



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

June 2017

NUMBER 06-17

**THE JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS CANCELED
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!**

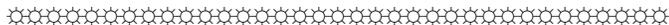
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.

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

- * Whaling Days Parade..... July 29th
- * Chapter Meeting..... September 11th
- * Walk to End Alzheimer's..... September 16th
- * Chapter Meeting..... October 9th

NOTE: CHAPTER MEETINGS MAY BE CANCELED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. WATCH YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS FOR NOTIFICATION OF CANCELED MEETINGS.



NARFE REACTION TO PRESIDENT TRUMP'S FIRST BUDGET

In a 23 May 2017 statement, NARFE National President, Richard Thissen writes:

“President Trump’s first full budget is nothing short of an egregious, unprecedented attack on federal employees and retirees. It goes far beyond previous attacks on the federal community by taking aim at the already-earned benefits of our nation’s public servants. This does not just change the rules of the game going forward; it breaks an implicit bargain by eroding the value of hard-earned pensions that were promised to federal employees in exchange for their service to this country.

“President Trump’s first full budget is nothing short of an egregious, unprecedented attack on federal employees and retirees.” Richard Thissen

“While the president purports to defend government

annuities, such as Social Security, he singles out federal annuitants by limiting and even eliminating cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for those already retired and living on fixed incomes. This is nothing more than punishment for those who have served their country through federal service and a broken campaign promise to protect retirement security. Denying federal retirees the opportunity to have modest pensions that keep pace with inflation will hardly make America great.”

NARFE objects to the following fiscal year 2018 budget proposals:

23 May 2017 NARFE National Press Release

- COLAs for current and future Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees would be eliminated altogether.
- COLAs for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees would be reduced by 0.5 percent each year from what it would have been otherwise.
 - Federal employees covered under FERS would see employee contributions to their annuities increased by 1 percent each year for the next six years, without any corresponding benefit increase. This will cost FERS employees \$71.2 billion over the next 10 years, and more thereafter.
- The FERS Annuity Supplement would be eliminated for new retirees starting in 2018.
- Federal pensions would be based on the average of the highest five years of salary instead of the highest three.

NARFE analysis of these proposals:

23 May 2017 NARFE National Press Release

Limiting COLAs for CSRS retirees and eliminating them for FERS retirees would drastically reduce the earned retirement benefits of public servants with long tenures. When combined, these proposals save \$41.8 billion over 10 years – at a cost of lost income and earning power to federal retirees.

The average FERS annuitant would lose:

- \$23,430 over 10 years
- \$487,829 over 40 years

The average CSRS annuitant would lose:

- \$12,598 over 10 years
- \$381,418 over 40 years

Read the full release at:

<http://www.narfe.org/home/articles.cfm?ID=4210>

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

The latest “NARFE NewsWatch” e-mail was pretty alarming. President Trump’s budget proposal provides for multifaceted attacks on our retirement benefits and current employee pay and benefits.

Well.....don’t hit the panic button yet. It is a long way from intent to approved budget legislation. I am saying, however, that you should be alert/aware and be considering ways to express your opinion on these matters. We can consider this a shot across the bow for attention purposes.

I will watch for, and communicate to you, spending bills that are worded to impose cuts on federal retirees and employees. It helps to have a House Resolution number when contacting our representative (see back of newsletter for contact information) and the Speaker of the House (www.speaker.gov). If you live outside of Washington State and/or the 6th Congressional District, go to www.govtrack.us and enter your address to retrieve your congressional representatives’ contact information.

No action has occurred on H.R. 756 – **Postal Service Reform Act of 2017** since 16 March 2017. This resolution is being given a twenty-five percent chance of adoption at this time.

H.R. 1251 – **CPI-E Act of 2017** has an estimated one percent chance of adoption at this time. It is at the other end of the spectrum from what President Trump recommends for us.

