



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

January 2016

NUMBER 01-16

General Meeting Date & Time: January 11, 2016 1:00PM

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

**Program: Architect and Author, Aaron D. Murphy, will do a PowerPoint Presentation on
"Aging in Place, Housing is the Hub of Your Future Happiness"**

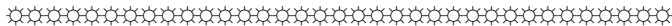
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.

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.....~~CANCELED.....February 8th~~
- * Chapter Meeting~~CANCELED.....March 14th~~
- * Chapter Meeting..... April 11th

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,

It was good to see many of you at our wonderful Holiday Luncheon. This is always a very special time of the year. We, the Executive Board, have been installed as your officers for another two years; we are grateful for your support and are looking forward for a New Year - 2016 - to serve you.



Region IX V.P. Lanny Ross
Sergeant-at-Arms William Fuhrmeister
Ex. Bd. Member Amber VanSantford
V.P. Ralph Sanders
President George Eads
Secretary Bea Bull
Treasurer Rex Tauscher
Legislative Chair Steve Ferguson

I encourage each of you to be proactive when it comes to supporting NARFE issues. We often hear, "What is NARFE doing for me?" Following is an excerpt from "NARFE's Legislative Accomplishments: 114th Congress Midterm (2015) Review"; the list in its entirety can be found on the National NARFE Legislative web page.
http://www.narfe.org/pdf/114thCongress_LegAccom-midterm.pdf

- ✓ Thwarted ALL attempts by Congress to cut the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.
- The House of Representatives' Fiscal Year 2016 budget resolution contained eight provisions totaling \$318 billion in cuts to the federal community.
- The Senate failed in its attempt to pay for highway improvements on the back of the federal community.
- A budget agreement offsetting sequestration for two years did not take from federal employees or retirees.
- ✓ Successfully prevented a disproportionate and unfair increase in Medicare premiums.
- Without a COLA in 2016, millions of Medicare enrollees not held harmless would have had their premiums increased by 52 percent, unless Congress or the administration took action. **Cont. Pg. 2**

MEETINGS CANCELED

February 8th

March 14th

President cont.

- ✓ Supported efforts to protect TSP participants from receiving bad financial advice.
- NARFE testified before the Department of Labor in favor of a rule to hold financial advisers to a "best interest" standard, instead of the current "suitability" standard, when providing advice regarding rollovers.
- ✓ Worked to protect and inform NARFE members following the data breaches at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)
- Following the announcements of two OPM data breaches, NARFE has stayed in constant communication with OPM officials to ensure NARFE members have the information they need to protect their financial wellbeing.
- ✓ Worked to increase identity theft protection provided to individuals impacted by the data breaches at OPM.
- NARFE supports lifetime identity theft protection, while the services offered after the breaches cover only 18 months and three years.
- ✓ NARFE's media coverage reaches new heights.
- In 2015, NARFE saw unprecedented coverage in the press, thanks to a combination of being out in front on certain issues, and efforts to draw attention to other concerns that were being overlooked by the media.

As you can see, NARFE's mission is being accomplished. You can use this information in your recruiting and retention efforts. You, who are calling and writing your legislators, keep up the good work, and encourage others to get involved.

May 2016 be a wonderful, happy and healthy New Year.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here. Happy New Year.

2015 was a real legislative battle for us. Here are some of the issues we encountered:

Our Federal Employee Health Benefits were (and are) at risk by congress reducing the government's funding level for our premiums.

Our future 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.

Our Medicare Part B premiums escalating by over 50%.

Reducing the Thrift Savings Plan G Fund return rate from about 2.5% to .2% to help pay for the Transportation Bill (at our expense).

The combined results of these attacks on our earned benefits would have been catastrophic. The use of the word "catastrophic" is by no means a hyperbole.

Get ready for the 2016 fight to retain your benefits. I hope you made a New Year's Resolution to contact your senators and congressman to oppose each and every attack on your earned benefits. I earned mine with 42 years of service credit which included working at PSNS from 1976-2013, 1-1/2 years of sick leave and 4 years US Navy.

