

FEBRUARY 2007

NUMBER 02-07

General Meeting Date & Time: February 12, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club
National Avenue & 'E' Street, Bremerton, WA

Program: Reverse Mortgages

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.

PRESIDENT: Dear Chapter Members, to you that attended our January Chapter meeting, you heard me speak on the importance of each and every chapter member and how all who belong to NARFE should feel welcome at our Chapter meetings. As the President, it is my responsibility to conduct the meeting in an orderly and unbiased manner. Chapter members should always feel welcome and not be intimidated by other members or officers of the Chapter. And we need to do all we can not to offend each other. Members should feel free to come to Chapter officers with any problems they have and hopefully they could be resolved in a kindly and fair manner. 'If we can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.' It is more important not how we perceive things, but how others perceive things. The three 'R's' are *Respect for Ourselves, Respect for Others and Responsibility For All Our Own Actions.*

March 2007 is NARFE PAC Month. I commend you for your 2006 contributions to a very worthwhile cause. We have some of the most qualified people at NARFE Headquarters. We have some of the best people in the country working with our elected officials who are very pro-NARFE and mindful of our concerns. I encourage you once again to support NARFE PAC. In Region IX in 2006, the Washington State Federation gave \$43,711 to candidates who support NARFE legislation and other meaningful concerns. Chapter 181 led the Washington State Federation with 224 contributions for a total of \$4,760 and a job well done. Thanks for all your help. I will have new NARFE PAC pins for our February meeting and applications for you to donate and send to NARFE Headquarters. It is an honor and pleasure to be serving as your Chapter President. Thanks for all your support and help.
George Eads

TAX AIDE: The IRS and AARP jointly sponsor a program staffed by volunteers to electronically prepare and file income tax returns at no cost. Although intended for elderly and low-income families, no taxpayer will be turned away. Please note that business and rental income are beyond the scope of this program. You must bring your photo ID, documents verifying your Social Security Number, all 2006 tax documents and your checkbook to provide account numbers for electronic funds transfer and your 2005 tax return for comparison. Tax-Aide sites are open from 1 February to 14 April 2007:

Givens Community Center, Thursdays, 9:00 - 1:00
Olympic College, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 12:30 - 4:30
Port Orchard Library, Saturday, 10:00 - 2:00
Silverdale Community Center, Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 - 2:00
Sheridan Park Center, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 - 2:00
Westpark Community Center, Monday & Saturday, 1:00 - 5:00
Work Source, Tuesday 1:00 - 5:00 & Friday, 12:30 - 4:30

SUNSHINE: Sympathy Cards have been sent to the families of Philo Allen, Robert Angel, Edward Forgey, Kenneth Hall and Elmer Peterson. *Norene Torkelson*

MEMBERSHIP: We now have the final membership data for 2006. At the end of December we had 1493 voting members, this is 45 members less than we had in December 2005. Our membership continues to decline in our chapter, as it is nationwide. I do not have a magical answer for this dilemma, but if one half of our membership could recruit just one new member, there would be no problem. If you have a friend or neighbor who works in, or is retired from, federal service, please talk to them about NARFE. Share your magazine with them. Together we can fix this problem.

In other areas of this Bulletin I am sure that you will read about our Chapter moving on into the electronic age. Chapter 181 has started a web page along with the other chapters in District IV. This is another avenue (or way) to get information out to the chapter membership. We are aware that everyone does not have access to this media and that is alright. We will continue to give you the information as we always have. The web page will be a work in progress for some time but we think that we can have a copy of the Bulletin on the page by this month. I am taking names of members who would prefer to get their bulletin off of the web page v.s. postal service. Next month those of you who have signed up will take their bulletin off of the web site. If you try this and don't like it let me know and we will shift you back. You may "E" mail me at sandyandblake@wavecable.com.

Back to our reporting. On the positive side we have two reinstatements; Judy Christensen and Joe Williams. Robert Edwards was restored to voting status. Thanks to all of you for reinstating your membership. On the negative side the following members were dropped for non-renewal; Bonnie Buchanan, Marjorie Hammill, Clardon Heth, Alan Kenoyer, Edith Lowe and Arthur Smith. If you know any of these members, please contact them about reinstating their membership.
Ralph Sanders

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ): Donations in the amount of \$80.00 were received in the month of January thanks to, Louis and Loraine Brockerman, Robert Flomer, Rubye and Wesley Stansbury, and Norene Torkelson. The Washington State ALZ chair reported that donations from the state chapters the past year amounted to \$2,050.

