



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August



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

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

June 2018

NUMBER 06-18

General Meeting Date & Time: June 11, 2018 1:00PM

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

**Program: Mike Kaaland, V.P. Port Orchard Chapter and AARP Tax Services Volunteer,
Will Discuss the New Tax Laws**

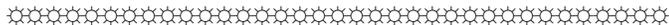
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivor.

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

- * FEDcon18 August 26-28th
- * Walk to End Alzheimer's..... September 8th
- * Chapter Meeting..... September 10th
- * Chapter Meeting..... October 8th
- * Chapter Meeting..... November 12th
- * Chapter Meeting..... December 10th

NOTE: WATCH YOUR NEWSLETTERS FOR NOTIFICATION OF CANCELED MEETINGS.



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

There are three items I will cover prior to our summer break. First is our state organization. We just completed our 58th Washington State Federation of Chapters (WSFC) convention/conference. We dropped the "C" in WSFC because approximately half of the state's members are projected to be National Only (not belonging to a specific chapter) in the coming years. We will have copies of "The Federation Reporter", now a once-a-year publication which covers the conference, available for those attending our June chapter meeting.

Second, I am no longer wearing two hats: Chapter 181 President and District IV (Kitsap and Olympic

Peninsula) Vice President. At the WSF Conference, we elected Al Costa as our new District IV V.P. Al lives in McCormick Woods in Port Orchard, but belongs to Olympic Chapter 1006 which covers the Sequim, Port Angeles, and Port Hadlock area. I have invited Al to our June chapter meeting to introduce him and to turn over pertinent data for accomplishing his new job.

Third is our national organization. Our June NARFE magazine covers FEDcon18, the National conference taking place August 26-28. Lanny Ross will attend this conference as our representative and will give us a report at our September chapter meeting. The June *narfe* magazine includes your ballot containing your membership number and voting PIN number; follow the instructions to vote by mail or online. You will vote on executive office positions, ballot questions, bylaws, and resolutions. One item of significance is "Preferential Voting" which is explained on page 7 of June's magazine. Ballots must be RECEIVED by Election Services Co. by 11:59pm ET on 30 June 2018. If you have any questions concerning FEDcon18, bring them to our June chapter 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 attended a function for Congressman Kilmer on 3 May at the Boat Shed Restaurant in Manette. He is a polished public speaker and yet, down-to-earth. He spoke briefly at the event and mentioned that he is a member of a bi-partisan group of Representatives who meet to try to come to an agreement on relevant issues. He also spoke of a shortage of skilled tradesmen in our country. He is working toward improving trade skills development rather than schools trying to push everyone into college.

I thanked Congressman Kilmer for his steadfast NARFE support. He is very eager to protect our earned pay and benefits and has the voting record to prove it.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) CPI-W April value increased by .2 percent over the previous month. July, August and September CPI-W values are averaged to determine our COLA. They will be here before you know it.

Fortunately, the OPM director's recommendations to reduce pay and benefits is just that, a recommendation. Congress would have to create and pass legislation in order to implement the recommendations. I think we are safe for now; but remain vigilant.

August is Grass Roots Advocacy Month

Use every opportunity and means possible to tell your story to your congressional representatives.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Our WSF State Legislative Chairman is John Thurber. He represents NARFE at meetings of the Senior Citizen's Lobby. He has invited members to contact him with their issues and concerns about state legislation pertaining to senior citizens. Email: jlthurber@earthlink.net Home phone: 253.531.8526

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.

The scholarship will be awarded after the conference.

2017-2018 NARFE-PAC

Chapter 181-63 members contributed \$3,490.00.

Washington State-514 members contributed \$33,022.70.

Region IX-936 members contributed \$63,746.70.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

This is the last newsletter you will see until September. You may think that your Executive Board is taking a much-needed rest, but for us it is business as usual. Some of us attended the biannual Federation Conference in May where we learned some new things, made new friends, and visited with some old friends. I am learning a new word: "Advocacy". NARFE, as an organization is, and we as individual members are, in fact, advocates for active and retired federal employees everywhere.

Last month we talked about why you should want to belong to a chapter. This month I would like to address my remarks more to the active employees, both members and non-members. As members of NARFE we are all recruiters. The more members we have the more successful our organization will become. One of the big questions current employees should ask themselves is, "When should I start participating in my retirement?" The best answer is, "Your first day of employment!" This is especially true in the FERS retirement system. I personally muddled around in the shipyard for a number of years believing that the folks back in Washington D.C. would take care of me. Wrong! Our pay, health insurance, and retirement is under constant scrutiny. Anything and everything that Congress gives us, they can take away. That is why we all need to be advocates for federal employees and retirees, working to protect the system that we have and looking for ways to make it better.

Now for the membership report. The following two (2) members, if they have not renewed their membership will be dropped in June: Edward Iddings and George Lecompte.

These members show as dropped for non-renewal during the month of May: Two (2) members, Clara Brandewie and William Fitzgerald.

There is no positive side for this month, no new names added to the roster.

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.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

National Voting

The June issue *narfe* magazine contains your ballot. Follow the instructions to vote by mail or online. Ballots must be **RECEIVED** by Election Services Co. by 11:59pm ET on 30 June 2018.

WSF Federation Reporter

The *Federation Reporter* is an annual WSF publication distributed in early May. The 2018 edition is on the District IV website under the "LINKS" tab; "Media, Publications & Transportation".

November Meeting Program

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

NARFE National Needs Your Email Address

More and more, the National office needs to communicate with you via email. It is that fastest, least expensive way for them to get important information to members. You can go to NARFE.org and create an online account or contact Ralph Sanders or me; either of us can add your email account to the chapter roster.

Keep Your Accounts Active

It's time again to access your online OPM, TSP, and Social Security accounts to keep them and your passwords active. I recently received an email informing me that OPM is redesigning their website and that users will soon be able to change their own password. TSP has also recently introduced online password reset.



2018 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

8 September 2018

Registration at 8am - Ceremony at 9am

Walk at 9:30am

Louis Mentor Bremerton Boardwalk

243 2nd St, Bremerton, WA 98337

Join our team! Go to <https://act.alz.org> - Click on "Find a Walk Near You" in the center of the page. Click on "Find a Team" under the "Find Your Walk" box. Enter team name "NARFE Chapter 181" in the appropriate box and click on the SEARCH button. Select the team name and, on the next page, you can either join the team or make a donation. This information, plus links, is available on the District IV website.

In 2017 NARFE teams across the country raised \$65,535.83!!

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for April was \$765.88 with expenditures of \$352.11. Our net worth as of 30 April was \$30,989.85. 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 22 May was \$77.23. We collected \$3.00 dollars following our May Executive Board meeting thanks to 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.

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

56.8 pounds collected in 2018

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards sent to the families of Harold W. Brooks and Jean L. Kachel.

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.

We're wishing everyone a pleasant summer! If you need anything, we're here to help even when we aren't holding meetings or producing newsletters.

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

Al Costa
360-602-0167
alinse@outlook.com

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

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
D.C. Phone Number 202-224-2621
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
www.cantwell.senate.gov

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