



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

January 2014

NUMBER 01-14

General Meeting Date & Time: January 13, 2014 1:00PM

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

**Program: "Overview of Medicaid Services for the Elderly and Long-Term Disabled"
Andrea Berg, Social Services Supervisor and Judy Miflin, Financial Unit Supervisor
of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services**

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..... February 10th
- * Chapter Meeting.....March 10th
- *WSFC Convention.....May 14th and 15th
Silverdale Beach Hotel, Silverdale, WA
- *NARFE National Convention.....August 24th -28th
Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL



PRESIDENT

George Eads

I think we all could say this has been a very busy and eventful year. Let us hope that the government will not shut down and Congress will do the work needed for all the citizens of this great country in the year 2014. I very much appreciate all of you who take an active part in calling and writing our elected officials and would encourage you to continue to do so in the future.

Our Holiday Luncheon was a great success and I'd like to thank all who attended and made it possible. Our chapter officers were sworn in by our Region IX V.P. Lanny Ross, who also spoke to the members. Also in attendance were Mayor Patty Lent and Congressman Kilmer's representative, Joe Dacca, both of whom shared comments with the group.

Our January speakers will be explaining what happens, financially, when someone is placed permanently in a care facility. They will discuss when and how Medicaid kicks in when the person's own financial resources are exhausted. If you have a friend or neighbor who would benefit from this information, please bring them to the meeting.

In the year 2014 we will have our Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) convention in May, here in our own Chapter 181. Again, we need help from the membership to make this a great convention. Please contact Ralph Sanders or Bea Bull to join the 2014 WSFC Convention Committee.

In August there is going to be the National Convention in Orlando, Florida, which I am planning to attend. We will be electing new National officers and voting on many important items for the future of NARFE. Watch your upcoming issues of NARFE magazine for information on items that will be addressed at the Convention; **Candidate statements will be published in the May issue of NARFE magazine only.** The theme for the National Convention is "NARFE Is In Your Future: Embrace the mission. Share the vision." The "Future of NARFE" Committee hopes to present its findings and recommendations at the Convention and possibly have a vote on changes to how NARFE approaches the work it does.

President cont. I am thankful to be president of Chapter 181 and for all the other officers who are serving and for all of you, as chapter members. My hope for you and your families this Christmas and throughout the New Year 2014 is good health, peace and happiness within your homes.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

"It's clearly a budget. It's got a lot of numbers in it."

--George W. Bush

"A new study published by The British Medical Journal found that inactivity can kill you. I mean, these are the kind of findings that just scare the hell out of Congress."

--Jay Leno

Well here we are at the end of a long period of speculation about what the 2014 Budget would look like, or whether Congress would even turn one out. Senator Murray and Representative Ryan were assigned as the Chairs of a joint committee to come up with a budget. Guess what? They actually did come up with one. It's not big and it's not grand but it is a budget, nevertheless, for the 2014 budget year.

The Republicans were not satisfied with it and needed Democrats in the U.S. House to help pass it as most of the Tea Party was opposed to it. The Democrats were opposed as it did not extend unemployment benefit beyond December 2013. The Republicans didn't like it because it raised income in the form of some airline passenger fees and reduced sequester cuts. The total amount of reductions in the amount of sequester cuts was about \$60 billion. The amount of saving to match that amount was in program spending (reduced program expenditures) and non-tax revenue savings. The amount was about \$85 billion over the next ten years.¹ The overall effect was to leave about \$140 billion in sequester cuts in place for the next two years (in domestic and defense programs).

Impact upon active and retired federal employees: "The agreement would create a three-tier system for employee contributions to their civil service pensions. Those hired before this year pay 0.8 percent of their salary, those hired in 2013 pay 3.1 percent and those hired after January 1, 2014 would pay 4.4 percent under the budget agreement."² There was no impact upon current federal worker entitlements or pension payments.

