



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

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

April 2023

NUMBER 04-23

**Note new PO
Box Number &
ZIP+4**

General Meeting Date & Time: April 10, 2023 1:00PM

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

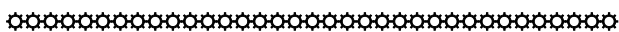
**Program: WSF President Cray Henry Will Introduce Himself and Discuss Federation
Issues and Goals**

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

- 8 May.....Membership Meeting**
- 12 June.....Membership Meeting**
- 14 June.....LEGCon23 Platform Training**
- 20-22 June.....LEGCon23**
- 11 September.....Membership Meeting**
- 28 September.....WSF Annual Meeting**



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Our elected congressional representatives will be busy behind the scenes this spring, working out budget proposals to show some sort of control over spending. We expect some congressional action on this issue by summer. As stated in last month's newsletter, NARFE expects to be busy protecting our retirement and health benefits. President Biden said he would veto any proposed cuts to Social Security or Medicare which are the largest part of the budget. However, Medicare will not be able to pay out its promised benefits in just five years, Social Security in twelve years.

Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve, or Fed, has been busy fighting inflation. They raised the prime interest rate from 4.75 percent to five percent in March, the highest it has been in sixteen years. Their

next review will be in May, but they didn't raise their terminal rate target of 5.1 percent for year end. The Fed's goal is to chill the U.S. economy but not put it into a deep freeze. They had a scare when two mid-sized banks went bankrupt in March. These banks got into trouble due to these higher interest rates which pummeled the value of Treasuries and other bonds they owned coupled with poor risk management practices with no monitoring. The Fed introduced an emergency lending program to defuse the turmoil. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and Treasury Department stepped in and guaranteed all uninsured deposits.

The goal is to get the inflation back down to two percent. This is going to be a long-term problem and it is going to be painful. The credit market is going to tighten and projected growth in the national economy as going to decrease to less than one percent this year. Banks are going to be more cautious in their lending which will make it harder for consumers to get auto or other loans. One good item is concerning home prices: The median home price is now \$363,000. This price drop in February is the first time the median monthly home price has fallen in over ten years. So be aware of the bumpy road ahead. The goal is to eliminate fragilities and get back to a solid economy.

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!!

COLA UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

The February 2023 CPI-W value is 295.057. February inflation rose .508 percent over the January value. Based on the February increase multiplied by twelve months, the annual inflation rate is 6.09 percent.

The February value of 295.057 is 1.08 percent greater than the Jul/Aug/Sep 2022 average of 291.90066.

WSF PRESIDENT CRAY HENRY BIO

Bea Bull

Cray retired after 32 years of government service in leading teams and organizations involved in high technology programs and systems acquisition. He worked for the Department of Defense as the Director, High Performance Computing Modernization Program, where he provided leadership and management for six high performance computing centers, more than 50 high performance computing software development efforts, and the defense research and engineering network (DREN). He was also Deputy CIO, US Army Corps of Engineers, where he provided leadership and governance over USACE IT policies and procedures. His background includes systems engineering, software design and analysis, communications/network engineering, legislative relations, financial management and corporate governance.

Besides stepping up to be our federation president, Cray now volunteers with the Northwest Maritime Center by working in the boat shop; working as a local community lifeguard; and serving as the secretary/treasurer of his community's homeowner's association. Other interests include maintaining small wooden boats, building a radio-controlled (RC) sailboat, and racing RC sail boats.

LEGCon23 INVITATION

WSF President Cray Henry

Congratulations! The new year is off to a great start. I would like to remind you about one of the key purposes of NARFE and offer you an opportunity to help. Since NARFE's founding in 1921, the association's mission has been to defend and advance the earned pay and benefits of America's civil servants. We do this with grassroots activists (that's you) who meet with their local congressional representatives. NARFE hosts a biennial training conference, LEGCon (<https://legcon.narfe.org/registration/>) to teach us

how to be effective grassroots activists. Your Washington State Federation (WSF) team believes this training is so important that we have budgeted enough funds to cover the registration cost for 80 WSF members to attend this virtual conference which runs from June 20 to 22 (with platform training on June 14). We all need to protect our earned benefits, and a little training helps.

