



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
except July & August



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

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

**December 2013**

**NUMBER 10-13**

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

**Meeting Place: THE WILLOWS RETIREMENT LIVING  
3231 Pine Road NE, Bremerton, WA (Between Sylvan & Sheridan)**

**Program: HOLIDAY LUNCHEON  
ALSO – Election and Installation 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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- \* Chapter Meeting.....**January 13<sup>th</sup>**
- \*Chapter Meeting..... **February 10<sup>th</sup>**
- \*WSFC Convention.....**May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Silverdale Beach Hotel, Silverdale, WA**



**PRESIDENT**

George Eads

It seems to me we have just started the year 2013 and now we are looking forward to 2014. This time of year is a wonderful season to reflect upon the good things of life. Unfortunately, this year has been a year of government shut downs and budget crises, with some elected officials still looking at both current and retired government employees to take more cuts to their earned benefits. However, it's also important to take the time to remember the good moments from the past year.

Recently we were asked to call our elected officials and encourage them to vote NOT to change the C.P.I. on which our Cost of Living Allowance or COLA is based. I hope you took the opportunity to make those phone calls. There is nothing that will ever replace the importance of grass roots involvement.

The National NARFE magazine has a section each month called the *NARFE Bill Tracker*. I encourage you to look at that section each month (pages 10-12 in the December issue) to keep yourself informed and involved. Another way to obtain up-to-date information on pending legislation is by calling the toll-free Legislative Hot Line number: 1-877-213-8234.

We are making some changes to our Chapter 181 Bylaws; please look for additional information in an article by District V.P. Bill Powers in this newsletter.

Our 2014 WSFC Convention Co-Chairs, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. Ralph Sanders and Secretary/Newsletter Editor Bea Bull, have obtained a signed contract with the Silverdale Beach Hotel for the State convention to be held May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. They are now working on selecting menus and creating a budget and, in December, they will schedule a meeting with all who have volunteered to help with the convention. It's not too late to join this group; please contact Ralph or Bea – their contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

For those of you who will be attending the Holiday Luncheon at The Willows Retirement Living, I look forward to seeing you there. And to all members, my wish is that you and your family have a wonderful Christmas and Hanukkah Holiday season and healthy and Happy New Year 2014.



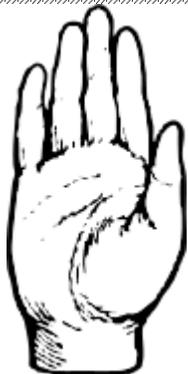
**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**  
**WHEN:** December 9<sup>th</sup> –  
**1:00PM**  
**WHERE:** The dining room of  
**The Willows Retirement**  
**Living Community** at 3231  
 Pine Road NE (between Sylvan  
 and Sheridan).

**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 or mail your checks to her at 912 Vandalia Ave., Bremerton, WA 98310-4881.



**NOTE**

According to Chapter 181 Bylaws, 25 members must be present to elect Chapter officers; only 22 members were at the November meeting, so the election will be conducted at the Holiday Luncheon, followed by the swearing-in of officers by Region IX V.P. Lanny Ross.

**LEGISLATION**

Jim Strunk

*"Politics are almost as exciting as war, and quite as dangerous. In war you can only be killed once, but in politics many times."* Winston Churchill

The Congressional budget for 2014 is now in Conference Committee where it was assigned at the end of the three-week shutdown. The Conference Committee was given the task of creating a 2014 budget for consideration by both houses by December 13<sup>th</sup>. Each house would have to approve that budget by January 15<sup>th</sup>. If that does not happen, then both would have to pass a resolution continuing the 2013 budget to a future date; but it could not be beyond February 7<sup>th</sup>, because that is the date to which the National debt level was suspended.

The word on the street in Washington is that the Conference Committee has not made any progress. The House at this time has adjourned for a ten-day Thanksgiving break. That would leave only eight days for

any legislative action this year.<sup>1</sup> In all likelihood they will pass a continuing resolution which will force them to resolve this issue in January 2014 to temporarily avoid another government shutdown.

But what is happening in the Conference Committee? It is known that President Obama has in his 2014 budget outline that federal employees would pay 1.2 percent more toward their defined benefits (pension), phasing it in over three years. House Majority Leader Paul Ryan wants that increased contribution amount to be 5.5 percent with no phase-in period.<sup>2</sup> As a final matter, the Chained-CPI still remains on the table as a possible administrative budget proposal. The Senate members of the conference, however, oppose any further cuts to any federal employee pay or benefits.

It appears all we can do now is wait for the Conference Committee to act on the budget by February 7<sup>th</sup> and for the House and the Senate to take action on the debt ceiling. Both of these are tipping points which may possibly lead to another government shutdown. Does this all sound familiar?

NARFE is asking all of us to write-in under their letter program entitled - *"Enough is Enough"*. Go to the NARFE website and you will find completed letters where all you have to do is sign them and send them electronically. It may not seem like a lot but, if all NARFE members take this simple step, it may be just enough to convince our representatives that we cannot tolerate further abuse of federal employees and retirees.

