



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

November 2017

NUMBER 09-17

General Meeting Date & Time: November 13, 2017
1:00PM

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

Program: Congressman Kilmer's Representative,
Kate Erwin Will Bring Us a Legislative Update

*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.....Holiday Luncheon..... December 11th
- * Chapter Meeting..... January 8th
- * Chapter Meeting..... February 12th
- * Chapter Meeting..... March 12th

**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,

It is hard to believe we have sailed so far through the year 2017. Open Season for our health insurance is 13 November through 11 December.

Barbara Sido, Executive Director of NARFE, states in the October 2017 *narfe* magazine, page four, "Open Season is a time to assess your health care needs over the coming year - and whether your current plans are meeting your needs and your budget. Take the time to do due diligence.

"Throughout Open Season, NARFE will guide you through the key decision points and the many options, providing you with information and resources to help you make the best decision for the coming year. Coverage kicks off this month with an overview of Open Season and information about changes that the Office of Personnel Management is requesting of health insurance carriers to address the health care needs of federal employees. In November and December, you'll find health, vision and dental plan premium rates, FAQs and other information. These topics will be discussed in greater detail in two webinars offered by the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute."

You'll find good articles about Medicare on page 32 of the *narfe* magazine and on page 23 of the October 2017 AARP Bulletin. There is a lot to read and think about.

Remember to vote November 7th.

I look forward to seeing you at our November chapter meeting. May you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving and remember to give thanks.

Editor's Note: I've added an OPEN SEASON page to the District IV Website. Check it out:

<http://www.narfewadist4.org/openseason.html>

PSNS Health Fair

7 November 2017 7:00am - 5:00pm
Kitsap Conference Center - Fountain Room
100 Washington Ave., Bremerton
Between Main Gate and Ferry Toll Entrance
Behind the Navy Museum

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

Last month I reported we could expect a COLA of at least 1.7 percent. I was surprised that September CPI-W values drove the average to 1.96 percent which was rounded up to 2 percent for COLA purposes. Two percent is certainly an improvement over the past few years and I am not complaining. I hope it will more than cover your FEHBP premium increases.

And speaking of FEHBP premium increases, be aware that House Continuing Resolution 71 (H. Con Res 71) passed the House on 5 October 2017 with Congressman Kilmer voting "no". That resolution will potentially attack your FEHBP premiums. H. Con Res 71 calls for 32 billion dollars in savings on postal and federal employee benefits over the next ten years. The savings are not specific. One of the savings recommendations being discussed is to limit government FEHBP contribution increases to the cost of living adjustment. Right now, the government provides an average 70 percent contribution toward our FEHBP premiums. Limiting the government's increases to the COLA would be catastrophic to your FEHBP premium increases. Here is an example of how **HARD HITTING** that change would be; please bear with me on this.

I subscribe to Kaiser Permanente, standard option, self plus one. My 2018 monthly premium increase is \$58.64. The federal government pays an average of 70 percent of

my premium. That means the 2018 premium increase is actually \$195/month using the 30/70 percent split calculation.

Like I said, the new formula would be catastrophic (to me) if the government pays 2 percent of the increase (for \$4/month) leaving me to pay \$191/month more for the same coverage.

That is not the deal I worked for having retired with 42 years of federal service. Four years military, 36-1/2 years at PSNS and 1-1/2 years of sick leave. That is an immense betrayal.

Derek Kilmer is already on our side. Contact his office and thank him for his support. Contact www.speaker.gov and www.mccconnell.senate.gov to express your concerns to the Speaker of the House and Senate Majority leader respectively.

Editor's Note: NARFE National made the following announcement on 27 October 2017:

No Cuts to Federal Pay and Benefits in Joint Budget Resolution

"The House narrowly passed a fiscal year 2018 joint budget resolution by a vote of 216-212, concurring with the Senate and ending the tax reform threat to the federal community.

"Passage of this joint budget resolution is a big win for active and retired federal employees. Instructions to cut federal benefits by \$32 billion, initially in the House budget, were not included in the final resolution. Instead, the budget resolution would allow the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees to add \$1.5 trillion to the deficit over the next 10 years as a means to achieve tax changes."

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

All members of NARFE are our recruiters. As members we are responsible to recruit wherever and whenever we can. This paragraph is directed to our current federal employee members, because they have the largest pool of potential members who can belong to NARFE. Membership is open to civilians who are, or will be, eligible to receive an annuity or survivor annuity from the federal retirement programs of any agency of the United States Government. This includes retirees, current employees, spouses and surviving spouses of those eligible to join NARFE, former employees and a former spouse who is legally entitled to a federal survivor annuity. Happy recruiting! For further information go on the NARFE Washington State Federation of Chapters District IV website at

<http://www.narfewadist4.org/membership.html>

or contact me, Ralph Sanders, at

sandyandblake@wavecable.com.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership will be dropped in November: Two (2) members, Gar Kelly and Jean Robertson.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of October: Three (3) members, Mel Case, Marjorie Heidenreich and Linda Ramirez.

Now for the positive side. We have one (1) member reinstating their membership: Edward Iversen.

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.

GET YOUR APPLE WATCH!

NARFE National has announced the 2017 Membership Recruiting Drive will run from 1 September to 31 December. Recruiters will received \$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. 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.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Nominations

We have a change to the nominees for 2018 officers; George Eads will stay on as president while Bill Powers will run for Treasurer. Nominations will be closed at the November General Membership meeting and the election will be conducted.

President - George Eads

Vice President - Ralph Sanders

Secretary - Bea Bull

Treasurer - Bill Powers

Sergeant at Arms - Bill Fuhrmeister

Executive Board Member - Steve Ferguson

Executive Board Member - Amber VanSantford

Important FEHBP Notes

- There is one new HMO - United Healthcare;
- Kaiser Options (used to be KPS) High Option has been discontinued;
- Kaiser Options (used to be KPS) Standard Option ***Self-Plus-One is more expensive than Self and Family for 2018.***

We will have a small supply of the major FEHBP brochures available for members who were unable to attend the PSNS Health Fair.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The 11 December General Membership meeting and Holiday Luncheon will be at The Willows at 1:00pm. Please arrive no sooner than 1:00pm. You may contact Myra Clodius at 360-377-2910 to make your reservation and payment; payment must be received by 1 December.

LUNCHEON MENU

Starter

soup du jour

Entrées

salmon with lemon sauce

rice Pilaf

sautéed asparagus

prime rib with au jus and horseradish sauce

garlic mashed potatoes

maple glazed carrots

Dessert

new york raspberry cheesecake

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for September was \$235.04 with expenditures of \$746.07. Our net worth as of 30 September was \$31,420.40. 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 October was \$147.50. Donations received since our last report were \$25.00 thanks to Loraine Brockerman 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., 17th Floor, Chicago, IL. 60601-7633.
- If you mail it to NARFE headquarters staff, it may not get credited to our Chapter.

Please 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**

311.1 pounds collected in 2017

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Betty M. Emery-Peterson and Doris M. Linkletter. A get-well card was sent to member Don Zeth.

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.

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 360-377-7917
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

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>