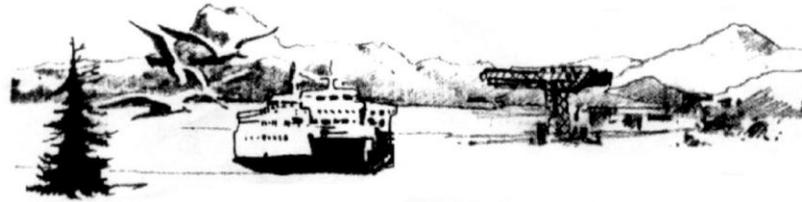




MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

November 2013

NUMBER 09-13

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

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

Program: BUILDING THE PERFECT BATHROOM

Tracy Corriveau, Certified Aging in Place Specialist
Kitsap Kitchen & Bath Company, Poulsbo
ALSO - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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.

CORRECTION

Please Note! We have been publishing the wrong date for the PSNS Health Fair; it will be on Thursday, November 7th. We sincerely apologize for this error and regret any inconvenience this causes our members. See page 2 for parking/walking instructions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| *PSNS Health Fair | 7:00AM - 5:00PM | <u>November 7th</u> |
| Fountain Room | See page 2 | |
| *Chapter Meeting | See page 2 | 1:00PM <u>December 9th</u> |
| Holiday Luncheon & Installation of Officers | | |
| The Willows Retirement Living on Pine Road | | |

PSNS HEALTH FAIR

The "*PSNS Open Season Benefit Fair*" is on **November 7th (Thursday) from 7AM to 5PM** in the "*Fountain Room*" of the Bremerton Conference Center. Attendees are to park in the Conference Center parking garage in either the **'Red'** or **'Green'** level (there is a fee), **NOT** the 'Blue' level. Entrance to the "*Fountain Room*" is via walkway on the right side of the *Building 50 Museum* (behind the SSN-683 sail and between the ferry auto holding area and the shipyard). Use the door on the right to enter the "*Fountain Room*". The door on the left goes to the museum.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

WHEN: December 9th - 1:00PM

WHERE: The dining room of **The Willows Retirement Living Community** at 3231 Pine Road NE (between Sylvan and Sheridan).

WHAT: A buffet-style holiday luncheon of either **Salmon or Chicken Alfredo**; the meal cost includes green salad, bread, coffee or tea and, for dessert, carrot cake or pumpkin pie. Remember, even though it is buffet-style, please choose one entrée or the other, or you will be asked to pay for both. A **social hour (2:00pm-3:00pm)** will follow lunch, complete with some wonderful holiday music.

PARKING: Valet parking will be available.

PRICE: \$10.00 per person.

RSVP: To **Myra Clodius** at **377-2910** by November 13; mail your checks to her at 912 Vandalia Ave., Bremerton, WA 98310-4881.

PRESIDENT

George Eads

It is Open Season for the FEHBP program. If you are happy with your present plan, you don't have to do a thing. In the November NARFE magazine article on pages 38-50, you will find the new premium costs for the various plans and hopefully answers to any questions you might have. It is up to you to make the decision for what plan best suits you.

I think we all are glad that the government has reopened and the dedicated government workers are back on the job doing what they do best; serve the people of this great nation.

I appreciate all of you who called their representatives during National Call Congress Week, September 16-20. It is one of the things all NARFE members can do to stay in touch with their elected representatives.

We need to have more involvement of our membership and I encourage you to come to our chapter meetings. Our election of officers for 2014 will be held at our November meeting. If you have an interest in becoming a chapter officer, please contact Myra Clodius at 377-2910.

I hope you and your families stay healthy and have a wonderful Thanksgiving. I am grateful for each one of you and for your support.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

Federal budgets at times greatly resemble the story of the 8 blind men and the elephant. Each man was trying to determine what it was that they had before them. None could agree with the others. It seems with the federal budget we have 50 blind men/women (from their respective

states) some of whom are determined to not even find the elephant much less agree to what it is.

Budget problems commonly exist at every level of society. There is no end to methods used for budgeting, and the repercussions from trying to assemble them, as seen in these few observations from the "Grinning Planet" website.

