 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 March was \$2,962.72 with expenditures of \$3,471.19. Our net worth as of 1 April was \$34,222.90. 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.

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 20 April was \$104.69. Donations of \$50.00 were received in April thanks to Loraine Brockerman, Lilianna Dockham and Gerald Webb.

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

- Make checks payable to "**NARFE Alzheimer's Research**" (NARFE is the key word and is required!).
- 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.
- 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

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Richard Fewel, James Hanley, John Lust, Vernon Metz and Duane Perry.

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.

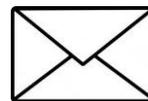
SPECIAL NOTE

If anyone has been in contact with Zora Davis, our Assistant Secretary, please contact any of the chapter board members.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Due to increasing costs and declining attendance, we are exploring other options for our December meeting. Following are some ideas, all at the Westside Improvement Club; we would appreciate your input. For lunch options (other than just donuts), price is to be determined. **Please contact Amber VanSantford at 360-871-4439 or sbamber18@yahoo.com to vote your preference.**

- Regular meeting with no food other than the usual donuts
- Pizza lunch
- Lunch catered by one of the local care facilities
- Lunch prepared by the Westside Improvement Club cook
- Lunch catered by Ambrosia Catering



Did you know?

It now costs 55 cents when a newsletter is returned as undeliverable. Please keep your mailing address up to date...or switch to the emailed version.

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

HELP WANTED

The loss of Edward Saftich, Sr. has left a volunteer vacancy in many organizations around Kitsap County; with Chapter 181, our Sergeant-at-Arms position is unfilled. Please contact any board member for information.

We have collected approximately 168 pounds of aluminum this year to date!

PRESIDENT

George Eads
698-6078

**1st VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

**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

Bill Powers
377-7917
powersw@silverlink.net

Region IX VP

Lanny Ross
692-9741
lannyjean@comcast.net

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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D.C. Phone Number 202-224-2621
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Senator Maria Cantwell
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