



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

January 2018

NUMBER 01-18

General Meeting Date & Time: January 8, 2018 1:00PM

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

Program: Region IX V.P. Rich Wilson will present "Updates from NARFE National"

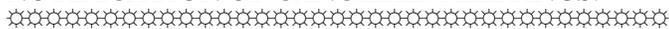
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivor.

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..... **February 12th**
- * Chapter Meeting..... **March 12^h**
- * Chapter Meeting..... **April 9th**
- * Chapter Meeting..... **CANCELED..... May 14th**

NOTE: WATCH YOUR NEWSLETTERS FOR NOTIFICATION OF CANCELED MEETINGS.



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

The last time I wrote an article as president for our newsletter was seven years ago in December 2010. As we all know, there have been significant changes in both NARFE and the federal government since then. The most recent change being a sweeping overhaul of the U.S. tax code, a 1.5 trillion dollar tax cut. We should be seeing changes in our withholding in February or March. The IRS has recently had a budget cut and they are short-handed. So if you find you need assistance from the IRS, be patient when calling the IRS helpline.

I fear that this unbalanced overhaul of the tax code, while providing a short-term benefit for most of us, will raise problems in 2019. The first being an across-the-board increase in health insurance

premiums (approximately 10 percent) due to eliminating the mandate for those under the Affordable Care Act to purchase insurance. The second being inflation rearing its ugly head because this tax cut is not revenue neutral. As a result of inflation, Congress will again try to implement the "Chained CPI". NARFE headquarters and our Washington State congressional representatives and senators have done an excellent job, to date, fighting back against implementation of the "Chained CPI".

Our January chapter meeting will feature Rich Wilson, our Regional Vice President, as guest speaker. He took over Lanny Ross's job when Lanny retired. Rich will give us an update from our headquarters in the Washington D.C. area. One of the topics will be "NARFE Next", a new program being spearheaded by Barbara Sido, our new NARFE Executive Director. She is focusing on how best to utilize products, services, and programs to offer us, as NARFE members, the greatest value.

Hope to see you at our January meeting.

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.

Wow, it's a new year already. We escaped 2017 relatively unscathed thanks to NARFE vigorously advocating to preserve our pay and benefits. Thank you NARFE!! I say relatively unscathed because our FEHB premiums continue to escalate at an alarming rate.

The NARFE website has a brief article dated 21 December 2017 titled "Setting the Record Straight: The Chained CPI and Tax Reform". This article clarifies wording found in H.R. 1 (The Tax Reform Bill). They are trying to save you from anxiety if you hear something about Chained CPI and the tax reform bill. The NARFE article states:

"The recently approved tax reform bill, H.R. 1, indexes the newly formed tax brackets using the Chained CPI. This is causing some understandable confusion for NARFE members. However, the tax bill **does not** change the current index (CPI-W) used to determine annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)."

NARFE has an encouraging summary of significant 2017 legislative successes. That summary can be found at this web address:

http://www.narfe.org/pdf/115thCongress_LegAccom-review.pdf

The summary addresses: 1) Thwarting all attempts to reduce our pay and benefits; 2) Saving Postal retirees from being forced out of the FEHB program if they did not enroll in Medicare Part B (a uniquely egregious assault on EARNED benefits); and 3) Expansion of TSP withdrawal options. The article makes for uplifting reading.

We will see what kind of proposals crop up this New Year; just plan on continuing to advocate so as to preserve our earned pay and benefits.

Remember, Derek 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.

KAISER PERMENENTE OPTIONS

I am in possession of five (5) copies of the Kaiser Permanente Washington Options Federal brochures. This is the old KPS plan, not the HMO. If you'd like one of these brochures, call me at 360-286-7798 or email tbkbull@gmail.com. Bea

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

This month we will recap what has happened to our membership over the past twelve months, January through December 2017. In chapter 181, we recruited twelve (12) new members and reinstated ten (10) members back into the chapter. The chapter had eight (8) members transfer in from various locations. Forty-four (44) members were dropped for non-renewal, fifty-three (53) members transferred out of the chapter, and thirty-three (33) members are deceased. The large number of members transferring to the National Only membership is because, for the first time in many years, they could.

Things we should or could do better in 2018: 1) Recruit more new members and give them a better chance to participate in making the chapter function; 2) Convert more prospective members. We have between twenty-five (25) and fifty (50) prospective members on our roster every year but we convert a very small percentage of these folks to a full membership.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in January: Four (4) Ardis Hallquist, Randolph Hunt, Catherine Jett and Ann Palmer.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of December: Two (2) members, Anna Hepworth and Shelley Simcox.

Now for the positive side. We have no new members, reinstatements or transfers for this month.

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The link in Steve's article that summarizes NARFE's accomplishments for 2017 is an excellent recruiting tool; please be sure to use it. I will post it on the District IV website.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Speakers

As noted in Bill's article, 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. We plan to invite the new Bremerton Mayor, Greg Wheeler, to speak in March and, in April, our District IV Service Officer, Ralph Angulo will demonstrate how to complete the F-100, "Be Prepared for Life's Events". So, mark your calendars and plan to attend.

May Meeting Canceled

We have canceled the 14 May General Membership meeting because it coincides with the 2018 WSFC Convention at the Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center in Spokane Valley, WA.

Newsletter Back Page

This is the issue where I update the back page of the newsletter; if you save that page for the information on it, please replace old copies with this one.

The Puget Sound Navy Museum Needs Volunteers!

The Puget Sound Navy Museum in Bremerton is currently looking for new volunteers to assist with front desk, gift shop, and day to day operations. If you are interested in Navy history, Shipyard history, or are interested in what it is like to volunteer at a museum, then this might be for you!

Front desk volunteers/docents help orient visitors, answer questions regarding to Navy history, watch over the exhibits, and are the public face for the museum. Gift shop volunteers are responsible for transactions within the gift shop, restocking merchandise, and general fundraising.

Volunteering at PSNM is more than just an exciting way to spend your time, it also has its perks! We have monthly volunteer breakfasts, along with summer and winter appreciation events. Also, volunteers get a discount from the museum shop. Furthermore, it's a great way to socialize and meet new people, as we have visitors that come to our museum from all over the world!

If you are interested in volunteering at the Puget Sound Navy Museum, you can fill out a volunteer application online at www.pugetsoundnavymuseum.org/volunteer or you can pick up an application at the front desk of the museum. For more information, please email volunteer.psnm@navy.mil or call the museum at 360-479-7447. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for November was \$485.61 with expenditures of \$305.86. Our net worth as of 30 November was \$31,373.85. 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 December was \$178.50. No donations were received since our last report.

Payment from our aluminum collection for end of the year has been requested. Forwarding of our collected funds will be made to Alzheimer's Research in January 2018.

Additional information on your tax deductible donations to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research fund:

- o Make checks payable to "**NARFE Alzheimer's Research**" (NARFE is the key word and is required!).
- o 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.
- o 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

343.5 pounds collected in 2017

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Dixie Bell.

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

Bill Powers 360-377-7917
powersw@silverlink.net

**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

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William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

George Eads

SERVICE OFFICER

Vacant
Contact Ralph Angulo
District IV Service Officer
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ralphangulo@yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
UNTIL DECEMBER 2018**

Donald A. Palmer

Vacant

UNTIL DECEMBER 2019

Steve Ferguson

Amber VanSantford

District IV VP

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Region IX VP

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NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster – Bea Bull
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

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