



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
except July & August



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

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

**October 2017**

**NUMBER 08-17**

**General Meeting Date & Time:** October 9, 2017 1:00PM  
**Meeting Place:** Westside Improvement Club (479-9061)  
4109 West E Street, Bremerton, WA (National Avenue & "E" Street)  
**Program:** Bremerton Police Chief Steven Strachan  
"Bad Boy, Bad Boy – What'cha Gonna Do?"

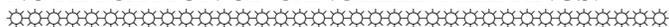
*NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivor.*

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..... **November 13<sup>th</sup>**
- \* Chapter Meeting..Holiday Luncheon.. **December 11<sup>th</sup>**
- \* Chapter Meeting..... **January 8<sup>th</sup>**
- \* Chapter Meeting..... **February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**NOTE: WATCH YOUR NEWSLETTERS FOR NOTIFICATION OF CANCELED MEETINGS.**



**PRESIDENT**

George Eads

Fellow members of Chapter 181,

Welcome to the fall time of year. Hopefully you had a great summer and your families are doing well.

I encourage you to stay proactive in trying to protect our earned benefits as current or retired federal employees. There is a very good article about how to be involved as an advocate on behalf of all federal employees and retirees on pages eight and nine of the August 2017 *narfe* magazine. I know we were encouraged to contact our elected officials in August but it is never too late to contact them. As you look at the chart on page nine, you will find many different ways to approach your representatives.

As stated in the final two paragraphs of the article, "If your legislators do not hear from you and other federal employees and retirees about the effects of these dangerous proposals, they will view your silence as acceptance. Now is the time to make your voice heard and show your elected officials that you will not stand for policies that break promises to those who dedicated their lives to public service. And don't forget to tell the Legislative Department about the actions you take in the 'Congressional Meeting and Event Feedback Form' in NARFE's Legislation Center!

"If you have any questions, visit the Legislation page of the NARFE website or contact the Legislative Department at [leg@narfe.org](mailto:leg@narfe.org). Thank you for your advocacy efforts." Article By: Molly Checksfield

To access the August *narfe* magazine, log into [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), mouse over "Departments" in the blue bar, and select "NARFE Magazine". In the box on the left, select "Magazine Archives", then "AUGUST". The August issue will open in PDF format.

**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.

I was asked a great question at the September General Membership meeting. I like seeing the chance legislation has of passage, expressed as a percentage, on the website "govtrack.us". I then pass that information on to you.

So, the question was in regard to the reliability of the predictions. Govtrack.us uses percentage data created by a company called Skopos Labs. Research led me to a competition Duke University Law School conducts called "Duke Law Tech Lab Demo Day". Skopos Labs won second place in the competition for their development of a neural network (a computer system modeled on the human brain and nervous system) that evaluates the probability of legislation passage. Skopos Labs was credited with a 99 percent accuracy on predicting whether or not legislation would pass. Wow, that is incredible.

Another great question was in regard to our upcoming COLA. How is it shaping up? Don't forget it is based on the CPI-W. CPI-W is consistently less than CPI-E. CPI-E more accurately reflects your actual cost of living increases. Your COLA is based on the average CPI for July, August and September of 2016 compared to that of July, August and September of 2017. September numbers won't come in until October, however, mathematically averaging July and August of 2017 indicates we will experience a 1.7 percent COLA in 2018. I suspect it might slightly increase once the October CPI-W value is released.

I hope you will join us at the 13 November General Membership meeting when Congressman Kilmer's representative, Kate Irwin, will speak to the group.

### MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

The fall season is upon us and we will be in the Holiday Season way too soon. The health insurance open season will be in November, running from 13 November through 11 December, 2017. The PSNS health fair is scheduled for 7 November from 7:00am to 5:00pm in the Fountain Room behind the Naval Museum at 251 First Street in Bremerton. ALSO, we will have a small supply of the major FEHBP brochures at our 13 November General Membership meeting for members who are unable to access the PSNS Health Fair. It is not too early to start planning for next year's health insurance; the October *narfe* magazine has an "Open Season Report" beginning on page 42, and on page 33 is an article discussing whether or not to take Medicare.

I am repeating a paragraph from last month's report, as it is still problematic to you and the chapter:

We have members choosing to renew their membership as "National Only" members, at \$40.00. This is perfectly all right and that is your choice. However, we also have members renewing their membership, who have unknowingly failed to include their "Chapter Membership Dues" of \$10.00. If you fail to include your chapter dues, your membership will transfer to "National Only" with no notice to you. You can always transfer your membership back into Chapter 181 at any time, if you wish to do so. Watch for your chapter number on your *narfe* magazine label; it is located on the second line after your membership number and before your membership expiration date. If you don't see "CH 0181" on that line, you've dropped your chapter membership.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in October: Three (3) members, Mel Case, Marjorie Heidenreich and Linda Ramirez.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of September: Two (2) members, Edward Iverson and Robert Trask.

### 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) member reinstating their membership: Ken Fuhs. We're happy to have you back!

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.

### UPCOMING WEBINAR 26 October 2017 FEHB & Medicare What's Best for You?

## SECRETARY

Bea Bull

We will be nominating officers at the 9 October General Membership meeting as follows:

**President – Bill Powers**

**Vice President – Ralph Sanders**

**Secretary – Bea Bull**

**Treasurer – Rex Tauscher**

**Sergeant at Arms – Bill Fuhrmeister**

**Executive Board Member – Steve Ferguson**

**Executive Board Member – Amber VanSantford**

Two people would like to step down if we can find replacements: V.P. Sanders and Treasurer Tauscher. If you're interested in either of those positions, please contact Ralph Sanders (see back page of newsletter).

As noted in Steve's article, we will have Congressman Kilmer's representative, Kate Irwin, as our November speaker. Also, we will have a small supply of the major FEHBP brochures available for members who were unable to attend the PSNS Health Fair.

We will have our 11 December General Membership meeting and Holiday Luncheon at The Willows at 1:00pm again this year. I will post the menu in the November newsletter and begin taking reservations.

### GET YOUR APPLE WATCH!

**NARFE National has announced the 2017 Membership Recruiting Drive will run from 1 September to 31 December. Recruiters will receive \$10.00 AND be eligible for monthly prizes throughout the contest as well as the GRAND Prize, an Apple Watch. Contest rules can be found on the NARFE website at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Log in and mouse over "SPECIAL PROGRAMS" under the logo on the left then click on "Membership Drive" at the bottom of the drop down box.**

## REMINDER

It's time again to log into your online Social Security account and update your password.

Go to <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/> click on "Sign In" and follow the prompts.

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 through August was \$1,274.07 with expenditures of \$370.08. Our net worth as of 31 August was \$31,494.34. 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 19 September was \$122.50. Donations received since our last report were \$58.00 thanks to Loraine Brockerman, Bea Bull, DeAnna Gossett and Rex Tauscher.

### 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., 17<sup>th</sup> 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

### 288.7 pounds collected in 2017

Rex dropped off over 40 pounds of aluminum after the last meeting!

## SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Merton G. Cooper, William F. Moyer and James A. Ridge.

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  
425-736-6899  
narfe1404@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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
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D.C. Phone Number 202-225-5916  
http://kilmer.house.gov