



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

May 2022

NUMBER 05-22

General Meeting Date: May 9, 2022

Time: 1:00PM

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

**Program: Whitney McDaniel, Education & Outreach
Coordinator, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement
Group, Will Discuss Current Projects and Why You
Should Visit the Salmon Center in Belfair**

*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

May is Older Americans Month.....

21 May.....Armed Forces Day Parade

13 June.....Membership Meeting

12 September.....Membership Meeting

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Our congressman, Derek Kilmer, had an online Town Hall meeting in April that I attended in listen-only mode. He had a very good turnout with call-in and computer online message questioning. He included questions from various areas in our congressional district including Bremerton and Port Orchard.

He went over the \$1.9 trillion 2021 America Rescue Plan, also known as the COVID-19 stimulus package, which gave relief to families and boosted the economy; and the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that is to be spent over the next eight years. He covered specific items for our congressional district in this bill, such as portable housing for homeless in Tacoma, flood protection in the Grays Harbor area, downtown Bremerton Quincy Square development, planning for the Gorst bottleneck, and jobs in the hilltop area of Tacoma.

Congressman Kilmer commented on the funding formula for highways and bridges from the infrastructure bill for our state and said that, architecturally, our state got a C- engineering grade. He mentioned how rural areas in our district do not have high speed internet and that part of the infrastructure package goes toward broadband.

He briefly discussed Title 42 immigration policy. This expulsion policy is used to block border crossing by asylum seekers citing COVID-19 concerns. He says they need to reduce processing backlog and address root causes in Central America. He addressed the H-1B visa program for high tech workers. The Biden administration allowed the H-1B suspension of high-tech workers to expire.

He briefly covered the supplemental \$13.6 billion spending bill for defense assistance to Ukraine, including training and use of equipment.

He also covered student loan debt. He does not think they should be forgiven but thinks that federal Pell grants for financial aid should be doubled and tied to inflation. He also thinks that student loans should be refinanced.

Congressman Kilmer was sympathetic about gasoline prices but only commented about the federal petroleum reserve usage and oil company price gouging.

Have a happy Mother's Day!

THE POSTAL REFORM ACT

President Bill Powers

In our February newsletter we published an article, “Our Troubled United States Postal Service (USPS)”, that outlined postal reform proposals facing legislators. Our April newsletter announced the final passage into law of the Postal Reform Act. This month we are reviewing this historical legislation that puts the postal service on a path toward financial stability and stops further atrophy in service to millions of customers.

This reform has been 15 years in the making since the prefunding mandate was established in 2006. The mandate required the postal service to prefund 100 percent of retirees’ health benefit liabilities. This automatically put the postal service finances into the red at a cost of \$5.5 billion a year. The Postal Reform Act eliminated the mandate and restored the pay-as-you-go system.

The Act also covered three other items, the first being the need to ensure six-day delivery, and that letter mail will remain combined with package delivery into one postal network. This will help capture projected package growth in the future.

Second, the legislation brings much needed transparency to postal operations. For this the postal service will set up a dashboard on their website. The public and postal union can then monitor service failures and pinpoint ZIP codes experiencing diminished performance. One item of common complaint is flats (large envelopes).

Third, is maximizing participation in Medicare. Medicare integration is required because it is the only way to capture savings. There will be a special postal group established for retired postal employees over age 65 in the Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) program. Retirees will be required to sign up for Medicare Part B and make their FEHB plan a secondary insurance. Roughly 80 percent of previous retirees have already joined Medicare Part B.

This legislation protects and strengthens the people’s public postal services with bipartisan passage. It is a victory for postal workers and the communities they serve.

MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS

V. P. Ralph Sanders

In February the Postal Reform Act was signed into law. This legislation was good for postal and federal workers alike.

There is a proposal, H.R. 6398, in Congress that would provide federal employees a 4.1 percent pay raise plus a 1 percent increase in locality pay. Pay raises are not a Cost of Living (COLA) adjustment for employees. COLAs are intended to help retirees' annuities keep pace with inflation. You may want to read more about this in the April *NARFE Magazine*.

