



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

September 2013

NUMBER 07-13

General Meeting Date & Time: September 9, 2013, 1:00PM

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

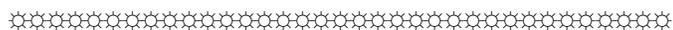
Program: LANNY ROSS, REGION IX V.P.

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

- *Alzheimer's Walk September 28th
Evergreen Park Starts at 8:30AM
- *Chapter Meeting October 14th
- *PSNS Health Fair November 5th
Kitsap Conference Center 7:00AM – 5:00PM
- *Chapter Meeting November 11th



PRESIDENT

George Eads

Welcome back from a wonderful summer here in the great Pacific Northwest. In our Executive Board meeting, we discussed the lack of attendance at our General Membership meetings. If you have any suggestions for how we can get better attendance, please let a member of the Executive Board know of your ideas.

As members of NARFE, we all need to step up and be very pro-active in calling our elected representatives. On page 9 of the September issue of the NARFE magazine, it gives you complete instructions on how to make that important call. The call week this year is September 16-20. Please make your voice be heard to Congress and let's all do our part to make a difference.

We have had some planning meetings for the 2014 Federation convention hosted by Chapter 181 and we are making progress. As time moves closer to the date, we will need more volunteers to help out. Call Bea Bull or Ralph Sanders and let them know. We will be electing chapter officers again in November. If you have

a desire to run for any office, please let an Executive Board member know.

I encourage you to always read your monthly NARFE magazine. It has great information to keep you informed concerning actions affecting your earned benefits. I hope to see you at our September General Membership meeting. Bring a friend to the meeting with you. They are always welcome.



I NEED YOUR HELP: Each month I try to find a speaker who is relevant, interesting and free. Each time I call, their first question is "how many people will be there" and I find myself crossing my fingers as I say "about 50". Sadly, our attendance is going down – sometimes we have only 20 people and that includes the speaker. Your Executive Board is even discussing the possibility of quarterly meetings and possibly asking Poulsbo and Port Orchard to attend our meetings. Please bring a friend, even though they are not a NARFE member – let's fill those chairs. Thank you. Amber VanSantford

**2014
WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
BI-ANNUAL CONVENTION**
Ralph Sanders, Convention Co-chair

This article is for the information of the members of District 4 which will host the 2014 (54th) Washington State Federation of Chapters Bi-annual Convention, to be held at the Silverdale Beach Hotel on May 13-15, 2014. Bremerton Chapter 181 has taken the lead on this project with assistance from Port Orchard, Poulsbo and Sequim chapters.

WSFC Convention cont. We have thirteen (13) committees established to accomplish this project, with sixty-six (66) separate functions. Three of these committees still need Committee Chairs and almost all of the committees need helping hands. The committees still needing chairs are: **Solicitations/Door Prizes** (solicit each Federation chapter for a door prize, store and catalog prizes, hold drawings); **Printing and Publications** (Lead in the design of the program book, have books printed, solicit ads, prepare memorial book); and **Greeters** (meet people at the hotel door, give directions to convention functions, be familiar with restaurants and other accommodations in Silverdale).

This is your opportunity to be of service to your chapter, your District and to NARFE. In future newsletters we will get more specific about what we are doing and what needs to be done. If you are interested, and I am sure you are, contact any Chapter 181 officer listed on the back page of this newsletter. Thanks for your help.

CALL TO ACTION

What you can do:

- September 16-20 is "Call Congress Week". Call-in instructions are on page 9 of the September NARFE magazine.
- If you still have your July NARFE magazine, follow the instructions on page 44 to write to your Congressional Representatives.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

Thomas Jefferson

Congress returns to work again in September after their summer break. The partisan divide is still essentially like the Great Wall of China, keeping each side at bay; the President's 2014 budget needs to be approved by October 1st (it is highly doubtful that it will be) and the sequester cuts are still in place with no large budget deal in sight to end them. It looks like there will be a continuing resolution to run the government on the existing budget levels of 2012. That's the good news. The bad news for the nation is that it doesn't look like things will change anytime soon, either before or even possibly after the mid-term elections in November, or even looking into the 2014 budget year.

Setting the agenda for the 2013 Congress: The Republicans, before departing for their summer break in August, managed to pass several House bills which were intended to bash the federal government and especially federal employees; the bills were only passed in the House. All this so they would look good to their Tea Party

constituents in their secure gerrymandered voting districts who still hold most republican office holders hostage to the Tea Party's far-right conservative ideology. The Tea Party base is looking to the House Republicans to stop any budget proposal for 2014 unless it contains provisions to completely defund Obamacare.

All of this posturing, while intended to publicly state conservative political positions, does not appear to be impacting NARFE retired members. Note, however, that the hiring and pay freeze for active employees remains in place through 2013. NARFE retired member health benefits and pay are unaffected by sequestration and the most dire conservative bills which could affect them will never make it out of the House to the Democratic Senate. This doesn't mean that you should not respond to NARFE requests to write to your congressional representatives about bills that try to deprive active and retired federal employees of their earned pay and benefits. Your Representative and Senators need to know that you see these proposals as unfair and as attempts to repress and diminish federal service and federal employees. This is particularly true with the Chained-CPI proposal which appears to be in vogue in the administration as a part of any potential "big budget deal" and could be considered part of any congressional entitlement reform.

