



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

January 2015

NUMBER 01-15

General Meeting Date & Time: January 12, 2015 1:00PM

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

Program: Brad Forbes, Constituent Representative for Congressman Kilmer

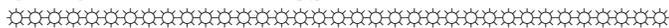
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.

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

- * FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING CANCELED!
- * Chapter Meeting.....March 9th
- * Legislative Training, Arlington, VA ...March 14th-17th
- * Chapter Meeting..... April 13th

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



PRESIDENT

George Eads

Fellow members of Chapter 181,

As we say "good-bye" to 2014 and "hello" to 2015 we ask ourselves, "Where has the time gone?" For those of us with busy lives it's easy to overlook the need to keep an eye on what Congress is doing and the importance of reminding our representatives to protect our interests. In the coming year it is even more important that we be ready for what the new Congress may do to compromise our earned benefits. I feel that sometimes a good offense is to have a good defense in place, particularly when it comes to taking away any of our current benefits.

We can be thankful that our Congressional representatives have excellent pro-NARFE voting records but their voice on Capitol Hill is only as loud as the volume of emails, letters and phone calls they receive from their constituents. Keep emailing! Keep writing! Keep calling! Give them reams of documentation they can use as evidence to show we care about our benefits! Then thank them for their hard work and loyalty.

I think the current federal employees are at a higher risk than the retired federal employees. This is all the more reason we need to get the word out to our active employees and let them know NARFE is working in their behalf. Tell them NARFE is the ONLY organization working to preserve their benefits through being a legislative advocate. Inform them of the benefits of being a NARFE member: "When you join NARFE, you will protect your earned pay and benefits, receive trusted guidance on complex pay and benefit questions, and support the federal community." Show them the national magazine so they can see what NARFE's mission is. NARFE has two primary roles which are:

A: YOUR LEGISLATIVE VOICE. In-house, influential lobbyists advocate on Capitol Hill on behalf of the federal community.

B: YOUR INFORMATION RESOURCE. NARFE provides clear information and trusted guidance on complex federal benefits issues.

President cont.

If you haven't already, take a look at pages 39 through 42 in your January NARFE magazine; this is NARFE's Legislative Agenda for the 114th Congress. Many items of interest to federal employees and retirees will need to be reintroduced before the new Congress. Make a point of mentioning these items in your letters to your congressional representatives.

We, as members of the Executive Board, are starting the New Year with a positive attitude and the realization that there is much to do for the members of Chapter 181. Our first big change since the passing of our new bylaws at the December meeting is to cancel the February General Membership meeting. Please be sure to watch the UPCOMING EVENTS section of your newsletters for notices of meetings being canceled.

Your Chapter needs your help! We need volunteers for an Audit Committee; this will only take a short amount of time before or after one meeting. We also need volunteers for a Nominating Committee; these people will need to think of someone they know who would make a good chapter officer or Executive Board member. We still need a Service Officer; Rex would like someone to take over the Alzheimer's Chair; Sunshine and Membership could both use help. Please volunteer a little of your time to help your Executive Board with these tasks that can mostly be done from the comfort of your own home.

May the year 2015 bring you good health and many days of happiness for each and every one of you and your families.

**FEBRUARY
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING IS
CANCELED!!**

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

We have presented a revised set of our Chapter Bylaws to the State Federation and National Association for their review. The bylaw changes were made by the Executive Board over a period of several months and ratified by the Chapter at the December General Membership meeting. The changes were made to bring us into 2015 capable of doing the business of the Chapter. NARFE's business model has changed in the last twenty years and continues to change here in 2015, as we provide the services that our "Mission Statement" requires.

The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will show as dropped in next month's report: Joyce Fischlin, William Hanson, Delona Kent, Richard Lawrence, Judd Metzger and Carrie Wheeler.

These members are showing as dropped for non-renewal: Kathleen Balmer, Alfred Snodgrass and Nancy Welch.

Now for the positive side of our report. We have one (1) reinstated member: Linda Ramirez. We have three (3) new prospective members: Kyle Giles, Diane Kostelecky and Amy Lewis.

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.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Norene Torkelson

Sympathy cards were sent to the family of Etta Madden. Get Well cards were sent to Norene Torkelson signed by those attending the Holiday Luncheon.

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.

A REMINDER FROM MEGAN

Megan Winans, former Service Officer

Now that the New Year is here it's time to start looking for and collecting all the things you might need to get your income taxes done by April!

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for November was \$671.36 with expenditures of \$406.34. Our net worth as of 30 November was \$33,756.18. 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 December was \$508.59. A check from the recyclers is expected next week for our 427 pounds of aluminum collected this year.

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

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Do you know someone who puts their aluminum cans into the Waste Management recycling bin? Offer to collect and take their cans to one of the aluminum drop-off points so they earn money for Alzheimer's research.



KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY

One-on-one training in TABLET use is available at the Sylvan Way branch at 1:30PM on Fridays. No appointment is necessary.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bea Bull

Once in a great while I'm faced with a lot of white space in a newsletter and have to find a way to fill it. I thought I'd write about something that wasn't in any of the other articles, the Poulsbo chapter meeting I attended earlier this month:

I was honored to attend the December Membership meeting of the Poulsbo chapter who hosted Congressman Kilmer as their program speaker. Congressman Kilmer gave a very informative and entertaining talk about his experiences on Capitol Hill and the legislative processes this past year.

The Congressman is highly cognizant of how important Naval Base Kitsap is to this area and is focused in his support of federal employees and retirees. He expressed his frustration over the budget being balanced at the expense of the federal family. He is prepared to head into the 114th Congress with our interests in mind and looks forward to hearing from us in 2015.

What really impressed me was his genuine concern, his enthusiasm, and the importance he placed upon our group even though we weren't a huge crowd. He was truly happy to speak to us and spent half an hour answering our questions and addressing our concerns. There is no reason to think he is too busy to receive our communications. I have, in fact, spoken with his Constituent Representative, Brad Forbes, on the phone about a concern and found him very responsive. Our Congressman and his staff are ready and willing to hear from us.

So, use pages 39 through 42 in your January NARFE magazine to inspire your communications; write those emails and letters, make those phone calls! I know we can make a difference and living in the USA means we have the right and the responsibility to try.

I wish everyone a Happy 2015! Your Editor



PRESIDENT

George Eads
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**VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

**SECRETARY
NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bea Bull

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

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NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE

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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.

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Boyers, PA 16017

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