



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

September 2021

NUMBER 07-21

General Meeting Date: September 13, 2021 Time: 1:00PM

**Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club
4109 West “E” Street, Bremerton, WA**

**Program: NARFE Centennial Video and Cake – We will
observe masking and social distancing protocol in
place on that date – please bring a mask.**

*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

13 September.....Membership Meeting

29 September.....Federation Annual Meeting

9 October.....Bremerton Alzheimer’s Walk

11 October.....Membership Meeting

3 November.....PSNS FEHB Plan Health Fair

8 November.....NARFE FEHB Plan Health Fair

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Summer is coming to a close but unfortunately COVID-19 restrictions are increasing due to the highly contagious Delta variant. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is in the process of determining when a booster shot will be recommended for those of us who have been vaccinated and encouraging those who have not been vaccinated to get the vaccine. Our Past Region IX Vice President, Rich Wilson, has been hospitalized with COVID-Pneumonia; he has lung inflammation and low oxygen levels. Our thoughts and prayers are with him!

In June's newsletter I reported that congress was debating the infrastructure spending package. Since then the Senate has passed their version of the spending package and now it is up to the House to pass theirs. They then get together and negotiate differences. I was told that the senate version has funds to help our state Department of Transportation with alleviating the "Gorst Bottleneck". I went to a Congressman Kilmer fundraiser in Tacoma earlier this month. At that meeting was Tim Thompson, the overseer to the local "Gorst Bottleneck" advocacy group. I submitted my name as a supporter of this group as president of Chapter 181.

As shown above, we plan to hold our regular September meeting; we'll show the NARFE Centennial video and have cake. We plan to host our November FEHB plan health fair (10:00AM – 1:00PM) but our traditional holiday luncheon is still questionable due to get-together restrictions.

This summer NARFE held a virtual LEGcon21. In this Zoom setting I was able to interact with my congressional district representative in Washington DC from my home. This setting enabled our representatives to understand specific challenges, needs, and concerns of attendees. This virtual platform also allowed me to learn the concerns of other NARFE members and provide evaluation feedback for what was considered a successful lobby day in Washington DC.

Unfortunately congress did not solve any of the issues in our NARFE Bill Tracker this past summer but the Senate agreed by a unanimous consent to congratulate NARFE on its 100th anniversary.

**WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION
ANNUAL GO-TO-MEETING
9:00AM – 29 September 2021**

The Washington State Federation (WSF) is holding a virtual Annual Meeting at 9:00AM on 29 September. You will learn what has transpired during this past year and what is coming up in the near future. National speakers will be: Jessica Klement, Staff Vice President, Policy and Programs, to provide a legislative advocacy update; and Dave Bowman, NARFE's Senior Director, Membership Development, who will talk about membership recruitment and retention with a focus on the new online community resource (FEDHub) to be released this fall.

If you previously registered for a federation event, you don't need to register again. New participants, please register on the federation website at narfewa.org. You will receive a link via email from our federation webmaster, Linda Wallers, a few days before the federation annual meeting.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

I sent the following email to Congressman Kilmer and both of our senators on 11 June 2021:

“When is the U.S. Senate going to address the cash shortfall projected by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) for the Social Security and Medicare programs?”

“Mr. Brian Riedl gave testimony to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, on January 28, 2020. Mr. Riedl is a Senior Fellow in Budget, Tax, & Economic Policy of The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research.

“Mr. Riedl reported that CBO projects Social Security and Medicare programs will run a combined \$103 TRILLION cash shortfall over the next 30 years.

“Program adjustments are immediately required to steer away from this looming avalanche of debt.”

Derek Kilmer and Maria Cantwell had similar responses, saying they will continue to support Social Security and Medicare, programs that recipients have paid for throughout their working careers.

The unfunded liabilities of Social Security and Medicare are truly staggering. Those liabilities lie in the shadow of our current \$28.6 trillion national debt. The infrastructure bill recently adopted by congress will add \$256 billion to the national debt over the next ten years per the CBO. The Build Back Better reconciliation bill of \$3.5 trillion will add another \$2 trillion of debt and adds dental, vision and hearing benefits to an already underwater Medicare program.

