



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

March 2014

NUMBER 03-14

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

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

**Program: "Hospice & Palliative Care: Learn What You DIDN'T Know About These Services"
Speaker Rosemary Pinneo, Volunteer Coordinator, Franciscan Hospice and Palliative Care**

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..... April 14th
- *Chapter Meeting..... May 12th
- *WSFC Convention..... May 14th and 15th
Silverdale Beach Hotel, Silverdale, WA
- * Chapter Meeting..... June 9th
- *NARFE National Convention..... August 24th -28th
Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL



PRESIDENT

George Eads

Here in the great Pacific Northwest, we have had a lot to celebrate lately thanks to the 12th Man and our own Seattle Seahawks winning the Super Bowl. Hopefully they can do it again next year. As if that were not enough to be excited about, at a construction site in Seattle they have discovered a very old mammoth tusk that may be 16,000 years old. You might ask yourself, "What do these events have to do with NARFE?" Any organization has to be very pro-active in moving forward on behalf of its mission. The Seahawks have been prepared for a long time to win a Super Bowl. Good players, coaching, and managers were needed to accomplish this goal. And, in the case of the mammoth tusk, people recognized the importance of something they have and are striving to preserve it.

We in NARFE have a similar mission which is to build our membership and retain the members we have. In order for this to happen, everyone has to do their part. Officers at the National level on down to each and every member of a chapter are needed. I suggest each of us set a goal to recruit at least two new members and retain two members from dropping out of NARFE. As you do this, be willing to share your stories at our chapter meeting.

I realize that there are many things that keep us on the side lines; our own health problems or those of a loved one. But a simple phone call, e-mail, or letter to our elected representatives is a very important way to let them know what concerns us, retired or active federal employees, and our families. Let your friends know, if they are retired or active federal employees, that NARFE is the ONLY organization looking out for their benefits whether they are a member of NARFE or not.

I am grateful to be the President of NARFE Chapter 181 and for the opportunity to work with a very dedicated group of chapter officers and members. Ralph and Bea are doing an outstanding job in preparing for our 2014 WSFC Convention in May. I look forward to seeing many of you in attendance.

I hope you and your families stay well and enjoy the coming of Spring.

→**AMAZING OPPORTUNITY**←

**ATTEND THE 2014 WSFC CONVENTION
FOR ONLY \$13.00!**

SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

WSFC CONVENTION SPECIAL DEALS FOR MEMBERS

We have exciting news about the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) Convention to be held in Silverdale on May 14 and 15 at the Silverdale Beach Hotel! A motion was made and passed at the February Bremerton Chapter 181 Executive Board meeting to provide funds, not to exceed \$600, to pay the \$30 convention registration fee for the first twenty (20) Bremerton chapter members who wish to attend the 2014 WSFC convention. This applies to any Bremerton chapter member in good standing, excluding those on the 2014 WSFC Convention Committee. Two (2) members have already taken advantage of this offer so don't wait! Call today!

Not to be out done, the WSFC made available a \$50 scholarship to any NARFE member wishing to attend the convention. If you move quickly it would be possible to attend the convention, have two meals (the legislative luncheon and the banquet) for the total price of \$13, excluding lodging. **There has never been a deal like this before!** This offer is available even if you miss out on the \$30.00 free registration.

You can receive a copy of the registration form by contacting the Chapter Secretary or President (see back of newsletter) or you may print one from the Federation web page at www.narfewa.net.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

Tell me it ain't so....

"A defense contractor, a tea partier, and a teacher sit down to a plate of 10 cookies. The defense contractor takes 9, leans over to the tea partier, and says '*psst, the teacher is trying to steal your cookie*'."

"You can always count on Americans to do the right thing — after they've tried everything else." *Winston Churchill*

News Flashes in February

The Congress suspended the debt ceiling on February 11, 2014 and voted to do so until March, 2015. This means there will be no fiscal threats against federal workers and no government shutdowns. Also, to the relief of everyone, the President took the implementation of the Chained-CPI out of his 2015 budget proposal as a possible expenditure cut. This was due to the Republicans in Congress not agreeing to any quid pro quo revenue increases in the budget for the same 2015 budget period.

NARFE Legislative Luncheon Convention Preparations

Speakers at the Legislative Luncheon will be: Mike Teefey-WSFC National Legislative Chair and Don Binder-WSFC NARFE-PAC. Federal legislators and staff, and Kitsap local city and county politicians are being invited to attend. NARFE National President Joseph Beaudoin will also attend the convention and, hopefully, the luncheon.

I will be scheduling meetings with Congressman Kilmer or his staff for his March or April congressional recess. The dates are March 17-21 and April 14-25. Our last meeting was in September, 2013. Congressman Kilmer and all local NARFE chapter presidents were present at that meeting. We hope to use the coming meeting to help him and his staff understand issues of importance to NARFE members.

