



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

January 2022

NUMBER 01-22

General Meeting Date: January 10, 2022 Time: 1:00PM

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

**Program: Kami Freke & Nettie Martini – Transitioning to
Independent, Assisted or Memory Care Living.
Gary Floring – What Medicare Does & Doesn't
Cover**

*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

- 14 February.....Membership Meeting**
- 14 March.....Membership Meeting**
- 11 April.....Membership Meeting**

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Winter has set in, and so has the COVID-19 omicron variant, and inflation. As for the weather, it will be colder than usual for a few weeks and we have seen some unusually high tides. For the expected hospital surge of the COVID-19 omicron variant, there will be a new omicron-targeting antibody available from Glaxo-SmithKline in the spring to help with those infusions presently available. Inflation is not expected to disappear quite as quickly. The federal reserve is going to raise interest rates. This will happen incrementally, probably quarterly, throughout 2022. So, the word is, "Dump that debt!" The Fed's move is going to increase costs for borrowers. Surprisingly stock market performance has been very good. So don't succumb to short term stock market volatility as long as more people are working and consumers are spending.

At our December meeting Mayor Wheeler said he is looking forward to our newsletter editor's proposal to assemble a panel of speakers for a spring membership program concerning the Gorst bottleneck. This would give our members and guests a chance to see and hear what resolutions are being proposed to alleviate traffic. The federal infrastructure package has been signed into law and this bill has funds to assist the state's Gorst corridor problem.

Having carrot cake with coffee after our general membership meeting seems to be a big hit, so I will continue to provide it or something similar as long as it fits our budget. Also having small cakes as additional prizes for the drawing continues to be a hit. So keep buying those tickets.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

NARFE-PAC SUSTAINERS

Switch to Annuity Withholding via Two Phone Calls

Step one: Call OPM at 1-888-767-6738 to set up annuity withholding for NARFE-PAC contributions.

Step two: Call the NARFE advocacy department at 1-800-456-8410, option 3. Tell them you've registered with OPM for annuity withholding and they will end your credit card payment.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WSF President Steve Roy

We still have one more year left in the 117th Congress. As such, NARFE Grassroots Advocacy is key to our legislative successes. I encourage you to stay turned by signing up for NARFE's weekly *Newsline* email and frequently visiting NARFE's Legislative Action Center at the following link:

<https://www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/>

There are currently two pieces of Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) legislation that we need our congressional representatives to co-sponsor:

H.R. 5834 – Support the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2021

Introduced in the House by Rep. Kevin Brady, R-TX, this is the latest bill that would provide financial relief to more than 1.9 million Social Security beneficiaries affected by the WEP.

For individuals who are first eligible for Social Security benefits before 2023 (turning age 62 before 2023): Under the bill, individuals receiving WEP-reduced Social Security benefits based on their own work record would receive a payment of \$100 per month. Meanwhile, spousal and child beneficiaries receiving a WEP-reduced Social Security benefit would receive a payment of \$50 each month.

For individuals who are first eligible for benefits between 2023 and 2060 (turning age 62 in 2023 through 2061): These individuals' WEP penalty would be subject to either a new formula created by the bill or the current formula, whichever is more beneficial. The new formula would calculate benefits based on the proportion of a worker's career earnings in Social Security-covered jobs to total earnings in covered and non-covered jobs.

For individuals who are eligible for benefits starting in 2062 (age 21 and under in 2021): These individuals' WEP penalty would be calculated with the new formula only.

H.R. 4788 – Support the Wellbeing for Every Public Servant Act

This legislation would fully repeal the WEP for retirees with a combined non-Social Security covered annuity and Social Security benefits of \$5,500 and lower. For those with benefits above \$5,500, the WEP repeal gradually phases

out, and for combined incomes at \$6,333 and above the WEP penalty is fully applied.

To date, no congressional representatives from Washington State have co-sponsored these pieces of legislation. I urge you to contact them by either using the NARFE Legislative Action Center on the National website to write a letter; or by calling the NARFE Legislative Hot Line at 800-456-8410 option 5. Follow the prompts to reach your congressional representative.

