



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

November 2016

NUMBER 09-16

General Meeting Date & Time: November 14, 2016 1:00PM

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

**Program: Kurt Wiest, Executive Director, Bremerton Housing Authority will Discuss the
Availability and Cost of Housing in Kitsap County**

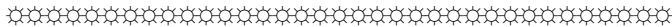
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.

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

- * 2016 PSNS Health Fair..... November 1st
- * Remember to VOTE!!!..... November 8th
- * FEHBP Open Season..... 14 Nov-12 Dec
- * Chapter Meeting/Holiday Luncheon.... December 12th
- * Chapter Meeting..... January 9th

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,

As you probably know, we will be getting a 0.3% COLA. As the old saying goes, "Don't spend it all in one place." We hope future COLAs will be more reflective of the real cost of living, especially for those on fixed incomes. The real down-side of this very small cola is explained in an 18 October 2016 Legislative Press Release:

(<http://www.narfe.org/member/articles.cfm?ID=4119>).

2016 PSNS HEALTH FAIR

1 November 2016

Kitsap Conference Center Fountain Room
Behind the Navy Museum

7:00AM – 5:00PM

“Under the hold harmless provision of the Social Security Act, the dollar increase in Medicare Part B premiums is limited to the dollar increase in an individual’s Social Security benefit. With such a low COLA for Social Security benefits, about 70 percent of beneficiaries will be held harmless, meaning their Medicare Part B premiums will increase, on a dollar-to-dollar basis, only in proportion to the increase in their Social Security checks. The baseline premium for current beneficiaries held harmless is \$104.90/month.

“However, the remaining 30 percent of Part B beneficiaries who are not held harmless, including federal retirees who are covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and who do not receive Social Security benefits, will shoulder the bulk of the cost of the 2017 premium increase. As projected by the Medicare Trustees, these individuals will see their premiums rise significantly.

Cont. Pg. 2

REMINDER TO SNOWBIRDS
CONTACT RALPH SANDERS TO UPDATE
YOUR MAILING ADDRESS!!!

President Cont. “It is grossly unfair that those who pay their premiums from something other than Social Security must pay more in premiums,” [NARFE National President] Thissen said. “There is no reason why two people with the same income should pay different Medicare [Part B] premiums based on whether the money is coming from a Social Security check or a federal annuity.””

NARFE is urging Congress to extend the effect of the ‘hold harmless’ provision, BUT Congress must hear from you as well! Ask your congressional representatives why it matters whether premiums are being paid from Social Security benefits or a federal annuity.

May you and your families have a blessed Thanksgiving.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

This year is an excellent example of why the current COLA calculation criteria gets a failing grade. A .3%, or 1/3rd of one percent, increase isn’t even a blip on your annuity beginning next year. We are faced with escalating Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP) premiums and double digit Medicare Part B premium increases. Contact your congressional representatives’ offices and express your dissatisfaction with the situation; if you don’t, you are giving tacit approval for the system as-is.

Please closely review your FEHBP options. The average 6% increase is just that, an average. My Group Health, Self-Plus-One, High Option, is scheduled for a twenty-five percent increase. I will be definitely be shopping for an alternative.

Open season for the FEHBP, as well as dental and vision plans, is 14 November 2016 through 12 December 2016.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

To add to the other articles pertaining to the 2017 COLA and Medicare Part B premium increases in this newsletter, CSRS retirees will face a projected Medicare Part B premium increase of about \$30.00 per month, or close to twenty-two percent to our part B premium. NARFE is urging Congress to extend the effect of the “hold harmless” provision to ALL Medicare beneficiaries permanently. Please contact your members of Congress expressing your concern.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in November: Three (3) members, George Lecompte, Judith Stelson and Edward Tjulander.

These members are showing as dropped for non-renewal during the month of October: Four (4) members, Carol Crawford, Janet George, Phillip Rakestraw and Joseph Wells.

