



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 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..... February 12<sup>th</sup>
- \* Chapter Meeting..... March 12<sup>th</sup>
- \* Chapter Meeting..... April 9<sup>th</sup>
- \* Chapter Meeting.....CANCELED..... May 14<sup>th</sup>

**NOTE: CHAPTER MEETINGS MAY BE CANCELED AT THE  
DISCRETION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD. WATCH YOUR MONTHLY  
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.

## 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](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](http://www.speaker.gov) and [www.mcconnell.senate.gov](http://www.mcconnell.senate.gov) to express your concerns to the Speaker of the House and Senate Majority leader respectively.

## **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.**

### 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](mailto:tbkbull@gmail.com). Bea

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.

**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:

- 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 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.

If you have questions or need assistance with this newsletter, please feel free to contact me at [tbkbull@gmail.com](mailto:tbkbull@gmail.com). Thanks!! Bea Bull

**PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers

**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**

George Eads

**CHAPLAIN**

Myra Clodius

**SERVICE OFFICER - Vacant**

contact Ralph Angulo  
District IV Service Officer  
360-452-6542  
ralphangulo@yahoo.com

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

**UNTIL DECEMBER 2018**

Don Palmer

Vacant

**UNTIL DECEMBER 2019**

Steve Ferguson

Amber VanSantford

**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 - Bea Bull  
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](http://www.murray.senate.gov)

Senator Maria Cantwell  
915 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Ste 3206  
Seattle, WA 98174  
Seattle Phone Number  
206-220-6400  
D.C. Phone Number  
202-224-3441  
[www.cantwell.senate.gov](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov)

Congressman Derek Kilmer  
345 - 6<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 500  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
Bremerton Phone Number  
360-373-9725  
D.C. Phone Number  
202-225-5916  
<http://kilmer.house.gov>