



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION, BREMERTON CHAPTER 181**
P.O. Box 4514, Bremerton, WA 98312-0392

December 2022

NUMBER 10-22

General Meeting Date & Time: December 12, 2022 1:00PM

Meeting Place: Bremerton Elks Lodge, 4131 Pine Rd NE, Bremerton, WA

**Program: Holiday Luncheon and Installation of Officers
Mayor Wheeler Will Provide an Update on What's Happening in Bremerton**

NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivor.

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

9 January.....Membership Meeting

13 February.....Membership Meeting

13 March.....Membership Meeting



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

The elections are over and the 117th Congress 2nd session only has two and a half weeks left before the Christmas/New Year break. When the House of Representatives reconvenes for the 118th Congress, they will have new leadership. This present lame-duck session probably will not address any of our "Bill Tracker" items; instead, they will address pertinent items needed to keep our government functioning.

The Federal Reserve will continue to raise the federal funds rate, the basic interest rate banks use in order to slow inflation. This quickly affects the housing market which is interest rate sensitive and will affect housing for months to come. Their goal is to decrease inflation down to approximately 2 percent, which is what it was for years during our economic growth.

However, board members are concerned that price pressures are becoming embedded in goods and services. Expect a few lean years with gridlock in

Washington, DC while things sort themselves out for our future direction.

I would like to thank those of you who signed up for our holiday luncheon at the Bremerton Elks Lodge.

I am also reiterating the need for a currently employed federal employee to join our executive board as a spokesperson for our younger chapter members. I'm sure there are many things we should be doing to attract and retain our younger members. The "A" in NARFE is active which means not retired.

Christmas is coming and we need to support our local community where we can. Shop local for experiences, one-of-a-kind items, or because you care about your neighborhood.

Happy Holidays!

Newsletter Insert

This issue of the newsletter contains the 2023 chapter meeting schedule and directory; please save it for future reference.

MOVING? SNOWBIRDS?

Even if it's from one apartment to another in the same building or complex, please contact Ralph Sanders at 360-535-4334 to update your mailing address!!! The Post Office charges a fee for returned newsletters. THANK YOU!!

GPO/WEP

President Bill Powers

We previously wrote about Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) in the June, September, and October newsletters. NARFE has an article on this subject in both the November and December magazines. GPO affects people who earned a government pension and are married to someone covered by Social Security. They can apply for Social Security spousal or survivor benefits based on their mate's account, but their monthly benefit will be reduced by two-thirds of the amount of their public pension. If their public pension is large enough, their Social Security benefit goes to zero. WEP affects people who received both social security and a government or public service pension. Social Security pays a smaller percentage of their covered earnings than it pays people who worked mostly in the private sector. Both implement the dual entitlement rule.

NARFE finally obtained the required 290 cosponsors (now 305 cosponsors) to force a vote in the House of Representatives on the Social Security Fairness Act, HR 82. There was an attempt to prevent a floor vote of this act with a rule change. In response, legislative leaders and NARFE National President Thomas raised alarm bells with members of Congress and reversed the late rule change. However, the cognizant and powerful Ways and Means Committee held a business meeting where it reported the bill. In doing so, it avoided a floor vote! The reason this slick maneuver was initiated by congressional leaders is they feared insolvency of Social Security due to the cost of implementing HR 82. Like I said in our June newsletter, this is a hot-button topic. This plus the current push to reform Social Security to keep it solvent will, hopefully, lead to compromise in the next 118th Congress.

MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS

V.P. Ralph Sanders

I was asked a few weeks ago to make a few comments about legislation before Congress and its recent difficulties. The subject was the Social Security Fairness Act, HR 82, a bill to repeal both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Now for a little history. I attended my first chapter meeting in February 1993 and this was old news then; NARFE had already been trying to repeal this law for several years by that time.

By July of this year, HR 82 received enough (290) cosponsors to be placed on the House Consensus

Calendar, for a possible vote. This is the first time we have ever moved a bill on this topic this far and it happened because members like you stayed in contact with your legislators. Unfortunately, according to an article on the NARFE website, "with that vote imminent, the House Committee on Ways and Means held a committee business meeting where it reported the bill. In doing so, it removed the bill from the House Consensus Calendar, avoiding a floor vote."

The article continues, "While it was clear the purpose of the hearing was to prevent a floor vote on full repeal – due to concerns about Social Security solvency, primarily, according to committee leaders – every committee member who spoke at the hearing expressed a desire to address the inequities of WEP and GPO. Committee leaders support a more limited approach to reform WEP/GPO, as opposed to full repeal, but they did commit to working towards an agreement on mitigating the effect of the penalties. Ultimately, there was reason for both hope and concern about the prospects of future action." Read the full article here:

<https://www.narfe.org/blog/2022/09/27/house-committee-advances-wep-gpo-repeal-bill-future-uncertain/>

We need to keep the pressure on the House members so this is not lost to other priorities. Contact your member of Congress and urge them to keep this legislation moving forward.

This membership report will cover 26 October through 23 November 2022. We have a total of 432 members in the chapter as of this date. There were three members dropped for nonrenewal: Carolyn Jenkins, Thomas Spetter and Mark Timken. If you know any of these members, please urge them to renew their membership. One of our members, Esther Olson, passed away. Our condolences to her family.

We had one member, Margaret Kellow, transfer in. Thank you for joining our chapter; we look forward to working with you.

If any member has any questions regarding NARFE or Bremerton Chapter 181, please contact any one of our board members listed on the back page of this newsletter.