Now for the membership report. Total chapter membership is 448. Three members were dropped for non-renewal: Donna Aubel, Janet Wagner and Paul Whittaker. If you know these folks, please urge them to reinstate their membership. Two members passed away: Harvey Hubert and Don Smyth. Our condolences to their families.

We have one new member, James Brooks and one member transferred in from the closed E. Lake Washington chapter, Charles Walters. There are forty new prospective members: Corey Barney, Barbara Bishop, Nicole Blackwood, Brian Boisjolie, Terry Brooks, Scott Carlson, Hilary Taylor Chiasson, Joshua Connors, Stan Conrad, Melinda Craig, Jessica Crist, Michael Daskow, Ramil Delacruz, Russell Farber, Matt Fassel, Katie Haas, Denise Hansen, Bryan Harman, Mark Henricksen, Nathan Janssen, Kody Jones, Joshua Krause, Angel Leon, Max Maxfield, Carrie Myers, Jason O'Connor, Nicholas Roberts, David Rock, Brittany Schmidt, James Schmidt, Ed Schott, Leslie Severson, Mark Sinclair, Joshua Steagall, Joseph Susulco, Nicole Taylor, John Tschida, Prince Anthony Tubio and Jeannie Williams. Thank you for giving NARFE a look. For the rest of you, if you recognize a name, please encourage them to join.

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 1.517 percent in March 2022, which is up 5.49 percent from the Jul/Aug/Sep, 2021 average of 268.42066.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

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

FEDcon 22 Scholarship – FEDcon22 will be held August 21-23 at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, AZ. Register at fedcon.narfe.org.

The federation will reimburse ALL members in good standing (dues are up-to-date) \$190.00 to cover the registration fee **AND** up to \$750.00 for airfare, hotel, and out-of-pocket expenses upon receipt of the Washington State Federation Form F-1 and relevant receipts. Members must attend all sessions. Contact federation president, Steve Roy, at 425-344-3926 or stevenroy1@comcast.net for more 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 District III Nominating Committee member, Bill Powers, for more information or to nominate someone for a position.

Voting will be electronic; you will receive an email invitation to vote so please be sure National has your current email address. You can obtain a paper ballot from Bea Bull by calling 360-286-7798.

Older Americans Month – This is now a series of virtual events beginning 17 May 2022. Go to <https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/Aging-Landing.aspx> and click on the word “here” under Events Calendar to register.

2022 Walk to End Alzheimer’s – The Walk will be at the Silverdale Waterfront Park this year on 10 September. Start time has yet to be determined.

PROGRAMS

13 JUNE – League of Women Voters.

12 SEPTEMBER –Gorst bypass panel discussion.

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

10 OCTOBER – Paul Andrews, Kitsap County Auditor, will explain Rank Choice Voting (RCV).

14 NOVEMBER – FEHB plan health fair.

12 DECEMBER – Hopefully, Holiday Luncheon.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for March was negative \$455.46* with expenditures of \$236.81. Our Net Worth as of 31 March was \$36,904.41. A Treasurer's report for April 2022 will be available at our April meetings.

*Negative income is due to a 1st quarter drop in the value of the chapter life trust account in the amount of \$881.75.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

Thank you to Lois and Stan Barber, Bea Bull, DeAnna Gossett and Rex Tauscher for their donations. Loraine Brockerman's donation check was mailed to WSF Alzheimer's Coordinator Lorie Bennett. Thank you Loraine!

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**

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Secretary Bea Bull

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services are standing by their decision to restrict coverage for Aduhelm to people enrolled in a clinical trial. There is

nothing yet on the request by Congress to revisit the large increase in Medicare premiums.

A new Alzheimer's patch, Adlarity, won approval from the Food and Drug Administration. Administered once a week, it delivers doses of donepezil, the most prescribed Alzheimer's medication for treating mild, moderate or severe Alzheimer's dementia.

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

Sympathy cards sent to the families of Harvey Hubert and Don Smyth and a greeting card was sent to Anthony Roozen who will celebrate his 104th birthday in October.

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

CHAPLAIN

Lyn Damshen

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

WSF SERVICE OFFICER

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

EX BD MEMBERS

UNTIL DECEMBER 2022

Lanny Ross

Ralph Petersen

UNTIL DECEMBER 2023

John Burch

2nd Position Vacant

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>