

**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

**March 2023**

**NUMBER 03-23**

**General Meeting Date: March 13, 2023                      Time: 1:00PM**

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

**Program: John Vavrinec III from Pacific Northwest National  
Laboratory Will Speak About Energy Concerns and  
Some of the Lab’s Current Projects**

*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**

**10 April.....Membership Meeting**  
**8 May.....Membership Meeting**  
**12 June.....Membership Meeting**  
**11 September..... Membership Meeting**

## **PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers

Our NARFE National Senior Vice President of Policy and Procedures, John Hatton, put on a webinar last month that covered the five key items I listed in our February newsletter:

1. Protect retirement and health benefits
2. Undertake OPM modernization
3. Federal pay increases for 2024
4. Support/reform GPO/WEP
5. Full COLAS for FERS retirees

I reiterate these items because in President Biden's "State of the Union" message to Congress, the President said he would veto any cuts proposed by Congress to Social Security and/or Medicare. These are two of the big three items in our national budget, defense being the third item. I also reiterate that our country cannot continue increasing our national debt without dire consequences. Our debt is now 121 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP) for one year. I can remember when Treasury said we wouldn't let our national debt go over 100 percent of GDP. The slide toward indebtedness is very slippery; ask any young couple that went over their heads in credit card debt. It is projected that in ten years, if the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress does not take action, seventy percent of every tax dollar will be going toward interest on our national debt.

In the NARFE webinar John Hatton stated that, due to our now divided government, the promises made in the "State of the Union" message, and the nation's current debt problem, NARFE will be busy protecting our retirement and health benefits, item 1 on the list above.

Also, it is important to make sure that the OPM Information Technology Working Capital Fund, item 2 above, and originally funded by the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, is not sidetracked.

I remind our readers that the previous administration tried to derail our new Bangor Seawolf class submarine pier extension project and use the appropriated funds for further development of the Rio Grande River wall. This pier extension is now complete and is home to our USS Seawolf.

All this leads up to our March emphasis, NARFE-PAC Month. I urge you to

President cont. share this newsletter with your federal employee friends and neighbors who are not NARFE members. It shows that having our lobbyists in Washington D.C. is very important to protect our earned benefits. It complements the work done by our grassroots advocates here in Kitsap County by Chapter 181.

The word for the day “capitulation”. If there are no budget negotiations, the end result will be further extremism and inflation.

## **NARFE-PAC**

Seth Ickes, NARFE National Political Associate

March is NARFE-PAC month and your chapter needs your help to make it a success. You can make a difference in the fight for our earned benefits by contributing to the PAC either online, through the mail, via the form in the magazine or at your March chapter meeting.

The PAC is our association’s political action committee, a unique tool that provides NARFE members more opportunities to share the real story of their community with lawmakers. These opportunities grow relationships and make your leaders better informed about issues affecting federal retirees.

Last cycle your chapter raised \$6,255.00 for NARFE-PAC. Help beat that amount this cycle by contributing during NARFE-PAC month. Your support of NARFE-PAC goes a long way in the fight for our earned pay and benefits, allowing NARFE members to fight back against threats to cut your cost-of-living adjustments and healthcare.

We know that we need to fight for what we have earned. Please support NARFE-PAC today. You can even bolster your support by contributing to the PAC monthly via your federal annuity by going to [www.narfe.org/pac-sustainer](http://www.narfe.org/pac-sustainer). Thank you for your support of NARFE-PAC.\*

*\*To comply with federal law, we must use our best efforts to obtain, maintain and submit the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions to NARFE-PAC exceed \$200 each calendar year. NARFE-PAC is for the benefit of political candidates and activities on a national level. NARFE members have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal, and NARFE will neither favor nor disadvantage anyone based on the amount of a contribution or failure to make a voluntary contribution. The suggested amounts are only suggestions and not enforceable. Only members of NARFE may contribute to the PAC. Contributions from nonmembers will be returned. NARFE-PAC contributions are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.*

## **COLA UPDATE**

Steve Ferguson

The January CPI-W value is 293.565, which is .57 percent higher than the Jul/Aug/Sep 2022 average of 291.900666.

The October 2022 CPI-W value was 293.003; November and December 2022 values declined from the October high. The January value has leap-frogged the November and December lower values with January being .86 percent higher than December.

The January over December increase, mathematically, calculates to an annual inflation rate of 10.36 percent.

## **MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS**

V. P. Ralph Sanders

I will see if we can find any legislative news for you. You need to hunt for any good news from Congress these days. I did find two bills in the House that may be of interest to you. First, H.R. 716 would provide for cost-of-living increases for certain federal benefits programs based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E). Sponsored by John Garamendi, D-CA and introduced on February 1, 2023, it has 22 co-sponsors (none from Washington State). It's been referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and to the committees on Veterans Affairs, Oversight and Accountability, and Armed Services. This change in law would allow us to switch from the CPI-W, which we currently use, to the CPI-E to more accurately show our true costs.

