



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

September 2014

NUMBER 07-14

General Meeting Date & Time: September 8, 2014 1:00PM

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

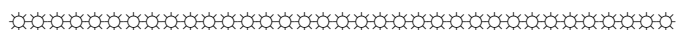
**Program: "Outcomes from the 33rd NARFE National Convention"
Lanny Ross, Region IX V.P.**

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

- * Alzheimer's Walk.....September 14th
See info page 3
- * Chapter Meeting..... October 13th
- * Chapter Meeting..... November 10th
- * Holiday Luncheon and Installation of Officers
The Willows on Pine Rd.- 1:00PM.....December 8th



PRESIDENT

George Eads

Fellow members of Chapter 181,

What a wonderful summer! I hope all of you have had time to enjoy our sunny days.

Recent NARFE magazines have contained many articles about the National Convention in Orlando, FL, August 24-28, where the future of NARFE will be a major topic of discussion. I am attending the convention so, at our August Chapter 181 Executive Board meeting, we discussed how I will vote on the issues presented. It was agreed that I will vote as follows: **FOR** Ken Thompson for National President; **FOR** reducing the number of National officers from four (4) to two (2); and **FOR** going forward with Future of NARFE planning. I look

forward to seeing NARFE move forward in a positive way. I think all of us agree that we need to do our part to grow NARFE at the grass roots level, retaining our members, and recruit new ones. As I will not be at our September meeting, Lanny Ross will report on what happened at our National Convention and what we can expect in the future.

Of interest to our Active Federal Employees is the finalization of Phased Retirement regulations by OPM. OPM will begin accepting Phased Retirement applications on 6 November 2014. Please see page 2 for additional information or visit the OPM website at OPM.gov and click on "Phased Retirement".

The Chapter 181 Executive Board is updating our Bylaws to bring them current with our changing times. Because of declining attendance at General Membership meetings, it is necessary to adjust downward the number of people required to do business; we are also looking at reducing the number of General Membership meetings per year. The changes will be completed in time for the 2015 meeting calendar to reflect such changes.

As always, thank you for your support to all of us, your chapter officers.

Phased Retirement Regulations Finalized
Go to OPM.gov and click on
"Phased Retirement"

Phased Retirement Regulations Finalized

Excerpted from the OPM.gov Website

What is it? Under Phased Retirement, a full-time employee will be able to work part-time and start collecting retirement benefits. Phased retirees must also spend 20 percent of their time mentoring their fellow employees as a way for them to pass on their knowledge and skills to their colleagues. OPM will begin accepting Phased Retirement applications on November 6.

Who can participate? This is not a one-size-fits-all program. Whether you are eligible will depend on which retirement system you belong to and how many years of service you have.

What do I do if I want to participate? If you are interested, the first thing to do is to talk to your manager and /or your Human Resources office to see if this is an option for you. Assuming you are eligible, you can fill out an application. Once your agency approves it, OPM will process it.

How are my benefits handled during Phased Retirement? Phased retirees will still get health benefits under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and will still be enrolled in the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) program. You and your agency will continue to pay the same shares of the premiums. But in the case of benefits such as pay and leave, a phased retiree will be treated like a part-time employee.

If I am participating in Phased Retirement, what are my options to end Phased Retirement? You and your agency will decide together how long you want to continue as a phased retiree, the timing of your full retirement and whether you want to ask to return to work full time.

If you think Phased Retirement is for you, talk to your manager.

Help Avoid Confusion over FEEA Donations

When you send a check to FEEA, please specify which NARFE fund you are supporting by making the check out to either "NARFE-FEEA-Scholarship Fund" or "NARFE-FEEA-Disaster Fund". Also, please make it clear in a letter accompanying the check who should receive credit for the donation, if it is other than what is imprinted on the check.

What You Can Do

- Contact your congressional representative and ask that they support the Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act of 2014

House Bill Introduced to Repeal Recent Increases in Retirement Contributions for Federal Employees

Rep. Donna Edwards, D-MD, introduced the NARFE-supported Federal Employee Pension Fairness Act of 2014, which would repeal the increases in retirement contributions new federal employees were forced to pay in 2013 and 2014.

