



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

September 2017

NUMBER 07-17

General Meeting Date & Time: September 11, 2017 1:00PM

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

**Program: "Getting Into, Out of and Around Kitsap County"
A Representative from Kitsap Transit Will Discuss Bus Service and the Fast Ferry**

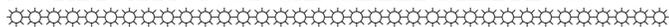
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.

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..... October 9th
- * Chapter Meeting..... November 13^h
- * Chapter Meeting..Holiday Luncheon.. December 11th
- * Chapter Meeting..... January 8th

NOTE: WATCH YOUR NEWSLETTERS FOR NOTIFICATION OF CANCELED MEETINGS.



PRESIDENT

George Eads

Fellow members of Chapter 181,

I hope your summer has been healthy and full of happy events, including the solar eclipse.

The 2018 budget proposal from President Trump remains at the forefront of legislation concerning federal employees and retirees. However, thanks to the response of the federal family, there is bipartisan opposition to the budget (see Legislative Chair Steve Ferguson's article, pg.2).

This does not mean, however, that we can relax. It is critical that your legislators hear from you now if you have not already contacted them. If you are a current employee, let them know how increased

contributions to your retirement (without a corresponding increase in benefits), would impact you financially; and how zero COLAs would change your retirement plans. If you are a CSRS retiree, tell them how the reduction of COLAs by 0.5 percent will impact your ability to make ends meet. If your legislators do not hear from you, **they will view your silence as acceptance.**

CALL: NARFE has a dedicated phone number that will connect you directly to Capitol Hill and your legislators. Dial **1-866-220-0044** and follow NARFE's easy to use call script.

WRITE: Use NARFE's Legislative Action Center on the NARFE National website to urge your representatives to reject this proposal.

VISIT: Locate the nearest offices and arrange to meet with your members of congress or their representatives.

I hope to see you at our September 11th Chapter meeting; bring a friend if you can.

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.

No action has occurred on H.R. 756 – Postal Service Reform Act of 2017 since 16 March 2017. This resolution is being given a 17 percent chance of adoption. That is down from an estimated 25 percent chance of adoption three months ago by the website govtrack.us.

H.R. 1251 – CPI-E Act of 2017 still has an estimated 1 percent chance of adoption at this time. It is at the other end of the spectrum from what President Trump recommends for us. The last action on this resolution was referral to the “Subcommittee on Health” on 27 March 2017.

President Trump’s budget proposal, seeking to adversely impact retirement benefits, is receiving bipartisan opposition. We have the support of numerous Republican congressional representatives. They have expressed, “Our strongest objection is how the proposals break a promise to employees and retirees who have based career planning on longstanding promised benefit calculations,” members wrote. “They and their families don’t deserve to be treated in this cavalier manner.” <https://federalnewsradio.com/workforce/2017/06/9-republicans-now-say-they-oppose-proposed-cuts-to-federal-retirement/>

Their statement expresses a real sense of morality and fair play.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Welcome back. We hope that you had a pleasant summer. I have two issues that have come up this summer that I would like to share with you.

1. We have members choosing to renew their membership as National Only members for \$40. This is perfectly all right and that is your choice. On the other hand, we have members who accidentally failed to include their Chapter membership dues of \$10, causing them to be transferred to National Only with no notice to them. Please check the membership number on your magazine; if it is 181, you are a chapter member; if not, you may be a National Only member. If you have erroneously dropped your Chapter 181 membership, please contact me: I can transfer your membership back into the chapter at any time.
2. The memberships of many of our Prospective Members are due to terminate over the next few months. If you are one of those, we hope that you will join as Chapter 181 and National members.

These are trying times for all active and retired federal employees, making it important to maintain your membership in NARFE. Legislative issues we are working on this month are: Preventing Harmful Budget Proposals, Modifying Postal Reform Legislation and Supporting the TSP Modernization Act. Please help us maintain our earned benefits.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership will be dropped in September: Three (3) members, Luella Henderson, Edward Iverson and Robert Trask.

