



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

June 2013

NUMBER 06-13

General Meeting Date & Time: June 10, 2013, 1:00PM

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

**Program: KITSAP COUNTY COMMISSIONER, CHARLOTTE GARRIDO
"What's Going on in Kitsap County"**

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.

Our last chapter meeting for the summer will be June 10th. I hope to see you there. I hope you and your families have a great, healthy summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

***Chapter Meeting September 9th
Lanny Ross**

***Chapter Meeting October 14th**



**PRESIDENT
George Eads**

Greetings from Naples, Italy!

It is nearly summer and, hopefully, it will be a wonderful one in the Pacific Northwest. I want you to know that I sent e-mails to Congressman Kilmer and Senators Murray and Cantwell about changing the CPI COLA formula. They all agree that it should remain as it is currently. If it is changed, it will negatively affect our retirement, along with Social Security and military retirement. If you have not let them know your feelings about this issue, I encourage you to do so. E-mail or call them or send a card to their local offices. I have said many times, along with our National and Federation officers, that it is time all NARFE members be proactive.

Chapter 181 is sponsoring the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) Convention in our area in May 2014. We are starting to plan for this special event and we need many people to help out to make it a great convention. We need YOU! Please contact any chapter officer to discuss ways you can help.



**CHAPTER
SUMMER BREAK**

This is a reminder that there will be no "General Membership Meetings" and no "Bulletin" for July and August. This does not mean that your Executive Board will be taking a vacation. We will be active, doing our jobs, right through the summer. We hope all of the membership can relax and have fun. See you in September!



**The Future of NARFE
Chapters**

1st V.P. Ralph Sanders

I am not writing this as a "doomsday letter". I am attempting to give you some facts and opinions as to the wellness of our chapter and NARFE in general. We have recently lost (closed) several chapters in the Washington State Federation and many more across the nation.

I was fortunate to be able to attend a meeting in Sequim, Washington in April regarding the possible closing of the Olympic Chapter. I was surprised and gratified that the forty or so chapter members and officers in attendance did not want the chapter to close. So why would a chapter of several hundred members be on the verge of collapse? It is because no one is willing or able

1st V.P. Sanders cont. to be president or to provide leadership for the chapter. The members who are, or were, capable of running the chapter, no longer are willing or capable of fulfilling that duty. Those folks are burned out, advancing in age, or have health problems. This, in many instances, has left them wishing they could fulfill those positions, but they cannot. Fortunately the Olympic Chapter has formed a committee to find new officers and change chapter operations so that it can function with fewer people and less labor.

Unfortunately, most all of the chapters in this district are in similar circumstances and that would include your Bremerton Chapter. We have not traveled quite as far down that road, but it is only a matter of time before we get there.

What we can do, or are willing to do, I am not sure. Whatever changes we make will be chapter decisions, not mine or the Executive Board's. The obvious or quickest fix is to have newer, younger members taking over the Executive Board and the managing of the chapter. But until we decide to change and those folks come forward, we will keep on, just as we have, for the last twenty years.

CALL TO ACTION

What you can do:

- Continue to monitor congressional attacks on how COLAs are calculated and plans to dismantle the Federal Employees Health Benefit program; make your congressional representatives aware of what you want them to do.
- NARFE will host a National Congressional Call-In Day in September; watch your NARFE magazine for the date and join thousands of other members to light up the congressional switchboards!

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education alone will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."
Calvin Coolidge

The U.S. Senate and House do not appear to be nearing any agreement on the 2014 budget. This means that there are, at this time, no finalized legislative budget bills that will impact NARFE members. There are several initiatives in the form of bills being proposed that may

affect us as the 2014 budget process unwinds in the coming months. They are the following:

S. 896 Repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). NARFE supports.

H.R. 1780 Remove all federal employees from the Federal Employees Health Benefits program (FEHB), and force them to buy health insurance provided through the exchanges created under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). NARFE opposes.

H.R. 249 To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for federal employment. NARFE opposes.

H.R. 1643 To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free withdrawals from the Federal Thrift Savings Fund to employees who are furloughed as a result of the federal budget sequester.

The sequester imposed by Congress on all federal expenditures remains in effect and will continue until there is presidential and congressional agreement on a larger budget deal for cutting the deficit over the next ten years. If there is a budget deal, you can bet there will be entitlement reforms that will affect NARFE members. So, read your NARFE magazine and, if you receive email alerts requesting you to contact Congress, be prompt in responding. Your benefits will definitely be affected by the big deal, if there is one, this summer. The Chain CPI is one of these reforms that will affect all of us who are retired.

Have a great summer and I look forward to providing you legislative updates in the September newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

We will be keeping our membership status up-to-date during the months of July and August even though we will not have a newsletter in which to post the information. It will all come out in the September issue. We will be sending out our usual "drop" notices by mail during this period of time.

The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped for non-renewal in the June M-112 report: Michael Burton, Valerie Erickson, Devere Hall, Mary Peterson and Luella Taylor.

These are the members showing dropped for non-renewal in the May M-112 report: Mary Erickson, James Houk, Walter Lee, Gerald Patraw, Gladys Robinson, Helen Sieck, Harry Sittauer, Jerome Twogood and Gary Walters.

Membership cont. The following members have transferred their membership to the e-NARFE Chapter: Edward Boyle, Charles Culberson, Dennis Fulton and Curtis Naslund. Thanks to all of you for maintaining your membership

We have the positive side of the chapter membership ledger. The following members have renewed their membership or are new members of NARFE: Yvonne Collins, Deborah Corrigan, Marilyn Kinslow, George Nutsford, Jean Robertson, John Vaughan and Josephine Witte. A special thanks to Joyce Fischlin for transferring into our chapter. 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 about our chapter or NARFE, please call any of the chapter officers listed on the back page of this newsletter.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for April was \$685.23 with expenditures of \$688.49. Our net worth as of 1 May was \$34,491.89. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting. Our budget for 2013 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 mail the receipts to Norene Torkelson or me (NARFE Chapter 181, PO Box 5025, Bremerton WA. 98312), 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 May was \$209.69. Donations of \$115.00 were received in May thanks to Loraine Brockerman, Harold Brooks, Robert Brown, Bill Fuhrmeister and Rex Tauscher.

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

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

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Lola Cummings, Charles Mitchell, Charles Schwartz and Rose Ella Wilshire.

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.

HELP WANTED

For information about any of these positions, please contact George Eads at 698-6078.

SERVICE OFFICER

Helps members with benefits-related issues. NARFE Headquarters has some good pamphlets that make it easy to explain things.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Maintains order and decorum among the members and all persons present at a meeting and may even expel persons from the meeting. Act as doorkeeper and is responsible for admitting only eligible persons. Acts as usher and is generally responsible for the comfort and convenience of the assembly. Helps arrange the meeting room and equipment.

TELEPHONE CONTACT

Calls dropped members.



Did you know?

If you have both a traditional TSP IRA and a TSP Roth IRA, you have no control over which balance your distribution comes from when you make a required minimum distribution. This has tax implications you should be aware of. Read the article beginning on page 38 of your June NARFE magazine.

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

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**

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Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2014

Gladys Berteaux

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

District IV VP

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Region IX VP

Lanny Ross
692-9741
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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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