Beginning in 2013, new federal employees are paying more toward their retirement than their previously hired colleagues without any increase in benefits. Those hired in 2013 pay 2.3 percent more; and those hired beginning in 2014 pay 3.6 percent more than those hired before 2013. Over 10 years, these increases in retirement contributions amount to a \$21 billion loss in take-home pay for these new federal employees. This bill would repeal the increases and bring those contributions down to the same level as all federal employees hired prior to 2013. (GEMS 1 August 2014)

- Keep a close eye on Congress when it returns to work, especially on the continuing resolution that will fund the federal government in 2015.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Welcome back from your summer fun. It has been a good summer for all kinds of travel and doing what you like to do. Your Executive Board has been busy keeping things in tune. These final four months of the year are busy for the chapter. The National Convention, elections this fall, a health fair, and rewriting our bylaws just to name a few. This report will contain names and information from June and July data, making it a bit longer than usual. I hope that you will be attending the General Membership meeting on 8 September at 1:00 PM.

The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped in the September data report: Joseph Geraci, Livingston Hadley, Joy Jean, Jack Norris, Terry Novak and Jerome Towgood.

Membership cont. These members are showing as dropped for non-renewal: Gladys Berteaux, June Danks, Marilyn Kinslow, Stephanie Krause, June McFadden, Stanley Napora, Shannon O'Dell and Jean Robertson.

Now let us look at the positive side of this report. We have two (2) new members: Steven Ferguson and Norman Kunkel. With this report we have three (3) members reinstated: Loren Avery, Billie Eder and Edward Iversen. Last but not least we have thirteen (13) new prospective members: Robert Barton, Stan Carie, Michael Crumley, Deb Hoerner, George Karabinos, Rob Kluge, Kelli Long, Charles McQuillan, Bob Platt, Brad Powers, Janine Ramirez-Lacy, Debbie Santos and R. Snow.

If you have questions regarding NARFE or Bremerton Chapter 181 please contact any of our board members listed on the back of this newsletter, or just come to a meeting. The meeting information is listed on the front page of this newsletter.

Recruiter Incentives



Recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member, active employee or retired, who joins in September 2014 (applications must be postmarked and calls or website joins must be received by 30 September). All September recruiters will be entered into a drawing, one for each new member recruited. A KINDLE FIRE tablet will be awarded to a recruiter randomly selected from this pool. Remember to put your recruiter ID on the application forms!

TREASURER Rex Tauscher

Our income for June through August was \$1,138.01 with expenditures of \$333.34. Our net worth as of 31 July was \$34,944.11. Transfer of funds from our Life Members Savings in the amount of \$1,100 has been made in August and the transfer of \$3,000 from Convention Checking to our general fund checking for funds forwarded to cover advanced expenses during this year's Federation Convention has been done. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next general meeting.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Shirlye Dasho, Josephine Erickson, Gregory Fessler, Carol McCorkle (wife of member Glen McCorkle), and Wanda Mosbager. A "get well" card was sent to our Sunshine Chair, Norene Torkelson.

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.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 31 July was \$58.58. Donations of \$915.00 were received from the 2014 convention raffle for Alzheimer's. These donations were forwarded to the Alzheimer's Association for our Alzheimer's Research project. Between 1 January 2013 and 30 June 2014, Chapter 181 donated \$2,164.00 to Alzheimer's. Congratulations Chapter 181!

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**

Annual Alzheimer's Walk



The annual "Walk To End Alzheimer's" for the Kitsap Peninsula is scheduled for 14 September 2014 and will start at the Louis Mentor Bremerton Boardwalk (100-2nd Street). Registration at 12 noon, meeting at 1:00 pm and walk at 1:30 pm.

See http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2014/WA-WesternandCentralWashingtonState?fr_id=5780&pg=entry for more information and to register.

PRESIDENT

George Eads
698-6078

**VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

**SECRETARY
NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bea Bull

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

SERGEANT AT ARMS

William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

SERVICE OFFICER

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

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

UNTIL DECEMBER 2014

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

UNTIL DECEMBER 2015

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, Suite 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 Street, Suite 500
Bremerton, WA 98337
Bremerton Phone Number 360-373-9725
D.C. Phone Number 202-225-5916
<http://kilmer.house.gov>