



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 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,

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!!

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 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.

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 POINTS

Westsound Recycle

1700 Mile Hill Drive, Port Orchard

Tell them 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.

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@gmail.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

Steve Ferguson

Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2018

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

District IV VP

Bill Powers 377-7917
powersw@silverlink.net

Region IX VP

Richard Wilson
253-210-5609
narfe1401@comcast.net

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 Eastern Time.

Mailing Address:

Office of Personnel
Management
Retirement Operations
Center
P.O. Box 45
Boyers, PA 16017

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Patty Murray
950 Pacific Avenue #650
Tacoma, WA 98402
Tacoma Phone Number
253-572-3636
D.C. Phone Number
202-224-2621
www.murray.senate.gov

Senator Maria Cantwell
915 - 2nd Avenue, Ste 3206
Seattle, WA 98174
Seattle Phone Number
206-220-6400
D.C. Phone Number
202-224-3441
www.cantwell.senate.gov

Congressman Derek Kilmer
345 - 6th St., Suite 500
Bremerton, WA 98337
Bremerton Phone Number
360-373-9725
D.C. Phone Number
202-225-5916
<http://kilmer.house.gov>