If you are able to attend LEGCon23, please send an e-mail to me at WSF.cray.Henry@gmail.com with the subject line "I want to attend LEGCon23." Please include:

- your name;
- NARFE member # (if you know it);
- your chapter affiliation and role (if any);
- your return e-mail address.

I will send you a return e-mail confirming that the WSF will reimburse your registration cost, and instructions for how to submit a claim. We only have enough funds to cover the first 80 applicants, so act quickly!

LEGCon provides the latest word on NARFE-PAC and legislative concerns and initiatives. Chapter officers, PAC and legislative chairs are **STRONGLY** encouraged to register and attend LEGCon23. It provides an in-depth opportunity to review legislative and PAC affairs. It's up to us to make a difference.

MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS

V.P. Ralph Sanders

It is the first day of spring and I am ready for it. Now the lawn mowing and all the outside work will start. For some that is work and for some it is a chance to practice our green thumb. Well, back to work and reality. Congress is slowly moving ahead with hundreds of bills being introduced in both houses, most of which are not listed on the "Bill Tracker" in the *NARFE Magazine*. Because our editor needed space in this newsletter for Cray's bio and information about LEGCon23, the decision was made to hold the legislative report until the May edition.

The membership report will cover 23 February through 23 March. We currently have a total of 415 members in our chapter as of 23 March. Four members were dropped this month for nonrenewal: Lester Dean, Michael Keefer, Cheri McCorkle and Lawrence Telles. If you know any of these members please urge them to renew their membership. Three members passed away: Paula Dailly, Joe Franklin

Membership cont. and Charles McGuire. Our condolences to the families. Looking ahead we have three members, Patricia Cassiday, Emily Hatt and Leslie Malhiot, who will be dropped next month if they have not renewed their membership. If you know any of these members, please contact them regarding their membership. We have no new members this month.

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

As a reminder, here are our speakers through June:

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

12 JUNE – Sheila Taylor from Clutter Controllers will help us declutter our homes. Be thinking about items you can donate to the NARFE table at the 7 October WSIC rummage sale. Proceeds will be donated to Alzheimer's.

13 NOVEMBER – NARFE health fair with FEHB plan reps.

11 DECEMBER – Holiday Luncheon.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

AARP Tax-Aide Sites – To locate a site near you: 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 February was \$736.54 with expenditures of \$473.27, for an increase of \$264.17. Our net worth as of 28 February was \$34,404.71. A Treasurer's report for March 2023 will be available at our April meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 25 March 2023 is \$398.03. Thank you to Stan Barber, John Burch, DeAnna Gossett, Ralph Petersen and Don Zeth for their donations at the March membership meeting. A check from Loraine Brockerman was 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 "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

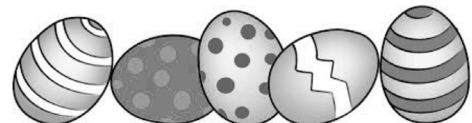
Lois Barber

A sympathy card for the family of Myra Clodius was signed at the March membership meeting and was hand-delivered at her service on 25 March.

A "thank you" card was sent to Past Region IX VP Linda Silverio for her service to our region.

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.

HAPPY EASTER!



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 Damschen

SUNSHINE CHAIR
 Lois Barber

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
 UNTIL DECEMBER 2023**
 Stan Barber

John Burch

UNTIL DECEMBER 2024
 Ralph Petersen
 Lanny Ross

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WSF SERVICE OFFICER
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 csquare@pacifier.com

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 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

CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE
<https://www.facebook.com/narfechap181>

NARFE DISTRICT IV WEBSITE

Webmaster – Bea Bull
www.narfewadistiv.org

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

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Maria Cantwell
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www.cantwell.senate.gov

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