Local Congressional meetings: An early-September meeting is scheduled in Congressman Kilmer's Bremerton office for the NARFE chapter presidents from Bremerton, Port Orchard, and Poulsbo and our District Service Officer from Sequim. They plan to present NARFE positions on a range of pay and benefit issues on behalf of their members. These face-to-face meetings, while difficult to arrange due to Kilmer's demanding congressional schedule, are necessary and an important service provided by chapter officers to members.

Keep reading the monthly NARFE magazine as it has excellent legislative updates as well as reports that make sense of complex legislative issues and proposals that affect all NARFE members.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Welcome back. If you have not noticed our plea for help on the 2014 WSFC Convention please go back and review our comments. It is imperative that we get support from the whole District to make this a success.

Because we have been collecting data all summer (three months of data) some of these lists may seem long; also, we are now using a different format (1st day of the month to the last day of the month) which will correspond better to our report here and at the General Membership meeting.

Membership cont. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped for non-renewal in the August data report: John Alcantra, John Covert, Marilyn Gulla, William Heffelmire, Eleanor Miles, Harold Richardson, Margaret Soister, Paul Southwell and Carma Wells.

These are the members showing dropped for non-renewal in the May, June, and July reports: Elsie Baines, Michael Burton, Steven Christensen, Charles Culberson, Valerie Erickson, Roxanna Ezell, Irene Hammond, Henry Hardon, Mildred Huyghe, William Lafair, Lucille Leighton, Freddie Lindsey, William Lorraine, Ann McMullan, Shirley Nardi, Roberta Nelson, Irvin Parkhurst, James Payne, Daniel Peterson, Mary Peterson, Roberta Plattner, Judith Stelson, Evelyn Stouffer, Luella Taylor and Kenneth Wheeler.

Now for the positive side of the chapter membership showing that the following members have renewed their membership, are new members or have transferred from another chapter: Geraldine Bartlett, Robert Case, Frances Challender, Deborah Corrigan, Betty Fischer, Devere Hall, Douglas Hoppe, Jerry Lock, David Morse, Clifford Spring, Virginia Tappe and Jerome Twogood.

We also have several prospective members who have signed up: Delma Babcock, Brian Bodaly, Denise Clark, Robert Green, Margaret Joiner and Marla McDonald. Thank you for signing in. We hope that you will find something here that will cause you to join our chapter. If you have any questions regarding NARFE or Chapter 181, please call any one of the officers listed on the back page of this newsletter.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for June and July was \$755.22 with expenditures of \$811.16. Our net worth as of 1 August was \$34,602.64. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting.



AS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT THE AUGUST MEETING, THE RED APPLE PROGRAM WILL BE DISCONTINUED DUE TO LACK OF SUFFICIENT PARTICIPATION. However, please continue to save your receipts during September and mail them to me at NARFE Chapter 181, PO Box 5025, Bremerton WA. 98312 no later than **OCTOBER 1, 2013.**



Did you know?

Opt-In to receive your Electronic 1099R. Go to <http://www.serviceline.opm.gov/> and log in. Under "Miscellaneous" click on "Update Email Address/Opt-In to Receive Information Electronically". Provide your email address and make your selections in the blue box. Done!

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 13 August was \$59.71. Donations of \$65.00 were received in June through July thanks to Loraine Brockerman, Robert Brown, Gerald Webb and Nancy Hemstreet. A donation check was forwarded to the Alzheimer's Association in the amount of \$235 in June.

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 over 384 pounds of aluminum this year to date!

ALZHEIMER'S MEMORY WALK

This year's Alzheimer's Memory walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 28 at Evergreen Park, Bremerton. The walk will start at 8:30AM and you can register online at www.alz.org or contact walk coordinator Justine Stevens at 206-529-3898. You can sign-up with a team or walk as an individual and there are always many raffle/give away items at this event. Additional information will be available at the September meeting.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Rex Tauscher for Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Maurice Grub, Virginia Jensen, Mary Morgan, Vivian Raymond, Dorothea Speed, Maurice Stevens, Virginia Triggs, William Johnson and Karen Powers (wife of William Powers district Vice President and Chapter 181 member). In addition Sympathy Card was sent to the family of NARFE Federation President Sandy Cagle and her memorial service was attended by many of our chapter members. Get well wishes were given to Norene Torkelson in person as our Sunshine Chair is temporarily on limited duty.

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.

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

William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

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District IV Service Officer
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ralphangulo@yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

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UNTIL DECEMBER 2013

Bea Bull

Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2014

Gladys Berteaux

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

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Region IX VP

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NARFE HOTLINE NUMBER

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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
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Boyers, PA 16017

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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