



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

February 2014

NUMBER 02-14

General Meeting Date & Time: February 10, 2014, 1:00PM

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

Program: DVD Presentation: "The History of NARFE"

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.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!



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..... March 10th
- *Chapter Meeting..... April 14th
- *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

The mission statement for NARFE is as follows:

To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests.

To promote the general welfare of current and potential federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under retirement laws and regulations.

To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives.

As we read this very important mission statement, let us ask ourselves "What can I, as an individual member of NARFE, do to carry forth on these ideas?"

I realize that it is sometimes hard for us to be involved in anything other than taking care of ourselves or a loved one. Perhaps we could all make the commitment to make a call or write a letter to our elected officials each time we are asked; and we could encourage others to do the same. The national office keeps track of how many calls are made. The data shows we are not doing a very good job in making these calls in a timely manner. The last call, regarding the Chained CPI, only resulted in 5,116 calls, or 0.08% of our membership. This is LESS THAN 1/10. It is not a very good showing for 250,000 members.

Another down side of this, as stated in a report from Region IX Lanny Ross, **"Congress knows that our members were asked to call, and when they do not see our calls - it shows that we really don't care enough about that**

issue to call, and overall it makes NARFE look ineffective."

The grass-roots efforts of NARFE have always been the source of our strength with Congress; we need to revitalize that strength if we want our voices, and our message, to be loud and strong to every Congressman and Congresswoman!

We often hear the statement from members that NARFE isn't doing anything. With the efforts made through NARFE magazine, the Hot Line, GEMS messages, PAH Calls, and Webinars it is evident that NARFE continues its work to protect our earned benefits. We, as the Executive Board of **President cont.** Chapter 181, try to keep you up-to-date and informed on these efforts and how you, our members, can help.

Just as a side note: If you are a football fan, let's hope the Seahawks are going to be the next Super Bowl champs; by the time you're reading this, we will know. Happy Valentine's Day to you and your families.

Our January speakers, Andrea Berg, Social Services Supervisor, and Judy Mifflin, Financial Unit Supervisor from the Department of Social and Health Services, provided a wealth of information about how Medicaid steps in when a spouse or loved one is permanently admitted to a care facility and their private funds have been depleted. If you need more information they encourage you to call them at (360) 473-2237 or toll-free at 1-800-422-7114; or visit their office at 4710 Auto Center Blvd., W18-7, Bremerton.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." – [Thomas Jefferson](#)

"A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen." – [Winston Churchill](#)

Happy New Year all! I'm back as your almost well informed but ever mostly courageous columnist! This time I'm back after a thirty day dry spell in Bremerton with less rain, fewer deluges, and the dense cloud cover that we get every December and January. This lack of rain and gray gloom should change or dry out my normal wet Washington outlook on life which should be happening now as I look out from my desk into a sunny yard. I should, as a result, find it hard to blame the world's ills and problems on politicians or the behavior of a nutty neighbor, but the world still turns in Washington and the drama there continues and my neighbor's dogs still try to demoralize squirrels with continuous barking. It seems we always demand more than the politicians (and neighbors) can give and they in turn continue to provide us less than we want!

A \$1 trillion spending package that begins repairing the broken appropriations process seems on course for completion by the Congress before the end of January. Federal employees' principal losses were: increases in new employee retirement contributions and twenty-year military retiree COLA reductions. These legislative hits were taken by both parties in order to avoid another government shutdown.

With regard to other major legislation that affects all of us, a bipartisan deal that looks to find a sweet spot for reductions in both food stamps and crop subsidies

may follow in a matter of days. It is also likely that we may get a debate-free increase in the country's borrowing power to pay existing bills which should last until after the mid-term elections. But, the result is that there would be no threats of loss of federal health or retirement benefits.¹

Congressional permission to issue new national debt levels lapses on February 7, 2014, but Treasury says it can stretch cash flow into early March, when the outstanding debt will stand at about \$17.3 trillion. Rather than raise the dollar limit on borrowing, which was the legislative practice for decades, Congress will probably move instead to allow Treasury leeway to borrow what it needs until a specific date. Sometime during the lame-duck session, scheduled to start November 12th, is a decent bet.²

The Chained CPI remains a potential bargaining tool for the President in getting Congress to approve increasing the debt ceiling limit (although he has said in the past that the debt limit is not a negotiable issue). Just as a note, the President has not included any increases in federal employee retirement contributions in his 2015 budget.

