



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 360-479-9061
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 12th
- * PSNS HEALTH FAIR..... November 3rd
- * Chapter Meeting..... November 9th
- * FEHBP Open Season..... November 9th - December 14th
- * Chapter Meeting & Holiday Luncheon..... December 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,

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. 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. 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 31st. 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 narfel404@comcast.net).

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

To nominate someone, please contact:

John Burch

360-377-7784

marjonbur@comcast.net

Ralph Petersen

360-895-2069

angelwing14@msn.com

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Alzheimer's Chair

Membership Chair

Executive Board Member positions

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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.

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.

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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., 17th Floor, Chicago, IL. 60601-7633.
- If you mail it to NARFE headquarters staff, it may not get credited to our Chapter.

2016 WSFC CONVENTION

May 15 - 17

Three Rivers Conventin Center and
Marriott SpringHill Suites, Kennewick

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.

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

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Steve Ferguson

NARFE-PAC CHAIR

Don Palmer

SERGEANT AT ARMS

William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

SERVICE OFFICER - Vacant

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

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

NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster - Bob Edwards
www.narfewadist4.org

NARFE STATE WEBSITE

www.narfewa.net

NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE

www.narfe.org

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE

1-877-217-8234

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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