



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

December 2017

NUMBER 10-17

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

Meeting Place: The Willows Retirement Living Dining Room
3201 Pine Rd NE, Bremerton, WA 98310

Program: Holiday Luncheon
Installation of Officers

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..... January 8th
- * Chapter Meeting..... February 12th
- * Chapter Meeting..... March 12th
- * Chapter Meeting..... April 9th

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 with sadness that I am informing you I will no longer be the Chapter 181 President. I have been diagnosed with renal cell cancer and am currently undergoing radiation on a daily basis and other medical treatment.

I wish to thank each one of you for the support you have given me the last few years as I served as your president. I am especially thankful for all those who have, and still are, serving on the Executive Board. Without such good and dedicated people we would not be able to function at all.

It looks as though we will be getting a 2 percent COLA. I realize that is not enough to take cruise, but it is better than nothing at all.

May you and your families enjoy a wonderful Holiday Season with family, loved ones, and friends.

Please remember to arrive at the Holiday Luncheon no sooner than 1:00pm so as not to intrude on the residents' lunch time. Thank you!

WHY IS MY NEWSLETTER WHITE?

The postal service now requires the newsletter to be on heavier paper, which is not available in buff. However, we may see our beloved buff paper used as inserts.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

The NARFE website has an excellent article regarding Medicare Part B premiums. Go to the NARFE.org home page and click on **"2018 Medicare Part B Premiums Released"** under the **"Latest from NARFE"** section (red letters, middle of the page) or go directly to the article at <http://www.narfe.org/home/articles.cfm?ID=4301>

Most federal retirees pay \$134 per month for their Medicare Part B premiums. Medicare is means tested so, if your annual individual income exceeds \$85,000.00, your Medicare Part B premium is higher.

The good news for federal retirees is that Medicare Part B premiums remain at \$134 per month in 2018.

The not so good news for Social Security recipients is that their premiums WILL increase this year. Their 2 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) will be applied to their Medicare Part B premium payments to achieve the \$134 per month level. The NARFE website says the typical Social Security recipient will see most or all of the 2 percent COLA go to Medicare.

Thanksgiving is in the rear view mirror and Christmas is rapidly approaching. We can be thankful that our retirement benefits and/or Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) were not legislatively attacked by the recent budget.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Last month I reminded you that we are all "Recruiters." This month I will remind you that we are all "Grass Roots Lobbyists." The reason NARFE exists is to lobby Congress on behalf of our benefits. Our National organization has a group of licensed professional lobbyists who do a great job of representing us and keeping us informed on our legislative issues.

Because we chapter members live and vote in our congressional districts, we have more clout than the professionals. These are our benefits; why should we expect someone else to protect them for us? We should not elect our member of Congress, send them across the country, not talk to them for two or six years, and then wonder why they are not living up to our expectations. We have to communicate with them! We have great help and assistance for grass roots lobbying at our National Office if we choose to use it. This is not someone else's job, folks; it is ours.

Now for the membership report. The following member, if they have not renewed their membership will be dropped in December: One (1) Shelley Simcox.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of November: One (1) member, Gar Kelly.

Now for the positive side. We have one (1) member who transferred their membership to Chapter 181: Bruce Dishman. Thank you, Bruce.

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.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFIT (FEHB) PLANS

SELF PLUS ONE CAUTION!

Make sure you do not pay more than you have to! In most cases, Self Plus One premiums are lower, but hundreds of thousands of enrollees have not switched from Self and Family. However, there are plans in which the enrollee premium for Self Plus One coverage is *higher* than the enrollee premium for Self and Family. Check your plan's premiums for 2018 to make sure the Self Plus One premium is again lower than Self and Family. (*narfe* magazine pg. 48)

Amber still has brochures for Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield, GEHA, and Mail Handlers. If you'd like a copy, please call her at 360-871-4439.

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

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

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Election

Due to George's illness, Bill Powers was elected as Chapter 181 President for 2018 and 2019; Rex Tauscher will remain Treasurer. Past Region IX V.P. Lanny Ross will install your slate of officers at the Holiday Luncheon.

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

Calendar Insert

This issue of the newsletter contains the calendar insert showing the 2018 meeting schedule; on the back is the 2018-2019 Executive Board Member directory. Please save this insert.

Speakers

Our January speaker will be Region IX V.P. Rich Wilson to give us an update on what is happening at the National level. In February we will have Mike Kerr, a Citizens on Patrol officer. So, mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Passwords

It's time again to access your online Office of Personnel (OPM) and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) accounts to update your login information and keep your account active.

Check your OPM account in January for your new annuity statement reflecting the 2 percent COLA increase; check it again in February to see the change in your FEHB plan premium.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for October was \$613.84 with expenditures of \$210.79. Our net worth as of 31 October was \$31,194.10. 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 20 November was \$178.50. Donations received since our last report were \$31.00 thanks to donations from Loraine Brockerman, Bea Bull and William Fuhrmeister.

We will be requesting the payment from our aluminum collection prior to the end of the year so, if could bring your aluminum to the Holiday Luncheon, I will make sure that it gets deposited in this year's collection total.

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**

343.5 pounds collected in 2017

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

A sympathy card was sent to the family of John P. Beck. A "thinking of you" card was signed at the November General Membership meeting and sent to Chapter 181 President, George Eads.

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>