Now for the positive side. We had four (4) members reinstated for the month of October: Jeff George, Randolph Hunt, June Jarstad and David Simpson. We have five (5) new prospective members joining us this month: Eileen Collins, Guntis Murins, Donald Schutt, Stanley Smith and Thomas Wojciechowski.

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.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Our November speaker is Kurt Wiest, the Executive Director of the Bremerton Housing Authority; he will discuss the cost and availability of housing in Kitsap County. This is open to the public so if you know someone who would be interested in this topic, please invite them.

December is the Holiday Luncheon, held on the 12th at 1:00PM at The Willows Senior Living, 3231 Pine Road, Bremerton. To make your reservation, please contact Myra Clodius at 377-2910 or mclodius@comcast.net. Myra will collect your payment, which **MUST** be received by 1 December in order to place our order with The Willows. The menu is on page 3.

Our January speaker will be Chapter 181 member, Jim Adrian, father of Olympic medal winner, Nathan Adrian. He will talk about traveling to Rio de Janeiro as a parent of an Olympic athlete.

We hope you can (or did, depending on when you receive this newsletter) attend the 2016 PSNS Health Fair. If you need to attend a different location, the schedule is on the District IV website along with the non-postal premium listings for both Fee-For-Service (FFS) and Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO). Go to <http://www.narfewadist4.org/> and scroll down to below the photograph to find the links.

Secretary cont. Your November NARFE magazine contains some important information, beginning on page 34, about the FEHBP Open Season; please be sure to check it out.

The 2016 NARFE Membership Recruiting Drive runs from 1 September 2016 to 31 December 2016. The recruiter will receive \$10 per new member AND be eligible for monthly prizes throughout the contest as well as for the GRAND Prize, an Apple iPad Air 2.

Chapter 181 is offering a Dues Withholding incentive: A \$10.00 chapter dues rebate will be given to the first three (3) Chapter 181 members to sign up for dues withholding.

For anyone planning to attend the 2017 Legislative Training Conference March 12-15, 2017, our Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) has approved a \$250.00 scholarship for federation members (must be a chapter member/National Only members are not eligible).

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON MENU

Appetizer

Soup or Salad

Entrees

Oven Baked Fresh Atlantic Salmon served with Lemon Dill Sauce, Asparagus and Mashed Potatoes

❖

Slow Roasted Prime Rib Paired with Au Jus & Horseradish Sauce served with Roasted Red Potatoes and Glazed Baby Carrots

❖

Pasta Primavera with Fresh Vegetables cooked with Alfredo Sauce Set on a Bed of Pasta served with Garlic Bread

Dessert

New York Style Cheesecake with Cherry Sauce Topping & Fresh Mint

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for September was \$385.58 with expenditures of \$1,697.34. Our net Worth as of 30 September was \$31,777.91. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next General Membership meeting.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 23 October was \$219.34. Donations received since our last report were \$25.00. Thank you to Loraine Brockerman and Bea Bull.

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. We have collected over 468 pounds of recycle metal for our recycle program since the first of the year. Keep up the good work. **Please note the change in drop off location. You may bring your cans to our next general meeting and I can take them to the recycle facility.**

ALUMINUM/COPPER DROP-OFF POINT

Westsound Recycle

1700 Mile Hill Drive, Port Orchard
East Bremerton facility closed!

Let them know your donation is for
Bremerton NARFE Chapter 181

HELP WANTED

Chapter 181 needs someone with new fund-raising ideas to be the Alzheimer's Chair. Please contact Rex Tauscher for information. (360) 479-0668

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the family of Pauline E. McBeth and to Raymond Philip Andersen for the loss of his wife.

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

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Ed Kalmbach

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 2017

Steve Ferguson

Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2016

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Bill Powers

District IV VP

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377-7917
powersw@silverlink.net

Region IX VP

Richard Wilson
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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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D.C. Phone Number 202-224-2621
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