

MARCH 2007

NUMBER 03-07

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

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

**Program:** PROPOSED NASCAR TRACK IN KITSAP COUNTY

*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, I am hoping you are planning to attend our Washington State Federation Convention May 16-18, 2007. It will be at the Silverdale Beach Hotel and is sponsored by our own Chapter #181. Daniel Adcock, Assistant Legislative Director from national NARFE Headquarters, will be our guest. He is very knowledgeable about how NARFE works with our Legislature in Congress. It is good to know we have very capable individuals working for us at the National level.

March is NARFE PAC Month. It is highlighted in our March National magazine. I am grateful for your support of our NARFE PAC and hope you will continue your outstanding efforts to support this worthwhile cause. Our new NARFE pins are very classy looking.

It is important for all NARFE members to remember that we don't always get legislation passed that would benefit current and retired members. However, by the same token, we have not lost any of our benefits either.

Let us remember to thank our elected representatives and let them know we are grateful for their support of our Legislative Bills in Congress. I encourage you to call the Legislative Hot Line toll free number 1-877-217-8234 to keep current of our Legislative activity within Congress.

In last month's bulletin, I spoke about how we need to treat members with respect. That message is timeless. Sometimes it is very hard to practice the Golden Rule and treat others the way we expect to be treated ourselves. I am confident that members of Chapter #181 are some of the very best people in the world, and we see the common good in each other. Thanks to all for the many things you are doing to make Chapter #181 a very strong and viable organization.

I am happy to report that Lanny Ross is home from his surgery and is making good progress. He hopes to gain a full recovery. Thanks for your concern and prayers for Lanny. They are appreciated by him, his family, and those of us in office. *George Eads*

**BOOSTERS:** If you are unable to be a Delegate or won't be attending the upcoming Convention, but would like to support your Chapter - you can sign up to be a 'Booster.' For just \$1.00, you will have your name listed in the Program Book, along with members from other Washington State Chapters.

**SERVICE OFFICER:** Another month gone by - are you ready for Spring? I did notice some miniature daffodils blooming in my yard finally. Now is the time to get outside and start on outside work instead of boring housework. I will feel differently about yard work soon also. I know I am definitely ready for winter to finish - one of the worst since I moved here back in 1990.

Did you get all your papers ready for filing your Income Tax papers? Please don't wait until April to do this. If you lose some papers - or if you changed address and did not receive them - waiting until April for replacements could cost you extra for late filing. The dates of the AARP tax assistance and sites was in the February newsletter - hope you save it.

Some of you may qualify for some Kitsap County discounts on your property taxes. If you do you, will be asked for verification of income - last names beginning with S-Z have to be verified this year. Copies of your income tax filing papers will be needed to do this. There are 3 different levels of discounts depending on taxable income that qualify for different levels of discounts. If your taxable income is less than the max of \$35,000, it might be worthwhile contacting the Kitsap County Tax Assessors Office at 377-7160. I am not a tax specialist so am not qualified to give income tax advice or make decisions on whether you qualify for this discount.  
*Megan Winans*

**SUNSHINE:** Get Well Cards have been sent to Vern Nolting, Lanny Ross and Thelma Taylor. Sympathy Cards have been sent to the families of Helen Dawson and Carmen Laine. Two other Chapter members have passed away: Lester Phinney and Cecil VanKenren.

**SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS BY THE SEASHORE:** How did that old limerick go? The Convention Decorating Committee is looking for anyone who would like to donate some sea shells for the upcoming convention - unfortunately they cannot be returned. If you have any shells, starfish or sand dollars that need a new home please let Amber VanSantford know and we will mention your donation in the Program Book.

**TREASURER:** Financial activity for January 2007, including our Alzheimer's Account, receipts totaled \$1,910.22 with expenditures of \$2,314.04. We received returns of our Newsletter from the Post Office last year exceeding \$100.00. 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. I found that not all return notification requests are being sent to us by the Post Office so be sure to send us your change of address to NARFE, Chapter 181, PO BOX 5025, Bremerton, WA. 98312-0462. *Rex Tauscher*

**TAX AIDE SITES:** Don't forget that AARP has a wonderful volunteer program to electronically file Federal Income Tax Returns. The sites will be open until April 14<sup>th</sup>:

Givens Comm Ctr, Thurs, 9:00 - 1:00  
Olympic College, Wed/Thu, 12:30 - 4:30  
Port Orchard Library, Sat, 10:00 - 2:00  
Silverdale Comm Ctr, Tue/Thu, 10:00 - 2:00  
Sheridan Park, Wed/Thu, 10:00 - 2:00  
Westpark Comm Ctr, Mon/Sat, 1:00 - 5:00

**GPO/WEP REPEAL BILLS INTRODUCED:** The March 2007 issue of the NARFE Magazine's Legislative Report states that Representative Howard Berman (D-CA) introduced H.R. 82, a bill to repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. A few days later Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced S. 206, an identical bill in the Senate.

**SENIOR FAIR:** This year's Senior Fair will be held Thursday, 11 May at the Fairgrounds Pavilion. The celebrity speaker will be actress Marcia Wallace. Ms. Wallace is best known as the wise cracking secretary on the Bob Newhart Show.

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

The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection is still being made with an account being setup with Westsound Recycle in the East Bremerton WalMart parking lot. Our current 'on account' collection 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 Port Orchard 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 booth at the annual Westside Improvement Club Rummage Sale netted \$164.80. A big thank-you to Ed Saftich for helping out at the booth.

*Rex Tauscher*

**PROGRAM:** Ray McGovern from CHECK (Coalition for Healthy Economic Choices) will speak on the proposed NASCAR Track in Kitsap County.

**GET WELL WISHES:** Our best wishes go to Region IX Vice President Lanny Ross who is home recovering from major surgery.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** I would like to start this report by talking about our reporting process and how it works. This report that we are doing here for March is using data from a national report whose information is collected in January and produced in early February. All of the billing and reporting originates with our National office and it's contractors on a monthly basis with about thirty days of lag time between the data and our receiving it. We issue letters each month to those members who have received a second Dues Notice and those members who have had their membership dropped because of non-renewal. These letters contain a disclaimer stating that if you have paid your dues or reinstated your membership please disregard the letter. There are lots of payments and letters passing in the mail. It is not our goal to embarrass or harass our members, it is only to assist or remind you of something that may have slipped by. We will continue to issue the letters even though they are not always well received. They do help to cut our loss of membership and that is our goal.

We will now move on with our report. On the positive side we have three new members: Allen Christensen, Thomas Hess and Thomas Kubisa with one prospective member, Robert Machinski. Two members transferred into our chapter: Laurence Marks and David Palmer. We had three reinstatements: Terry Hughes, David Preslar and Janice Smith. We thank all of you for joining NARFE. We hope that you will be able to attend our membership meetings and be active in your chapter.

On our negative side we have five members dropped for non-renewal: George Baxter, Orvin Lykstad, Ricky Ohlson, Ira Pitke and Christian Walle. If you know any of these members please call and ask them to reinstate their membership. Thank you for your help. *Ralph Sanders*

**SUPPORTERS:** If you know of a local business who would like to support our upcoming convention by donating an item to be used as a Door Prize, please let them know we will list them in the Program Book. Please contact Amber VanSantford if you have any items to donate.