



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

December 2014

NUMBER 10-14

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

NOTE: Please do not arrive prior to 12:45PM

Meeting Place: The Willows Retirement Living
Dining Room
3201 Pine Rd NE, Bremerton, WA 98310

Program: Holiday Luncheon
Installation of Executive Board Members
Voting to Approve Revised Bylaws

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..... January 12th
- * Chapter Meeting..... February 9th
- * Chapter Meeting..... March 9th

NOTE: CHAPTER MEETINGS MAY BE CANCELED AT THE DISCRESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. WATCH YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS FOR NOTIFICATION OF CANCELED MEETINGS.

PRESIDENT

George Eads

Fellow members of Chapter 181,

As I write this, my thoughts go out to the people in Buffalo, New York, where the snow is being measured in feet, not inches; six to seven feet that is buckling roofs and has caused 13 deaths so far. All that snow is expected to begin melting next week, resulting in what would amount to six inches of rainfall and major flooding. While we give thanks for our milder Pacific Northwest weather, let's not forget our friends and loved ones in other parts of the country.

Now that the mid-term election is over, it remains to be seen what affect it will have on the earned benefits of active and retired federal employees. We need to remain vigilant! The new Congress will try to reduce or take away our benefits. One of the items sure to be back on the table is the Chained CPI, an alternate way of computing our COLA that will reduce the percentage we receive and cost each and every one of us thousands of dollars over our retirement. We must contact our congressional representatives and tell them we oppose the Chained CPI and stress that the CPI-E is a better method of calculating COLAs because it takes into account the higher medical expenses of seniors.

You will find the "*Bill Tracker*" missing from the December NARFE magazine; this is because bills that didn't pass the 113th Congress will expire. We need to urge our congressional representatives to re-open those important items in the 114th Congress. Use your November NARFE magazine as a guide or go to the NARFE Legislative Action Center at www.narfe.org/legislation to refresh your memory of what NARFE is fighting for/against.

We, the Executive Board, have revised the bylaws for Chapter 181. Our goal is to be a more streamlined chapter with an improved NARFE mission. Like the National office, we have eliminated some Executive Board positions; we have also put in place the ability to cancel meetings. **Be sure to watch your newsletters carefully for notification of canceled meetings.** We will put the notice in a prior month newsletter to be sure you receive it in time (ex. If we decide to cancel the February meeting, the notice will be placed in the January newsletter).

I hope to see you at the Holiday Luncheon at 1:00PM on December 8th at the Willows Retirement Living facility. **In consideration of the Willows residents, please plan to arrive no sooner than 12:45PM.** During the business portion of the meeting, Region IX V.P. Lanny Ross will install the two Executive Board members (Don Palmer and Bill Powers), we will vote on the revised Chapter 181 Bylaws, and Rex Tauscher will give the Treasurer's Report. Then we can relax and enjoy a time to visit with friends.

May you get your holiday shopping done, stay well, and be happy at this very special time of the year. I wish you a healthy and blessed 2015!





**2014 Holiday Luncheon
And
Installation of Officers**



WHERE

The Willows Retirement
Living Dining Room
3201 Pine Rd NE, Bremerton,
WA 98310

ENTREE OPTIONS

Salmon
Or
Prime Rib

WHEN

December 8th at 1:00PM

PRICE

\$10.00 per person

POINT OF CONTACT

Myra Clodius (360) 377-2910

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

In my opinion, this year's PSNS Health Fair was a raging success. With the help of many willing hands, we were able to distribute over nine hundred sets of membership information to the folks who visited the fair. This makes future members aware of what NARFE is and what it does.

The month of December is our Holiday Luncheon; contact Myra Clodius at 360-377-2910 for details and to sign up.

The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped in next month's report: Kathleen Balmer, Alfred Snodgrass and Nancy Welch.

These members are showing as dropped for non-renewal: James Duranceau, Robert Hood, Linda Ramirez and Helen Sieck.

Now for the positive side of our report. We have three (3) reinstated members: Livingston Hadley, Dorothy Schuster and Jerome Twogood. We have three (3) new

prospective members: Jean Braun, Patrick Daling and Donald Roe.

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 during the remainder of 2014 (applications must be postmarked and calls or website joins must be received by 31 December). All 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!

Your FEHBP Plan and Pharmacy Incentive Programs

By David Snell, Director of Federal Benefits Service

Many of you have seen the ads from retail pharmacy companies that offer gift cards or similar incentives to customers if they have their prescriptions transferred to their pharmacy. Some pharmacies, however, have been reluctant to allow Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) enrollees to participate in these promotions for fear of running afoul of the law. This shift started in 2012 when Walgreens Pharmacy settled a case with the Department of Justice (DOJ), which had charged the company with violating the False Claims Act by knowingly offering illegal inducements to beneficiaries of government health care programs.

In its press release announcing the settlement, DOJ stated that Walgreens - in violation of the law - offered illegal inducements to beneficiaries of government health care programs that included Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE and FEHBP. A NARFE member, who was aware of this announcement, did some research and discovered that the Anti-Kickback Act and False Claims Act specifically exempted the FEHBP from the incentive program prohibition. At the member's request, NARFE wrote to DOJ, which confirmed this. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has since posted on its Health Care website the following information:

"OPM does not prohibit FEHBP members from participating in pharmacy-sponsored incentive or pharmaceutical company co-pay reimbursement programs, and we are unaware of any Federal laws restricting participation. Enrollees in other Federal Programs such as Medicare and Medicaid are statutorily prohibited from participating in pharmacy incentive programs under section 1320a-7b of title 42, United States Code ("the Anti-Kickback Act"). However, the FEHB Program is exempt from the application of this provision."

OPM cautions that it does not have authority over promotional incentive programs that retail pharmacies choose to offer customers and cannot direct retail pharmacies to provide the incentives to FEHB Program members. OPM further states it is working with FEHB Program plans to remove any restrictions.

What this means is that even though a pharmacy would not be violating the law by offering such incentives to FEHB enrollees, it may decide to err on the side of caution. If an FEHBP enrollee is denied participation in a gift card or prescription transfer incentive program by the pharmacy, OPM will not be of assistance.

Copied from NARFE Insider, November 2014

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for October was \$825.01 with expenditures of \$1,105.81. Our net worth as of 31 October was \$33,491.14. 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 November was \$508.59. Donations of \$40.00 were received from Anna Haynes, Lorraine Brockerman, Harold Brooks, Bill Fuhrmeister 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 387 pounds of aluminum this year!

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Lowell Nelson and Harry Novotney.

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.

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.

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

SERGEANT AT ARMS

William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

SERVICE OFFICER

Vacant

contact Ralph Angulo
District IV Service Officer
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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

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