



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

May 2015

NUMBER 05-15

General Meeting Date & Time: CANCELED

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

Program: CANCELED

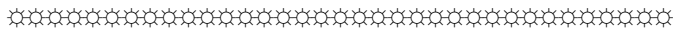
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.

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 11th.... **CANCELED!!!**
- * Older Americans Conference.....May 13th..9AM-1PM
Elks Lodge, 4131 Pine Road NE, Bremerton
- * Chapter Meeting.....June 8th.....**CANCELED!!!**
- * Chapter Meeting..... September 14th

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



PRESIDENT

George Eads

Fellow members of Chapter 181,

I would like to welcome Steve Ferguson and thank him for accepting the position of Chapter 181 National Legislative Chair. He will be keeping us current on legislative issues via his articles in our newsletters.

Inasmuch as we will not be holding General Membership meetings in May, June, July and August, it is very important to stay up-to-date by reading your NARFE monthly magazine as well as the legislative articles in our May and June chapter

newsletters. You can also use the NARFE National Legislative Resources (see page 9 of the April NARFE magazine; box in the lower left corner) for the most current information at any time. You can also go to www.NARFE.org, click on "LEGISLATION" in the left-hand column, and access the current Legislative Hotline Message (second red titled section in center of page); or call 877-217-8234 for a recorded update of the current information. Please continue to let your representatives know how you feel about the proposed budget cuts that affect us as current and retired federal employees.

The U.S. Post Office is under a lot of pressure to make many changes. Let's support our federal workers in the postal department in the fight to prevent more cuts to the wonderful service they provide. You can help by calling the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121; ask your representatives to support House Resolution 545; and ask your two senators to urge the Postmaster General, Megan Brennan, to stop closing and consolidating mail processing centers. **Cont. Page 2**

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

**THE MAY MEMBERSHIP
MEETING IS CANCELED!!!**

President Cont.

The Strategic Planning Committee at the National office continues to work on ways to improve NARFE's branding and increase and retain membership in the organization. They want everyone's input; go to www.NARFE.org, log in, and click on "Strategic Planning" under "HQ Happenings" where you will find information on the plan. You may contact me, or our Region IX V.P. Lanny Ross with any ideas or suggestions you have. Our contact information is on the back of this newsletter.

Once again, the May and June General Membership meetings are canceled. I hope your spring and summer will be happy and healthy. Happy Mother's Day to all you ladies. We look forward to seeing you in September.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

A few remarks before we start our report. Welcome aboard to our new National Legislative Chair, Steve Ferguson. Thanks, Steve, for helping to lighten the load. You have been, and will continue to be, a great asset to our chapter. Now a big thanks to all of you members who continue to pay your dues on time, year after year, and to those who have chosen dues withholding or multiple year payment. You make our lives easier and save NARFE and yourselves money. Your membership in NARFE is more important than ever due to the budgetary attacks that the federal workforce and retirees are having on their health insurance and annuities. Please contact your members of Congress, listed on the back page of this bulletin, Thanks again.

Here is the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in next month's report: Lewis Berry, Alf Edman, Randolph Hunt and Lester Schrom.

These members are showing as dropped for non-renewal: Ernest Adcock, Karen Dickinson, Dale King, Mark Timken, Joyce VanRossum and David Webster.

Now for the positive side of our report. We have two (2) reinstated members: Kathleen Dulaney and Tim Taylor. We have two (2) new prospective members: David Bennett and Robert Estano.

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.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here. Ralph Sanders reluctantly relinquished his position as National Legislative Chair so you will be getting newsletter legislative updates from me. I will endeavor to sustain the high standards Ralph established in his communications.

You can find **S.Con.Res.11** on the Congress.gov website. It was introduced in the Senate on 03/20/2015. It establishes the congressional budget for the federal government for FY2016 and sets forth budgetary levels for FY2017-FY2025. It was approved by the senate on 3/27/15 with Senators Cantwell and Murray both voting "nay".

H.Con.Res.27 was introduced in the House on 3/20/15 for the same purpose as stated above. It was approved by the house on 3/25/15 with Representative Kilmer voting "nay".

The House and Senate are involved in the reconciliation process now and believe it will be complete by month's end. This is the remaining window of opportunity to communicate your concerns to your representative and both senators.

Our Federal Employee Health Benefits are at risk by Congress reducing the government's funding level for our premiums.

Our Cost of Living Adjustments may be reduced through implementation of Chained-CPI.

Mail service may be reduced to five days per week and sorting centers closed. Sorting centers are important for timely mail processing.

Don't send mail to the Washington D.C. offices. It is "processed" using high heat in an Oklahoma facility and frequently arrives illegible in D.C. Mail is fine for contacting your representative and senators at their in-state offices. Use e-mail for Washington D.C.

I am looking forward to serving Bremerton NARFE Chapter 181.

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE

24 April 2015

The House and Senate passed budget resolutions in March that cut billions of dollars worth of pay and benefits from federal employees *and* retirees. The House budget proposed \$318 billion in “savings” by raising the cost of health insurance for all FEHBP participants, eliminating federal jobs, increasing retirement contributions for current employees and, perhaps most shocking, changing the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan G Fund. The Senate budget, while less specific in how it would cut costs, still asks the federal community for \$170 billion toward deficit reduction. The joint budget agreement is expected to include the same severe cuts.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for March was \$1,742.90 with expenditures of \$2,393.39. Our net worth as of 31 March was \$32,021.69. A detailed Treasurer’s report will be available at our next general meeting.

Filing of our 990-N IRS form was completed along with our Washington State corporation annual filing. Treasurer’s accounts were audited prior to the April General Membership meeting, thanks to the Audit Committee of Myra Clodius, Steve Ferguson and Ed Kalmbach.

ALZHEIMER’S (ALZ)

Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer’s account as of 31 March was \$11.42. Donations received at our April meeting were \$15.00 thanks to Robert Gossett, Thelma Gurske-Taylor and Fred Waters.

A check in the amount of \$788.00 was forwarded to the Alzheimer’s Association for our NARFE Research program.

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 FOR ALZHEIMER’S

Remember to donate your aluminum cans and copper to Alzheimer’s.

ALUMINUM/COPPER 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

Currently we have about 237 pounds.

Contact Ralph Petersen at 360 895 2069
or angelwing14@msn.com to nominate
someone for:

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Alzheimer’s Chair

Membership Chair

Executive Board Member positions

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Betty Fischer

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Marion E. Larm and Jean A. Webster. A Get-Well card was sent to Bea Bull who has been out of action for several days but is still putting in the effort to get this newsletter into print.

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.

IF YOU MISSED THE MARCH MEETING

SHEILA TAYLOR
CLUTTER CONTROLLERS

WILL SPEAK AT THE POULSBO
CHAPTER MEETING

JUNE 18TH AT 11:30AM
VINLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH
2750 Finn Hill Rd, Poulsbo

PRESIDENT

George Eads
698-6078

**VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

**SECRETARY
NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bea Bull

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Steve Ferguson

NARFE-PAC CHAIR

Don Palmer

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 2015**

Bea Bull

Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2016

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

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>