

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
except July & August

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

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

**September 2023**

**NUMBER 07-23**

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

**General Meeting Date & Time: September 11, 2023 1:00PM**

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

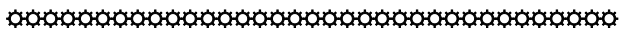
**Program: Sheila Taylor from Clutter Controllers Will Teach Us How to Declutter Our Homes**

*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**

- 27 September.....WSF Virtual Annual Meeting**
- 7 October.Silverdale Walk to End Alzheimer's**
- 7 October..... WSIC Rummage Sale 9AM-3PM**
- 9 October.....Membership Meeting**
- 13 November.....Membership Meeting & Health Fair - 10:00AM – 1:00PM**
- 11 December.....Holiday Luncheon**



**PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers

With summer almost gone, it is time to refocus our attention away from summer travel and leisure. As previously reported, June was LEGCon23, which was NARFE's virtual legislative training conference. Our secretary, Bea Bull, and I attended via Zoom. This provides a significant savings for our chapter since it eliminates travel and accommodations involved when sending a representative to Washington DC. Plus, our Washington State Federation (WSF) reimbursed our registration fees. We met as a virtual group from our varied legislative districts and discussed the *NARFE Magazine* "Bill Tracker" items with our western Washington congressional representatives' aides. We also met with Senator Cantwell's aides. We received positive feedback on all items except the Government

Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision (GPO/WEP). Congressman Adam Smith's aides said there are reasons this legislation has not passed, the first being that the cost is prohibitive in its present wording. Second, Social Security's formula for payment is meant to favor low-income retirees, not retirees who have both Social Security and federal retirement.

Our speaker for September's meeting is a reschedule from June. Sheila Taylor from Clutter Controllers will teach us how to declutter our homes. This works out very well with the West Side Improvement Club's (WSIC) rummage sale on 7 October. We (NARFE) will have two tables at this sale so bring your items that no longer fit your home decorating scheme for us to sell. All proceeds will be donated to Alzheimer's research. The sale is 7 October but we will be taking donations starting at our September chapter meeting at the WSIC. So, you have two reasons to come to the meeting or send your spouse. Guests are welcome. We will be accepting donations through the month of September also. **Please call me at 360-473-6301 or 360-377-7917 to make arrangements to drop donations off at my home.** Plus, you can bring donations to our executive board meeting at the WSIC on 4 October between noon and 1:30PM.

**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!!! USPS charges a fee for returned newsletters. **THANK YOU!!**

President cont. Our WSF will be focusing on RECRUITMENT for the next two years. Their virtual annual meeting will be held 27 September at 10 AM via ZOOM. You are welcome to attend this meeting. Request the Zoom link via email from Bea Bull.

In early November you will be seeing advertisements in the Kitsap Sun for our 13 November FEHB plan health fair at the WSIC. The health fair starts at 10:00AM followed by our chapter meeting at 1:00PM. Health fairs are a good way to familiarize federal employees with NARFE.

### COLA UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

The inflation trajectory has been consistent. The July CPI-W value is 299.394 and that is .34 percent higher than the previous month value. So, July stands at 2.567 percent higher than the Jul/Aug/Sep 2022 average value of 291.90066. We are headed for a 2.9 or 3 percent COLA at this pace.

### SEPTEMBER LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bill Powers

In our June newsletter the legislative topic was national debt negotiations. As predicted, Congress made some minor adjustments to the budget and kicked the can down the road. Now there are still threats of a government shutdown, but the debt limit suspension runs through 2024 which is past the next congressional and presidential elections of November 2024. My point is that we succeeded in our prime NARFE objective. The budget deal stayed clear of federal employees' retirement and health benefits plus allowed for an increase in defense spending for 2024. This is all good for Bremerton Chapter 181 due to the defense industry employment in our area.

However, our NARFE National office is still pushing for increases in non-defense spending in the present Congress. The House of Representatives and President Biden have already agreed to cap non-defense spending at a 5 percent reduction in 2024 compared to 2023 spending. Agreed that there are caveats in the budget for specific items, but our 2024 wish list is not going to happen. The key to all of these negotiations is that voting matters, but that is a year off.

**Silverdale Whaling Days Parade** – Our chapter had an entry in the parade with Secretary Bea Bull driving and VP Ralph Sanders riding. President Bill Powers ran in the “Whale of a Run.”

### MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS

V.P. Ralph Sanders

We will start off with a bit of legislation news about House Resolution 4260, Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act of 2023. This Bill was submitted by Representative Richard Neal (R-MA), introduced on 21 June 2023 and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. To date this legislation has 98 cosponsors. This bill would amend the “Windfall Elimination Provision” (WEP) by providing a monthly rebate of \$150.00 to current beneficiaries, age 62 or older before 2025 and creating a new formula to calculate benefits for future WEP affected individuals turning 62 in or after 2025. As of this writing there has been no action by the House or Committee. Please contact your representative and urge them to support and cosponsor this legislation.

Well, here we are back from our vacation. This report covers one month and parts of two months, 21 June through 24 August. I would like to thank our prospective members for signing on this summer: Betty Foster, Glenda Geiger, Frank Gram, Chris Hughs, Carol Marchand, Constance O’Shea, Christine Read and Laura Summers. I hope that you will join our chapter as full members.

Our present chapter membership is 395 and our National-only membership for the chapter area is 308. The following five members were dropped for nonpayment of dues: Garth Barnum, Michael Smith, Barbara Stedman, Evan Stoll and Donald Wahlquist. If you know any of these members, please urge them to renew their membership. We had one member, Helen Jett, pass away this summer. Our condolences to her family. We had one member, Russell Heglund, reinstate his membership. Thank you very much.

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



## PROGRAMS

Secretary Bea Bull

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. Location to be determined.

8 JANUARY – Possibly a speaker from Abraham’s House. This charity, located at 312 N Callow Ave, assists people in need with clothing and household items.

12 FEBRUARY – A speaker from Western Washington University, Poulsbo Campus, to talk about their cyber farm where they build websites, then watch hackers try to access them to learn ways to prevent those hacks.

11 MARCH – March is NARFE-PAC month.

8 APRIL – Interview with a local author. We will partner with Kitsap Regional Library Foundation who will interview Jonathan Evison, author of the novel, “The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving.”

10 JUNE – A speaker from KidVantage and a “diaper derby.” KidVantage, located at 1463 NE Dawn Rd off Hwy 303 in East Bremerton, helps families in need with items for infants and children. In May, organizations collect packages of diapers and donate them to KidVantage.

## SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Welcome back to a new season of meetings. As you can see, we already have a nice line-up of interesting programs and hope you’ll join us for one or all of them.

**Distinguished Members** – Each September we recognize members who have achieved 20 years of continuous membership. Please see the insert for the list of names. We thank you for your dedication to NARFE and to our chapter!

**2023 Fall Membership Drive** – NARFE kicks off this event beginning 1 September and ending 31 December. Current members can earn \$10.00 for each new member they recruit, as well as other prizes. See pg. 50 of the September *NARFE Magazine*.

**WSF Annual Meeting** – Besides training modules, hear reports from Region IX VP Steve Roy and Alzheimer’s Coordinator Linda O’Donnell, federation officers and coordinators, and chapter presidents.

**2023 PSNS FEHB Plan Health Fair** – This event, scheduled for 1 November, from 7:00AM to 5:00PM, will be at the Kitsap Conference Center, 100 Washington Ave, Bremerton.

**2023 Chapter Officer Elections** – It’s time again to nominate and elect chapter officer. Please see the insert for position descriptions.

## TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for June and July was \$641.31 with expenditures of \$899.66 for a decrease of \$258.35. Our net worth as of 31 July was \$33,928.66. A Treasurer’s report for August 2023 will be available at our September meetings.

## ALZHEIMER’S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

Total Alzheimer’s donations received as of 26 August 2023 is \$684.02.

The 2023 Alzheimer’s Walk will begin at Silverdale Waterfront Park on 7 October. Registration begins at 10:00AM. The ceremony begins at 11:00AM followed by the Walk. 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. We will have a table so, if you attend, please be sure to drop by and say “hello.”

**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 was sent to the family of Carl Anderson.

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.

**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

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

John Burch

**UNTIL DECEMBER 2024**  
Ralph Petersen  
Lanny Ross

**District III VP**

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tbkbull@gmail.com

**Region IX VP**  
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**WSF SERVICE OFFICER**  
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**SENIOR INFORMATION &  
ASSISTANCE**  
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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:  
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**

**Senator Patty Murray**  
950 Pacific Avenue #650  
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**Senator Maria Cantwell**  
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