Again, don’t be alarmed. The cuts are simply talk at this point. But DO stay informed.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Starting at our National Convention last year, NARFE members were no longer required to belong to a chapter. They could, at their discretion, transfer to a National Only membership and not be required to pay chapter dues. In previous years, we would have one to two members per year transfer their membership to another chapter. If members move out of the area, I hope that they transfer their membership and continue to be active members in a chapter close to their new home. Since the beginning of this year we have had, on average, about 3.5 members per month transferring out of Chapter 181 to become National Only members. If this keeps members in the NARFE dues structure, we are grateful. NARFE is a grass roots lobbying organization that requires members; the number of members is our strength. Because of our lobbying efforts and support, we maintain a one hundred percent voting record from our congressional delegation. Ten dollars per year in chapter dues is a small price to pay for that success.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership will be dropped in June: Three (3) members, Thelma Gursky-Taylor, Linda Horsley and David Rustvold.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of May: Two (2) members, Delona Kent and Helen Reed.

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

Now for the positive side. We have five (5) new members, Debora Bagala, Rocco Bagala, Terry Cox, Leroy Gilbert and Kimberly Humes. We have one (1) reinstatement, Craig Tompkins and one (1) prospective member, Bruce Cherry.

Our Chapter has added a member to its Executive Board; Ms. Brittany Tassano has agreed to serve as our “Active Employee Liaison.” Brittany is an Active Federal Employee (AFE) meaning she is currently employed by the federal government, specifically PSNS. In this capacity she will represent the chapter’s Executive Board and serve as a liaison between it and our current and future AFE chapter members. She will contact prospective members, answer questions and concerns, and deliver NARFE membership information as appropriate. You may contact Brittany at GUITARGIRL8182@GMAIL.COM or phone (360) 689-3383.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

You're receiving this newsletter a bit late; our printer, Tom McCallum, had a vacation to visit family planned for the end of May. I hope he had a wonderful time!

Another reminder: The Bremerton Walk to End Alzheimer's 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.).

Amber and I are working on obtaining twenty-five copies of each of the major FEHBP brochures for the November General Membership meeting; if you already know you want a copy of one or more of the brochures, please contact Amber (see back page) so she has a better idea of how many we should request from the providers.

We thank John Buckbee for driving us in the 20 May 2017 Armed Forces Day parade. He owns this 1970 Ford Mustang convertible; the weather was glorious this year so we were able to have the top down. We saw some familiar faces and handed out one NARFE application.



V.P. Ralph Sanders, John Buckbee, me (Secretary Bea Bull), and Past Region IX V.P. Lanny Ross

Photo provided by new member, Brittany Tassano

Watch for a NARFE entry in the Whaling Days parade! Happy summer to everyone!! See you September.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for April was \$692.21 with expenditures of \$1,868.88. Our net Worth as of 30 April was \$30,525.60. 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 15 May was \$64.50. Raffle donations in the amount of \$10.00 were received from the following members at the April General Membership meeting: Bill Fuhrmeister and DeAnna Gossett.

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
Tue-Sat 9AM-4PM

Let them know your donation is for
Bremerton NARFE Chapter 181

Or give to Rex at the next meeting

140.1 pounds collected in 2017

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Mary F. Beedle, Dorothy M. Brewster, John Glenn, Barney E. Mott, and to Clint Geiger for the loss of his son, Stuart. A "Get Well" card was sent to DeAnna Gossett following her 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
360-698-6078

**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

SERGEANT AT ARMS

William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

SERVICE OFFICER

Vacant
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District IV Service Officer
360-452-6542
ralphangulo@yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

CURRENT EMPLOYEE LIAISON

Brittany Tassano

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
UNTIL DECEMBER 2017**

Steve Ferguson

Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2018

Donald A. Palmer

Bill Powers

District IV VP

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360-377-7917
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Region IX VP

Richard Wilson
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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

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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Seattle Phone Number 206-220-6400
D.C. Phone Number 202-224-3441
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