



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

April 2013

NUMBER 04-13

General Meeting Date & Time: April 8, 2013, 1:00PM

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

Program: MAJOR JAMES BAKER OF THE SALVATION ARMY
WILL DISCUSS EXPANSION PLANS

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.

NOTE CHANGE!! 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

- *Older Americans' Conference May 8th
(Senior Fair) Kiana Lodge, Poulsbo
- *Chapter Meeting May 14th
- *Region IX Leadership Training May 31st - June 1st
Quality Inn & Conference Center, Ellensburg, WA
- *Chapter Meeting June 10th

PRESIDENT

George Eads

Fellow Chapter Members:

March 9-12, 2013 I attended the Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. It was very informative and well organized by our National officers.

On Tuesday, March 12th, I was able to go visit the offices of Congressmen Jim McDermott, Adam Smith, Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Derek Kilmer, our own representative. The meeting we had with them was very cordial and they understand our situation as active and retired federal employees. One of the suggestions they all had was to call, e-mail or write letters to their district office. They want to hear of your concerns.

I thought I would share part of a letter I received from Congressman Derek Kilmer, whom I feel is doing an outstanding job as our congressman. Congressman Kilmer writes:

"In an effort to reduce the nation's deficit and balance the budget, President Obama announced a two-year salary freeze for federal employees in late 2010. Many federal workers in our region have expressed the hardship this was for their families and concern that the across-the-board cuts hurt the same employees who spend their days protecting our nation and providing essential services to Americans.

"In December, 2012 President Obama issued an executive order that will lift the pay freeze on March 27th and give all federal employees a 0.5% to 1.0% pay increase.

"I opposed H.R. 273, which would block pay increases for all federal employees because the many federal workers in our region have already contributed \$100 billion toward deficit reduction and because the bill was not a serious attempt at averting the upcoming automatic spending cuts. The bill passed the House by a vote of 261-154.

Thankfully, though, the legislation has not been considered by the Senate.

"The bill also would have cut the pay increase for Members of Congress that is slated to go into effect on October 1, 2013. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 636, which would prevent a pay increase for members of Congress from going into effect through 2014. I have also signed a letter to the House Chief Administrative Officer directing him to freeze my pay through my term in office. In addition, once again this year, I will be taking a portion of my salary and donating it to scholarships to help graduating high school seniors throughout our district go to college.

"H.R. 933, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, introduced by Rep. Harold Rogers (Ky.), has a provision extending the pay freeze for all federal employees. The legislation passed in the House, but has not yet been considered by the Senate. I opposed the bill for several reasons. Not only am I dismayed that Congress continually seeks to balance the budget on the backs of hardworking federal employees, I am concerned that this bill - as it came before us - locks in the across-the-board cuts that I have been vocal in opposing.

"As the result of the 2011 Budget Control Act, Congress put in place a deep set of across-the-board cuts, known as sequestration, that would take effect unless Congress passed a deal to put our long-term debt and deficit on a more sustainable path. Since Congress failed to act before March 1st, our federal employees are now facing furloughs and other threats. In some agencies there may be as many as one furlough day per week. In other words, many federal employees now face a Congressionally-manufactured threat to their livelihoods.

"This isn't happening because Congress thought that this was a good idea. It's not happening because Congress has scaled back the workload on our federal employees. It's happening because too many members of Congress are

focusing more on partisanship than on progress. In my view, the focus should be on doing what is right for thousands of middle class families and our nation's economy.

"According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, these drastic cuts threaten to chop our economic growth in 2013 by half. The cuts could put our fragile economy back into a recession.

"The across-the-board nature of these cuts means that there's no strategy involved here. Every functional area of government will be impacted. Imagine your family budget treating housing and food the same as your budget for movie-going, magazine subscriptions, and vacations. During tough financial times, you wouldn't just cut everything by an equal amount. You would prioritize.

"Unfortunately, under sequestration, there's no prioritization. No strategy. And the impacts are damaging.

"Cuts to the Federal Aviation Administration mean fewer air traffic controllers and more flight delays. Cuts to the U.S. Department of Agriculture mean fewer food inspectors, more plant shutdowns, and higher food prices. Cuts to the Army Corps of Engineers means that construction and dredging activity will halt all over the country.

"We cannot simply rely on only cutting our way out, only taxing our way out, or only growing our way out. We need a comprehensive, balanced approach that doesn't adversely affect our fragile economic recovery, that protects our national security and obligations to our seniors and most vulnerable, and that addresses our nation's long-term financial sustainability.

"This won't be an easy journey but it's one I'm committed to seeing through. The American people need Congress to stop playing the blame game and get to work.

