



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

April 2014

NUMBER 04-14

General Meeting Date & Time: April 14, 2014, 1:00PM

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

Program: "The Continuum of Care"

Betty Herman, Outreach Coordinator, Martha & Mary

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..... May 12th

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

ATTEND FOR ONLY \$13.00! SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

*Chapter Meeting..... June 9th

*NARFE National Convention..... August 24th -28th
Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL

*Chapter Meeting..... September 8th

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.

NOTE: The WSFC is also offering a \$250.00 rebate to anyone who attends the NARFE National Convention. If interested, please contact WSFC Secretary Linda Sanders at 275-9793 or sandyandblake@wavecable.com

PRESIDENT

George Eads

Spring is officially here by the calendar; maybe you are going to plant a garden and then enjoy the fruits of your labor. In order for NARFE to grow and produce, we need to carefully plant new-members recruitment seeds, tend to them like your garden, and then welcome our new members when they join NARFE.

There are many changes happening to NARFE in the days ahead. If you haven't done so already, I urge you to access the Future of NARFE (FON) report on the National website. Log in, then click on the big blue box in the middle of the page that says "Future of NARFE Committee". This report will explain the changes that are already in motion, one of which is to switch from ten regions to five. At the 2014 National Convention in Orlando, we will be voting on one General Resolution and four Bylaws Resolutions as follows:

General Resolution: To approve the concept of the FON Committee Recommendations and move forward with the necessary in-depth strategic study and planning, including development of real timelines and milestones.

Bylaws Resolutions:

Recommendation #9: Reduce the number of National Officers from four to two; eliminating the positions of Vice President and Secretary.

Recommendation #27: Address Mandatory Chapter Membership; making local chapter membership optional.

Recommendation #29: Open membership to all who support the mission of NARFE; no longer requiring members who are entitled to receive a federal annuity.

Recommendation #31: Open membership to Youth, up to age 26, at a reduced rate, e.g., \$10/year.

I plan to attend the National Convention and need your input and concerns so that I can address them at the convention. Please review the FON report and call or email me using the contact information on the back cover of this newsletter. If you don't have access to the National website and need a copy of the FON report, please contact me. It is important that I know how our chapter members wish me to vote on these issues. NARFE, as an organization, is at a crossroads; the decisions made at this National Convention, and the one in 2016, will determine our ability to remain effective as the only organization that is concerned about the earned benefits for active and retired federal employees.

For those of you who have not heard, our Region IX VP, Lanny Ross, is not seeking reelection; his position is open to anyone who would like to run, although campaign articles were due by April 1st. Please contact Lanny Ross if you're interested, using the contact information on the back page of this newsletter. NOTE: Region IX (WA, OR, ID, MT, AK) will become Region 5 which will include all Region IX states plus WY, NV, CA, HI, Guam, and the Republic of the Philippines.

I encourage you to attend our State Convention to be held at the Silverdale Beach Hotel in Silverdale May 14-15, 2014. There will be some excellent information for you and we are planning some very good entertainment the night of the banquet. I hope to see many of you there.

Again, I will be representing your vote at the National Convention in August of this year. Please inform me of your concerns before then. Thank you for your support.

May you and your families have a blessed and peaceful Easter.

LEGISLATION

Jim Strunk

There are two things that are important in politics. The first is money ... and I can't remember what the other one is.

F. PAUL WILSON, *Implant*

When a politician is in opposition he is an expert on the means to some end; and when he is in office he is an expert on the obstacles to it.

G. K. CHESTERTON, *Illustrated London News*, Apr. 6, 1918

Current Issues

Things appear to be quiet in the Capitol and on issues that affect NARFE membership. Republicans have yet to propose a 2015 House budget to counter the President's 2015 budget proposal. The one the House Leadership under Paul Ryan (R)-Wisconsin would like to propose would have significant cuts that would allow the entire federal budget to be balanced in ten years. This would set Republican moderates in the House against it and the Leadership would need to rely upon Democrats to pass it. The failure at this point to propose a 2015 budget may have something to do with the fact that many Americans associate Republicans and their budget proposal efforts with government shutdowns, ensuring the general public's continued disdain for them, particularly in this, a mid-year election cycle.

In a similar but continuing vein, there has been little or no political rhetoric from the Tea Party and conservative politicians that we have heard over the last six years about those greedy and wicked "federal employees" who are supposedly on the dole and do not contribute to the nation's productivity and only burden taxpayers by adding to increased budget deficits. These mid-year elections really tone down the rhetoric of radical conservatives, especially since most of their

positions are based upon their beliefs, and not facts, and alienate most middle-of-the-road voters.

The other active bill on the agenda of the Congress is the postal bill that is being proposed but it is still not ready for approval. It includes language to end Saturday deliveries, delay pre-payment of healthcare and pension payments and modify employee injury and disability plans. "Together, these reforms would set USPS on a sustainable business path, providing it with over \$20 billion in cash relief, operational savings and revenue through 2016," according to the appendix to the President's budget.¹

Any final budget outcome will be directly affected by the volume of federal employees who call in to make sure Congress gives federal employees a fair shake.

I was able to tune into Congressman Kilmer's telephone Town Hall Meeting on March 25th. It reminded me that, as an organization, we have a specific, single political interest in our lobbying NARFE issues with our Congressman. But during his Town Hall Meeting Rep. Kilmer addressed a number of issues that we also need to support to demonstrate our belief in a stronger and better served community in which to live. My point here is to find out what your Senator or Representative is trying to support or improve and don't hesitate to let them know on what issues you agree. It's hard for them to represent a constituent or constituent group that doesn't understand, support or address other legislative issues that are important to their broader voter base. Remember, they like to hear how they are doing directly from you by phone, letter or email.

Remember to watch for your GEMS alerts, and for requests in the monthly NARFE magazine, to call in or write in

support of legislation that affects our members both active and retired.

¹ White House seeks cuts to USPS services in budget By Bernie Becker March 04, 2014, 07:08 pm :

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/other/199904-white-house-seeks-cuts-to-usps-services-in-budget#ixzz2xC2qwrl5>

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 March data report: James Backs, Elisabeth Bondy, Sandra Ellsworth, David Farr, Mildred Halverson, Barbara Luddon, Gladys McCoy, Anita Sieber, Shelly Simcox and Donna Walmach.

These members are showing as dropped for non-renewal: Dorothy McDonald, Venna Munroe and Johnny Wilson.

Now let us look at the positive side of the ledger. We have one reinstatement this month: Warren Sherrill. And we have seven new prospective members: Brad Fish, Richard Frerk, Pamela Pethoud, Alice Schacht, Vernon Shook, Bodie Vail and T. York.

If you have any questions about NARFE or the Bremerton Chapter, please contact any of the Board Members listed on the back of this newsletter.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for February was \$1,642.11 with expenditures of \$703.79. Our net worth as of 1 March was \$34,833.79. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting.

Remember to get your Federation Convention reservations in to me for a chance to get your discount from our chapter. We still have 12 discounts for chapter members available as of 20 March 2014. Rex Tauscher, Treasurer

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 20 March was \$731.57. Donations of \$216.00 were received in March thanks to Loraine Brockerman, Robert Brown, Donald Taylor 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

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 Audrey Cook, Melford Jarstad, Elaine Youngs-Lovlie and William Maiers, Jr.

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.



Happy Spring!

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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Bill Powers

UNTIL DECEMBER 2013

Bea Bull

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NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE

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**SENIOR INFORMATION &
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1-800-562-6418

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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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