



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

March 2018

NUMBER 03-18

General Meeting Date & Time: March 12, 2018 1:00PM

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

**Program: District IV Service Officer, Ralph Angulo, will Demonstrate how to Complete the F-100,
"Be Prepared for Life's Events"**

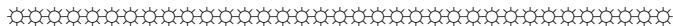
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivor.

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..... April 9th
- * Chapter Meeting.....**CANCELED**..... May 14th
- * WSFC Convention..... May 14-16
- * Chapter Meeting..... June 11th
- * FEDcon18 August 26-28th
- * Chapter Meeting..... September 10^h

NOTE: WATCH YOUR NEWSLETTERS FOR NOTIFICATION OF CANCELED MEETINGS.



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Now that our income tax and health insurance adjustments are complete, I hope everyone appreciates the job done by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). If not, and you need assistance, be sure to attend our March 12th chapter meeting. Our District IV Service Officer, Ralph Angulo, from Sequim, will be our March guest speaker. He is a retired Internal Revenue Service (IRS) lawyer and his NARFE job is to assist us with these types of questions.

As for the economy, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was up .5 percent in January. This was MORE than expected. The economy is running hotter but retail

sales FELL in January. They were down .3 percent while economists expected retail sales to be UP by .2 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Index (DJI) has been very VOLITILE this past month and these MIXED signals may mean that inflation is rearing its ugly head.

The U.S. House of Representatives bill H.R. 1251 may become very important due to rising inflation concerns. H.R. 1251 requires retirement programs to calculate cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) using the CPI-E for elderly retirees in lieu of the CPI-W, which is tailored for workers. This is another good reason to come to our March meeting. Steve Ferguson, our Legislative Chair, can explain this.

Speaking of Steve, at February's meeting he did an excellent job of explaining how Congress postponed the high-cost health insurance "Cadillac Tax" for two (2) years during last month's midnight hour congressional budget negotiations. This is a tax on high/standard fee-for-service Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) plans that was to be implemented as part of the "Affordable Care Act".

Hope to see you at our March 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.

I retrieved part of my June 2017 article because it is the same thing, just a different year.

“[President Trump’s] budget proposal provides for multifaceted attacks on our retirement benefits and current employee pay and benefits.

“Well...don’t hit the panic button yet. It is a long ways from intent to approved budget legislation. I am saying, however, that you should be alert/aware and be considering ways to express your opinion on these matters.”

I am concerned with the 2019 fiscal year 1+ trillion dollar deficit budget agreement reached by both political parties. That does not appear to be a sustainable course for government spending. We can expect interest rates to increase and...the inflation rate is increasing.

I checked the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) CPI-W value for January 2018. I compared it to the 2017, Jul-Sep, CPI-W average, and we are on about a 3 percent inflation rate trajectory for the year. The problem with inflation is that we will always come up short on the next COLA because of the way it is calculated.

H.R. 1251: CPI-E Act of 2017 is our best bet for a meaningful COLA. The BLS has been calculating the CPI-E for decades and it usually provides a larger COLA value than what we receive with the CPI-W.

H.R. 1251 currently has 49 co-sponsors. Derek Kilmer is not one of them. Please call Derek Kilmer’s office at **360-373-9725** and request that he co-sponsor it. While you are at it, contact Wisconsin State Representative, Paul Ryan, the Speaker of the House. His website at www.speaker.gov invites you to “Speak Out” regardless of what state you live in. His office wants to know what is on our minds. The CPI-E is certainly on my mind.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Last month I shared with you about our problems of staying in contact with our membership. Last month’s call for assistance was answered, and we now have some more help. Some of you will be contacted about the status of your membership, or your current contact information. It is not our intent to harass or bother anyone, only to provide help and information to those we serve.

On the legislative front, we have not had any significant changes. This is due to our Legislative Chair, Steve Ferguson, the National Legislative Department, and you, our members, who continue to contact our members of

Congress. We are fortunate to have the support of our congressional delegation, and that is the product of your work over the years.

Now for a slender membership report. The following member (if he has not renewed) will be dropped in March: Raymond Bellant.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of February: Four (4) members, Donald Chalupka, Linda Curley, Bradley Gihl, and W. F. Samous.

For the month of February, we have no new members, no reinstatements and no members transferred in. We have twenty-nine (29) prospective members coming on board this month. Welcome to you all.

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.

WHAT CAN CITIZENS ON PATROL DO FOR YOU?

We’re all familiar with these officers checking disabled parking spaces for violators but, at our February meeting, we learned how much more they do FOR FREE for Kitsap County residents (outside city limits). Simply call Kitsap 1 at 360-337-5777 or 1-800-825-4940 to request any of the following services.

VACATION CHECKS

C.O.P. officers will check your home while you’re on vacation; they’ll retrieve mail, newspapers, or packages left on the premises.

HOME SECURITY EVALUATION

C.O.P. officers will evaluate your home, point out weak points, and recommend security improvements.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

Report an abandoned vehicle in your neighborhood.

JUNK VEHICLE REMOVAL

Request assistance with disposal of one of your vehicles.

BOAT SAFETY INSPECTION

Have your personal watercraft inspected and certified.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Speakers

As noted in Bill's article, our March speaker will be our District IV Service Officer, Ralph Angulo; he will demonstrate how to complete the F-100, "Be Prepared for Life's Events". I have twenty-five (25) F-100 booklets.

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.

WSFC Convention

The convention registration form is available on the EVENTS page of the District IV website at narfewadist4.org. The WSFC is offering a \$50 scholarship to all federation members in good standing.

FEDcon18

Registrants save 15 percent through 31 March with Early Bird registration pricing. The early bird conference registration rate is \$150.00, a \$25.00 savings!

Attend sessions and workshops by NARFE experts:

Federal Benefits

Advocacy

Leadership

Life Management

Enjoy four keynote speakers:

NPR/Fox News's Mara Liasson

NASA astronaut Mike Massimino

Federal Benefits Expert Tammy Flanagan

Henry Winkler

HELP WANTED

A volunteer for the Audit Committee

We have two members who will conduct the Audit but need one more person to observe the process. The audit will be conducted at the Westside Improvement Center on 9 May from 10:00am to noon. For more information, please contact:

Rex Tauscher, Treasurer
360-479-0668 or
rctauscher@comcast.net

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for January was \$549.57 with expenditures of \$1,791.41. Our net worth as of 31 January was \$30,392.10. 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 17 February was \$378.23. We collected \$72.00 dollars at our February meeting thanks to Loraine Brockerman, Bea Bull, Myra Clodius, William Fuhrmeister, DeAnna Gossett, and Rex Tauscher.

Payment from our aluminum collection was \$85.73 for the past year. Forwarding of our collected funds will be made to Alzheimer's Research in February 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

0 pounds collected in 2018

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Carolyn J. O'Neal.

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

SERGEANT AT ARMS

William Fuhrmeister

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

George Eads

SERVICE OFFICER

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

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
UNTIL DECEMBER 2018**

Donald A. Palmer

Ralph Petersen

UNTIL DECEMBER 2019

Steve Ferguson

Amber VanSantford

District IV VP

360-Bill Powers
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powersw@silverlink.net

Region IX VP

Richard Wilson
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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

Senator Patty Murray
950 Pacific Avenue #650
Tacoma, WA 98402
Tacoma Phone Number 253-572-3636
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www.murray.senate.gov

Senator Maria Cantwell
915 – 2nd Avenue, Suite 3206
Seattle, WA 98174
Seattle Phone Number 206-220-6400
D.C. Phone Number 202-224-3441
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