



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

April 2018

NUMBER 04-18

General Meeting Date & Time: April 9, 2018 1:00PM

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

**Program: Josh Snavely, BSN, RN, CEN, SCRN, Stroke Program Coordinator at Harrison Medical
Center, CHI Franciscan Neurosciences**

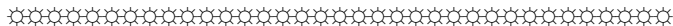
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivor.

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.....**CANCELED**..... May 14th
- * WSFC Convention..... May 14-16
- * Chapter Meeting..... June 11th
- * FEDcon18 August 26-28th
- * Chapter Meeting..... September 10^h
- * Chapter Meeting..... October 8th

NOTE: WATCH YOUR NEWSLETTERS FOR NOTIFICATION OF CANCELED MEETINGS.



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

The national debt has topped \$21 trillion for the first time ever. This milestone comes shortly after the suspension of the federal debt limit in February, allowing the government to borrow an unlimited amount of money. Economists expect wider budget deficits over the near term due to the tax cuts that were signed into law late last year and the \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending package signed into law in late March.

I discuss this again this month because inflation is still raising its ugly head and the stock market is now in correction territory (down 10%). So the consumer price index-elderly (CPI-E) switch from the CPI-W

PLEASE BRING DONATED ALZHEIMER'S RAFFLE ITEMS TO THE APRIL MEETING; THEY WILL BE RAFFLED OFF AT THE WSFC CONVENTION IN MAY. THANK YOU!

(worker) will become more important for federal retirees in order to keep up with inflation. Current Department of Defense (DOD) workers should be okay because the \$1.3 trillion omnibus spending bill included a fourteen percent increase in defense department spending. Keep an eye on this item in your *narfe* magazine; it is H.R. 1251 in the "NARFE BILL TRACKER".

On a lighter side, spring is here and I went bike riding for the first time in forty years. I recently inherited a touring bike that I rode on the "Larry Scott" trail in Port Townsend; the trail is mostly paved and away from motorized traffic. It was both fun and relaxing, though still a little on the chilly side.

Hope to see you at our April 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!!

OPM ONLINE

If you would like to open your own OPM account online, please stay after the April General Membership meeting and Amber VanSantford will walk you through the process.

You will need to locate (but please do not bring to the meeting) your CSA or CSF number (found on your 1099-R); and you will need to create a password (8-12 characters, upper and lower case letters plus at least one number and one symbol).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

I checked the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) CPI-W value for February 2018 and it is 242.988; the January 2018 value was 241.919. Divide February by January and you get .44 percent inflation for the month of February. Multiply .44 percent per month inflation times twelve months and you get 5.28 percent annual inflation. That is what the math looks like for this snapshot in time.

I want to mention this again from last month's newsletter: H.R. 1251 – "CPI-E Act of 2017" is our best bet for a meaningful Cost of Living Adjustment (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 forty-nine cosponsors; Congressman Kilmer is not one of them. Please call his office at **360-373-9725** and request that he co-sponsor H.R. 1251. 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.

This is the legislative column, but I want to talk about NARFE-PAC. They are related in that NARFE-PAC provides funding used to **support** campaigns of candidates that **support/protect** the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.

I created a secure log-in account with NARFE years ago and can easily make one-time NARFE-PAC contributions. However, I prefer automated, monthly, installments that don't require me to remember anything. I had automatic monthly NARFE-PAC contributions billed to my credit card in easy installments. The automatic billing terminated for reasons unknown so I contacted NARFE to reinstate my monthly contributions.

The monthly installments must be set up by phone; at this time it is not an option on the website.

I liken NARFE-PAC contributions to being the ammunition used to fight to protect and preserve our pay and benefits.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

The Executive Board often discuss our membership by the various groups that make up our chapter. These numbers will not add up to the 506 voting members that we now have since the groups overlap and can appear in more than one place. Dues withholding National and Chapter - 132 members. Active Federal Employees - 50 members. National and Chapter life, paid up members - 72. National Life only - 6 members. Chapter Life only - 84 members. Members paying dues, annual or multiyear - 345.

Brand Recognition - This is what we call introducing NARFE to our community. Our next event will be the "Armed Forces Day Parade". We will have a car with our NARFE banners and will pass out NARFE brochure/applications where we can. Come down to see us and say hello on Saturday, May 19th at 10:00am.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership, will be dropped in April: Four (4) members, Audrey Datema, William Hanson, Christine Read and Cathy Ann Reese.

This member shows as dropped for non-renewal during the month of March: Raymond Bellant.

On the positive side, for the month of March, we have one new member: David Stotts. Welcome!

If you have questions regarding NARFE or Chapter 181, please contact one of our board members listed on the back of this newsletter, or come to a meeting. If we have canceled our membership meeting, drop by our Executive Board meeting. You are more than welcome any time.

FEDcon18

Jacksonville, Florida, August 26-28

Check your *narfe* magazine and the District IV website for information

The WSFC is paying a \$250 scholarship to any non-officer member in good standing who attends FEDcon18.

The scholarship will be awarded after the conference.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

District IV Service Officer Ralph Angulo

Per his request, if you email him, please put the words "NARFE District IV Service Officer" in the subject line. Thank you!

Also, he recommended a publication entitled the "2018 Federal Personnel Guide". I created a link to the website where you can purchase this guide; go to www.narfewadist4.org, click on the "Links" tab, and select "Media, Publications & Transportation".

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.

HELP WANTED

Volunteer(s) for Alzheimer's Chair

Maintain records of donations received and from whom.

Review NARFE actions, websites, magazine & ALZ.org for important information and highlights to discuss at meetings.

Transport metal donations to donation site in Port Orchard.

These tasks can be done by one or more volunteers. If you can perform any of these tasks, please contact:

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

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for February was \$496.28 with expenditures of \$247.03. Our net worth as of 28 February was \$30,639.13. 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 \$42.23. We collected \$35.00 dollars at our March meeting thanks to Loraine Brockerman, Ralph Judd and George Prichard.

Payment from our aluminum collection was \$85.73 for the past year. Collected funds in the amount of \$375.00 were forwarded to Alzheimer's Research in February 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.

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

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of David George and Gettie R. Paulus.

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
Include the words "NARFE District IV
Service Officer" in the SUBJECT line

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
377-7917
powersw@silverlink.net

Region IX VP

Richard Wilson
425-736-6899
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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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