



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 29<sup>th</sup>
- \* Chapter Meeting..... September 11<sup>th</sup>
- \* Walk to End Alzheimer's..... September 16<sup>th</sup>
- \* Chapter Meeting..... October 9<sup>th</sup>
- \* Chapter Meeting..... November 13<sup>th</sup>

**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.

"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](http://www.speaker.gov)). If you live outside of Washington State and/or the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, go to [www.govtrack.us](http://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.

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](mailto:GUITARGIRL8182@GMAIL.COM) or phone (360) 689-3383.

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

For those of you receiving the hard copy of this newsletter, you're receiving it 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.

*Left to right:  
V.P. Ralph Sanders,  
John Buckbee,  
Secretary Bea Bull, and  
Past Region IX V.P. Lanny  
Ross*



Photo provided by new member, Brittany Tassano

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.

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

**Tell them 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.

### 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](mailto: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

**CURRENT EMPLOYEE LIAISON**

Brittany Tassano

**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](http://www.murray.senate.gov)

Senator Maria Cantwell  
915 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Ste 3206  
Seattle, WA 98174  
Seattle Phone Number  
206-220-6400  
D.C. Phone Number  
202-224-3441  
[www.cantwell.senate.gov](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov)

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