



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

May 2017

NUMBER 05-17

General Meeting Date & Time: May 8, 2017 1:00PM
Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club (479-9061)
4109 West E Street, Bremerton, WA (National Avenue & "E" Street)
Program: Claire Fallat, Event Coordinator, Washington State Alzheimer's Association Will
Discuss Current Research and the Bremerton 2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's

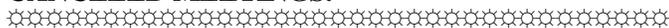
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors .

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

- * **Armed Forces Day Parade..... May 20th**
- * **Chapter Meeting.....CANCELED..... June**
- * **Chapter Meeting..... September 11th**
- * **Chapter Meeting..... October 9th**
- * **Chapter Meeting..... November 13^h**

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,

March was NARFE PAC month. NARFE-PAC is a very important part of our mission to help us have favorable legislative action on behalf of current and retired federal employees. The process to fund friendly candidates is that **first** they should support NARFE and its mission, and support bills before Congress that will be helpful and favorable to federal employees and retirees. The local chapter leaders meet with their elected officials and, with the

approval of the local chapter leaders, the chapter leaders contact the Washington Federation President and the NARFE PAC Chairman. The Federation then contacts the National Headquarters and they approve the amount to be given to the candidate who supports NARFE issues. He or she is then given a check from NARFE in that amount. Generally, most of the candidates who get NARFE-PAC funds are elected and/or re-elected to their positions.

I have been able to review the National report on PAC money given by Washington State from during the 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016 time period. I commend all of you who gave to support NARFE-PAC. The total amount for Washington State was \$52,158.92. Chapter 181 members gave \$6,249.00. Ninety-two people donated. Chapter 181 was the top donator for the State of Washington. Thanks to all of you for your support in this very worthwhile program.

To view PAC Stats, log onto the NARFE website, mouse over the Departments tab and select Legislation. In the box on the left, click on NARFE-PAC. Below the red Contribute Now button, select Quarterly Contribution and Distribution Reports.

Once again, thanks for all your support. Spring is here, may you enjoy the changes in weather and may you have improved health and be able to enjoy life wherever you may be

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

We are fortunate that Congressman Kilmer and Senators Murray and Cantwell all have what NARFE calls 100% voting records. They always vote favorably on legislation affecting current and retired federal employees. Although that is the case, it is still a good idea to contact their offices and let them know how you feel about pending legislation.

Generally, we can't express our opinions about legislation affecting federal employees and retirees to representatives and senators for whom we are not constituents; however, there are two exceptions:

Wisconsin State Representative Paul Ryan is the Speaker of the House. His website at www.speaker.gov invites you to "Speak Out" regardless of your state of residence. His office wants to know what is on our minds. A large quantity of input on a given subject will influence him to take action on that subject.

Kentucky State Senator Mitch McConnell is the Senate Leader. His website is www.mcconnell.senate.gov.

I will remind you of two important concerns about which you should contact their offices:

H.R. 756 Postal Service Reform Act of 2017.

- Wording of this House Resolution strips postal retirees of their Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (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".

H.R. 1251 CPI-E Act of 2017

- CPI-W fails to adequately address cost of living increases experienced by the elderly;
- CPI-E indicates inflation for seniors increased by 2.7% for 2015 and 2016 combined;
- Our cost of living adjustment for the same period totaled a paltry .3%, yes, 1/9 of actual inflation.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

We are starting our approach to the summer season. We have canceled our June General Membership meeting because of conflicts with the 2017 Region IX Training Conference in Kennewick. Historically, we do not have General Membership meetings in July and August. We are not having an Executive Board meeting in July; all other months are covered at this time. For the Membership Committee, it is business as usual even in the summertime; members to keep track of, contact letters

to send out, databases and spread sheets to maintain. We also need to keep our "name recognition program" in place. We will have cars in the 20 May 2017 Armed Forces Day parade in Bremerton and the 29 July 2017 Whaling Days parade in Silverdale. Also, we will hand out and post NARFE information whenever and wherever we can.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership will be dropped in May: Three (3) members, Delona Kent, Helen Reed and Craig Thompkins.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of April: Five (5) members, Walt Connolly, Beverly Gardner, Diane Kostelecky, Bethel Reece and Mary Swanson.

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, James Diekmann and Brittany Tassano and one (1) member transferred in, Prichard Miller.

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE

While H.R. 756 "Postal Service Reform Act of 2017" impacts only postal retirees, the concern for ALL federal annuitants is the precedence this legislation creates; future legislation could require ALL federal annuitants to take Medicare Part B in order to retain their FEHBP coverage.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

At the May General Membership meeting, Claire Fallat, Event Coordinator, Alzheimer's Association, will provide an update on current research and talk about the 2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's. The Bremerton Walk will be held on Saturday, 16 September. I have again started a Bremerton NARFE Chapter 181 Team, early enough this year to encourage member participation. If you want to join the Chapter 181 Team, or make a **cont. Page 2**

Secretary Cont. donation, please let me know and I'll send you a link to the Team page or get you the necessary paperwork via USPS. Please note that, unlike donations made to "Alzheimer's Research" (see the instructions in Rex's column), which go 100% to research, donations to Alzheimer's Walks are split between research and various other aspects of the Alzheimer's Association (fund raising; administrative, etc.).

As Ralph mentioned in his column, we have an entry in the 20 May 2017 Armed Forces Day parade. It is a 1970 Ford Mustang convertible; whether or not we have the top down will depend on the weather. Besides the owner of the vehicle who will drive, you will see the smiling faces of Past Region IX V.P. Ross, Chapter 181 V.P. Sanders, and yours truly. We hope to see YOU along the parade route!

You have until 19 May 2017 to register for the 2017 Region IX Training Conference in Kennewick, WA to be held June 9th – 10th. If you are a member of any chapter, your registration and meals will be paid for by the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC). Visit www.narfewa.net for the registration form, contact one of us and we'll send it to you, or come to the next meeting and we'll have copies available. We encourage all members to attend; this isn't just for officers.

I'm learning how to access and maintain the District IV Website thanks to Bob Edwards' patient guidance. I recently updated the front page; visit the website at narfewadist4.org and watch for other changes as my expertise grows.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE BREMERTON FOOD LINE

BFL, located at 1600-12th Street across from Bremerton High School, depends on its volunteers to fulfill its mission.

Here is a sampling of the tasks done daily by volunteers:

- Loading and unloading food deliveries
- Sorting food products and stocking shelves
- Sorting and cleaning produce for client use
- Repacking products into family size portions
- Helping clients fill emergency food baskets

Go to www.BremertonFoodLine.org or call 360-479-6188 for more information.

REMINDER

The June General Membership meeting is canceled.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for March was \$303.31 with expenditures of \$256.87. Our net Worth as of 31 March was \$31,702.27. A detailed Treasurer's report will be available at our next Executive Board and General Membership meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Rex Tauscher

The balance in our Alzheimer's account as of 18 April was \$54.50. Raffle donations in the amount of \$20.00 were received from the following members at the April General Membership meeting: DeAnna Gossett, Ron Jennings and Edward Kalmbach.

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

94.8 pounds collected in 2017

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Edgar W. Ahiers, Bertha Coley and Theodore A. Worms. A "Get Well" card was given to Ralph Sanders following his surgery.

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

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William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

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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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Region IX VP

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NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

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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

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