



SEPTEMBER 2008

NUMBER 07-08

General Meeting Date & Time: September 8, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club (479-9061)
National Avenue & 'E' Street, Bremerton, WA

Program: HOSPICE OF KITSAP COUNTY - Valerie Youngren, Deputy Director

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 hope you have taken advantage of the wonderful summer we have had this year. This fall of 2008 is going to be most memorable as election time draws near. I hope you are registered to vote and will be sure to vote. I would encourage you to study the issues and the candidates and be a well informed voter, keeping in mind those candidates and issues that support NARFE and its members in keeping and maintaining our benefits for ourselves and our families.

I will be attending the NARFE National Convention in Louisville, KY September 7-12. I am hoping there will be many positive changes come out of this year's convention to move NARFE forward into the 21st century. I know it is important to be united in common causes that are very important to us who are current or retired federal workers, along with our family members.

August has been designated as "Meet Your Congressional Representatives" month. I encourage you to either call or drop by Congressman Norm Dicks and Congressman Jay Inslee's offices and ask them to support legislation that would be helpful to NARFE and its causes. Also, thank them for the good things they are doing for all of us.

If you have been watching the latest CPI, they have been going up. The bottom line is, the higher the CPI goes up it will increase our COLA. This is good, but Congress may vote to limit our COLAS in the future. We need to stand ready to respond to any legislation that would take away or reduce our COLA. We know that they do help us in this time of financial insecurity.

I encourage you to read and study the articles in the National magazine. The articles in there are to keep us informed and up-to-date on all the subjects that will affect us.

I hope the rest of your summer will be healthy and happy. Enjoy the time with your families and be thankful for our many blessings each and every day. *George Eads*

UNAUTHORIZED E-MAIL: The following message was sent by President Margaret Baptiste: 'It has recently been brought to my attention that some of our members have received one or more e-mails from an individual named Marty Kuritz, promoting his own materials on retirement counseling and/or disaster preparedness. Somewhere in these advertisements, he mentions NARFE, either in the text or as part of a discount code. Mr. Kuritz is not a member of NARFE and has no authorization from NARFE National Headquarters to use our association name...We advise that any member receiving e-mails from Mr. Kuritz treat them as spam and delete them.'

TREASURER: Financial activity for the months of May through July: We received \$3,889.10 with expenditures of \$4,216.52 excluding the Alzheimer's Research Fund donation. Several members have been sent "Rebate Checks" as part of the Washington State Federation of Chapters Membership Incentive Program. This program will continue until May of 2009. Please deposit these checks when you get them and do not dispose of them in the trash as it makes more work for the balancing of the books. It also makes us wonder if we have your correct mailing address. For all of our members that are returning to warmer weather of the south and all the members that have changed your apartment numbers, please send us your change of address to **NARFE Chapter 181, PO BOX 5025, BREMERTON, WA 98312-0462.**
Rex Tauscher

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ): The balance in our Alzheimer's Account as of 20 August is \$416.87. Donations in the amount of \$148.00 were received thanks to Louis & Loraine Brockerman, Robert Brown, Jean Lenihan, Helen & Wayne Matz, Tony Roozen, Ralph Sanders, Donald Serry and Jerry Webb. A donation in memory of Al Cummings was received from Joyce Libsack. The Aluminum for Alzheimer's collection is still ongoing and doing well with 325 pounds in our collection record. A special thanks to Wayne Matz for his donation of 117 pounds. Remember that it only takes between 32 to 36 cans to make a pound, so stomp the cans to help "**Stomp Out Alzheimer's**". We are keeping the program active so keep dropping off your aluminum items at Westsound recycle in the East Bremerton Wal-Mart parking lot.

Your aluminum can be dropped off at that site and credited to **NARFE Chapter 181.** Note the collection site is closed on Sundays and Mondays. The Alzheimer's Association is holding their annual Memory Walk on 20 September at the Silverdale Waterfront Park. If you have never been to the event, please come and join in. *Rex Tauscher*

MEMBERSHIP: Welcome back from your summer vacation. I hope that you all enjoyed your time off. We lost 53 members during the months of July and August, so you recruiters (and you should know who you are) will have to get to work on making up for some of our losses. These are some statistics of our membership at the present time listed by membership types: Annuitant (1253), Active Federal Employee (71), Annuitant Spouse (10) and Survivor Annuitant (9). We, the Executive Board would like to hear from you concerning the Chapter or the national organization and how we could better serve you. Your opinions are important to us and we want to do the best job we can for you. This is a combined July and August report so there will be more names on the list. We will start with our new members: Mary Kuckenbaker, Keith Mahaulu, Nancy Metcalf and Mary Ann Spires. Our reinstatements are: Woodrow Arneson, Billie Eder, Roger Meyer and Thomas Spetter.

