



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
except July & August



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

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

**September 2015**

**NUMBER 07-15**

**General Meeting Date & Time: September 14, 2015**

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

**Program: Andrea Roper, Congressman Derek Kilmer's Bremerton Office District Representative  
Will Bring Us a Congressional Update**

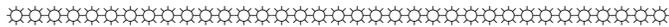
*NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.*

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..... October 12<sup>th</sup>
- \* PSNS Health Fair.....November 3<sup>rd</sup>
- \* Chapter Meeting.....November 9<sup>th</sup>
- \* FEHBP Open Season....November 9<sup>th</sup> – December 14<sup>th</sup>
- \* Chapter Meeting & Holiday Luncheon December 14<sup>th</sup>

**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,

Welcome back to the routine of fall and cooler weather; I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer! Our thoughts go out to all the people in the fire zones in Eastern Washington and our surrounding states. As the rain moves into Western Washington we hope that some of the moisture will make it over the Cascades to help knock down the raging fires.

It certainly has been interesting to watch the variety of political candidates running for President and other political offices. I recently got my NARFE magazine and, as always, it has some timely articles about what is

going on concerning our benefits and how fragile they may become. With budget cuts and election hype, it looks as though we will not be getting a COLA this year. It will be a bitter burden for people on fixed incomes.

I want to thank our membership for your rapid response to counter the attack on the TSP G Fund. Legislation was proposed to reduce the interest rate on the G Fund from 2.25% to 0.02% and use the money to fund the Highway Trust Fund. Your response got that piece of legislation removed; however, we can't relax as it may resurface attached to a piece of legislation that MUST pass.

Over the summer two OPM security breaches were announced. Frequent updates are posted on the National website at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Click on the "OPM Security Breach Updates" banner. I also encourage you to visit any one of the credit report sites (TransUnion.com, Experian.com, and Equifax.com) or use FreeCreditReport.com to access all three. You can request one free credit report per year; you can get more than one in a year by requesting a report from one of the three companies then, six month later, requesting a report from a different company. It is very important, after this breach, to monitor your credit records.

We have good programs planned for the next four meetings: As noted above, Andrea Roper will give us a Congressional update at our September meeting. In October WSFC President Rich Wilson will talk about the "State of the State" and we will conduct our chapter officer nominations. In November we have an updated version of the "History of NARFE" DVD put together by the National office; and we will elect our chapter officers for 2016. **Cont. Pg. 2**

**President cont.** The December meeting will be held at 1:00PM at the Willows in tandem with our Holiday Luncheon and swearing in of chapter officers. I hope you can attend all these events; I will look forward to seeing you there.

Many of you may have heard that our WSFC V.P. and NARFE-PAC Chair, Don Binder passed away on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Region IX V.P. Lanny Ross has started a fund in Don's memory to have Don's name engraved on the Silver Circle Award at the National office. The "Silver Circle Hall of Fame Award" recognizes donations of \$1000 or more; it is Lanny's hope to collect a minimum of \$1000 in Don's name. Any amount over the \$1000 minimum will be donated to NARFE-PAC in Don's name.

**Please make checks payable to: Lanny Ross**

Mail them to him at: **7450 Illahee Rd NE, Bremerton, WA 98311-9431**. He will send one check to NARFE. Any amount for this endeavor will be accepted and very much appreciated. Thank you for your support.

Be thinking about Open Season for health care coverage and make changes at that time if you so wish. The Open Season dates are 9 November through 14 December. The PSNS Health Fair is currently scheduled for Tuesday, 3 November; however, we will continue to monitor that date for changes.

Finally, I must announce that, due to personal issues, I cannot serve as your chapter president in 2016. It is my hope that someone will step forward to lead our hard-working executive board and wonderful chapter. Please contact the Nominating Committee (see box below) to run for chapter president or to nominate someone. John Burch or Ralph Peterson will be happy to hear from you. There are also several vacancies at the Federation level (V.P., NARFE-PAC Chair, National Legislative Chair, and Membership Chair); if you're interested in serving in one of those positions, please contact WSFC President Rich Wilson (253-210-5609 or [narfe1404@comcast.net](mailto:narfe1404@comcast.net)).

Thank you for supporting me and Chapter 181 throughout the years.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here. The Senate and House calendars both show they will resume business in Washington D.C. on 8 September 2015, the day after Labor Day. Our struggle to preserve earned benefits will continue in earnest.

One piece of legislation the NARFE National Office would like to see us support is HR 3351 simply titled "CPI-E Act of 2015". Not only is the title to the point but so is the content as excerpts below show.

