



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

March 2017

NUMBER 03-17

General Meeting Date & Time: March 13, 2017
1:00PM

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

Program: "2010 Earthquake & Tidal Wave in Concepcion,
Chile" Jay Spady, Civil Engineer, PSNS, Will
Discuss Implications for the Puget Sound Area

*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..... April 10th
- * Chapter Meeting..... May 8th
- * Armed Forces Day Parade..... May 20th
- * Chapter Meeting.....CANCELED..... June
- * 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,

Each month, as we get a report from the Membership Chairman and Vice-President, Ralph Sanders, wouldn't it be wonderful if he could say that we have gained new members? This can only happen if we, as current members, recruit new members. Here are some ideas from the December 2016 *NARFE Recruiting & Retention Journal* to help us all do a better job of explaining the benefits of NARFE membership when we're recruiting.

Adapted from the October 2016 issue of the Calvert County Chapter 1466 newsletter.

"NARFE Keeps Us Informed

- *narfe* magazine
- NARFE NewsWatch
- Legislative Updates

NARFE Helps Us With Benefit Questions

- With personal access to federal benefits experts
- Through webinars and white papers in the Federal Benefits Institute
- Forewarning and easy-to-understand guidance when regulations affecting our benefits change

NARFE Fights for Our Benefits

- Legislative experts create and maintain relationships with members of Congress and OPM administration.
- NARFE leaders provide testimony before Congress
- NARFE works to reduce threats to benefits for all feds"

Adapted from the October 2016 issue of the Midlothian Chapter 2265 newsletter.

"A Retirement Future Without NARFE Is Unthinkable!"

"Think of what life would be like if the benefits that are enjoyed were reduced and/or terminated. I don't like to think of such because I enjoy all of the benefits that I have earned through my many years of federal service. Protecting those benefits is very important to me. The cost of NARFE membership is nominal when you consider the return on investment. NARFE can only lobby on our behalf if it is financially supported by those who are eligible to become members.

"There continue to be benefit issues pending that will impact our financial security, such as cost-of-living adjustments for 2017, streamlining the workforce, health insurance premiums, etc. Each active employee, retiree and annuitant will be impacted by some of the proposals before Congress. Give NARFE your support, and let them lobby for you. Become a member of NARFE today, and encourage your family and friends who are eligible to join as well."

As you share these ideas with other potential members, just MAYBE some of them will join NARFE. It has been said, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." Thank you for your support and have a Happy St. Patrick'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.

H.R. 756 – 115th Congress: Postal Service Reform Act of 2017. Wording of this House Resolution strips postal retirees of their Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP) if they don't sign-up for Medicare Part B. This aspect of H.R. 756 is worth active opposition because it clearly attacks retiree "earned benefits".

Take time to call your congressional representative. The staff members are always polite on the phone and easy to talk to. Refer to "H.R. 756" and its title "Postal Service Reform Act of 2017" so the staff member knows exactly what you are talking about.

The threat of postal retirees losing their health care insurance is shocking. We have all given the government the best years of our lives with the promise of FEHBP access in retirement. Opposition to H.R. 756 sends the message that we will not quietly standby and watch our earned benefits evaporate on the impulses of Congress.

I always find the NARFE website to be informative and encourage you to spend some time with it (providing you have internet access). Did you know the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) increased by .76% in January of this year? That is an example of the relevant information you will encounter.

The Legislative Training Conference in Washington D.C. is scheduled for March 12-15. I am looking forward to learning NARFE's primary points of focus and sharing them with you.

2017 TAX AID SITE INFORMATION

This information is now available; I've attached a copy to this email, or it can be retrieved from the District IV website (see back of newsletter).

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

This month I thought that we would get back to the subject of membership. With mandatory chapter membership no longer required, it is probable that chapters will have a more difficult time maintaining their membership. That means we need to do more, with whatever we have, to support your interest in chapter membership. We will give you some information on NARFE Webinars that provide answers for the federal community. The information that I am listing here is on our NARFE.org web page. These are the next three, one-hour Webinars presented by Federal Benefits and Retirement Expert, Tammy Flanagan. All three webinars have a start time of 11:00AM Pacific Time:

March 16 - What's Your Best Retirement Date?

April 20 - Claiming Social Security; and

May 11 - Financial Planning for Feds.

We are considering running one of the previously recorded Webinars at one of our General Membership meetings in the next few months.

Now for the membership report, which will be short, and disheartening. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in March: Four (4) members, David Bennett, Loyal Campbell, Michael Keefer and Pauline Polum.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of February: Nine (9) members, Margaret Broszeit, Willis Coston, Anthony Gracin, Eldon Larson, Kay Massie, Vashti Miller, Doris Olson, Matthew Stewart and Richard Stoker.

AVOID FINDING YOURSELF ON THE DROPPED LIST

SIGN UP FOR A LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CONTACT ME FOR DETAILS

Now for our positive side, which is not too positive this month. We have no new members and no reinstatements to report. However, we do have thirty-eight (38) prospective members whom we will contact individually rather than list them in this report.

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.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Jay Spady, Civil Engineer, PSNS, will be our March speaker. He will show photos and talk about an earthquake in Concepcion, Chile - and the effects as it compares to this area. In April we hope to show one of the archived Webinars and in May, Claire Fallat, Event Coordinator, Alzheimer's Association, will provide an update on Alzheimer's and talk about the September Walk to End Alzheimer's. As always, if you know of anyone you think would be a good speaker, please contact Amber VanSantford at 871-4439.

The March issue of NARFE magazine brings to our attention the threats federal employees and retirees will face during the 115th Congress. It is imperative that we acquaint ourselves with the issues and contact our congressional representatives promptly when requested to do so.

This issue includes a special wrap with a postage paid envelope for NARFE-PAC donations. I will take the liberty of speaking for NARFE-PAC Chair Don Palmer and urge you to make a donation or, even better, sign up to be a Sustainer. See President Thissen's article on page 4 of the March NARFE magazine.

REMINDERS

The June General Membership meeting is canceled.

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.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for January was \$987.58 with expenditures of \$1,359.33. Our net Worth as of 31 January was \$31,493.02. 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 22 February was \$5.00. Donations received since our last report were \$16.00. Thank you to DeAnna Gossett and Rex Tauscher. A check for our annual donation in the amount of \$468.09 was forwarded to the Alzheimer's Association.

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

548 pounds collected in 2016

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Rosetta Bobbitt and Joyce Libsack.

A get well card was sent to Myra Clodius.

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
ralphangulo@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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

**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
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Boyers, PA 16017

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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