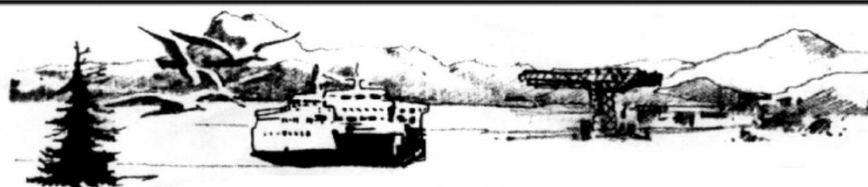


NARFE
FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION, BREMERTON CHAPTER 181**
P.O. Box 5025, Bremerton, WA 98312-0462

June 2021

NUMBER 06-21

General Meeting Date: Watch Your September Newsletter

**Meeting Place: Membership Meetings Canceled Until
COVID-19 Restrictions are Lifted**

**Program: Visit the District IV Website for Updates Over the
Summer and Announcements About the
September Meeting**

*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

June.....CANCELED

13 September.....To Be Announced

11 October.....To Be Announced

**NOTE: WATCH YOUR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR
NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS RESTARTING.**

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Summer starts shortly and COVID-19 restrictions are on the decline. Fifty percent of all American adults are fully vaccinated. It's been a long year.

Congress is presently debating on how much money will be allocated to infrastructure spending and where the funds will come from. This is a bipartisan issue, so it should get resolved equitably. See our newsletter insert on the "Gorst Bottleneck". It would be nice to have federal support from the infrastructure package for this project.

We hope to hold our first post-pandemic regular membership meeting in September; so mark your calendars now for 13 September and we will provide an update in our September newsletter. We should know by then if we will be hosting our November Health Care Fair and have our traditional December Holiday Luncheon.

Now for the bad news: Inflation is coming. The economists aren't in agreement that the coming inflation period is transitory or an endemic increase in prices. I say endemic unless the Federal Reserve changes monetary policy (raising interest rates) which I doubt. This means taxes going up, tax exempt municipal bonds becoming a favored tax shelter, and stock prices going down. This also means the value of the dollar will be lower. National housing market pricing has gone up 13 percent in the last year! When rent payments come due after this temporary hold on rent payment requirements, you are going to see the inflationary effect of this policy. We will all feel the effect at the gas pump and in the grocery store and when we see the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in the fall.

Also, Medicare Part "A" (Hospital Insurance) is projected to be depleted before 2026. That isn't far away! This means Congress will have to enact legislation to either reduce Medicare spending obligations, increase payroll taxes, or both. This happened once before in 1996 and 1997 when Congress enacted legislation to reduce Medicare spending.

Hopefully before fall, Congress can also address some of the issues listed in the *narfe* magazine *Bill Tracker*.

I hope to see you in September!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

I want to discuss H.R. 304, "Equal COLA Act". FERS retirees take a full 1 percent reduction in their COLA each year that inflation is 3 percent or more. The cumulative effect is a substantial loss in retirement income over their CSRS retiree counterparts. Take for example a \$25,000 per year benefit with 3 percent inflation each year for ten consecutive years. The FERS retiree will sustain a \$10,106 cumulative loss of retirement income by the end of year ten. What started as a \$25,000 per year benefit ends up at \$32,616 per year for the CSRS retiree and \$29,875 per year for the FERS retiree.

Congressman Kilmer is a co-sponsor of H.R. 304. For those who live outside of District 6, go to Congress.gov and search "H.R. 304" to see if your congressional representative is a co-sponsor.

Inflation is on the rise. The April CPI-W indicates we jumped almost a full percent from March to April so we are now up to 3.25 percent.

I am concerned with the new government give-a-ways considering Social Security and Medicare are unfunded liabilities to the tune of \$50 to \$90 TRILLION over the next 75 years depending on the information source.

One definition of "fiscal responsibility" is: Strategies for managing debt and adopting practices of so-called "smart" spending.

www.economicshelp.org/blog/14788/debt/definition-of-fiscal-responsibility

Is congress acting in a fiscally responsible manner? Absolutely not!

Now, 88 percent of children will begin receiving monthly payments in July (through the end of the year) of up to \$300. That is a gift of the next spending stimulus bill. And the Senate is talking about cancelling \$1.7 TRILLION in student loan debt.

This will not end well for any of us. It's important to tell our congressional representatives how we feel about this spending.

HELP WANTED – Membership Chair

General Requirements: Have computer with internet access and the ability to use Microsoft Word, Excel and Access. Can maintain confidentiality. Will direct membership team efforts.