<sup>1</sup> The Hill. Dem leaders: No break before budget deal <http://thehill.com/homenews/house/191076-dem-leaders-no-break-before-budget-deal>. Mike Lillis - 11/21/13 01:03 PM EST

<sup>2</sup> Government Executive. Groups Fear Federal Pensions Are At Risk in Budget Talks <http://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2013/11/groups-fear-federal-pensions-are-risk-budget-talks/73433/?oref=top-story> Kellie Lunney, November 7, 2013

**CALL TO ACTION**

**What you can do:**

- The **first-6-months-free membership** opportunity ends 9 December 2013. Go to narfe.org and click on the big "Feds in Crisis" banner; look for the offer in the blue box. **Don't miss this great opportunity to recruit a new member!**
- The 2014 COLA is 1.5%. Imagine if the Chained-CPI were in place; that COLA would be even smaller. Don't let that happen; **call or write your congressional representatives today!**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Ralph Sanders

Some changes and announcements to call to your attention: The December 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting/Holiday Luncheon will be held at "The Willows" on Pine Road. Time 1:00. Look for more information in this newsletter.

**Membership cont.** 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 for the November membership report. There was an error in last month's report that I would like to correct. Mr. Finney and Mr. Gillies were listed as members to be dropped if they did not renew. Both of these members are on dues withholding and cannot be dropped. My sincere apologies to both of these members for listing them in the November report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped in the November data report: Alan Crichton, Margret Harnett, Paul Wilkins and Sherman Williams. This is the member showing dropped for non-renewal in the October data report: James Corbett. If you know this member, please give him a call and ask him to reinstate his membership.

Now for the positive side of the chapter membership. The following members have renewed their membership: Patricia Alexander, Irvin Parkhurst and Carrie Wheeler. Thank you for renewing. We have six (6) new prospective members this month: Glen Allen, David Bennett, Rene Cayabyab, William Grey, Deb Hoerner and Marla McDonald. If you have questions about the Chapter or NARFE please call me or any board member listed on the last page of this newsletter.

### **ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)**

Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 21 November was \$89.71. Donations of \$55.00 were received in November thanks to Loraine Brockerman, Robert Brown and JR Seibold.

Donation checks were forwarded to the Alzheimer's Association in the amount of \$235 in June and \$407 in September.

#### **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., 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL. 60601-7633.
- If you mail it to NARFE headquarters staff, it may not get credited to our Chapter.

### **TREASURER**

Rex Tauscher

Our income for October was \$694.04 with expenditures of \$687.99. Our net worth as of 1 November was \$34,157.50. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting.

### **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

Rex Tauscher for Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Ralph Bailey, Lareine Bohlmann, Wilfred Rueb and Gerald Webb. Get well wishes were sent to Gladys Berteaux.

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.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHAPTER 181 BYLAWS**

There presently is a decline in recruitment of volunteers for officer positions and some procedures need to be updated. Therefore, the Executive Board is proposing bylaws changes to the number of chapter officers and the length of service for these positions plus some procedure updates. The changes are:

1. Eliminating Assistant Secretary position.
2. Eliminating Assistant Treasurer position.
3. Eliminating Second Vice President position.
4. Eliminating one Member at Large position.
5. Extending the term of office for all remaining officers to two years.
6. Reflect the present system for paying chapter per capita taxes.
7. Membership Chair to forward membership changes to NARFE Headquarters.
8. Add new statement to stipulate limited usage of membership fees and dues.
9. Corrected section that stipulates who at National receives bylaw changes.

These amendments will be adopted at our December chapter meeting, a quorum being present, and receiving a two-thirds vote.

#### **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 500 pounds of aluminum this  
year to date!**

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

**PRESIDENT**

George Eads  
698-6078

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

**SERVICE OFFICER**

Vacant  
contact Ralph Angulo  
District IV Service Officer  
(360) 452-6542  
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](mailto:lannyjean@comcast.net)

**NARFE HOTLINE NUMBER**

1-877-217-8234

**NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE**

Webmaster – Bob Edwards  
[www.narfewadist4.org](http://www.narfewadist4.org)

**NARFE STATE WEBSITE**

[www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net)

**NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE**

[www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

**eNARFE WEBSITE**

[www.enarfe.org](http://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**

Senator Patty Murray  
950 Pacific Avenue #650  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
Tacoma Phone Number 253-572-9488  
D.C. Phone Number 202-224-2621  
[www.murray.senate.gov](http://www.murray.senate.gov)

Senator Maria Cantwell  
915 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 3206  
Seattle, WA 98174  
Seattle Phone Number 206-220-6400  
D.C. Phone Number 202-224-3441  
[www.cantwell.senate.gov](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov)

Congressman Derek Kilmer  
345 – 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
Bremerton Phone Number 360-373-9725  
D.C. Phone Number 202-225-5916  
<http://kilmer.house.gov>