MEMBERSHIP

Ralph Sanders

Here I am writing a report for the January 2022 newsletter. Our chapter's mistakes and successes for 2021 are in the history book. We have a brand-new year to work with and I am certain that mistakes will be made and success will be ours. The Washington State Federation and our new District III have good direction. It is my hope that the Bremerton chapter, along with others, will support their plans and leadership. At the end of the day we, you and I, are the organization called NARFE.

Now for the membership report. There were no members dropped in December for non-renewal. One member, Melissa Gregory, will be dropped in January if she has not paid her dues. Two members are deceased in December: Mary Gisselberg and Victor Siegel. Our condolences to the families.

We currently have a total chapter membership of 457 members. Three members have had their membership reinstated: Gary Floring, Gary Martell and Thomas Woodell. Thank you for coming back. We have eight prospective members: Gary Apache, Brian Blair, Michael Irby, Michael Krebs, John Laird, Mike Nelson, Pam Parris, and Jeffrey Pavlicek. Thanks to all of you for your interest in NARFE and I hope you join our chapter. A total of nineteen members renewed their membership this month. Thank you for your renewal.

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.

NARFE NATIONAL ELECTIONS

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

PROGRAMS

COMING SOON – An attorney to discuss topics of interest to our members. Please contact Bea if there is something in particular you'd like to learn. A panel to report on the Gorst bypass.

MAY 2022 – Whitney McDaniel, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Calendar Contest – See the November *NARFE magazine* page 68 for contest rules. The deadline to submit your entries is 28 February 2022.

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. The deadline to apply is 3:00PM Eastern Time, Thursday, 22 March 2022.

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 next 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.

F-100 Be Prepared for Life's Events – I have five copies; call me if you need one, or pick one up at the next meeting.

SAVE THE DATE

FEDcon22 – Learn – Advocate – Lead

August 21-23, 2022

Westin Kierland Resort & Spa

Scottsdale, Arizona

Registration for the NARFE National 2022 conference begins in January.

HELP WANTED

The federation is looking for volunteers for the following positions; contact Bea for more information.

Membership recruiting – Do you have recruiting ideas for increasing membership? You would work with chapters to implement recruitment plans.

Membership retention – Sometimes all members need is a little reminder or a phone call to renew their membership. You would help chapters develop methods for retaining their members.

National Legislative Coordinator – You would keep up-to-date on current NARFE-supported legislation and share that knowledge with chapters.

NARFE-PAC Coordinator – You would encourage chapters to solicit donations and promote grass-roots advocacy.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for November was \$363.25 with expenditures of \$569.29. Our Net Worth as of 30 November was \$37,639.60. A Treasurer's report for December 2021 will be available at our January meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Bea Bull

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 25 December 2021 is \$203.00. Thank you to Loraine Brockerman, DeAnna Gossett, Don Palmer, Ralph Petersen, Ralph Sanders and Rex Tauscher for their donations.

Several credible sources in a Google search report that part of the reason for the large Medicare Part B premium increase is to help cover the cost of the new Alzheimer's medication, Aduhelm. This drug is an infusion, administered via an IV, and, therefore, is covered under part B.

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

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Mary Gisselberg and Victor Siegel.

A "thank you" card was sent to Steve Ferguson for all the years he served as our legislative chair.

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

Vacant

NARFE-PAC CHAIR

Lanny Ross

SERGEANT AT ARMS

William Fuhrmeister

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

WSF SERVICE OFFICER

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

EX BD MEMBERS

UNTIL DECEMBER 2023

John Burch

Vacant

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

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:

Office of Personnel Management
Retirement Operations Center
P.O. Box 45
Boyers, PA 16017

**OUR ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVES**

Senator Patty Murray
950 Pacific Avenue #650
Tacoma, WA 98402
Tacoma Phone Number
253-572-3636
D.C. Phone Number
202-224-2621
www.murray.senate.gov

Senator Maria Cantwell
915 – 2nd Avenue, Ste 3206
Seattle, WA 98174
Seattle Phone Number
206-220-6400
D.C. Phone Number
202-224-3441
www.cantwell.senate.gov

Congressman Derek Kilmer
345 – 6th St., Suite 500
Bremerton, WA 98337
Bremerton Phone Number 360-
373-9725
D.C. Phone Number
202-225-5916
<http://kilmer.house.gov>