

**NARFE**  
FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
*except July & August*



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
ASSOCIATION, BREMERTON CHAPTER 181**

P.O. Box 4514, Bremerton, WA 98312-0392

**January 2023**

**NUMBER 01-23**

**General Meeting Date: January 9, 2023      Time: 1:00PM**

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

**Program:      Kitsap Sun Editor David Nelson Will Tell Us About  
the Kitsap Sun Journalism Fund**

*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 February.....Membership Meeting**  
**13 March..... Membership Meeting**  
**10 April.....Membership Meeting**  
**8 May.....Membership Meeting**

## **PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers

The Jan/Feb issue of *NARFE Magazine* has our new National president, William “Bill” Shackelford’s first message. He wants us to move to a new model and put emphasis on recruitment. NARFE has lost considerable membership over the last twenty years which affects our lobbyists’ clout in Washington DC when discussing legislative issues. It also affects advertising income from the *NARFE Magazine* and internet advertising such as FEDHub. NARFE had a *Recruiting & Retention Journal* that was published quarterly until 2018. This listed recruitment credit to members and recruiting aids such as an "elevator speech". We will report on what's new in the world of recruitment as Mr. Shackelford settles in.

The shipyard has put more emphasis on their apprenticeship program in recent years which is good to promote skilled tradesmen. The Jan/Feb *NARFE Magazine* has an article on this subject that covers a House of Representatives bill to improve federal hiring systems. It allows assessment and expansion of the hiring process to focus primarily on skills- and competency-based hiring versus degree-based hiring. I've been saying this for years and I'm glad that higher ups are finally realizing the value of skills and competency.

The 2023 COLA based on the CPI-W is 8.7 percent. This is the increase CSRS and S/S recipients will receive. FERS will get 7.7 percent. GS and blue-collar employees will be getting even less of an inflation adjustment. I bring all of this out because there are many economists that believe the government is tweaking how it calculates inflation. Especially since 1983 when the government switched from using home prices to using rental prices to gauge the cost of housing, which is the largest segment of the CPI.

The real-time rent tracker captures rising rent prices much more quickly while the CPI tracks people who renew their leases. There are other areas they have tweaked such as a shopper’s grocery basket. Every two years they update this basket to reflect what people actually spend their money on. If they can't afford items this year that they bought last year, naturally the price of items in a basket will not increase as much as comparing identical baskets from year to year. If we get enough inquiries, we can publish a breakdown of how the government calculates the CPI-W in one of our future newsletters, and maybe Congress will pass the CPI-E for the elderly.

President cont. In closing I would like to say “thank you” to all our chapter members, volunteers, and our executive board. We had a good year recovering from the pandemic. Thank You!

## **Legislative Process** **Reintroduction and Referral of Bills**

President Bill Powers

When a bill is not enacted, such as in the two-year 117<sup>th</sup> Congress that just ended, that bill dies when Congress adjourns. The bill may be reintroduced in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, which starts January 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a new bill number. Anyone can write a bill including a NARFE lobbyist, but only a member of each chamber may introduce legislation. A public bill typically has nonpartisan attorneys in each chamber's legislative council assist with putting policy proposals into legislative language. Then the sponsor's signature must appear on the bill, plus it may also have other chamber members sign as original co-sponsors. Bills are introduced at any time by submitting them to the clerk's desk in the House Chamber and/or on the Senate floor. The bill is assigned its next numeric legislative number by the clerk and referred to the appropriate committee by the Speaker with the assistance of the Parliamentarian. The Senate goes through a similar process but bills are only assigned to the committee with jurisdiction that predominates the bill's main issue. The bill is printed in its introduced form, which you can read via the internet at <https://docs.house.gov/floor/>. This site will list the bills introduced during the current week to the House of Representatives.

Researchers may need to track multiple related bills over several Congresses since earlier versions of a bill may be relevant to a current bill on the same topic.

