



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

April 2016

NUMBER 04-16

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

Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club 360-479-9061
4109 West E Street, Bremerton, WA
(National Avenue & "E" Street)

Program: Elder Investment Fraud and Financial
Exploitation (Open to the Public)
Cathy Brorson, C.U.D.E., Outreach
Coordinator, Kitsap Credit Union

*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 9th
- * 2016 WSFC Convention..... May 15th - 17th
- * Chapter Meeting..... June 13th
- * 2016 National Convention..... August 28th - Sept 1st
- * Chapter Meeting..... September 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 has been said the price of progress is change. This is the reason NARFE has set up the Strategic Planning Committee to develop a plan for the future. We will be hearing a lot about this plan and what it could do to streamline NARFE as an organization so it can better represent all active and retired federal employees while protecting our earned benefits. I have a copy of the Strategic Plan for NARFE and will share parts of it here; please contact me if you have questions or comments.

"To be an effective, responsive champion and the trusted voice of the civilian federal community, NARFE must intentionally become a more fiscally healthy, more effective, and growing organization.

"NARFE members face a difficult financial environment. Despite a stable economy with low inflation, employees and retirees experience little to no income increases and are subject to damaging cost increases. Tough economic times for members have meant that there is less ability for NARFE to raise revenues. Based on historical experience, dues increases would reduce membership.

*"NARFE's membership is heavily weighted to older age cohorts, and it suffers from an accelerating attrition problem as older members are dying and are not being replaced at the same rate by new members. **In the last five years, NARFE membership has declined from 313,000 to 224,000.***

"Chapters are closing as the number of people interested in doing the work to maintain chapters is declining.

*"While NARFE develops and promotes other non-dues revenue lines, **the organization continues to be dependent on dues revenue.** Increased membership continues to be the key driver that will grow revenue. Traditional methods of reaching potential members to deliver the message of the value NARFE offers are disappearing as the federal workplace changes. Potential members are harder to reach in the workplace as agencies no longer allow NARFE recruiters into many federal work locations."*

In the future I will share more of the Strategic Plan for NARFE's future. Region IX V.P. Lanny Ross will discuss the Strategic Plan at our June membership meeting; please attend to provide him with questions and comments to carry to the National Convention. If you can't attend the June meeting, contact him using the information on the back of this newsletter. To obtain a copy of the Strategic Plan, go to the NARFE National website (www.NARFE.org), log in, click on "Strategic Planning", and select "Strategic Plan-Final" (fourth down on the list); or contact me to obtain a hard copy.

May you enjoy the upcoming Spring and I hope to see you at our April Chapter meeting.

2016 WSFC CONVENTION

"A Bigger, Bolder, Better NARFE"

May 15 - 17

Three Rivers Convention Center and
Marriott SpringHill Suites, Kennewick

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

NARFE would like you to show support for H.R. 711, the "Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015".

The following is an excerpt from our February newsletter:

"H.R. 711 was introduced on 4 February 2015 and is entitled "Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015". It "reforms" the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) by partially restoring Social Security income to federal retirees.

This House Resolution enjoys bipartisan support as indicated by the 51 co-sponsors: 28 Republicans and 23 Democrats.

NARFE supports the legislation because it provides some penalty relief for being a federal retiree. The National office has experienced membership concern because the resolution does not completely eliminate the WEP. Fair enough criticism, but the all-or-nothing position has resulted in nothing for the several years NARFE has been pursuing termination of the WEP."

Congressional support continues to increase and is up to 64 co-sponsors as of 25 March 2016 with 39 Republicans and 25 Democrats.

I called Congressman Kilmer's Bremerton office, at **(360) 373-9725**, concerning this legislation. I asked that Congressman Kilmer co-sponsor the legislation. I mentioned that, although I did not receive a cost of living increase this year, my property taxes increased by \$300 and that my FEHB premiums are escalating at an unprecedented rate. All we are asking for is a penalty reduction on **earned** Social Security benefits. At least that would be some relief from our actual increasing

costs. The Consumer Price Index obviously does not factor in all of the real world cost increases we are experiencing, but that is an entire topic of its own.

It shouldn't take too many phone calls to Congressman Kilmer's office on this subject due to the magnitude of the retiree population in his district. I urge you to call your local representative's office or use the Legislative Action Page on the NARFE National website as follows: Log in; mouse over "Departments" and click on "Legislation"; in the section labeled "Legislative Action Center", click on "CLICK HERE"; click on the "Contact Congress" tab at the top and scroll down to find H.R. 711; select it and follow the instructions to submit a letter to your congressional representative.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

We are going to start our report with a paragraph that I will call "Member Recruitment 101". We will start with the member types that our membership consists of: Annuitant, Active Federal Employee, Active Federal Employee Spouse, Annuitant Spouse, and Survivor Annuitant. All of these memberships are dues paying, voting members. There are basically two types of memberships: National plus Local Chapter and National plus eChapter. National annual dues are \$40.00; local chapter dues vary; and the eChapter is free.

How can you pay your dues? When you join, and throughout your membership, you can pay by check, money order, BillPay, MasterCard, VISA, Discover, and American Express; are all accepted by NARFE. The two other methods of dues payments are an Annual Allotment for Active Federal Employees and Dues Withholding for Annuitants. Neither of these are very popular but are really the best way to pay your dues that I know of. I do not have any knowledge about the use of PayPal at this time, but will let you know in a future report.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in next month's report: Six (6) members, Shirley Browne, Bertha Coley, Dave Hobbs, Pauline McBeth, Margaret Purvis and Inga Shay.

These members are showing as dropped for non-renewal during the month of March: Five (5) members, Doreen Gibson, Robert Johnston, Mary Mason, Linda Ramirez, Michael Vineyard and Howard Wilcox.

We do not have any positive side for this report for the month of March.

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. If we have canceled our membership meeting, drop by our executive board meeting. You are more than welcome anytime.

MISSING MEMBERS

Our "Missing Members" list is now down to one. The following member is still missing: Marie Terry. Thanks for helping us find her.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

There are four (4) important motions to be voted upon at the NARFE National Convention; we need your input for George Eads to deliver to the convention. Please contact him with your questions and comments. The motions are as follows:

Optional Chapter Membership; One Member One Vote; Dues set by the National Executive Board no more often than biennially, with any increase not to exceed 10 percent; and Hire Executive Director for NARFE.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for February was \$1,558.74 with expenditures of \$2,102.44. Our net Worth as of 29 February was \$31,806.63. 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 29 February was \$17.44. No donations were received since our last report. We sent our annual check to the Alzheimer Association Research Fund in the amount of \$310.00.

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.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Betty Fischer

A sympathy card was sent to the families of Carl R. Berg and Hazel Colvin. Our sincerest condolences to the family of Shirlie Dasho.

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.

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

Let them know your donation is for the Bremerton
Chapter - NARFE 181

NOTE

The Port Orchard recycle facility is closed; the East Bremerton site is still open but check the next newsletter for possible changes to our recycle program.

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 2017

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

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, Ste 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 St., Suite 500
Bremerton, WA 98337
Bremerton Phone Number
360-373-9725
D.C. Phone Number
202-225-5916
<http://kilmer.house.gov>