The good news is that there was not another government shutdown, nor is one anticipated when the discussions needed to increase the national debt limit occur in February. The Republicans seem to understand that their congressional popularity is so low that they don't want

to jeopardize their re-election further in front of the 2014 mid-term elections.

So, at least for now, don't expect any more significant attempts to reduce active and retired federal employee benefits and pay in the near future. There will be a bill filed in the House to do just that but the Republicans will be doing it principally to appease their voter base, specifically the Tea Party voter base.

I advise all of you to not sit on your hands in the coming year, but to keep informed on the issues and respond to NARFE requests to write you elected representatives to ensure they are aware of the need to stop coming after federal employees to balance their budgets.

1.<http://blogs.rollcall.com/hawkings/> David Hawkings. December 12, 2013.

2.http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/budget-deal-protects-current-feds-while-new-workers-will-pay-more-toward-retirement/2013/12/10/e18853f6-61f5-11e3-8beb-3f9a9942850f_story.html Joe Davidson, December 10, 2013.

CALL TO ACTION

What you can do:

- As February 7th and the federal debt limit approach, be prepared to contact your congressional representatives about proposed spending cuts that may be requested to go along with raising the debt ceiling.
- Check the **Bill Tracker** section of your NARFE magazine each month for an up-to-date list of legislation that NARFE is following.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

By the time you read this report we should have had our first District-wide meeting for the WSFC Bi-Annual Convention that will be held May 13 - 15, 2014, at the Silverdale Beach Hotel in Silverdale, Washington. I am hoping that all of District 4 chapters will have been able to attend. Thanks for your participation.

Now let us check our December membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped in the December data report: Kathleen Balmer, Hazel Colvin, Norman Reinhardt, Albert Schmidtke, Larry Vancil, Sharon Vancil and W. Frederick Winge.

These members are showing dropped for non-renewal in the November data report: Alan Crichton, Margaret Harnet and Paul Wilkins.

Membership Cont. Now let us look at the positive side of the chapter membership. We have two new members this month: Dennis Jordan and Shirley Mahoney. The following members have renewed their membership: John Alcantra, John Covert and Sherman Williams. Thank you for becoming new members or renewing your membership.

We have a new prospective member this month: Mr. John Wright. Thank you for giving us a look and, 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 22 December was \$109.71. Donations of \$20.00 were received in December thanks to Loraine Brockerman.

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 500 pounds of aluminum this year to date!



REMINDER

Now is an excellent time to log into your OPM account to keep your password current or to obtain a new one. Go to www.OPM.gov and check out what you can do online or, if you're a retiree, try www.serviceline.opm.gov.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for November was \$1,628.18 with expenditures of \$321.45. Our net worth as of 1 December was \$35,464.23. 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 Dennis Hostvedt.

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.



2015 NARFE PHOTO CONTEST CALENDAR GUIDELINES

Submissions Accepted August 1, 2013 – February 15, 2014

- All NARFE members are invited to submit a photo for the 2015 NARFE calendar, whether or not they've already had a photo appear in past calendars. Exception: Members who work as professional photographers are not eligible.
- Photos must be horizontal in format and 8"x10" or 8-1/2"x11" in size.
- Each entrant must put the following information on a piece of paper and tape it to the back of each photo: name, address, chapter number (if applicable), and phone number or email address.
- Each member is limited to five photos.
- No photos of children or pets, please. Photos sent by email will not be accepted. No Polaroids.
- All photos submitted become the property of NARFE and will not be returned.
- Photos will be judged and winners notified by the end of May 2014.
- Send photos to: NARFE Photo Contest, Office of the Treasurer, NARFE, 606 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

If you have questions, please email pubrel@narfe.org.

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

**VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

**SECRETARY
NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bea Bull

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Jim Strunk

SERGEANT AT ARMS

William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

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Vacant
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CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

UNTIL DECEMBER 2014

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

UNTIL DECEMBER 2015

Bea Bull

Amber VanSantford

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Region IX VP

Lanny Ross
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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

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