

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

May 2023

NUMBER 05-23

General Meeting Date: May 8, 2023

Time: 1:00PM

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

**Program: Congressman Derek Kilmer Will Discuss National
and Local Issues**

*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

May 7-13.....Public Service Recognition Week

12 June.....Membership Meeting

14 June.....LEGCon23 Platform Training

June 20-22.....LEGCon23

11 September..... Membership Meeting

28 September.....WSF Annual Meeting

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

This month's guest speaker is Congressman Derek Kilmer. He is our 6th Congressional District Representative in Congress. In January the United States reached its statutory debt limit of \$31.4 trillion and since then the US Treasury has been taking extraordinary measures to pay government obligations. With that and a divided Congress as background, debt limit negotiations will be front and center for the coming months. In the last two newsletter issues I listed NARFE's top five priorities that our lobbyists are advocating for on Capitol Hill. Many of our priorities are carry-over issues.

Last month our guest speaker was our NARFE Washington State Federation (WSF) President, Cray Henry. He is campaigning for a strong NARFE advocacy presence on Capitol Hill plus he explained that, with budget negotiations, there are winners and losers. We do not want to lose our benefits we worked so hard to attain. It is our job to keep our membership strong. The more members an organization has, the stronger their position. If we want to keep our earning, health and retirement benefits, we have to work toward that goal. That includes recommending NARFE membership to co-workers, friends, and family so we can reverse the current membership decline. It is also important to attend this month's chapter meeting and let our guest speaker, Congressman Kilmer, know your concerns in the current budget negotiations. Like our WSF President said, there are winners and losers in budget negotiations. If we keep our current benefits and don't lose any of the ground we have worked so hard to attain, we will be winners.

2024 WSF CONFERENCE

Bea Bull

Yes! Social distancing is over and the federation is in the planning stages of an in-person conference in September 2024! The first step is to choose a venue and find enough volunteers to make it happen. If you'd like to be on the conference committee, please contact me at 360-286-7798 or tbkbull@gmail.com.

COLA UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

The March 2023 CPI-W value is being reported as 296.021. The February 2023 value was reported as 295.057. That is a comfortable .3 percent increase over the February value.

CONGRESSMAN DEREK KILMER

Bea Bull

I've invited Congressman Kilmer to discuss the following:

- The debt ceiling negotiations.
- Efforts to improve access to medical services in Kitsap County and, specifically, restaffing of the Naval Hospital.
- How the Kitsap County power grid will support the growing demand for electricity from new construction and the switch to electric vehicles.

LEGCon23 INVITATION

June 20 to 22 (with platform training on June 14)

Bea Bull

There's still time to register for the biennial legislative training conference, LEGCon23. It would be beneficial to have several of Congressman Kilmer's constituents on the call when we meet with him virtually on 22 June.

Before you register, please send an email to Cray Henry 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 email address.

Cray will send you an email confirming the federation will reimburse your registration cost and instructions for how to submit a claim.

Then go to <https://legcon.narfe.org/registration/> to register for the event.

MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS

V. P. Ralph Sanders

This is the membership report for the month of May. I have nothing terribly exciting to report. I would like to mention the continuing decrease in membership and chapters, not just in Washington State but across the country. Don't forget, we are all recruiters and we should not pass up the opportunity to get a new member. Every *NARFE Magazine* has an application page.

The membership report will cover 23 March through 20 April. As this goes to print, we currently have 410 members in the chapter. Three members were dropped for nonrenewal this month: Patricia Cassidy, Emily Hatt and Leslie Malhiot. If you know any of these members, please urge them to renew their membership. One member passed away: Rodney Carlson. Our condolences to the family. And we have one new prospective member: Raldolph Rolle. We hope that you will join our chapter.

Now for the legislative corner. Senator Sherrod Brown, D-OH, and Senator Susan Collins, R-ME, reintroduced the Senate version of the "Social Security Fairness Act," S. 597. This bill would fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). It has 38 cosponsors and was assigned to the Committee on Senate Finance. Remember House Resolution 82? This companion bill, H.R. 82, has 232 cosponsors and languishes in the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Our next piece of legislation does not appear to get the recognition that I think that it deserves. "Saving the Civil Service Act," H.R. 1002, was introduced in the House by Representative Gerry Connolly, D-VA and the bill now resides in the House Oversight and Accountability committee with eleven cosponsors. Senator Tim Kaine, D-VA, submitted a companion bill in the Senate, S. 399, where it has 15 cosponsors. This legislation would prevent the return of schedule F, a statutory loophole created by the previous administration that would allow federal jobs to be converted to political appointments, the old spoils system.

Neither H.R. 1002 nor S. 399 are cosponsored by any Washington State congressional representatives. Please take this opportunity to ask your senators and representative to cosponsor these bills.

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.

PROGRAMS

Secretary Bea Bull

Here are our speakers through the end of 2023:

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.

11 SEPTEMBER – A speaker from the biodiesel plant planned for the Ueland Tree Farm.

9 OCTOBER – Hoping to present a recorded service officer module from the federation annual meeting; the module will cover what to do when a spouse dies including how to contact OPM, Social Security, TSP and other entities.

13 NOVEMBER – NARFE health fair with FEHB plan reps.

11 DECEMBER – Holiday Luncheon.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Public Service Recognition Week is May 7 – 13. The chapter rented the south side of the Mentor reader board alongside the Warren Avenue Bridge for the 8th through 12th. The message will read “NARFE Thanks Federal Employees for Their Service” and will include the National website, NARFE.org. Look for it when traveling up the bridge from the Olympic College end toward East Bremerton.

We encourage members to take the opportunity to write letters to the editor thanking public service employees for their dedication and commitment to serving our nation.

Texting scam – A recent article in the April AARP Bulletin (pgs. 7 & 8) describes how you might receive a text from a number you don’t recognize. The text seems urgent so you respond to the sender that they texted the wrong number. “The scammer – or often an automated chatbot that sends out computer-generated messages – keeps up the friendly texts.”

I received a text like this where the sender, after several texts, provided their name and age, perhaps an invitation for me to do the same. I deleted the thread and blocked the number. The AARP article notes that “Scammers are primarily aiming to find phone numbers where people are willing to engage.” It’s unfortunate, but it's no longer safe to be polite or helpful in this situation. Delete texts from numbers you don’t recognize; never click on links within the texts; and don’t respond with “STOP” when offered that option. Instead, delete the text and block the number.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for March was \$571.64 with expenditures of \$366.13 for an increase of \$205.51. Our net worth as of 31 March was \$34,610.40. A Treasurer’s report for April 2023 will be available at our May meetings.

ALZHEIMER’S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

The balance in the Alzheimer’s account as of 22 April 2023 is \$427.04. Thank you to DeAnna Gossett, Al Holl and George Prichard for their donations at the April 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

No sunshine was requested this month; perhaps that explains the weather. ☺

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 MOTHER'S DAY!



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

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CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/narfechap181>

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www.narfewa.org

NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE

www.narfe.org

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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.

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