Second, H.R. 536/S.124, sponsored by Gerald E Connolly D-VA and introduced on January 26, 2023, has 47 House co-sponsors (including Kilmer and Jayapal) and 16 Senate co-sponsors (none from Washington State). It has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. This legislation would ensure that cost-of living adjustments (COLAs) for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuities match the measured change in consumer prices. Currently FERS retirees do not receive a full COLA if consumer prices increase by more than 2 percent annually. Contact your representative and ask them to co-sponsor these pieces of legislation.

This membership report will cover January 25 through February 23, 2023. We have a total of 425 members in the chapter as of this date. There were two members dropped for nonrenewal: Merrill Faulk and Steven McDaniel. If you know any of these members, please urge them to renew their membership.

One of our members, Myra Clodius, passed away. Our condolences to her family.

We had two members join our chapter, Patricia Allman and John Williams. Thank you for joining and we hope to be of service to you.

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

**Myra Clodius**  
**1920 – 2023**

“Myra Clodius entered God’s loving arms on February 21, 2023, at 102 years young.

“A Celebration of life will be held at Manette Community Church at 1137 Hayward Ave on March 25th at 2:00. We are asking you to honor her by wearing or accessorizing her favorite color – RED – which symbolizes the joy, love and vitality she always evoked. Red is the color of celebration and positive energy. Should you wish to make a donation in lieu of flowers please consider NAMI Kitsap County, PO Box 2345, Bremerton, WA 98310 [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).”

**PROGRAMS**

Secretary Bea Bull

As a reminder, here are our speakers through June:

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

8 MAY – Congressman Kilmer will give us an update on the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and local issues in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

12 JUNE – Sheila Taylor from Clutter Controllers will help us declutter our homes.

## **SECRETARY**

Bea Bull

**AARP Tax-Aide Sites** – To locate a site near you:  
[https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide/locations.html](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations.html)

### **Sheridan Park Center**

680 Lebo Blvd, Bremerton

Wed 9:00am - 2:00pm & Thu 9:00am - 1:00 pm

### **Saint Gabriel Catholic Church**

1150 Mitchell Ave, Port Orchard

Tue 9:30am - 3:00pm & Thu 9:30am - 3:00pm

### **Jenne-Wright Administration Center**

9210 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale

Tue 10:00am - 2:00pm & Thu 10:00am - 2:00pm

### **Bainbridge Island Main Library**

1270 Madison Ave N, Bainbridge Island

Tue 1:00pm - 4:00pm; Thu 10:30am - 1:30 pm;

Fri 1:00pm - 4:00pm; Sat 10:30am - 1:30pm

### **Belfair Timberland Library**

23081 NE State Route 3, Belfair

Tue 9:45am - 5:00pm

### **Poulsbo Library**

700 NE Lincoln Rd, Poulsbo

Tue 12:30pm - 5:30pm & Thu 12:30pm - 5:00pm

### **Vashon Lutheran Church**

18623 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon

Thu 10:00am - 3:00pm

## **TREASURER**

Rex Tauscher

Our income for January was \$614.85 with expenditures of \$1,093.71, for a decrease of \$478.87. Our net worth as of 31 January was \$34,140.54. A Treasurer's report for February 2023 will be available at our March meetings.

## **ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR**

Secretary Bea Bull

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 25 February 2023 is \$362.02. Thank you to Stan Barber, Bea Bull, Bill Fuhrmeister and Al Holl for their donations at the February membership meeting. The NARFE table at the WSIC rummage sale brought in \$319.00 for Alzheimer's, and checks from Loraine Brockerman and Bea Bull were forwarded to Lorie Bennett.

**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 Donald Brown and one for Myra Clodius will be available to sign at the March membership meeting.

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.

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

**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 2023**

Stan Barber

John Burch

**UNTIL DECEMBER 2024**

Ralph Petersen

Lanny Ross

**District III VP**

Bea Bull 360-286-7798  
tbkbull@gmail.com

**Region IX VP**

Steven Roy 425-344-3926  
stevenroy1@comcast.net

**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



**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  
SENATORS**

**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](http://www.murray.senate.gov)

**Senator Maria Cantwell**

915 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Ste 3206  
Seattle, WA 98174  
Seattle Phone Number  
206-220-6400  
D.C. Phone Number  
202-224-3441  
[www.cantwell.senate.gov](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov)

**SENIOR INFORMATION &  
ASSISTANCE**

360-337-5700 OR  
1-800-562-6418

**OUR ELECTED  
REPRESENTATIVES**

Congressional District 6

**Derek Kilmer**

345 – 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
Bremerton phone number 360-  
373-9725  
D.C. phone number  
202-225-5916  
<http://kilmer.house.gov>

Congressional District 10

**Marilyn Strickland**

6000 Main Street SW, Suite 3B  
Lakewood, WA 98499  
No phone number listed  
<https://strickland.house.gov>

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