"I encourage you to continue to share your views with me on this topic or any other issue. Thank you for reaching out. It is an honor to represent you." Derek Kilmer

CALL TO ACTION

What you can do:

- Senator Patty Murray is the Senate Budget Committee Chair; use the contact information on the last page of this newsletter to write or call her staff and let them know your views.
- Visit Congressman Kilmer or his staff during the Easter break.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

The House Appropriations Committee approved the 2013 Federal Budget in a continuing resolution. The resolution reflected the budget passed in this same week by the US Senate. It allows the Government to operate until the next fiscal year starts on October 1, 2013.

The national debt limit did not become an issue and an increase was approved. Even though the debt limit crisis has been averted, agreed cuts under the sequestration agreement will continue for the remainder of this fiscal year. They are now being felt, as in the form of recently announced furloughs for Bremerton shipyard workers.

The chained CPI was not implemented in the 2013 Continuing Resolution and, although it may become a stealth budget item in coming negotiations to end sequestration, for right now it is lying dormant.

A freeze on federal pay to the end of the 2013 fiscal period was, however, included in the resolution. Hopefully, that and other budget cuts affecting current

active federal employees will encourage them to consider joining NARFE to provide them with the lobbying strength to avoid bearing the brunt of future budget cuts affecting their pay and benefits.

As a final note, our 6th District Congressman, Derek Kilmer, will be back in town for at least the next several weeks so take the opportunity to meet with him or his staff at scheduled events. Let them know your concerns as active and retired federal employees.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

I would like to start off by thanking those members who have chosen to renew their membership for multiple years, or have chosen dues withholding. You have not only made life easier for yourself, but you have also saved NARFE the cost of renewing your membership on an annual basis. Thanks again to all of you who pay your dues faithfully every year.

I said last month that there may be some errors in the report and there were. I used a different report structure and so you will find repeats in this report. Sorry for the inconvenience that this may cause.

The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped for non-renewal in the April M-112 report: Geraldine Bartlett, Clyde Bennett, N. Crawford, Haven Fowler, Alvin Kramer, Ethel Nosky, Pauline Nute, Larry Ohman, Michael Pontrelli, Marvin Romack, Donna Tabert and Josephine Witte.

These are the members showing dropped for non-renewal in the March M-112 report: Don Bergman, Robert Case, Dennis Fulton, Margaret Hereth, Howard Kramer, Holly McCoy, David Morse, Nina Morse, Robert Noll, George Nutsford, Douglas Paschal, John Stevens, Evelyn Walton and Roy Walton.

This is a status that we have not reported on before. It shows the direction that we, as a NARFE organization, are moving. The following members transferred their membership to the e-NARFE chapter: Bonnie Buchanan, Carol Chafee, Norman Ingram and Patricia Litaker. We are glad that you chose a new medium and will be contributing NARFE members now and into the future. If you have any questions please contact any member of the Executive Board listed on the last page of this newsletter.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for February was \$753.91 with expenditures of \$98.66. Our net worth as of 1 March was \$34,731.37. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting. Our budget for 2013 has been approved and 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 turn in the receipts to Norene Torkelson or me, or bring them to our next meeting.

There has been a significant drop in the number of receipts received over the past year and we may decide, in the next couple months, to discontinue the program.

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 17 March was \$54.69. Donations of \$25.00 were received in March thanks to Elsmar McKay 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

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Mary Bellant (wife of member Raymond Bellant), Marilyn Boekenoogen, Robert Childress, Harold Crowe, Donald Green, Wayne Langdon, Stephen Medley, Margaret Murdach, Alan Robinson and Valerie Rudman.

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.

SPECIAL NOTES: The loss of Edward Saftich, Sr. has left a volunteer vacancy in many organizations around Kitsap County; with Chapter 181, our Sergeant-at-Arms position is unfilled. Also, if anyone has been in contact with Zora Davis, our Assistant Secretary, please contact any of the chapter board members.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Due to increasing costs and declining attendance, we are exploring other options for our December meeting. Following are some ideas, all at the Westside Improvement Club; we would appreciate your input. For lunch options (other than just donuts), price is to be determined. **Please contact Amber VanSantford at 360-871-4439 or sbamber18@yahoo.com to vote your preference.**

- Regular meeting with no food other than the usual donuts
- Pizza lunch
- Lunch catered by one of the local care facilities
- Lunch prepared by the Westside Improvement Club cook
- Lunch catered by Ambrosia Catering

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

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bea Bull

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Zora Davis

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Norene Torkelson

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Jim Strunk

SERGEANT AT ARMS

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UNTIL DECEMBER 2014

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NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster - Bob Edwards

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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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