



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

May 2018

NUMBER 05-18

General Meeting Date & Time:

Meeting Place:

May General Membership Meeting Canceled

Program:

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

- * WSFC Convention..... March 14 - 16th
- * Chapter Meeting..... June 11th
- * FEDcon18..... August 26 - 28th
- * Walk to End Alzheimer's..... September 8th
- * Chapter Meeting..... September 10th
- * Chapter Meeting..... October 8th
- * Chapter Meeting..... November 12th

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

In even years, May is the month our Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) has its biennial convention. But this year, and from now on, it will be classified as a conference. That is because voting on WSFC executive officers and bylaws is now done prior to the conference via the internet; 10 May is the final day to vote. For WSFC voting, go to the NARFE STATE WEBSITE, www.narfewa.net, and identify yourself using your membership ID number located on the address label of your ***narfe*** magazine.

The National conference in August, FEDcon18, is being handled the same way. Instructions to vote by mail for National officers and issues will be in the June ***narfe*** magazine. You can also go to the NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE, www.narfe.org, and start voting for National officers and issues on 10 May using your membership ID number. If voting by mail, the ballot must be received in the national office by 30 June; you should allow a week for mail service. This item will be discussed at our June membership meeting.

If you need help locating your membership ID number, please contact Bea Bull or Ralph Sanders; see the back of this newsletter.

Good news for all our WSFC chapter treasuries. The state will suspend 2019 per capita dues due to the rising amount of funds available in the WSFC treasury. This means that our Bremerton chapter, with approximately 500 members, and that presently pays \$1.20 per member for WSFC per capita taxes, will have approximately \$600 additional funds in 2019 to spend promoting our local chapter.

Another good news item from the National headquarters is that the national retention rate is now at 91 percent. This includes those members who have switched from chapter membership to national membership. We hate to see these members drop their chapter membership, but at least they are retaining their national membership.

See you at the June meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

The first thing I want to do is thank the NARFE member who called and straightened me out about H.R. 1251 (CPI-E Act of 2017) and Congressman Kilmer. I have incorrectly stated that Congressman Kilmer is not a co-sponsor of this legislation. In fact, Derek Kilmer is, and has been, a co-sponsor since 15 March 2017. I reviewed the congress.gov website and figured out how I repeatedly arrived at such a wrong conclusion. Again, thank you.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) CPI-W March value is 243.463 (February/242.988 and January/ 241.919). That mathematically indicates 3.16 percent annual inflation if the pace is continued. That sounds better than last month's calculation at 5.28 percent annual inflation.

Retirees are in better shape than active employees because retirees will get a cost of living adjustment (COLA) even if current employees experience a pay freeze. Retiree COLAs are mathematical; pay increases for current employees are political.

Just in case you don't subscribe to the Kitsap Sun, here is a letter I submitted to the editor for the upcoming "Public Service Recognition Week":

Public Service Recognition Week, May 6-12, will soon be upon us.

Bremerton Chapter 0181 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) would like to acknowledge the service of all federal employees in our community.

Across the country and in communities like ours, government employees serve and protect us every day.

Federal employees are there for us. They work side by side with our military at home and abroad to defend our country. They deliver our mail and accomplish countless other services on our behalf.

I want to personally thank all federal employees.

During Public Service Recognition Week, please join me in thanking and recognizing the important work of the federal employees in our community.

Steve Ferguson

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Why should we belong to a chapter? First, a chapter gives us a greater affiliation to a smaller group with a common purpose, a chance to meet with friends on a scheduled basis and, most importantly of all, the opportunity to do grass roots lobbying. This last one is the primary reason for NARFE's existence; to support legislation and legislators who support active and retired federal employees.

For our active employee members there is a thing called "The Hatch Act." The "Hatch Act" generally applies to employees working in the Executive Branch of the federal government. You can go online to find specifics and see how it affects you. The two basic rights of being able to converse with and support your legislative representative or a candidate for office is still allowed, just not on company time.

Getting back on track. We have chapters that are closing across this nation. If that is the case in your area and you still want the local affiliation and camaraderie, please join a progressive chapter in your congressional district; or, you will always be welcome at Bremerton Chapter 181.

Now for the membership report. The following members, if they have not renewed their membership will be dropped in May: Clara Brandewie and William Fitzgerald.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of April: Three (3) members, William Hanson, Christine Read and Cathy Ann Reese.

On the positive side, for the month of April we had two (2) members reinstate their membership: Randolph Hunt and Barbara Stedman. We have one (1) new prospective member, Alan Kieser. Welcome aboard and a thank you to all who have renewed their membership, especially those who have renewed for more than one year or have chosen dues withholding.

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.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

National Voting

After logging into the National website, look for the scrolling banner in the middle of the page; click on the banner for "2018 Balloting Information" and select "Click here for information" at the bottom of the box. Please review the candidate statements and bylaws and resolutions prior to entering the voting site. Voting begins 10 May 2018.

If your email is registered with the National office, you should receive an email from them on 10 May with a link to the voting site. See page 25 in your May *narfe* magazine for additional information.

WSFC Voting

On the WSFC website, click on "Vote Here" in the middle of the page. Follow the instructions to vote for federation officers. Voting ends 10 May 2018.

June Meeting Speaker

Mike Kaaland, V.P. Port Orchard chapter and volunteer with AARP Tax Services, will discuss the new tax laws.

November Meeting Program

FEHB Plan reps will be available; doors will open at 11:00AM.

New Medicare Cards

New, safer Medicare cards are now being issued; the process will happen over the next twelve (12) months. Medicare will **NOT** call you to verify your identity before issuing you a new card; they will **NOT** request payment of any kind for the new card. If you get that kind of phone call or email, **HANG UP/hit DELETE!**

2018 Older Americans Conference

The conference will be held at the Silverdale Methodist Church, 9982 Silverdale Way, NW, Silverdale on 23 May 2018, 9:00am - 1:00pm. Reservations are required. Additional details will be provided in a follow-up email.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for March was \$324.54 with expenditures of \$883.68. Our net worth as of 31 March was \$30,079.99. 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 April was \$74.23. We collected \$32.00 dollars at our April meeting thanks to Loraine Brockerman and Rex Tauscher.

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**

38.3 pounds collected in 2018

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards sent to John Burch in the passing of his wife, Mary, and to the families of Katherine Kannitzer and Billy G. Ungren.

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. Thanks!! Bea Bull

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

VICE PRESIDENT

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Ralph Sanders

SECRETARY

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Bea Bull

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

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

Include the words "NARFE

District IV Service

Officer" in the SUBJECT

line

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

UNTIL DECEMBER 2018

Don Palmer

Ralph Petersen

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

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>