The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection is still being made with an account at Westsound Recycle in the East Bremerton WalMart parking lot. Our account for January is 104.9 pounds. Keep up the good work as Aluminum prices seem to be going up. Your aluminum can be dropped off at that site and credited to **NARFE Chapter 181**, this should help those not attending our regular meeting were I normally collect the Aluminum. In addition with the agreement of the Port Orchard NARFE chapter 888, an account has also been setup with Westsound Recycle at the South Kitsap Mall collection area. The collection at this site will make it easier for our members living in the South Kitsap area and those of Chapter 888 to drop off aluminum. The funds from the South Kitsap site will go to the Port Orchard chapter Alzheimer's account in our combined goal to fund the needed research for a cure.

Our annual Rummage Sale to benefit our ALZ fund will be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. *Rex Tauscher*

NARFE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: If you are the parent or grandparent or great grandparent of a High School Senior, please check out Pages 55 - 56 in the February 2007 issue of the NARFE Magazine. Applications for the NARFE Scholarship must be postmarked by April 30, 2007.

2007 WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION

CONVENTION: We just received word that Dan Adcock, NARFE's Assistant Legislative Director will be the speaker at the Convention. He will speak on NARFE's Legislative Program, at a luncheon Thursday, May 17th. If you cannot attend the entire Convention, but would like to attend this event, please contact a Board Member. The cost of the lunch is \$20.00.

LOCAL NARFE WEBSITE: We now have a local NARFE website. It is <http://www.narfewadist4.org>. This website will service all four chapters on the Olympic Peninsula. There will be a hot link for each chapter's information when we get everything finalized. Presently we only have the Bremerton 181 and Port Orchard 888 chapters set up.

We have a link to our Washington State Federation Convention in Silverdale May 16 - 18. We link several NARFE sites including the state and national NARFE websites. You just click on the item of interest and you are there. We included a scholarship link for those of you that have a child or grandchild that is a high school senior and interested in college. We included a link for Alzheimer's Research plus information for donating your aluminum cans toward this research. We included a link for our Service Center, membership including online membership/renewal, upcoming events, and legislative (*Our #1 goal is protecting our earned benefits!*). Next month I hope to have a link to the slide show "We Can Do It" that we plan to discuss at the April workshop in Poulsbo. It would be nice to get people thinking of items for this slide show ahead of time.

We have the newsletter available online but you still have the choice of receiving the newsletter in the mail, viewing the newsletter online, or both. However, as with any organization, we are always working on ways to reduce costs. The online version will be a little shorter in length; it will not include printer's header or a listing of officers. An officer listing and telephone number is always available on the chapter 181 homepage of this web site. We created a common email address for all officers with instructions for emailing to the common address.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Bob Edwards** and **Sam Cagle** for their splendid work setting up this web site. If you have any suggestions or items of concern you think would benefit this web site, drop me a line. My email address is powersw@silverlink.net.

SERVICE OFFICER: 2006 gone - another year under out belts! Now we are into 2007 and the documentation showing what we received from various retirement

programs for 2006 and how much was taken in taxes are arriving. Please make sure you file these papers carefully so you know where they are when you are ready to do your taxes for the year. Waiting until April and realizing you are missing one report doesn't leave you much time to get replacement papers and file your tax forms in a timely manner.

Are you making plans for this year's vacations? Did you change health insurance companies this past Open Season? If you did, make sure you know how your new health insurance company works when you are out of the coverage area. When you filed your new health insurance ID card in your wallet, did you update your listing of any prescription and non-prescription drugs you take? I keep a list of mine right behind my insurance ID card in my wallet - hope there is never an emergency when Emergency Room employees need to find out what meds I have taken that day. However, you never know - so be prepared and, trust me, somebody will look in your wallet to see if you have health insurance coverage if you are unable to speak. Your Active Chapter members are getting very busy with the upcoming State Convention we are hosting in May? Have you volunteered to help? *Megan Winans*

TREASURER: Financial activity for December 2006, including the Alzheimer's Account, receipts totaled \$2,304.06 with expenditures of \$2,749.33. The proposed budget for the year 2007 which was included with the January newsletter was revised to include \$500 for expenses for our Web Master for our Chapter/District web site, Bulk Mailing Permit increased from \$150 to \$160 and a Miscellaneous account item in the amount of \$1,528.84 was added, for a revised total estimated expenditures of \$16,888.84. Receipts were increased by \$2,038.84 by forwarding non-expended income from 2006 funds.

We received 15 returns from the Post Office so far this month at a cost of \$11.25 to the chapter. Again a reminder to all members, if you are planning an address change or have moved to a new location or changing apartment numbers, please notify either myself or the Membership Chair so that your address can be corrected and passed on to our newsletter printer. *Rex Tauscher*