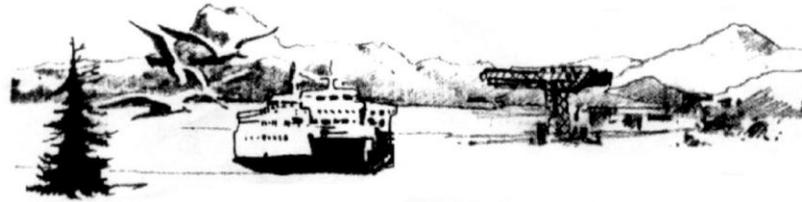




MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



**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 13th

*Chapter Meeting..... February 10th

*WSFC Convention.....May 14th and 15th
Silverdale Beach Hotel, Silverdale, WA

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.

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

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, 1st 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 14th and 15th. 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.

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 13th. Each house would have to approve that budget by January 15th. 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 7th, 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.¹ 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.² 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 7th 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.

¹ 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

² 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 9th Chapter Meeting/Holiday Luncheon will be held at "The Willows" on Pine Road. Time 1:00. Look for 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 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.

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.

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., 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 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.

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

SERVICE OFFICER

Vacant

contact Ralph Angulo

District IV Service Officer

360-452-6542

ralphangulo@yahoo.com

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

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

Senator Maria Cantwell
915 - 2nd Avenue, Ste 3206
Seattle, WA 98174
Seattle Phone Number
206-220-6400
D.C. Phone Number
202-224-3441
www.cantwell.senate.gov

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