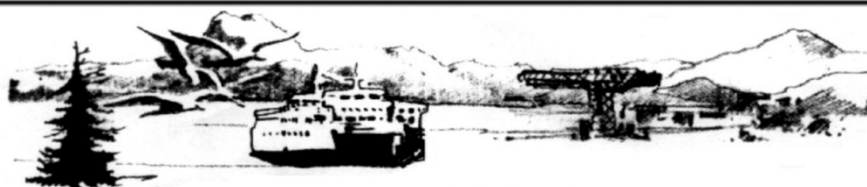


**NARFE**  
FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
*except July & August*



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

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

**April 2023**

**NUMBER 04-23**

**General Meeting Date: April 10, 2023**

**Time: 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 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**

**8 May.....Membership Meeting**

**12 June.....Membership Meeting**

**14 June.....LEGCon23 Platform Training**

**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.

## **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 grassroot 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](mailto: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 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 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. 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](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations.html)

<b>Sheridan Park Center</b> 680 Lebo Blvd, Bremerton Wed 9:00am - 2:00pm & Thu 9:00am - 1:00 pm	<b>Saint Gabriel Catholic Church</b> 1150 Mitchell Ave, Port Orchard Tue 9:30am - 3:00pm & Thu 9:30am - 3:00pm
<b>Jenne-Wright Administration Center</b> 9210 Silverdale Way NW, Silverdale Tue 10:00am - 2:00pm & Thu 10:00am - 2:00pm	<b>Bainbridge Island Main Library</b> 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

<p><b>Belfair Timberland Library</b>  23081 NE State Route 3, Belfair  Tue 9:45am - 5:00pm</p>	<p><b>Poulsbo Library</b>  700 NE Lincoln Rd, Poulsbo  Tue 12:30pm - 5:30pm &amp;  Thu 12:30pm - 5:00pm</p>
<p><b>Vashon Lutheran Church</b>  18623 Vashon Hwy SW, Vashon  Thu 10:00am - 3:00pm</p>	

**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 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**

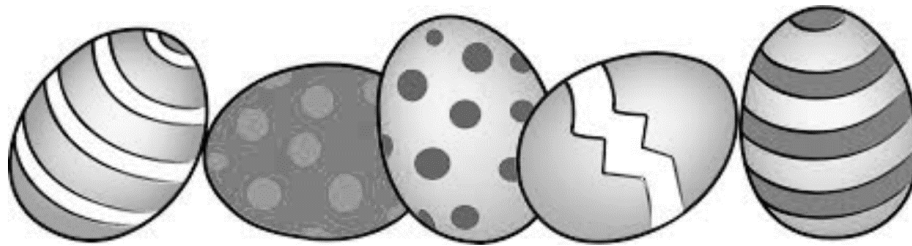
Lois Barber

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!**



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