"A billion here, a billion there—sooner or later it adds up to real money."— Senator Everett Dirksen₁

"You can fool all the people all the time if the advertising is right and the budget is big enough."— Joseph E. Levine₁

"My problem lies in reconciling my gross habits with my net income."— Errol Flynn₁

"Some couples go over their budgets very carefully every month; others just go over them."— Sally Poplin₁

"I have enough money to last me the rest of my life, unless I buy something."— Jackie Mason₁

The recent adoption of the 2014 federal budget as a short term continuing resolution (CR) can be seen as a defeat for the Republican Tea Party Caucus in the US House of Representatives and the US Senate. The continuing resolution, which was passed, restored government operations and increased the national debt level, preventing a catastrophic default on federal payment obligations. The problem that remains is that the nation has not had an annual budget in the last 4 years; only continuing resolutions. This simply says that Congress agrees to disagree on a current annual budget that they are responsible to pass. As a result they continue expenditures and revenues at the prior year's budget levels. Congress added a poison pill called sequestration to the 2011 continuing resolution that forced annual across-the-board percentage budget cuts in 2013 and 2014 for all federal departments. This threatens each department's ability to perform mission-

critical operations and provide necessary levels of service to the public at all levels of society. In the case of our military, it also reduces their level of combat readiness.

What is the impact of this brouhaha on NARFE members and their benefits and pensions? That is still up in the air, but there are strong indications that the Tea Party and its political ideology will not go away. If, and I say if, Congress is able to reach a 2014 budget agreement by the December 13th budget extension deadline they agreed to, they could incorporate several changes to our current pensions and benefits.

One thing that is still on the table is replacing the CPI with the "Chained CPI". This would happen as part of the "Big Budget Deal". Other giveaways on the table could be increased employee pension contributions and reduced federal benefit contributions for future federal employee hires, but also possibly for current employees. Benefits of current employees and annuitants may not be totally safe in any current and future negotiations despite the strong support shown for them by the Administration and the Democrats in the Senate and the House. Whether we will be adversely affected will depend upon the lobbying of Congress by federal employee organizations like NARFE and employee unions like NTEU and AFSME.

An interesting observation surfaced in the last few weeks in the political talking-heads circuit in Washington which compared the Tea Party gains and their control of the US House to the anti-war movement of 1968. The students' Vietnam anti-war demands, and drive to change the ideology of the Democratic party, did not go away after their initial protests in Chicago in 1968. Rather, the ideology of the anti-war movement mainstreamed in the Democratic Party over the next several years and finally forced major changes to its party election platforms and forced changes in US

national and domestic policies. This appears to be the possible direction that the Republican party will take in co-opting the conservative Tea Party ideology into its moderate party platforms to regain control of the party and keep from imploding in a civil war between moderates and conservatives. Hold onto your seats as we may have an interesting, if not rough, ride ahead.

¹ <http://www.grinningplanet.com/funny-quotes/budget-quotes-funny.htm>. Oct. 24, 2013.

CALL TO ACTION

What you can do:

- Recruit an active federal employee by telling them about the **ongoing first-6-months-free membership**. Go to narfe.org and click on the big "Feds in Crisis" banner; look for the offer in the blue box.
- Again, by clicking on "Feds in Crisis" on the narfe.org home-page, find the latest information on the upcoming budget battle and a link (click on the word "oppose" midway down the page) an email to send to your representatives.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Some changes to call to your attention: 2013 PSNS Health Fair, November 7th 7:00AM to 5:00PM; December 9th Chapter Meeting/Holiday Luncheon will be held at "The Willows" on Pine Road. Time 1:00pm; the cost \$10.00. More information in this newsletter. I should mention again that the WSFC Bi-Annual Convention will be held May 13 - 15, 2014, at the Silverdale Beach Hotel in Silverdale, Washington. We still need your help in making this convention a reality.

Now we have our November membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped for non-renewal in the October data report: James Corbett, James Finney, George Gillies and Donald Olson.

These are the members showing dropped for non-renewal in the September data report: Patricia Alexander, Harriet Robinson and Warren Sherrill. If you know any of these members, please give them a call and ask them to reinstate their membership.

