



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

April 2017

NUMBER 04-17

General Meeting Date & Time: April 10, 2017
1:00PM

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

Program: "2017 Legislative Training Conference Report"
Legislative Chair Ferguson and Past Region IX
V.P. Ross Will Discuss Their Experiences at
the Training and on "The Hill"

*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..... May 8th
- * Armed Forces Day Parade..... May 20th
- * Chapter Meeting.....**CANCELED**..... June
- * Chapter Meeting..... September 11th
- * Chapter Meeting..... October 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,

March 20th, as we all know, was the first day of Spring, complete with rain, wind and spots of sun. Our weather is as tumultuous as the current legislation involving the federal family. Remain vigilant and continue to contact your congressional representatives about how legislation will impact you.

Let me share more useful information you can use as you recruit new NARFE members; this is from the National Bylaws adopted at the 2016 National Convention:

VISION STATEMENT

"To ensure that:

- 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.
- Great work is done to help preserve those rights and benefits.
- Members receive the highest quality services and products.
- All members are left with the knowledge and understanding that their needs and wants are being taken to the highest levels of government for resolution."

Let us all try to recruit at least one new member.

May you and your families have a joyous, happy Easter.

WARNING: OPM SCAM
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

OPM ALERT

Be on the alert for an aggressive phone scam that targets federal annuitants. The scammer claims to be an Office of Personnel Management (OPM) employee and threatens to end the annuitant's retirement, threatens the annuitant with criminal prosecution by a "magistrate" and demands immediate payment. OPM does not make such phone calls! Hang up, do not send money and call the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at 877-499-7295 to report the scam.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

I attended the NARFE Washington D.C. Legislative Training Conference March 12th - 15th, 2017. They feel H.R. 756 is the most imminent threat we are facing. That was the topic of my last newsletter article and I will review it for you.

H.R. 756 - 115th Congress: "Postal Service Reform Act of 2017". Wording of this House Resolution strips postal retirees of their Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) if they don't sign-up for Medicare Part B. This aspect of H.R. 756 is worth active opposition because it clearly attacks retiree "earned benefits".

Take time to call your congressional representative. The staff members are always polite on the phone and easy to talk to. Refer to "H.R. 756" and its title "Postal Service Reform Act of 2017" so the staff member knows exactly what you are talking about.

The next issue of concern is identified as "effective pay cuts" for current employees. These are proposals to increase active employee payroll contributions to retirement; reduce the TSP G fund return rate to nearly 0%; and base annuities on the high five years rather than high three years.

Finally, another proposal is to eliminate Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) retirement for new hires altogether. This legislation, known as the "Public-Private Employee Retirement Parity Act", was re-introduced by Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Tom Coburn (R-OK), and Saxby Chambliss (R-GA).

I don't think current employees are aware of the proposals that would reduce their pay and benefits; if they were, NARFE would have more of them as members. Let's make them aware! It was good to see that a small number of current employees did attend the Legislative Training Conference.

EDITOR'S NOTE

While H.R. 756 "Postal Service Reform Act of 2017" impacts only postal retirees, the concern for ALL federal annuitants is the precedence this legislation creates; future legislation could require ALL federal annuitants to take Medicare Part B in order to retain their FEHBP coverage.

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!!

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Just a couple of things on the legislative front. Steve, our Legislative Chair, has mentioned these items at the meetings and in the newsletter. One is H.R. 1251, the "CPI-E Act of 2017". This would replace the present CPI-W that is used now with a more favorable-to-elderly cost index for COLAs. The other bill is H.R. 756, the "Postal Reform Act of 2017". This bill would force postal retirees, who are happy with their Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP) insurance, to also enroll in Medicare Part B at an additional expense. NARFE opposes this legislation. Contact your members of Congress today.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in April: Six (6) members, Walt Connolly, Beverly Gardner, Diane Kostelecky, Bethel Reece, Cathy Ann Reese and Mary Swanson.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of March: Two (2) members, David Bennett and Loyal Campbell.

Now for the positive side. We have one (1) new member, Brian Tucker and one (1) reinstatement, George Lecompte. We have one (1) member transferring in, Beverly Siegel, and five (5) prospective members, John Catlett, Melissa Gregory, Vinton Linard, Adrienne Mizoshri and Christine Read.

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.

**HAVE A CLASSIC CAR AND WOULD LIKE TO DRIVE IT IN THE
ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE?**

Bremerton Chapter 181 again plans to enter a car in the 2017 Armed Forces Day Parade Saturday, 20 May. If you have a classic car you'd like to enter, and are willing for us to attach the NARFE banners to both sides, please contact Ralph Sanders at the phone or email address shown on the back of this newsletter.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Rather than show one of the archived Webinars at the April meeting we decided to ask Steve Ferguson and Lanny Ross to talk about their experience at the 2017 Legislative Training Conference and their day on "The Hill" meeting with congressional representatives. Steve volunteered to speak with legislators for whom there were no constituents at the Legislative Conference, particularly Republican legislators. It will be interesting to hear how receptive the legislators were to hearing about federal employee/retiree issues.

As a reminder, in May, Claire Fallat, Event Coordinator, Alzheimer's Association, will provide an update on current research and talk about the 2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's. The Bremerton Walk 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.).

If you know of anyone you think would be a good speaker, please contact Amber VanSantford at 871-4439.

There's still time to register for the 2017 Region IX Training Conference in Kennewick, WA to be held June 9th - 10th. If you are a member of any chapter, your registration and meals will be paid for by the Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC). Visit www.narfewa.net for the registration form, contact one of us and we'll send it to you, or come to the next meeting and we'll have copies available. We encourage all members to attend; this isn't just for officers.

REMINDERS

The June General Membership meeting is canceled.

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.

Wishing everyone Happy Spring!!

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for March was \$892.34 with expenditures of \$729.53. Our net Worth as of 28 February was \$31,655.83. 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 March was \$34.50. Donations were received from Loraine Brockerman, Rex Tauscher and the meeting raffle.

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 POINTS

Westsound Recycle
1700 Mile Hill Drive, Port Orchard

**Let them know your donation is for Bremerton Chapter
NARFE 181**

Or give to Rex at the next meeting

59.9 pounds collected in 2017

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Loren L. Avery and David E. Raines.

A get well card was sent to Myra Clodius.

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. 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 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.

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>