



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

February 2017

NUMBER 02-17

General Meeting Date & Time: February 13, 2017 1:00PM
Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club (479-9061)
4109 West E Street, Bremerton, WA (National Avenue & "E" Street)
Program: "Life at the Bottom of the World"
Daniel Jose Will Discuss Working at McMurdo Station, Antarctica

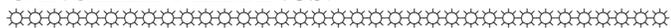
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.

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

- * Legislative Conference..... March 12th - 15th
Alexandria, VA
- * Chapter Meeting..... March 13th
- * Chapter Meeting..... April 10th
- * Chapter Meeting..... May 8th
- * Armed Forces Day Parade..... May 20th
- * Chapter Meeting..... **CANCELED**..... June

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,

In the Kitsap Sun dated 25 January (Tuesday's edition), we can see how the government hiring freeze is already affecting our local community. It seems the mood against both current and retired federal employees coming out of Washington D.C. has a very negative feeling.

Please read your February 2017 NARFE magazine starting on pages six and seven, then go to pages twenty-six through thirty-one. It explains that we are in for some rocky roads ahead (and I do not mean the ice cream). On page six there is an Action Alert asking us to call our representatives. The Capitol switch board number is 866-220-0044. They will connect you with the number of the representative with whom you wish to speak. I also suggest you call the Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan (202-225-3031) and Majority Leader of the Senate, Mitch McConnell (202-224-2541) to let them know how you feel about them trying to reduce, or eliminate altogether, our EARNED BENEFITS. This is not a time to sit around and be silent about our future as current or retired federal employees. We will be fortunate to keep what benefits we have now.

I hope to see you at our February meeting on Monday, 13 February. To you and your families have a wonderful, sweet Valentine's Day.

MOVING?

Even if it's from one apartment to another in the same building or complex, please contact Ralph Sanders at 360 275 9793 to update your mailing address!!! The Post Office charges a fee for returned newsletters. THANK YOU!!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

I am still wincing from the pain of our .3 percent Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA). Social Security tells us the purpose of the COLA *“is to ensure that the purchasing power of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits is not eroded by inflation. It is based on the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of the last year a COLA was determined to the third quarter of the current year.”*

The CSRS and FERS handbook states the purpose of our COLA but is not as clear as the one above.

NARFE is advocating the use of the CPI-E index calculated by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. The “E” stands for elderly. It evaluates expenses experienced by the elderly and historically yields a higher COLA value. I don’t know anyone who feels the 2017 COLA addressed real world expense increases.

NARFE has expressed 115th Congress legislative priorities on their website. Log in to the NARFE website (NARFE.org), go to “Departments”, click on “Legislation”, click on “Top Issues” and finally click on “Legislative Program”. You will find four pages of excellent and relevant information.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Last month I stated that “we need to get better organized at the grass roots level, helping us to rise to the challenges federal workers and retirees will encounter this coming year.” **President Trump has put a hiring freeze on the federal work force.** The information that I will share with you was taken from a Washington Post news article titled “What does a hiring freeze mean for the federal workforce?”

Are all federal employees affected? The memorandum excludes “military personnel” or any position deemed necessary for national security or public safety. Civilian defense department personnel could be included or excluded under this memorandum. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of Personnel Management (OPM) have been tasked to recommend a long-term plan to reduce the size of federal government’s work force through attrition. This order shall expire upon implementation of the OMB plan.

What have we learned from previous hiring freezes? In 1982, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) said freezes under Presidents Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter were “ineffective in managing federal

employment.” That report said the previous freezes “disrupted agency operations and, in some cases, increased costs to the government.” It is a concern that a freeze on federal employment will cause agencies to hire high-priced contractors to do the work that federal employees can and should be doing.

Has federal employment grown over the years? “Since the 1960s, the U. S. population increased by 67 percent, the private sector workforce increased by 136 percent, while the size of the federal workforce rose about 10 percent. This would not indicate an out-of-control and bloated work force.”

We need to contact our congressional delegation and make them aware of the fallacies and misconceptions of this plan. Contact information is on the back page of this newsletter as well as in President Ead’s article.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in February: Twelve (12) members, Margaret Broszeit, Willis Coston, Clarence Craven, James Davis, Anthony Gracin, Eldon Larson, Kay Massie, Vashti Miller, Doris Olson, Matthew Stewart, Richard Stoker and Melven Thies.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of January: Five (5) members, Ann Marie Cole, Livingston Hadley, Eleanor Hertz, Kathleen Meachem and Donald Olson.

AVOID FINDING YOURSELF ON THE DROPPED LIST SIGN UP FOR A LIFE MEMBERSHIP CONTACT ME FOR DETAILS

Now for the positive side. We have two (2) new members, Julia Smith and David Willenborg, two (2) reinstatement, Christine Read and Iva Smith, one (1) member transferred in, Bonita Hunter and one new prospective member, Trina McLeod, all for the month of January. Thanks to all of you who have joined us in Chapter 181.

If you have questions regarding NARFE or Bremerton Chapter 181, please contact any one 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 any time.

2017 TAX AID SITE INFORMATION

This information is now available; if you need it please contact Bea Bull or retrieve it from the District IV website (see back of newsletter).

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

In appreciation of Lanny's many years of service to NARFE, Region IX, and the WSFC, a Silver Circle Award was acquired 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.

Daniel Jose, traveler to the South Pole, will be our February speaker. For March, Rex has arranged for a speaker from PSNS to show pictures and talk about an earthquake in South America - and the effects as it compares to this area. As always, if you know of anyone you think would be a good speaker, please contact Amber VanSantford at 871-4439.

I hope you've read your February NARFE magazine; beginning on page ten you'll find a list of NARFE's 2016 legislative accomplishments. Use this when recruiting. Beginning on page thirty-two is a very information article on estate planning and, on page forty-four, is the invitation to enter the 2017 NARFE Photo Contest and a notice that the scholarship application will no longer be in the magazine (blue box upper right corner).

I recently received a notice from Century Link about the new 564 area code and ten-digit dialing. Pertinent dates:

January 28, 2017 – when calling from area codes 206, 253, 360 and 425, you may begin dialing all ten digits;

July 29, 2017 – the date when you **MUST** dial all ten digits;

August 28, 2017 – the date when new phone numbers will be assigned the new area code.

REMINDERS

NOTE: The Executive Board has canceled the June membership meeting because it falls right on the heels of our 2017 WSFC Training Conference in Kennewick, WA. There just isn't enough time to prepare our reports for that general membership meeting.

Chapter 181 continues to offer 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).

A new NARFE application/brochure is available that incorporates the changes from the 2016 National Convention. I have a supply on order; let me know if you need some.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for December was \$1,033.80 with expenditures of \$601.37. Our net Worth as of 31 December was \$31,864.77. 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 January was \$457.09. Donations received since our last report were \$191.75. Thank you to Doris and Lyle Boyd, Loraine Brockerman, Bill Fuhrmeister, Inga and Ronald Jennings, Vito Leone, Rex Tauscher and West Sound Recycle.

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 POINT

Westsound Recycle

1700 Mile Hill Drive, Port Orchard

Let them know your donation is for
Bremerton NARFE Chapter 181

Or give to Rex at the next meeting

Over 548 pounds collected in 2016

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Lois Forbes and David E. Simpson.

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

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William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

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District IV Service Officer
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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 2018

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Bill Powers

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NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster – Bob Edwards
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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

**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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