Duties: Directs chapter recruiting and retention activities. Monthly pulls membership report from National database to track changes and compiles membership report for chapter newsletter and meetings. As needed, communicates information changes to the NARFE National membership department. Performs other duties as consistent with the position. **Please contact Bea at 360 286 7798**

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

My plea for the month: Please! If you plan on changing your address, phone, etc., please notify us! I can change your information for the chapter newsletter and at the NARFE National office. Thank you to all who have called and shared your changes with us.

There is not a large amount of information for me to pass on to you currently. We have been holding in-person executive board meetings for two months now and our third one will be in June. We will not have an executive board meeting in July; that is our normal break. We will be back in August making plans for September. It is our goal to hold our first in-person chapter meeting in September, if the virus behaves, and we hope that it will.

Now for the membership report. We currently have 477 members in the chapter. There was one member dropped in May for non-renewal: Joan Vehrs. Two members, David Kuehl and Aleta Weber, will be dropped in June if they have not paid their dues. Two members passed away in May: Michael Powell and Jennings Rich. Our condolences to the families.

We had one member reinstate his membership this month: Dan Seelye. There were fourteen members who renewed their membership for the next year. Thank you all.

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. Since we will not have a membership meeting in June, please call or email any of us at any time.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

As President Powers stated in his article on page 1, this month's insert is a summary of the Kitsap Sun articles about the Gorst bottleneck. Note that the links to the articles may not be accessible without a digital subscription to the Kitsap Sun. However, I have the articles in WORD documents; if you'd like copies, just let me know.

There's still time to register for LEGcon21 and the Centennial Gala:

As a reminder, the dates for these events are June 21 – 23 with the gala being held the night of the 21st. **Note: All times are shown as Eastern Time.** The rate for LEGcon21 is \$150.00 and \$50.00 for the gala. Go to <https://s7.goeshow.com/narfe/legcon/2021/index.cfm> to register. **BUT WAIT!**

The Washington State Federation (WSF) is reimbursing members in good standing up to \$250.00 for attending these events. **However, you need to contact WSF President Steve Roy at stevenroy1@comcast.net or 425 344 3926 to obtain approval prior to registering! Failure to get advanced approval will result in the federation not reimbursing you.** You may process your reimbursement request after the event.

After the event, please send me (Bea) a quick note, email, or call me at 360 286 7798 and tell me what you liked; what you did not like; and how this experience will benefit our chapter and the federation.

Access OPM, TSP & SS Accounts: It's time again to access your accounts to keep your passwords up-to-date.

Two-year Chapter Financial Audit: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the chapter was unable to perform a financial audit in 2020. Following is the report for 2019 through 2020: The Audit Review Committee considers that the financial records provide an accurate accounting for all financial transactions conducted during the audit period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020. In our opinion Bremerton Chapter #181 is in sound financial condition. It appears that the internal controls are adequate and that the budgetary controls are being effectively utilized. The committee commends the Treasurer for the professional manner in which his duties have been performed. Audit performed by: John Burch, Ralph Petersen, and Lanny Ross.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for April was \$609.92 with expenditures of \$433.21. Our Net Worth as of 30 April was \$36,840.82 which includes \$18,395.38 in trust for chapter life and honorary members. A Treasurer's report for May 2021 will be available at our June executive board meeting.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Lois Barber

The 2021 Bremerton Alzheimer's Walk is scheduled for 9 October. Bea will activate the Alzheimer's Walk page on the District IV website over the summer so you can register to participate or to make a donation.

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 29 May 2021 is \$5.00 thanks to a donation from Rex Tauscher.

To make a tax deductible donation 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.

Checks may also be mailed directly to the WSF Alzheimer's Chair:

**Lorie Bennett
4310 S. Kingwood Street
Kennewick, WA 99337-5706.**

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Bea Bull for Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Michael Powell and Jennings Rich, and to Ron and Shirley Reed in the loss of their son, Scott.

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 360-377-7917
powersw@silverlink.net

**VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

**SECRETARY
NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bea Bull

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Steve Ferguson

NARFE-PAC CHAIR

Lanny Ross

SERGEANT AT ARMS

William Fuhrmeister

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

WSF SERVICE OFFICER

Charles Caughlan
360-693-0435
csquare@pacifier.com

**EX BD MEMBERS
UNTIL DECEMBER 2021**

Steve Ferguson
Amber VanSantford

UNTIL DECEMBER 2022

Lanny Ross
Ralph Petersen

District III VP

Bea Bull 360-286-7798
tbkbull@gmail.com

Region IX VP

Linda Silverio
503-391-2963
l.l.silverio.narfe@gmail.com

NARFE DIST IV WEBSITE

Webmaster – Bea Bull
www.narfewadistiv.org

NARFE STATE WEBSITE

www.narfewa.org

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

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D.C. Phone Number
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