Now for the positive side of the chapter membership showing that the following members have renewed their membership: James Bradwell, Margaret Soister and Evelyn Stouffer.

We also have eight new prospective members: Debi Carey, Sharon Hike, Michael Lindsay, Mary Mascianica, Jolene Mcgarvey, Gerald Nyland, Paul Schlicht and John Vaughn. 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.

HONORING MYRA CLODIUS

Myra Clodius was honored on Saturday, October 26, 2013, as a Bremerton Hero by the Semancik Foundation. The Foundation honors those who have "made our community a better place to live and our schools a better place to learn." Myra, a secretary at Crown Hill Elementary School, is a charter and emeritus member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Kitsap County. She serves on the Washington Quality Review Team to evaluate and improve mental health care in a three-county area, including Kitsap. She works in multiple other volunteer roles and is a recipient of the Kitsap Sun's Unsung Hero Award. (Kitsap Sun article 10/24/2013) Congratulations Myra!

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for September was \$948.89 with expenditures of \$1596.67. Our net worth as of 1 October was \$34,151.45. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 23 October was \$32.71. Donations of \$25.00 were received in October thanks to Loraine Brockerman and Bill Fuhrmeister.

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**

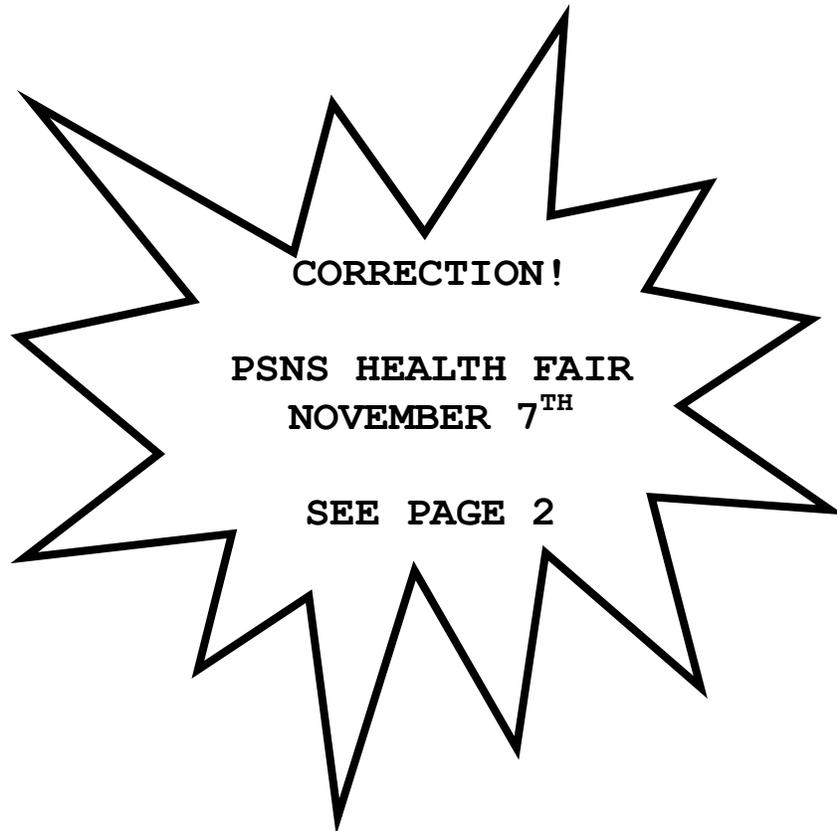
We have collected 587 pounds of aluminum this year to date!

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Rex Tauscher for Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Vondell Gibbs, Kathryn Hess, Pauline Nute and Doreen Wixon. Get well wishes were sent Norene Torkelson who is still recovering.

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.



If you have questions or need assistance with this newsletter, please feel free to contact me at tbkbull@aol.com. Thanks!! Bea Bull

PRESIDENT

George Eads

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

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

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Vacant

contact Ralph Angulo

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Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2014

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Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

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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.

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P.O. Box 45
Boyers, PA 16017

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