

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

March is NARFE-PAC month. Consider contributing either at our regular membership meeting, online via NARFE's website, or through the mail using the form in our March *NARFE Magazine* on page 27. We will have basic NARFE-PAC lapel pins available at our March membership meeting. Your support helps prepare our legislative and political affairs staff to beat back attempts to break promises made to current federal employees and retirees. Smaller cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) and higher health insurance costs as mentioned in last month's newsletter are examples.

NARFE-PAC also sent me to a Tacoma fund raising event last summer for our Sixth Congressional District Representative, Derek Kilmer. Derek is a fed-friendly lawmaker. He is the sponsor of the Federal Retirement Fairness Act, see the NARFE "Bill Tracker" in our March magazine on page 14.

Concerning the Russian invasion of Ukraine, this is a big deal. It will probably sideline a lot of our current legislative efforts. The most immediately noticeable effect, other than our daily news, will be inflation. Ukraine is a major producer of wheat and corn; it is a major supplier of precious metals for industry; and, of course, events there impact the price of oil which is now over \$100 a barrel. Expect inflation to hit 10 percent for 2022.

Our March membership meeting has Derek Kilmer scheduled to attend and be our speaker. So mark your calendar and attend our meeting to get an up-to-the-moment status from our own congressional representative.

NARFE NATIONAL ELECTIONS

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

WASHINGTON STATE FEDERATION ELECTIONS

Voting will be electronic but you can obtain a paper ballot from Bea Bull by calling 360-286-7798.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

V. P. Ralph Sanders

Last month I stated that we would talk about some legislative issues, and we will. I have found, somewhat to my embarrassment, that I have not stayed current on all of the issues. Everything that I will cover here is found in the *NARFE Magazine* “Bill Tracker”.

H.R. 4351 “Fair Cola for Seniors Act” requires Social Security and federal retirement programs to use the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) to calculate cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to retirement benefits. We have found that CPI-E has always been higher because the basket of goods used to compute the rate is more accurate for seniors than for the CPI-W.

The other issue I would like to address is the inability of Congress to pass timely appropriations bills, specifically the fiscal year 2022 appropriations legislation. Back when I joined NARFE and began tracking legislation, it was a rule made by Congress that this legislation would be passed no later than 1 October of the previous year, e.g., the start of the fiscal year. At the present time the schedule is for 11 March 2022.

Some call this “kicking the can down the road”. Regardless, it leaves the federal government, seven months into a fiscal year, without an updated spending plan. This is not a good way to run a government.

MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS

V. P. Ralph Sanders

Now for the membership report. We have a total chapter membership of 447 supporting members. There were three members dropped in February for non-renewal: Deborah Gates, Melissa Gregory and Charles Ryan. If you know any of these folks, please urge them to renew their membership.

We have two new prospective members on board this month: Derek Arthur and William Kilfoyle. Welcome and we hope you will join NARFE and, perhaps, Chapter 181.

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.

COLA UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

The CPI-W increased 0.865 percent in January 2022, which is up 2.933 percent from the Jul/Aug/ Sep, 2021 average of 268.42066 percent. Thank you, Steve, for the update!

FEDcon22 SCHOLARSHIP

The federation approved the reimbursement of registration fees for attending FEDcon22. This includes attending virtually if NARFE National offers that option. Contact federation president, Steve Roy, for more information. Cell: 425-344-3926 – email stevenroy1@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE

FEDcon22 – Learn – Advocate – Lead

August 21–23, 2022

Westin Kierland Resort & Spa

Scottsdale, Arizona

Watch for registration to begins at fedcon.narfe.org.

HELP WANTED

The chapter is looking for volunteers to fill two elected positions (treasurer and an executive board member) and three appointed positions (membership chair, legislative chair and program chair). Please contact Bea for information.

FEDERATION ELECTIONS

The federation is looking for nominees for all elected positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the District III V.P. Contact the District III Nominating Committee member Bill Powers for more information or to nominate someone for a position.

PROGRAMS

11 APRIL – Kitsap County Division of Aging & Long Term Care.

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

13 JUNE – League of Women Voters.

12 SEPTEMBER – A panel to report on the Gorst bypass. Invited speakers are: Congressman Kilmer (tentatively confirmed); State Senator Randall (confirmation pending); Bremerton Mayor Wheeler (confirmed); and Gorst Coalition members Commissioner Strakeljahn (confirmed) and a representative from Naval Base Kitsap (confirmed).

Please help us advertise this event so we have a good audience!

10 OCTOBER – Perhaps someone to discuss decluttering, though that’s more of a spring-cleaning topic.

14 NOVEMBER – FEHB plan health fair.

12 DECEMBER – COVID-willing, Holiday Luncheon.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

According to the AARP website, not all the usual Kitsap County **TAX AIDE SITES** are available this year and those that are, are “drop-off only”. Go to <https://taxaide.aarpfoundation.org/> or contact Bea for updates.

2022 Scholarship Program – Open to children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of NARFE members; visit the SCHOLARSHIP tab on the district website for instructions. The deadline to apply is 3:00PM Eastern Time, Thursday, 22 March 2022.

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

F-100 Be Prepared for Life's Events – I have 10 copies; call or email me if you need one, or pick one up at the next meeting.

Compass & Clock – Do you have an interesting life story or a good experience with a product or service you'd like to share with others? Share it with Mary Coupland at: compassandclockmc@gmail.com

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for January was \$601.12 with expenditures of \$391.43. Our Net Worth as of 31 January was \$37,760.33. A Treasurer's report for February 2022 will be available at our March meetings.

We will conduct our annual financial audit on 9 March prior to the executive board meeting.

ALZHEIMER'S (ALZ)

Bea Bull

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 26 February 2022 is \$45.00. Thank you to Dorothy Carter, DeAnna Gossett and Linda Sanders for their donations.

Donation checks were received from Loraine Brockerman and Don Palmer and forwarded to WSF Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie Bennett. Thank you Loraine and Don. Also sent to Lorie was a Chapter 181 check in the amount of \$203.00.

Bill Powers will take an online Alzheimer's class in March and write a report for the April newsletter.

The Alzheimer's Association is pressing the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide more encompassing coverage for the Biogen drug, Aduhelm. Recall that CMS proposed only covering patients enrolled in clinical trials. There is also the letter to the CMS signed 39 congressional representatives asking CMS to reverse the Medicare Part B premium increase for 2022. We continue to watch how this will turn out.

To make a tax deductible donation to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research fund please make your check payable to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research", write Chapter 181 on the notation line, and mail it to:

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

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

No cards were sent out this past 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

PRESIDENT

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powersw@silverlink.net

**VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

**SECRETARY
NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bea Bull

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Vacant

NARFE-PAC CHAIR

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UNTIL DECEMBER 2022

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Ralph Petersen

UNTIL DECEMBER 2023

John Burch

Vacant

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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
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