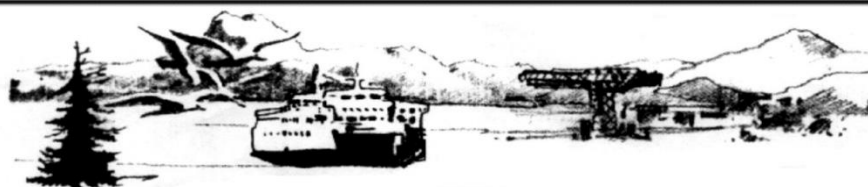


NARFE
FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

October 2021

NUMBER 08-21

General Meeting Date: October 11, 2021 Time: 1:00PM

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

**Program: Phil Cook, Kitsap County Assessor – 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

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

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

13 December.....Membership Meeting at WSIC

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Autumn leaves and pumpkins please! Summer is gone and we had our first actual chapter meeting in September since this pandemic started. We were able to give Myra Clodius her NARFE 100th birthday certificate from last

August. She is now 101! We also had a NARFE 100th birthday cake after the meeting and we gave Bea Bull, our chapter secretary, a bouquet of carnations for her diligent work keeping our chapter and our district afloat during the pandemic.

Last month I reported that our Past Region IX Vice President, Rich Wilson, was hospitalized for COVID-19. He has since passed away. Members who wish to donate to his installation into the Silver Circle at NARFE headquarters can donate to any officer for forwarding to our WSF president, Steven Roy. He is managing the memorial for our state. Derek Kilmer, our 6th Congressional District Representative, wrote a nice tribute for Rich. Midterm elections are still over a year away but NARFE-PAC is actively supporting fed-friendly candidates early this year. NARFE-PAC is helping them with a head start to accumulate a large incumbent war chest to ward off would-be challengers. So if you haven't contributed during this cycle yet, please do.

We will NOT have a Holiday Luncheon this year due to restrictions in place at The Willows. Instead we will hold a regular meeting at 1:00PM at the Westside Improvement Club. We WILL have our November Health Care Fair the morning of our November chapter meeting; the fair will open at 10:00AM with the 1:00PM program being the FEHB plan reps discussing their plans.

As for the \$1,000,000,000,000 (1 trillion dollars) infrastructure spending package that passed the senate last month, it is still being held up in the House of Representatives. Part of this money would assist our state to alleviate the Gorst bottleneck.

As for the inflation indicator, the CPI-W is at 5.9 percent inflation through August with one month to go to determine CSRS, Social Security, and FERS retirement income increases. The Equal COLA Act for FERS retirees is still held up in the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Our state's proposed redistricting of local legislative district boundaries is being developed with public input being solicited starting 5 October 2021. Commissioners have received public feedback to reduce the number of legislative districts for cities and areas of shared community interests. Bremerton is one of these, presently with three legislative districts.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

I did some quick math and see that July and August CPI-W values average 5.79 percent higher than last year's July, August and September average. The September CPI-W value, to be released on Wednesday, 13 October, will probably pull the average up to 5.9 percent for our Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) making for a noticeable monthly annuity increase. What isn't noticeable is the loss in value of savings you maintain in the bank.

I sent this email to Congressman Kilmer on 30 August:

“The Congressional Budget Office, in testimony to the U.S. Senate, January of 2020, projects that Medicare will experience a \$44 trillion cash shortfall over the next 30 years.

- 1) How will the projected cash shortfall be remedied?
- 2) Is advocating the addition of vision, dental and hearing coverage to Medicare prudent considering Medicare is vastly underfunded already?”

I have not received an answer from his office. I consider no answer to be an answer. Congress continues (this has been the case for decades) to not have the political will to address massive Medicare and Social Security funding shortfalls. It is like a slow-moving train approaching a collapsed bridge. The engineer(s) will not apply the brakes and the passengers aren't saying a word.

It is impossible to create a funding solution that will yield popular public support. Any solution will provide some level of pain. The most painful solution of all will be to continue to do nothing until the train crashes to the bottom of the ravine.

Years ago, I was seeing large private companies fail and pensioners losing their pensions. (Actually, the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation stepped in and now provides at least a part of that person's pension). I have to laugh at myself now because I was thinking, at the time, how lucky I was because my retirement was as solid as the U.S. Government. Yep, now I am rethinking what I was thinking.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

This will be a very short report, a lot of meat and few potatoes.