Current Issues Before the Congress

The Republican majority in the House of Representatives, for the remainder of the 2014 legislative session and certainly for the period prior to the 2014 mid-term primaries and elections, is not going to take up any significant or controversial issues such as the minimum wage, immigration, or federal employee pension and benefit cuts. Doing so could expose their, at times contentious, internal party divisions between moderates, conservatives, and the far right of the party and diminish their election and re-election possibilities. The only major NARFE related issue that remains on their legislative event horizon is a possible proposal by Rep. Darrell Issa of California, Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform, who is expected to propose legislation to modify or replace the FEHBP.

On a brighter note, recent pension contribution increases for federal employees may become an issue of contention in 2014 in lobbying by union representatives before Congress. They want to secure the same level of protection for federal pensions that is extended by Congress to protecting military pensions. After Congress voted last week (February 11th) to end military pension cuts in December's budget deal, federal employee unions called on lawmakers Wednesday (February 19th) to repeal pension cuts for new federal workers. American Federation of Government Employees National President, J. David Cox, said reversing retirement cuts for new federal workers is only fair. "Slashing retirement benefits for military veterans under the guise of fiscal austerity was an error that Congress and the President rightly have corrected. Now it's time to fix another mistake by repealing similar budget cuts targeting newly hired federal employees," Cox said. National Treasury Employees Union President, Colleen Kelley, also called for an end to the cuts. "NTEU strongly believes the pension contribution increase for federal workers should be overturned. The pension contribution increase diminishes the government's position when competing for the most highly qualified candidates for federal service," she said. "Federal workers have contributed more than \$138 billion to deficit reduction and economic recovery. This is more than any other group in the country has been asked to sacrifice."¹

We shall see if the unions and their employees enjoy the same political weight as members of the military who were able to convince politicians to restore military pension cuts in the 2014 Federal Budget.

Legislative cont.

Mid-Term Senate Races

There are questions about the Senate races and whether Republicans can be successful in taking a majority of the open Senate seats in the mid-terms. The Republicans are staying away from tough issues that will show internal party weakness and remind the public of their recent government shutdown antics. At the same time the Democrats are relying on the young and unmarried female vote in the Senate races which helped secure Virginia Governor, Terry McAuliffe's, election in 2013.² At the same time Democrats are distancing themselves from the President due to his relative unpopularity and also due to his Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) that at this point has ambiguous acceptance by the public due to a difficult period of implementation.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/budget/198739-unions-want-more-december-budget-cuts-undone>. By Erik Wasson, February 19, 2014, 03:27 pm.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/198019-senate-democrats-pin-2014-hopes-on-women> Alexander Bolton - 02/11/14 06:00 AM EST.



DID
YOU
KNOW?



The Hospice team is composed of highly trained professionals and volunteers, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, hospice chaplains, certified nurses' aides, bereavement counselors, and therapists. We help patients and families, and provide services wherever that patient calls home, whether it be a private home, long-term care facility, adult family home, or other setting. Services cover all patient needs including pain and symptom management, medication and equipment needed, emotional and spiritual support, coordination of care with other care providers, consultation on financial matters and comfort therapists in massage, music, aromatherapy and art. Come to the meeting and learn more!

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

This is the monthly chapter membership report. If the following members have not renewed their membership they will show as dropped in the February data report: Dorothy McDonald, Venna Munro and Johnny Wilson.

These members are showing as dropped for non-renewal: Gerald Digiovanni, Douglas Durbin, Carl

Hendrickson, Louise Kiser, Arthur Schrom, Millan Smith and Michael Wastel.

Now let us look at the positive side of the January data report. We have no new members this month. However, the following members have reinstated their membership: Audrey Datema and Patricia Doran. This month we have five new prospective members: Diana Diehl, John Fitzmorris, Janice Smith, John Tschida and Debra Woodard.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for January was \$1,333.15 with expenditures of \$2,780.97. Our net worth as of 1 February was \$33,895.47. 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 19 February was \$515.57. Donations of \$140.00 were received in February thanks to Bea Bull, Norma Robinett and Donald Taylor.

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!

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Rex Tauscher for Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Marion Garland, Paul Lyons, Art Morken Jr, and Stanley Zukowski. Last month we sent a get-well card to Richard Noonan (sorry that we missed you on our last newsletter).

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.

PRESIDENT

George Eads
698-6078

**VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

**SECRETARY
NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bea Bull

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Jim Strunk

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Myra Clodius

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UNTIL DECEMBER 2014

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Bill Powers

UNTIL DECEMBER 2015

Bea Bull

Amber VanSantford

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NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster – Bob Edwards
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NARFE STATE WEBSITE

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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
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Boyers, PA 16017

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