According to a TheFederalist.com article by John Lott dated August 19, 2021, “Last September, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicted the federal debt wouldn’t hit \$29 trillion until 2028. Just short of a year later, the national debt stands at \$28.6 trillion and is set to surpass \$29 trillion within weeks.”

Excessive federal debt fuels inflation and erodes the purchasing power of our life’s savings.

Editor’s Note: As of July 2021, the trend toward a 2022 COLA is 5.7 percent. The Consumer Price Index for August 2021 is scheduled to be released on 14 September. The official 2022 COLA will be released by the Social Security Administration in mid-October and is calculated by figuring the percent change between average prices in the third quarter of the current year (ending on Sept. 30) with the third quarter of the previous year.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Here we are, September is upon us, and it is time to write my newsletter article. I am excited that we will be having our first membership meeting since March 2020. Fortunately, our newsletters have been printed every month except July

and August and, between it and the *narfe* magazine, you should have continued to be informed of our local and national issues.

Because we do not issue a newsletter in July and August our membership report will be covering both of those months and, therefore, is a little longer than usual.

July report: Our chapter membership was at 474.

There were three members dropped in June for non-payment of dues: Melissa Gregory, David Kuehl and Aletta Weber. One member, Sheila Perez, will be dropped for non-payment of dues in August. Two members passed away in June: Earle Grogan and Laura Tory Keith; our sympathy to their families.

We had one new member, Kerry Stevens, in June and one member, Melissa Gregory, was reinstated. We hope that you will make the most of your memberships.

August report: We now have 470 members. Two members will be dropped for non-payment of dues in September if they have not renewed their membership: Gary Purbaugh and Leslie Ramy. One member, Dan Baker, was dropped for non-renewal. Two members passed away in July: Marley Brandt and Marion Fosness; our sympathy to their families.

We have one new chapter member this month, Norman Randall, and one new prospective member, Marjorie Sciulli. We hope that you will make the most of your memberships.

Seventeen members renewed their membership in July and fourteen members renewed this month; our thanks to all of you.

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.

Editor's Note: The second quarter membership report from the National office shows total NARFE membership (chapter and National Only) has fallen to 162,354; the YTD loss is 15,432 members with 13,224 of those lost to non-renewal.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

We have shuffled some titles around over the summer; I am now the Alzheimer's Chair and Lois Barber is our temporary Sunshine Chair.

In addition to the centennial video and cake, we'll have two sizes of fridge magnets for sale; they commemorate NARFE's 100 years of serving the federal community. The business-card size magnet is \$1.00 and the postcard-size magnet is \$2.00. Profits will be donated to Alzheimer's.

On 6 July I sent an email about the Alzheimer's Walk to all chapter members with an email address registered with the National office. Out of 238 emails, only 80 were opened. If you believe National has your email address but you didn't receive that message, you should contact the National office to update your email address.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for May through July was \$1,240.62 with expenditures of \$637.70. Our Net Worth as of 31 July was \$37,155.05. A Treasurer's report for August 2021 will be available at our September meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Bea Bull

The 2021 Bremerton Alzheimer's Walk is scheduled for 10:00AM on 9 October beginning on the Bremerton Boardwalk as in past years. You can go to the Alzheimer's Walk page on the District IV website to register to participate or to make a donation. Alzheimer's has given us a table at the event that Ralph Sanders and I will staff. We hope to see you there.

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 28 August 2021 is \$7.00 thanks to a donation from Bea Bull.

To make a tax deductible donation to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research fund please make your check payable to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research" and mail it to:

**Lorie Bennett, WSF Alzheimer's Chair
4310 S. Kingwood Street
Kennewick, WA 99337-5706**

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber for Amber VanSantford

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Janice Becker, Marion Fosness, Earle D. Grogan, Laura Tory Keith, Sandra Walz and William Yager. A sympathy card was sent to Myra Clodius in the loss of her daughter, Carol Fawver.

Get well cards were sent to Tom McCallum and Lanny Ross.

If you know of a chapter member in need of a little sunshine, please contact Lois at 360-297-2671 so we 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

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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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