1. Short title: This Act may be cited as the CPI-E Act of 2015.
2. Cost-of-living increases for certain Federal benefits programs based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for the elderly.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, whenever there is an increase in the Consumer Price Index for the elderly, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of the following benefits, as such amounts were in effect immediately before the increase in the Consumer Price Index for the elderly, shall be increased by the same percentage as such price index was increased:

- (1) An annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System or the Federal Employees Retirement System.

Seven other categories are specified in addition to (1) above.

All that being said, prospects for a COLA this year are dim. Our COLA is based on the third calendar quarter CPI-W average of July, August and September. The 2014 CPI-W average is **234.242**.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics reports the July 2015 CPI-W as **233.141**. We still have the August and September 2015 CPI-W values to factor in but it is improbable they will raise the 2015 third quarter average to greater than **234.242**.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Ralph Sanders

You may find this information in other parts of this newsletter, but it is worth repeating. Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP) open season is November 9, 2015 through December 14, 2015. The Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Health Fair will be held on November 3, 2015, 7am to 5pm at the Kitsap Conference Center – Fountain Room adjacent to the PSNS Museum. This may be your only opportunity to talk face to face with representatives of the major health insurance providers.

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**Contact John Burch (360-377-7784 or [marjonbur@comcast.net](mailto:marjonbur@comcast.net)) or Ralph Petersen (360 895 2069 or [angelwing14@msn.com](mailto:angelwing14@msn.com)) to nominate someone for:**

President	Vice President
Treasurer	Secretary
Alzheimer's Chair	Membership Chair
Executive Board Member positions	

**Membership cont.** Keep in mind that you are the only one who can decide what coverage is appropriate for you and your family. Be sure to check out the new Self Plus One option.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in next month's report: Ann Marie Cole, Herbert Criss, Billie Eder, Devere Hall, Tom Makris and Robert Maule.

These members are showing as dropped for non-renewal during the months of June, July and August: James Backs, Clyde Bennett, Barry Divine, Russell Doss, Donna Earhart, Conrad Forman, Samuel Green, Mary Heater, Dianne Hendrickson, Eleanor Hertz, David Hughes, Florence Mort, Shelley Simcox, Patricia Stevens, Melvin Thies, Donna Walmach and Horst Zimmer. If you know any of these past members, please contact them about reinstating their membership.

Now for the positive side of the report, including the months of June, July and August, we have two (2) new members: Janet George and Jeff George. We have five (5) reinstatements: Ernest Adcock, Frances Davey, Ben Ormiston, David Webster and Paul Wilkins. There is one (1) transfer in: Carol Crawford. There are five (5) prospective members: John Kenney, Karen Lennon, Amy Lewis, John Vaughn and Donna Wright. Welcome to all of you; we hope that you will become active in our chapter.

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.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE PUGET SOUND NAVY MUSEUM**

We are looking for new volunteers to assist with our Front desk and gift shop operations. This involves greeting and orienting people to the museum as well as educating visitors on the shipyard and the U.S. Navy. It is a perfect position for anyone who has retired from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and IMF or from the Navy.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at the Puget Sound Navy Museum, please contact Alexander Hostettler at 360-479-7447 or through email at alexander.hostettler@navy.mil. This is a great opportunity to meet other retired Navy and shipyard workers and to give back to the community!

### **TREASURER**

Rex Tauscher

Our income for June - July was \$5,932.57 with expenditures of \$5,315.37. Our net Worth as of 31 July was \$32,403.68. 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 31 July was \$36.42. We have collected approximately 446 pounds of recycle since the beginning of the year.

The local Alzheimer's memory walk is scheduled for Saturday, 12 September 2015. For information check the ALZ.org web site.

#### **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., 17<sup>th</sup> 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 446 pounds.**

### **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

Betty Fischer

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Lewis Becker, Alf Edman, Irene Johnson, Frank Legault, Jerry Munson, Vernon Nolting, Norma Robinett, Ronald Rodgers, Arthur Scott, David Smith, Frances Taylor, Earl Vetter and Jean Webster.

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.

**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**

Steve Ferguson

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](mailto:lannyjean@comcast.net)

**NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE**

Webmaster – Bob Edwards  
[www.narfewadist4.org](http://www.narfewadist4.org)

**NARFE STATE WEBSITE**

[www.narfewa.net](http://www.narfewa.net)

**NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE**

[www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

**LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE**

877-217-8234

**ADD YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS**

800-456-8410

**eNARFE WEBSITE**

[www.enarfe.org](http://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](http://www.murray.senate.gov)

Senator Maria Cantwell  
915 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 3206  
Seattle, WA 98174  
Seattle Phone Number 206-220-6400  
D.C. Phone Number 202-224-3441  
[www.cantwell.senate.gov](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov)

Congressman Derek Kilmer  
345 – 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
Bremerton Phone Number 360-373-9725  
D.C. Phone Number 202-225-5916  
<http://kilmer.house.gov>