Now comes your part of the legislative process. If you are concerned about a bill and want to know if your representative or senator has introduced or co-sponsored it, you can check the internet, then nudge your representative to introduce/co-sponsor legislation. Go to [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov). In the center of the gray area at the top, click on either “House” or “Senate”. Look for your representative and click on the number in the “Bills” column to see which bills they’ve sponsored or co-sponsored. After January 1<sup>st</sup> you can check the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. You can check on NARFE's advocacy positions for 2023-24 legislative and administrative items on pages 32 through 35 of the Jan/Feb *NARFE Magazine*.

## **COLA UPDATE**

Steve Ferguson

In case you're not feeling it, the November CPI-W value of 292.495 is lower than the October value of 293.003.

The November CPI-W value is .2 percent greater than the July/Aug/Sept average.

## **MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS**

V. P. Ralph Sanders

I have been reminded that I should refer to the article on page 32 of the Jan/Feb *NARFE Magazine*, "NARFE's Advocacy Positions for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress (2023-2024)". There are over 50 positive, and over 20 negative, positions. To comment on all these positions would take over a thousand words so what I would like you to do is break out the magazine, turn to page 32 and find a topic pro or con that you are passionate about. Then work on these issues with your congressional representatives and the NARFE legislative office. This is grass roots lobbying at its best. Have fun! And, if you need help, that's what we're here for.

This membership report will cover 23 November through 23 December. We currently have a total of 430 members in our chapter. There were two members dropped for nonrenewal: Richard Campbell and Richard Stoker. If you know either of these members, please urge them to renew their membership. We had three members pass away: Richard Noonan, Pauline Polum and Anthony Roozen. Our condolences to the families.

We had one member, Jonathan Ritchey, transfer into our chapter and we have one new member, Frank Sommers. We hope that you have found a good home with us and will be active in our chapter. We also received 62 new prospective members; you are too numerous to list your names here, but you are on our mailing list and will receive our monthly newsletter. We hope that you will find something interesting in NARFE that will make you want to be a full chapter member.

If anyone 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.

## **PROGRAMS**

### Secretary Bea Bull

I'm working on finding speakers for February, May and June. Some ideas are: GESA Credit Union; the biodiesel plant being built at Ueland Tree Farm; and work being done at the Rhododendron Preserve in Seabeck. I've invited Congressman Kilmer to speak in either May or June.

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

**Holiday Luncheon** – Thank you to everyone who attended the luncheon and made it a success. Special thanks to John Burch and Bill Powers who made the arrangements with the Elks Lodge; John Burch for taking reservations and decorating; Rex Tauscher for handling the finances; and Bill Powers and Carol Tauscher for helping me serve cookies.

Mayor Wheeler provided an informative update on current projects in Bremerton and Kitsap County and I installed Ralph Petersen and Lanny Ross for their next two-year term as executive board members. Thank you, Ralph and Lanny, for your continued service!

**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 November was \$913.06 with expenditures of \$465.95, for an increase of \$447.11. Our net worth as of 30 November was \$35,192.64. A Treasurer's report for December 2022 will be available at our January meetings.

## **ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR**

Secretary Bea Bull

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 24 December 2022 remains at \$210.00. No donations were collected at the Holiday Luncheon.

**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

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Sydney Duplex.

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  
safe and healthy New Year!***

If you have questions or need assistance with this newsletter, please feel free to contact me at [tbkbull@gmail.com](mailto:tbkbull@gmail.com). Thanks!! Bea Bull

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powersw@silverlink.net

**VICE PRESIDENT  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ralph Sanders

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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Rex Tauscher

**LEGISLATIVE CHAIR**

Vacant

**NARFE-PAC CHAIR**

Lanny Ross

**SERGEANT AT ARMS**

William Fuhrmeister

**CHAPLAIN**

Lyn Damshen

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Lois Barber

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**EX BD MEMBERS**

**UNTIL DECEMBER 2023**

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John Burch

**UNTIL DECEMBER 2024**

Ralph Petersen

Lanny Ross

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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

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL  
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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  
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**OUR ELECTED  
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**SENIOR INFORMATION &  
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REPRESENTATIVES**

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