



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

December 2016

NUMBER 10-16

General Meeting Date & Time: December 12, 2016
1:00PM

Meeting Place: The Willows Retirement Living
Dining Room
3201 Pine Rd NE, Bremerton, WA 98310

Program: Holiday Luncheon
Installation of Officers

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..... January 9th
- * Chapter Meeting..... February 13th
- * Chapter Meeting..... March 13th

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,

I received my December issue of the NARFE magazine. There is a lot of very good information on page thirty-two about whether or not to enroll in Medicare Part B. On page twenty-five, Long Term Care is explained in detail.

In the Navy, when ships are at sea and a heavy storm is coming, they batten down the hatches and stand by for heavy rolls as the ship is tossed to and fro. Both active and retired federal employees are like that ship in rough seas; they must batten down the hatches and stand by to take action to protect their benefits.

I am quoting from an article published in the Washington Post on 18 November of this year.

"President-elect Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress are drawing up plans to take on the government bureaucracy they have long railed against, by eroding job protections and grinding down benefits that federal workers have received for a generation.

"Hiring freezes, an end to automatic raises, a green light to fire poor performers, a ban on union business on the government's dime and less generous pensions -- these are the contours of the blueprint emerging under Republican control of Washington in January.

"These changes were once unthinkable to federal employees, their unions and their supporters in Congress. But Trump's election as an outsider promising to shake up a system he told voters is awash in 'waste, fraud and abuse' has conservatives optimistic that they could do now what Republicans have been unable to do in the 133 years since the Civil War.

"Stephen K. Bannon, a former Breitbart News chief who helped steer Trump's campaign and is now one of his most influential advisers, would lead the effort.

"The project aligns with Bannon's long-stated warnings about the corrupting influence of government and a capital city rampant with 'crony capitalism.'

"Breitbart headlines also provide a possible insight into his views, with federal employees described as overpaid, too numerous and a 'privileged class.'

"'It's nearly impossible to fire somebody,' said Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. 'When the overwhelming majority do a good job and the one bad apple is there viewing pornography, I want people to be held accountable.'

"Chaffetz said he plans to push through wholesale changes to the generous retirement benefits that federal workers receive, by shifting to a market-driven, 401(k)-style plan for new employees.

"'We have a Republican president who will help us drive this to the finish line,' Chaffetz said."

To read the article in its entirety, go to <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2016/11/21/trump-republicans-plan-to-target-government-workers-benefits-and-job-security/>

I appreciate your support. I hope you and your family stay healthy and enjoy this holiday season. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you all!



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

There are no new legislative priorities to report. The "Bill Tracker" in the NARFE magazine will be in recess until legislation is reintroduced in the 115th Congress (2017-2018). Plan to be extra vigilant in the coming year; our NARFE legislative team will need our quick response to contact our congressional representatives. It will be a happy new year for us if the government is preoccupied with bigger concerns than eroding the earned benefits of federal employees and retirees.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Because of its importance, I am repeating my news article from last month, with some changes. If you have contacted your members of Congress on this issue, thank you! If not, please do so.

It was announced on 18 October 2016 that we would be receiving a 0.3 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA). If you have a Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirement annuity, don't start cheering yet. Those of us who pay their Medicare Part B premiums out of our CSRS annuity are due to get a large increase in those premiums. Due to the unintended consequences of the "hold harmless" provision of the Social Security Act, the dollar increase in the Part B premium is limited to the dollar increase in an individual's Social Security benefit. With a 0.3 percent COLA, an estimated seventy percent of Medicare beneficiaries will be "held harmless", meaning they will only pay a minimal amount of the increase. However, the other thirty percent of the Medicare beneficiaries, those without Social Security benefits (including CSRS retirees), will face a premium increase from \$121.80 per month to \$134.00 per month.

"The low COLA, combined with the increase in premiums, means many federal retirees will see a decrease in their federal annuities next year, diminishing their purchasing power and quality of life. But this is about more than money. It's about fairness. It is time to fix a congressional oversight that occurred when the hold harmless provision was initially enacted. Those who pay their part B premiums from something other than Social Security should be treated the same way as those who do." Said NARFE President Thissen.

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 December: Six (6) members, Larry Bricker, Robert Proctor, Iva Smith, Margaret Soister, Larry Vancil and Sharon Vancil.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of November: Three (3) members, George Lecompte, Judith Stelson and Edward Tjulander.

Now for the positive side. We have no (0) new members, (0) reinstatements and (0) new prospective members for the month of November.

Remember, the 2016 NARFE Membership Recruiting Drive will end 31 December 2016.

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.

SILVER CIRCLE AWARD FOR LANNY ROSS

In appreciation of Lanny's many years of service to NARFE, Region IX, and the WSFC, it is deemed appropriate to try to obtain a Silver Circle Award in his name. His name will be placed on a plaque at NARFE Headquarters signifying \$1,000 was given to NARFE-PAC in his name. Make your check payable to Karol Kusunose (WSFC V.P.) and mail to 31825 - 150th Pl. SE, Auburn, WA 98092-9244. Donations are NOT tax deductible.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

As I mentioned last month, our January speaker will be 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.

By the time you receive this, Open Season for FEHBP will be nearing its end. Here is some useful information that I received via an email from OPM:

To request health benefit changes and plan information:

- Go to Open Season Online at <https://retireefehb.opm.gov>
- Call Open Season Express at 1-800-332-9798
- Write to us at: FEHB Open Season Processing Center
P.O. Box 5000
Lawrence, KS 66046-0500

A tool for comparing FEHB Plans can be found at:
[https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/
plan-information/compare-plans/](https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/compare-plans/)

For information on the Federal Employees Dental & Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) go to www.benefeds.com or call 1-877-888-3337.

Remember, as an annuitant, you can decrease your FEHBP coverage at ANY time.

I have some copies of FEHBP brochures (Aetna, BCBS, GEHA, Group Health Co-op, and Group Health Options (formerly KPS) if anyone wants them. First come, first served. Give me a call (360-377-6569) or email me (tbkbull@aol.com).

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 to be eligible).

I look forward to seeing some of you at the Holiday Luncheon. Happy Holidays to all of you!!

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for October was \$1,926.05 with expenditures of \$1,947.74. Our net Worth as of 31 October was \$31,756.74. 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 21 November was \$254.34. Donations received since our last report were \$35.00. Thank you to Loraine Brockerman, DeAnna Gossett, Ed Kalmach and Rex Tauscher. Cumulative NARFE-member donations to the NARFE-Alzheimer's Research Fund have topped \$12 million. Separately, NARFE members who formed teams to participate in local Alzheimer's walks contributed another \$41,000 to the Alzheimer's Association this year.

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.

ALUMINUM/COPPER DROP-OFF POINTS

Westsound Recycle
1700 Mile Hill Drive, Port Orchard

**Let them know your donation is for Bremerton Chapter
NARFE 181**

Or give to Rex at the next meeting

523 pounds collected in 2016

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Gerald R. Brunham and Hannelore C. Roy.

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

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Ed Kalmbach

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
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UNTIL DECEMBER 2017

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Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2018

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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

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:
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Management
Retirement Operations
Center
P.O. Box 45
Boyers, PA 16017

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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