

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

December 2021

NUMBER 10-21

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

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

**Program: Bremerton Mayor Wheeler Will Provide a State of
the City Report and Federation President Steve Roy
Will Install Chapter Officers.**

*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 December..... Membership Meeting & Open Season Ends

10 January..... Membership Meeting

14 February..... Membership Meeting

13 March..... Membership Meeting

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

This past year we have managed to get through the COVID-19 restrictions and started meetings again. Hopefully the new South African strain of this virus, omicron, won't affect the us.

With the November election, our slate of officers is good for another two years. I want to thank our officers for donating their time and give a “thank you” to those attending our chapter meetings since we returned to in-person meetings. I also want to thank Congressman Kilmer for his support and attendance at Zoom meetings.

We won't have a holiday luncheon this year due to COVID-19 restrictions but will have Mayor Wheeler report about the city of Bremerton. The city has had several good changes in the past year that he will be happy to talk about. Also, Steve Roy, president of our Washington State Federation, will install our 2022/2023 slate of officers.

With the federal government's infrastructure package signed into law, we will schedule a speaker to report on the Gorst corridor resolution when plans to alleviate the traffic have begun to coalesce. We will probably invite Tim Thompson of the Gorst Coalition. (Editor's Note: I would like to assemble a panel of speakers consisting of a representative from the Gorst Coalition, Mayor Wheeler, Congressman Kilmer or his representative, and state senator, Emily Randall, or her representative.)

As reported last month, hopefully congress can exert some serious effort toward postal reform after resolving Biden's social spending package. NARFE is favorable toward the USPS Fairness Act which will eliminate some of the biggest challenges USPS faces and shore up its finances.

NARFE now gives retirees who donate monthly (sustainers) to NARFE-PAC the option to switch to annuity withholding. OPM operates the annuity withholding process. After completing a form for NARFE, members can sign up for and manage their contributions through their OPM Retirement Services Online account. OPM will then withhold your monthly contribution on the first of each month and send it to NARFE-PAC; the contribution will be noted on each annuity statement.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Steve Ferguson here.

This is newsletter article #66 from me, and my final article as I'm stepping down as your legislative chair.

So much for me saying Medicare premiums would increase about \$5 per month in last month's newsletter; I missed that by a factor of four. The premium will increase to \$170.10 per month.

I am looking forward to a response from Congressman Kilmer's office on this letter:

"In regard to H.R. 5376 (Build Back Better), the Congressional Budget Office scores it as adding \$376 billion to the national debt over the next 10 years.

"H.R. 5376 expands social program expenses. The U.S. Government's Consolidated Financial Statements of September 30, 2020 report the government owns \$102 trillion in liabilities and unfunded promises. Social Security and Medicare account for \$65 trillion of that amount.

"Why did you vote to expand social spending when the U.S. Government does not appear to have a plan to pay for existing obligations? Thank you."

I am concerned because my retirement check is paid by the same government that owns the vast liabilities described above. Are you concerned?

H.R. 5376 spends over \$200 billion on green energy. Germany made a superb attempt at converting to green energy to reduce their carbon footprint at the cost of hundreds of billions of Euros. They did not reduce their carbon footprint but they did increase consumer energy costs by 50 percent from 2006-2017. Green energy costs to the consumer are forecast to increase indefinitely.

France, on the other hand, has consumer energy costs 41 percent less than their German neighbor. France is 72 percent nuclear powered. Germany has

been leaning hard on France to increase wind and solar. Consequently, energy costs in France are on the rise.

What is our nation going to do differently that will yield a green success story? Or do we need to budget for immensely more expensive electricity as inflation soars?

