

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

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

June 2023

NUMBER 06-23

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

General Meeting Date & Time: June 12, 2023 1:00PM

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

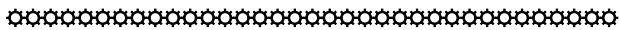
Program: Sheila Taylor from Clutter Controllers Will Teach Us How to Declutter Our Homes

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

- 14 June.....LEGCon23 Platform Training**
- 20-22 June.....LEGCon23**
- 29 July.....Whaling Days Parade**
- 11 September.....Membership Meeting**
- 27 September....WSF Virtual Annual Meeting**
- 7 October.Silverdale Walk to End Alzheimer's**
- 9 October.....Membership Meeting**



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

We thank those who attended our May chapter meeting. We had a good turnout for Congressman Kilmer. He gave us a report on the state of negotiations in Washington DC and priorities he is facilitating here on the Kitsap Peninsula. They include the need for Naval Hospital staffing, the Gorst Bottleneck, plus our "Bill Tracker" items in the *NARFE Magazine*. For those who missed this chapter meeting, Congressman Kilmer spent a full hour with us including a question-and-answer period.

Our entry in the Armed Forces Day Parade was a success. VP Ralph Sanders drove and Linda Sanders and I rode. I got feedback from acquaintances after the parade appreciating the recognition NARFE received as we passed the review platform.

Our June guest speaker, Sheila Taylor, is making a re-appearance. She gave us a presentation prior to the pandemic, then shutdown her business during the pandemic. It will be interesting to hear what new or changed clutter control she will recommend due to lessons learned during the pandemic.

Our secretary, Bea Bull, and I will be attending LEGCon23 in June, which is a virtual legislation training conference. The state federation is paying for our attendance and we will be utilizing ZOOM. Also, on the last day we will have a chance to participate in a virtual group meeting with our legislators to discuss federal community issues.

We will have an entry in the Whaling Days parade to advertise our presence in the community. Bea will drive and Ralph Sanders will ride. If you attend, please be sure to give them a wave.

Have an enjoyable summer. Our next newsletter and meeting will be in September.

Editor's Note: 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.

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!!**

May returned newsletters cost \$2.00

COLA UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

The April CPI-W value is 297.730 and inflation for the month was .577 percent. We stand at 1.99 percent above the July/Aug/Sep 2022 CPI-W average.

AUGUST IS GRASS ROOTS ADVOCACY MONTH

Remember, our congressional representatives will be home during the month of August. Take the opportunity to meet with them to discuss issues that are important to you.

NATIONAL DEBT NEGOTIATIONS

Bill Powers

We've had high profile news about our government meeting its debt limit of over \$34 trillion in the past month. At our NARFE newsletter deadline, both political parties were still in negotiations seeking a settlement. Janice Yellen, Treasury Secretary, set June 5th as the date for lawmakers to reach a deal so the US Government does not default on its outstanding obligations.

Some say, "What is the big deal? Just raise the debt limit and continue as usual." Others suggest, roll back government spending to pre-pandemic levels and put a 1 percent cap on spending growth for the next six years. Others suggest, eliminate the Trump income tax cuts. The negotiators are attempting to find common ground that both sides can agree upon. This is very difficult on the Democrat side because Biden promised no cuts to Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid which are by far the three biggest spending areas of the budget excluding national defense. It is also difficult on the Republican side because Speaker of the House McCarthy promised no elimination of the Trump tax cuts which are also the biggest contributor to the increased debt on the income side. This leaves the "small potatoes" to be culled. What will probably happen is the negotiators for the two political parties will agree on enough minor changes to make their constituents happy, then kick the national debt can down the road, increasing the problem without a sound fiscal solution.

I say we need new leadership in this country, probably Independents. This means not re-electing the same leaders in the House, Senate, and Executive Branch that are tied to their special interest fringe groups who are paying for their re-election campaigns. This will be very painful for all classes of Americans. We all have our favorite piece of the fiscal pie that we cherish.

Mine is the gasoline tax for highway maintenance and improvements (Gorst Bottleneck). Highway maintenance and improvements are being threatened by electric vehicles that weigh 50 percent more than gasoline powered vehicles but don't pay gasoline tax for highway maintenance and improvements.