Now for those members who have been dropped for non-renewal: Myron Allen, Alvin Barrows, Kenneth Boyer, Edward Boyle, Michael Brown, Lucille Caldwell, Dorothy Calhoun, Cleo Cook, Cora Dicks, Gene Farman, Margaret Fossum, Patrick Keller, Walter Klein, Harvey Marsh, Robert McGee, Douglas Olson, Carolyn O'Neal, Ben Ormiston, Pedro Paulino, Daniel Peterson, Orville Potter, David Preslar, Shirley Prouse, James Reid, Lloyd Reite, Beth Schmidt, Laurence Serena, Lorayne Smith, Virginia Trammel, Edna Trull, Murray Wells, Robert Wieman, Blanche Wynne, and Richard Yanss. This is a total of 35 members dropped for non-renewal over this two month period. If you know any of these members, please call them and ask them to reinstate their membership. The committee will also be contacting these folks, but a call from a friend will do so much more. Thanks to all of you for paying your dues promptly and for using our multiple year and dues withholding plans.
Ralph Sanders

SERVICE OFFICER: It's that time of the year when we start looking for our COLA (cost of living amount), don't get too anxious about it yet though. A lot is going on with this being an election year and some times our COLA will not be announced until quite late in the year. It is also getting close to the Open Season for health insurance - 1st full week in November thru 2nd week of December and any changes effective in January. Our NARFE magazine will be putting out lots of information about insurance changes with the major nationwide plans and some of the HMO's. Do your own homework and make your own decision and don't forget we have quite a few of the representatives from Federal Health Insurance programs at our November meeting. Just don't miss the dates of the Open Season.

Another reminder that is VERY important! If you change your Bank or Credit Union, DO NOT CLOSE the old account until all the direct deposit payments have shown up in the new account. Automatically deposited payments are not forwarded on to the new account but returned to sender if the account is closed. This is a very important reminder, especially, if you move at the same time you are changing where you do your banking.

Megan Winans

DISTRICT VP NEWS: The Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners, CPI-W, is used by the federal government to adjust benefits for our federal retirement program. The July revision to this index is up ½% from June. This sets our cost of living up 6.2% for the year and we still have two months to go. The new fiscal year starts in October. Note that this is different from the CPI-U, consumer price index for all urban consumers, the most commonly reported inflation index used by news media. I mention this now because any increase to our retirement benefits above 5% yearly catches the eye of congress. Because inflation has been so high this year, we could become a target for a reduction or delay. This is all the more reason to support NARFE and telling your non-NARFE retiree friends that we have lobbyists in Washington, DC fighting to keep our retirement benefits which include a yearly adjustment to our benefits due to inflation. The next NARFE Hotline to report on CPI-W inflation will be on September 12th.

This date coincides with the wrap-up of our NARFE National Convention in Louisville, KY.

We will report the latest on the inflation adjustment calculations and National Convention newsworthy items on our website in the third week of September so those with internet access will know what to expect in the coming year in a timely manner. Our District IV website for all of the Olympic Peninsula is <http://www.narfewadist4.org> and our webmaster's name is Bob Edwards.

Bill Powers

PROGRAM: This month's speaker will be Valerie Youngren, Deputy Director of Hospice of Kitsap County. Each year Hospice of Kitsap County serves over 400 terminally ill patients and their families and provides bereavement services to more than 2000 people in our community who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Valerie is passionate about the expert care Hospice provides and strives to make sure that this care will always be available for anyone in our community who wants and needs this very special benefit. Valerie has held her position for eight years and has over 15 years experience in Marketing and Community Relations. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University and lives with her family in Port Orchard.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE: Sympathy Cards were sent to the families of John Arena, James L. Bailey, Rex Bartlett, Agnes M. Bloomlie, Alfred J. Cummings, Wilfred J. Erickson, Donald Fowler, Dorothy I. Furlong, Robert G. Hankinson, Leroy E. Hoyt, Dorothy A. Hutchins, Leonard E. Lahnala, Terry L. Landreth, Marcella L. Lund, Dorien K. Miles, Hazel Parypa, Ruby B. Scott, Edward R. Smith, and Ronald G. Wilson.

Get Well Cards were sent to Robert McLeod. If you suspect that an individual that you know is ill and should receive a get well card please contact us so we can verify and get a card out to them.

Norene Torkelson

Congratulations to Charles and Myra Clodius who recently celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary and thank you for all the hard work you do at our Chapter meetings.

RESIDENT

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Megan Winans

CHAPLAIN

Myra Clodius

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