These members shows as dropped for non-renewal during the stated month. June: Three (3) members, Bonnie Pyatt, David Rustvold and Clifford Spring. July: Four (4) members, Raymond Anderson, Ken Fuhs, Tim Taylor and Josephine Witte. August: Five (5) members, Elisabeth Bondy, Douglas Hoppe, Geneva Lowe, Jim Rubesch and Inga Shay.

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

Now for the positive side. We have one (1) new member, Rhonde Rouleau. We have one (1) member transferred in, Randy Sanders and four (4) prospective members, Garth Barnum, Frank Curtin, David Fortier and Wendy Gordon. Thank you everyone for joining Bremerton Chapter 181.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE PUGET SOUND NAVY MUSEUM

The PSNM is currently looking for new volunteers:

- Front desk – be the “face” of the museum, orient visitors, answer questions about Navy history, watch over exhibits;
- Gift shop – responsible for transactions within the gift shop, restocking merchandise, general fundraising;

Volunteering at PSNM is more than just an exciting way to spend your time; it is a great way to socialize and meet new people, as we have visitors from all over the world!

Fill out a volunteer application online at www.pugetsoundnavymuseum.org/volunteer or pick one up at the front desk of the museum at 251 First Street. For more information, email volunteer.psnm@navy.mil or call 360-479-7447.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

If you read your August *narfe* magazine you'll know that Steve Ferguson is a winner of the annual photo contest. His photo will be on the January 2018 calendar page. Congratulations Steve!!

The Bremerton Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Saturday, 16 September. I have again started a Bremerton NARFE Chapter 181 Team. If you want to join the Chapter 181 Team, or make a donation, and don't have internet access, please contact me and I'll get you the necessary paperwork. If you do have internet access, go to the District IV website at www.narfewadist4.org, click on NARFE Programs and Alzheimer's, scroll down and follow the instructions to join the Chapter 181 team. Please note that, unlike donations made to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research" (see the instructions in Rex's column), which go 100 percent to research, donations to Alzheimer's Walks are split between research and various other aspects of the Alzheimer's Association (fund raising; admin, etc.).

We will have a small supply of FEHBP brochures at the November General Membership meeting.

All Medicare cards will be replaced with new numbers by 2019. Currently, the number on Medicare cards is an individual's Social Security Number (SSN). The new Medicare numbers will use randomly generated digits and letters to protect against identity theft. Because there are more than 57 million Medicare recipients, it will take time to transition to the new numbering system. When the new card arrives, the old card should be shredded. Beware of phone scammers who may ask for your current Medicare number so they can send a new card. **Medicare will NOT call you and ask you for your card number!!!**

Excerpt from Aug/Sept/Oct issue of NARFE Washington State Federation of Chapters "THE FEDERATION REPORTER" - Service Officer Charlie Caughlan's article.

NARFE National has announced the 2017 Membership Recruiting Drive will run from 1 September to 31 December. Recruiters will receive \$10 AND be eligible for monthly prizes throughout the contest as well as the GRAND Prize, an Apple Watch. Contest rules will be printed in the October *narfe* magazine.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

21 September

Retirement Forms Step-By-Step for Guaranteed Success

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 June and July was \$722.65 with expenditures of \$370.08. Our net Worth as of 31 July was \$31,172.24. 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 21 August was \$64.50. No donations have been received since the last report. However, \$829 was collected at the 2017 Region IX Training Conference in Kennewick.

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

**Tell them your donation is for
Bremerton NARFE Chapter 181**

Or give to Rex at the next meeting

229.5 pounds collected in 2017

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Raymond C. Davidson, Columbus (Red) N. Moorhead, Irvin L. Parkhurst and to member Gary Purbaugh in the passing of his brother.

A birthday card was sent to Donald R. Hester who celebrated his 100th birthday.

If you know of a chapter member in need of a little sunshine, please contact me so I 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

SERGEANT AT ARMS

William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

SERVICE OFFICER

Vacant
Contact Ralph Angulo
District IV Service Officer
(360) 452-6542
ralphangulo@yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

**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

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

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, Suite 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 Street, Suite 500
Bremerton, WA 98337
Bremerton Phone Number 360-373-9725
D.C. Phone Number 202-225-5916
http://kilmer.house.gov