GOP/WEP – For more information go to:

GPO <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10045.pdf>

WEP <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10007.pdf>

COLA UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

The October CPI-W value is 293.003. That means we pay \$2.93 to buy what we paid \$1.00 for in 1983. The inflation increase over September is .3936 percent, or just under 4/10 of a percent. The index Jul/Aug/Sep average is 291.90066, which is the baseline number for computing the 2024 COLA. October inflation stands at .3776 percent over the Jul/Aug/Sep average. That is not too bad.

PROGRAMS

Your secretary is working on finding speakers for January and February. Some ideas are: Kitsap Sun Journalism Fund; GESA Credit Union; the biodiesel plant being built at Ueland Tree Farm; and work being done at the Rhododendron Preserve in Seabeck. If someone has a topic they'd like to know more about, please contact Bea Bull.

13 MARCH – John Vavrinec III from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory has agreed to speak about energy concerns in general and some of the things they are doing that could impact the region.

10 APRIL – Our newly elected WSF President Cray Henry will introduce himself and discuss federation issues.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Chapter Executive Board Member Election – Ralph Petersen and Lanny Ross were re-elected at the 14 November meeting. Congratulations to them both and thank you for your continued service to the chapter. They will be installed at the Holiday Luncheon.

OPM/TSP & SS – It's time again to access your OPM, TSP and Social Security accounts to keep your passwords active.

2022 NARFE Fall Membership Drive – Recruit a new member between 1 September and 31 December and receive \$10.00 and be entered for other prizes. Check out the article on page 66 of the December *NARFE Magazine*.

Alzheimer's – NARFE National has set its sights on \$16 million by 2025. According to Olivia Williams on page 64 of the December *NARFE Magazine*, members raised \$600,982.04 this year, which will be awarded to research grants.

F-100 – Be Prepared for Life's Events – NARFE National, to save printing costs, is limiting the hard-copy supply of these booklets and encouraging members to use the fillable PDF version. You can download the F-100 AND the *Affairs in Order* handbook from the district website at: <https://narfewadistiv.org/forms>.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for October was \$465.80 with expenditures of \$430.00, for an increase of \$35.80. Our net worth as of 31 October was \$35,215.90. A Treasurer's report for November 2022 will be available at our December meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 26 November 2022 is \$210.00. Thank you to DeAnna Gossett, Bill Fuhrmeister, Al Holl, Pete Miller and Don Zeth for their donations.

On 16 November 2022, WSF Alzheimer's Coordinator, Lorie Bennett, mailed a check in the amount of \$2,949.00 to the Alzheimer's Association. Thank you to everyone who has sent checks directly to her!

**To make a tax-deductible donation to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research fund please make your check payable to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research", write "Bremerton 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

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Anthony Roozen.

If you know of a chapter member in need of a little sunshine, please contact Lois at 360-297-2671 so she can get a card out to them.

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday and a safe and healthy New Year!

<p>PRESIDENT Bill Powers 360-377-7917 powersw@silverlink.net</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Ralph Sanders</p> <p>SECRETARY NEWSLETTER EDITOR Bea Bull</p> <p>TREASURER Rex Tauscher</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE CHAIR Vacant</p>	<p>District III VP Bea Bull 360-286-7798 tbkbull@gmail.com</p> <p>Region IX VP Linda Silverio 503-391-2963 l.l.silverio.narfe@gmail.com</p> <p>WSF SERVICE OFFICER Charles Caughlan 360-693-0435 csquare@pacifier.com</p> <p>SENIOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE 360-337-5700 OR 1-800-562-6418</p>	<p>NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE Webmaster – Bea Bull www.narfewadistiv.org</p> <p>NARFE STATE WEBSITE www.narfewa.org</p> <p>NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE www.narfe.org</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE 877-217-8234</p> <p>ADD YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS 800-456-8410</p>
<p>NARFE-PAC CHAIR Lanny Ross</p> <p>SERGEANT AT ARMS William Fuhrmeister</p> <p>CHAPLAIN Lyn Damschen</p> <p>SUNSHINE CHAIR Lois Barber</p> <p>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS UNTIL DECEMBER 2022 Lanny Ross Ralph Petersen</p> <p>UNTIL DECEMBER 2023 John Burch Stan Barber</p>	<p>OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (OPM) Phone: 1-888-767-6738</p> <p>Hours of operation: 7:30AM – 7:45PM ET with best time to reach someone being 6:30PM – 7:30PM or at 7:30AM.</p> <p>Mailing Address: Office of Personnel Management Retirement Operations Center P.O. Box 45 Boyers, PA 16017</p> <p>CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE https://www.facebook.com/narfechap181</p>	<p>OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES</p> <p>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</p> <p>Senator Maria Cantwell 915 – 2nd Avenue, Suite 3206 Seattle, WA 98174 Seattle Phone Number 206-220-6400 D.C. Phone Number 202-224-3441 www.cantwell.senate.gov</p> <p>Congressional District 6 Derek Kilmer 345 – 6th Street, Suite 500 Bremerton, WA 98337 Bremerton phone number 360-373-9725 D.C. phone number 202-225-5916 http://kilmer.house.gov</p> <p>Congressional District 10 Marilyn Strickland 6000 Main Street SW, Suite 3B Lakewood, WA 98499 No phone number listed https://strickland.house.gov</p> <p>Lacey City Hall - 3rd Floor 420 College St SE, Suite 3000 Lacey, WA 98503 Lacey phone number 360-459-8514 D.C. phone number 202-225-9740</p>