President Obama included the Chained CPI in previous budget requests, but it is unclear as to whether or not he will do so again this year for his 2015 proposed budget. With the budget numbers set, and many in his party pressuring him not to include it, he may leave it out. When he indicated support for the Chained CPI in the past, he said it was as an "olive branch" to show that he was serious about negotiations. The same may happen again.³

Major issues that the Congress will need to face in finishing out this congressional term are several: Pass an Immigration Bill, pass a Water Bill (Bipartisan Public Works Bill), and a Farm Bill. All have

bipartisan agreement, but details need to be worked out in each area. Because we are not faced with a budget impasse with federal spending issues held as hostage, as happened the last time, there are no immediate federal employee and federal retiree issues remaining that affect NARFE that, if submitted as bills by the conservative House, would pass the Senate.

However, **the possibility of a Chained CPI being adopted**, as discussed above, **does remain an issue** of valid concern and members should **be prepared to respond to any NARFE request for calls and emails** to your congressional representative or the White House to avoid its adoption as part of any debt limit approval deal.

<http://blogs.rollcall.com/hawkings/6-sleepers-lurking-on-the-hills-to-do-list/> David Hawkings, January 3, 2014 (6:07 PM).

<http://blogs.rollcall.com/hawkings/3-reasons-the-congress-year-might-start-unexpectedly-strong/David> Hawkings January 5, 2014. (8:00 PM)

[PAH Regional Call Re-Cap budget.](#) Friday, January 17, 2014 1:06:23 PM. Sarah Weissmann, NARFE Legislative email to NARFE Conference call participants

2013 PAC Contributions

**468 from Washington State totaling
\$12,399.00**

**34 from Chapter 181 totaling
\$985.00**

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

It feels like our WSFC Convention Committee is starting to roll now. Our next meeting will be at the Westside Improvement Club on February 5, at 10:30 am. All NARFE members are welcome to attend. We now have 23 volunteers on our working committee and we can still use more. Thanks to everyone who is involved or wants to be.

This is the monthly chapter membership report. If the following members have not renewed their membership they will show as dropped in the January data report: Audrey Datema, Gerald Digovanni, Douglas Durbin, Carl Hendrickson, Louise Kiser, Arthur Schrom, Millan Smith and Michael Wastel.

These members are showing as dropped for non-renewal: Hazel Colvin and Norman Reinhardt.

Now let us look at the positive side of the December data report. We have one new member this month: Ernest Adcock. The following member has reinstated his membership: Alan Crichton.

Thanks to all of you who pay your dues on time every year and those who pay multiple years or use dues withholding. It cuts our operating costs and makes our lives easier.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for December was \$1,051.27 with expenditures of \$1,172.21. Our net worth as of 1 January was \$35,621.76. 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 20 January was \$375.57. Donations of \$265.86 were received in January thanks to Loraine Brockerman and West Sound Recycling.

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!

PARKING NOTICE!!



Handicapped parking requirements are being enforced city- and county-wide so do not park in marked areas at the Westside Improvement Club unless you have a valid parking permit.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Rex Tauscher for Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Terree Cole (wife of member Thomas Cole), Robert Mcleod, Donnal Nelson, and Robert Olson.

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.

KITSAP COMPUTING SENIORS

Want to get "online" to receive up-to-the-minute NARFE notifications? Need your 1099 from OPM? Want to Facebook and Twitter? Never used a computer before? Kitsap Computing Seniors will help you get started if you're a beginner, or show you how to do more advanced things if you're already computer savvy.

Monthly meetings include a speaker and light potluck lunch. They are held at the Silverdale Community Center; 9729 Silverdale Way, Silverdale, WA. on the ground floor; the third Monday of each month (except July and August) 10:00 am to 12 noon. You can attend a meeting before becoming a member.

Membership is \$20 per year; you receive hundreds of hours of computer classes. Beginner's classes have a waiting list and require membership. Visit their website at <http://ffogynews.org/> or contact President Karen Beauchene at (360) 697-6681 or karbeaux@aol.com.

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

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

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

SERVICE OFFICER

Vacant

contact Ralph Angulo
District IV Service Officer
360-452-6542
ralphangulo@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

UNTIL DECEMBER 2014

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

UNTIL DECEMBER 2013

Bea Bull

Amber VanSantford

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>