There are presently 465 members in Bremerton Chapter 0181. There were three members due in May and dropped in the month of September: Carol Ann Eversol, Gary Purbaugh and Leslie Ramey. There are no members to be dropped in October.

We have one new prospective member, Larry Marquez. Larry, we hope that you will join our chapter soon.

Nineteen members have renewed their membership this month; thanks to all of you.

If you're moving south for the winter, please remember to update your mailing address.

If you have questions regarding NARFE or Bremerton Chapter 0181, please contact any one of our board members listed on the back of this newsletter. We will have a meeting in October; please call or email any of us at any time.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

John Burch and Ralph Petersen

It's time again to elect chapter officers as follows: President, vice president, secretary, treasurer, sergeant-at-arms and two executive board members.

The following officers will run again but welcome some competition: President Bill Powers, Vice President Ralph Sanders, Secretary Bea Bull, Treasurer Rex Tauscher, Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Fuhrmeister.

Executive board members Steve Ferguson and Amber VanSantford are stepping down; please consider running for one of these open positions. You would need to attend executive board meetings the Wednesday prior to membership meeting.

Please contact John Burch or Ralph Petersen or come to the October meeting when we will take nominations from the floor.

PROGRAMS

OCTOBER – Phil Cook, Kitsap County Assessor will discuss how property taxes are determined, ways senior citizens might be able to reduce their taxes, and answer questions.

NOVEMBER – NARFE FEHB plan health fair. Doors will open at 10:00AM so you can meet with your plan reps. At 1:00PM, reps will present their plans. There will be a poster on the district website that you can print and distribute around the community.

DECEMBER – Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Holiday Luncheon is canceled. We will hold a regular meeting at 1:00PM at the Westside Improvement Club. We will ask Mayor Wheeler to be our speaker.

PSNS FEHB PLAN HEALTH FAIR

3 November 2021 – 7:00AM – 5:00PM

Location: Kitsap Conference Center Ballrooms at Bremerton Harborside, 100 Washington Avenue. If you park in the parking garage under the conference center, there is usually a special “event” rate.

OTHER FEHB PLAN HEALTH FAIRS

Many in-person FEHB plan health fairs have been canceled again this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Following is a list of locations that WILL hold in-person health fairs:

Naval Undersea Warfare, Keyport* – Mon, 1 Nov and Tue, 2 Nov, 11:30AM – 3:30PM.

Upper Base, Bangor* – Thu, 4 Nov, 9:30AM – 11:30AM.

Lower Base, Bangor – Thu, 4 Nov, 1:00PM – 3:00PM. Building 7000.

JBLM, Tacoma* – Tue, Wed and Fri the week of 15 Nov.

NARFE, Sequim – Wednesday, 24 November, 11:30AM – 1:00PM. Big Elk Restaurant, 707 E. Washington St., Sequim.

***Contact Bea Bull for specific location(s).**

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Be wary of phishing emails and texts! If an email account is compromised, scammers may try to send fake emails to names on that email contacts list. Posing as that person, they will try to obtain personal information from those contacts. The emails LOOK like they come from someone you know; vague wording asks for assistance or says they'll be back in touch shortly. You should immediately delete these. If you're not sure, contact the person by phone or a new email thread to see if they really sent that email. If they didn't, it means their email account has been compromised.

If you text, there have been phishing texts that are addressed to the "wrong person" stating they've won something and providing a link to claim the prize. Delete the text and select the option to block the number from which it came.

Federation Reporter – the 2021 edition is out and available on the LINKS/PUBLICATIONS tab on the district website, or pick up a hard copy at the October meeting.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for August was \$499.75 with expenditures of \$20.35. Our Net Worth as of 31 August was \$37,903.49. A Treasurer's report for September 2021 will be available at our October meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Bea Bull

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 25 September 2021 is \$60.00 thanks to a donations from Loraine Brockerman, John Burch and Carolyn Minder.

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

A sympathy card was sent to Christine Wilson in the loss of her husband, Past Region IX V.P. Rich Wilson.

A get well card was sent to Don Palmer.

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

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

**OUR ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVES**

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Tacoma Phone Number
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D.C. Phone Number
202-224-2621
www.murray.senate.gov

Senator Maria Cantwell
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