Our region is forecast to experience electrical supply shortages in the near term. I am investing in an energy efficient wood stove now. It will be a lot of work but at least I'll have a source of heat if the lights go out.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Here we are in Thanksgiving week, ready to record our history for November 2021. The chapter staffed a table at the shipyard health fair, held on 3 November. On 8 November, the chapter held their monthly meeting in conjunction with our own health fair for those who could not make it to the shipyard health fair. Also, we held elections for a new slate of chapter officers; amazingly, our 2022/2023 officers look a lot like our 2020/2021 officers. Many of the present officers have served for some period and would like to have, and deserve, a much-needed break. As an example, Myra Clodius, now 101 years old, served this board for longer than I care to remember. Please consider volunteering for an open position.

There are presently 460 members in Bremerton Chapter 181. There were no members dropped in October; one member, Richard Lee, was dropped in November for nonpayment of dues. Member Melissa Gregory will be dropped in December if she has not paid her dues.

There was one prospective member, Leslie Shea, listed for October. We hope to see you join our chapter.

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.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The following officers will be installed:

President – Bill Powers

Vice President – Ralph Sanders

Secretary – Bea Bull

Treasurer – Rex Tauscher

Sergeant-at-Arms – Bill Fuhrmeister

Executive Board Member Position 1 – John Burch

We need another executive board member and continue to look for volunteers for chaplain and the membership and legislative chair positions.

NARFE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Check out the November *NARFE magazine* page 68 for recruiting ideas, and search “Membership Drive” on the National website for the list of prizes.

NARFE NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Candidate statements will appear in the May 2022 *NARFE Magazine* and online voting will go live on July 15, 2022.

NARFE-PAC

Bea Bull for Lanny Ross

NARFE is encouraging members to switch to annuity withholding for NARFE-PAC donations because credit card companies charge NARFE a transaction fee for each donation made.

Please consider becoming a Sustainer; this provides NARFE-PAC with a steady flow of funds that they can rely upon. And, if you already are, please consider switching to an annuity withholding.

FEHB PLAN WARNING

Some of the HMO plan self-plus-one premiums are higher than self-and-family this year. If you have a Kaiser or Aetna self-plus-one plan, PLEASE be sure to check your premium rate!

PROGRAMS

JANUARY – Kami Freke and Netti Martini, Community Relations Directors from Fieldstone Communities, will talk about preparing for independent, assisted or memory care living.

POSSIBLE SPEAKERS IN 2022 - Mendy Harlow, Executive Director, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group; a panel to report on the Gorst bypass. If anyone has program ideas, please contact Bea.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Calendar Contest – See the November *NARFE magazine* page 68 for contest rules.

2022 Scholarship Program – Open to children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of NARFE members; see November *NARFE magazine* page 70 and the SCHOLARSHIP tab on the district website for instructions.

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.

Fridge magnets - We still have fridge magnets available (business card size for \$1.00 and postcard size for \$2.00); profits will be donated to Alzheimer's.

Logins – It's time again to log into your OPM, TSP and Social Security accounts to keep your logins active.

Calendar insert – Please save the insert so you know when meetings will be held and how to contact your chapter officers and chairs.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for October was \$502.82 with expenditures of \$522.60. Our Net Worth as of 31 October was \$38,998.07. A Treasurer's report for November 2021 will be available at our December meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Bea Bull

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 27 November 2021 is \$138.00. Thank you to DeAnna Gossett, Ralph Petersen and Linda Sanders for their donations.

Following are the two 2021 research grants receiving funds from NARFE Alzheimer's donations:

Pablo Martinez Contreras, Ph.D. – Role of Bassoon in Tau Pathophysiology and Propagation; and Yi-Chen Hsieh, PhD. – The Ubiquitin-Proteasome System in the Degradation of Tau in Alzheimer's Disease Neurons.

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

We are happy to report that no one needed sunshine this month.

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

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powersw@silverlink.net

**VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

**SECRETARY
NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bea Bull

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Rex Tauscher

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Steve Ferguson

NARFE-PAC CHAIR

Lanny Ross

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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
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CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/narfechap181>

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:

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P.O. Box 45
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