We are on an unsustainable fiscal path which will lead to most of our tax dollars going toward interest payments on the national debt leaving insufficient funds for mandatory spending programs that are the backbone of a properly functioning government. Our political leaders should at least publish a simple graph showing national debt as a percentage of our gross domestic product from 1900 through the present with a projection to 2050 if drastic changes aren't made soon. I think this graph would get your attention.

MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS

V.P. Ralph Sanders

Every year about this time I write that we will not be sending newsletters out in July and August. Nor will we have meetings during these months. It may sound like we are going on vacation, but we are not. NARFE work goes on at the chapter level all year long, each of us working to keep the chapter moving forward. If you have any questions or concerns, we will answer our phone calls as I hope we always do.

As for the legislative picture, there is not too much movement due to budget concerns. If you wish to keep abreast of NARFE legislation, look in your *NARFE Magazine* or go to the National website at NARFE.org and check out the "Advocacy" tab.

Now for the membership report covering 20 April through 24 May. We currently have 406 members in the chapter. Three members were dropped for nonrenewal this month: Janice Becker, Patricia Cassiday and Thomas Jurcak. If you know any of these members, please urge them to renew their membership. We had one member pass away this month, Juliette Rough-Hunt. Our condolences to the family.

We had two members reinstate their membership this month: Thomas Barrett and Deborah Franz-Anderson. Thank you so much.

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

PROGRAMS

Secretary Bea Bull

11 SEPTEMBER – Larry Carlson will tell us about the biodiesel plant at 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

Bremerton Armed Forces Day Parade – According to Wikipedia, this is the longest-running Armed Forces Day parade in the US. It was established in 1948 to honor John Druse “Bud” Hawk (30 May 1924 to 04 November 2013) who was a US Army soldier and recipient of the Medal of Honor for his actions in WWII during the battle of the Falaise pocket. NARFE is honored to be a part of this parade each year.



Photo snipped from BKAT recording on YouTube

AI voice cloning scams – Artificial intelligence (AI) voice cloning programs are very cheap and accessible, meaning these scams are on the rise. A con artist only needs a few seconds of your recorded voice to create a reasonably good clone. They can collect audio clips from social media, your answering machine or your cell phone voicemail recording. This is a good reason to use the standard greeting provided by your carrier rather than your personalized recording.

OPM, Social Security & TSP – Time to log into your OPM, Social Security & TSP accounts to keep your passwords active.

AUDIT REPORT

John Burch, Ralph Petersen and Bill Fuhrmeister

The Audit Review Committee considers that the financial records provide an accurate accounting for all financial transactions conducted during the audit period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. In our opinion Bremerton Chapter #181 is in sound financial condition. It appears that the internal controls are adequate and that the budgetary controls are being effectively utilized. The committee commends the Treasurer for the professional way his duties have been performed.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for April was \$403.25 with expenditures of \$515.85 for a decrease of \$112.60. Our net worth as of 30 April was \$34,497.62. A Treasurer's report for May 2023 will be available at our June meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

The balance in the Alzheimer's account as of 27 May 2023 is \$483.04. Thank you to Bea Bull, John Burch, Bill Fuhrmeister, DeAnna Gossett, Bill Powers and Rex Tauscher for their donations at the May membership meeting.

The 2023 Alzheimer's Walk will be in Silverdale on 7 October. Go to the district website and click on the "2023 Silverdale Walk to End Alzheimer's" tab to register for our team and/or make a donation.

**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 "speedy recovery" card sent to DeAnna Gossett.

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 SUMMER!

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-NATIONAL
 Vacant

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR-STATE
 Lyn Damschen

NARFE-PAC CHAIR
 Lanny Ross

SERGEANT AT ARMS
 William Fuhrmeister

SUNSHINE CHAIR
 Lois Barber

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 UNTIL DECEMBER 2023**
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John Burch

UNTIL DECEMBER 2024
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 Lanny Ross

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**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:
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 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

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 877-217-8234

ADD YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS
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