I intend to fight to retain a viable retirement income.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

We are starting a new paragraph in our membership report this year, titled "Missing Members". As most of you know we have "Address Service Requested" on our mailed newsletters. For undeliverable newsletters this service costs us either ninety two cents for the newsletter to be returned (unable to deliver) or, if the post office fills a form 3547 with the forwarding address information, it is fifty nine cents. Either way, a few moves without notifying us uses most of the ten dollar annual dues that you paid. It is our intention to start listing our "missing" members in hopes that someone who knows their whereabouts will let us know; we want our "missing" members to continue to receive information from the chapter and the National office.

MISSING MEMBERS: Anne Marie Cole, Helen Hamilton, Vashti Miller, Kathleen Stretton and Marie Terry. Please contact me if you have any information regarding these members. This is not meant to embarrass anyone or cause a problem for a member. Thank you for your help in fixing a chapter problem. (See back of newsletter for contact information.)

Now for the membership report. Thank you to all of the members who have switched to dues withholding or multiyear payments. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in next month's report: Five (5) members: Delona Kent, Richard Lawrence, Dorothy Schuster, Russell Sikes and Jerome Twogood.

This member is showing as dropped for non-renewal during the month of December: One (1) member, Richard Yanss. **Cont. Pg. 3**

Membership Cont. Now for the positive side of our report for the month of December. We have two (2) new members: Daniel Boucher and Walt Connolly. We have one (1) prospective member: Michael Vineyard. Welcome to all of you. We hope that you will all 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.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for November was \$610.35 with expenditures of \$394.91. Our net Worth as of 30 November was \$32,930.79. 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 21 December was \$182.42. Donations received since our last report were \$5.00 thanks to Bea Bull.

Additional information on your tax deductible donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research fund:

- o Make checks payable to "**NARFE Alzheimer's Research**" (NARFE is the key word and is required!).
- o 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.
- o If you mail it to NARFE headquarters staff, it may not get credited to our Chapter.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR MAILING ADDRESS UP-TO-DATE!

Please be sure to notify Ralph Sanders every time you move (even if it's just a different apartment number) or get a new address (ex.a post office box). Thank you!!

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

The February issue of this newsletter will contain the Tax-Aide site information. There are new Affordable Care Act tax forms, 1095-B, and 1095-C that you will need when filing your 2015 income taxes. These forms are explained on page 16 of the January NARFE magazine or go to www.irs.gov and click on "Affordable Care Act" under "Hot Topics" (orange box).

Also in the January NARFE magazine is a very important article about changes to Social Security; "groundbreaking...reform measures" as author Mark A. Keen puts it. The changes can greatly impact how you "coordinate retirement and spousal benefits to maximize Social Security income".

I will soon be including registration and scholarship information for the 2016 WSFC Convention in Kennewick. Information about the NARFE National Convention, being held in Reno, NV, 28 August – 1 September is on page 43 of the January NARFE magazine. They will be making some very important decisions about the Future of NARFE.

Keep an eye on legislation to make up for a lack of COLA in 2016: H.R. 4144 and S. 2251. Urge your representatives to support these bills.

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 600 pounds.

NOTE

The recycle local facility, Westsound Recycle at the Port Orchard site has closed and the East Bremerton site may be closing at the end of this year, so check the next newsletter for possible changes to our recycle program.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Carol Tauscher for Betty Fischer

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Roger Anderson and Ruby Proctor (wife of member Robert Proctor). A get well card was sent to our Sunshine Chair, Betty Fischer.

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.

2016 WSFC CONVENTION

May 15 – 17, 2016

Three Rivers Convention Center and
Marriott SpringHill Suites, Kennewick

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

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ralphangulo@yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

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UNTIL DECEMBER 2017

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Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2016

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Bill Powers

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Region IX VP

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NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster – Bob Edwards
www.narfewadist4.org

NARFE STATE WEBSITE

www.narfewa.net

NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE

www.narfe.org

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE

877-217-8234

ADD YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

800-456-8410

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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