

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

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

October 2023

NUMBER 08-23

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

General Meeting Date & Time: October 9, 2023 1:00PM

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

**Program: Recorded Presentation by Federation Service Officer Charlie Caughlan,
"What to Do and Who to Contact Upon the Death of a Federal Retiree."**

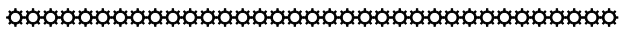
NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.

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

- 13 November.....FEHB Plan Health Fair - 10:00AM – 1:00PM**
- 13 November..... Membership Meeting - 1:00PM – 2:30PM**

11 December.....Holiday Luncheon



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

We had a good turnout for our September meeting featuring Sheila Taylor of Clutter Controllers. She presented several different efficient, space-saving variations for storage, especially kitchen cupboards, for those who are downsizing.

Between writing this article and publishing our October newsletter, we will hold our virtual Washington State Federation (WSF) Annual Meeting via ZOOM. The president of each of the remaining eleven WSF chapters will report their chapter activities, challenges, and needs. Hopefully this will help our state officers understand the breadth and depth of activities across the state. Also at this meeting, we will discuss the proposed in-person training event, annual meeting, and event social in the fall of 2024 at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick. In order to encourage attendance, the federation will probably pay all, or a portion of, the registration fee; but that still leaves your hotel and travel expenses.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, there is still time to bring your items for our two NARFE tables at the West Side Improvement Club's (WSIC) rummage sale on Saturday, 7 October, from 9:00AM to 3:00PM. All proceeds will be donated to Alzheimer's research. We will be setting up our table on Friday night, 6 October, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. **Please call me at 360-473-6301 or 360-377-7917 for drop-off instructions.**

We were hit with a price increase for rental of the WSIC hall that we did not expect. We use the main hall for our membership meetings on the second Monday of each month except July, August and December plus we use a conference room for our executive board meetings monthly except July. We paid \$250 last year for usage and budgeted \$300 for this year. However, this year we are being billed \$900 which is \$100 per month for hall rental. Conference room usage is free due to billing of their main hall for membership meetings. WSIC has seen a considerable drop in bingo profits recently which spurred this hall rental increase to keep their club viable. Bingo was their main source of income. If you have comments or concerns about this price increase, come to our executive board meeting at the WSIC at noon on 4 October. Treasurer Tauscher and I went to WSIC's September board meeting and stated our discomfort with the way they implemented their rate increase.

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!!

COLA UPDATE

Steve Ferguson

Interesting CPI-W today, 13 September 2023. This is a picture of monthly inflation since April:

April = .577 percent

May = .219 percent

June = .340 percent

July = .169 percent

Aug = .551 percent

This August jump in inflation puts our COLA at 3.3 percent. If September inflation is at least as much as July inflation, July and September cancel each other out when averaging July, August and September. It looks like a 3.3 percent COLA is shaping up, if not more.

OCTOBER LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bill Powers

At press time the House of Representatives is holding up 11 appropriations bills. This is due to an ideological battle over Speaker McCarthy's agreement with President Biden to lift the debt ceiling. The agreement also included the Fiscal Responsibility Act which held fiscal year (FY) 2024 top line spending numbers to that of FY 2023. The House of Representatives hardline Freedom Caucus actually wants to lower FY 2024 spending. Their point is that, annually, the US Government takes in approximately \$5 trillion but spends approximately \$7 trillion. That is why the federal deficit is approximately \$34 trillion. What most Freedom Caucus lawmakers are attempting to achieve is straight forward: Much needed border security and real budget cuts. What most main-street Americans want is a well-functioning government. A well-functioning economy requires a functioning government which includes tax collection with fair and equitable management.

What has happened in the past to keep the government open is a continuing resolution. That would extend FY 2023 spending levels for a designated period of time, probably into November. The next step Congress can take is an omnibus spending package which rolls all fiscal year spending into one very big package for a vote up or down. This is not desired because the package is so big that the lawmakers don't know what they are voting for or against and it's difficult to amend. However, if no appropriations bills get funded and there is no continuing resolution then there will be a shutdown with no clear path for reopening the government.

Congress, President Biden and the Federal Reserve

have a lot of issues on their plate this coming year including: Ukraine military aid; border security provisions; artificial intelligence funding; the Biden impeachment; the Trump indictment; disaster relief fund replenishment; the auto strike in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana; the Hollywood writer's strike; Schedule F; and inflation. I don't think 2024 is going to be the year we see government spending cuts.

MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS

V.P. Ralph Sanders

We will start this with a legislative note. Over 30 years ago two laws were passed: The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). Almost as soon as these laws were passed NARFE had legislation before Congress to repeal them and this 118th Congress is no different with HR 82 Social Security Fairness Act of 2023. As of this writing, this bill has 292 cosponsors: 199 Democrats and 93 Republicans. The experts give this legislation very little chance of passing this Congress. As time marches on the WEP and GPO effect fewer and fewer federal retirees. In the meantime, we need to keep this repeal legislation (HR 82) in the hearts and minds of our legislators.

To start our membership report, Bremerton Chapter 181 now has 393 members onboard. The following four members were dropped for nonpayment of dues: Rocco Bagala, John Schaleger, Kerry Stevens and George Wood. If you are familiar with any of these members, please urge them to renew their membership.

We have one new member, Theo Cragg, who joined us this month. Welcome to the Bremerton chapter and, if we may be of assistance in any way, please let us know.

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

Editors Note: Additional legislation has been introduced in the 118th Congress to repeal or reform the WEP/GPO. HR 4260 The Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act would reform WEP/GPO by creating a new formula for calculating Social Security benefits. HR 4583 Social Security 2100 Act would repeal the WEP/GPO. Both pieces of legislation are listed in the *NARFE Magazine* "Bill Tracker" section.

PROGRAMS

Secretary Bea Bull

13 NOVEMBER – NARFE health fair with FEHB plan reps.

11 DECEMBER – Holiday Luncheon. Location to be determined.

8 JANUARY – 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.”

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

November FEHB Plan Health Fair Flyers – I will have some flyers at the October meeting if you have in mind a place where you could post them.

2023 Fall Membership Drive – NARFE kicked off this event on 1 September and it will end on 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*.

If you need NARFE Application/Brochures, let me know. I always have recruiting packets at the meetings but can also mail you a few applications to have on hand should a recruiting opportunity arise.

Vaccines – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend you receive the vaccines for the three big respiratory viruses: The updated COVID vaccine and vaccines for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and influenza. Contact your pharmacy to schedule your vaccinations.

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. The chapter will staff a table at this event so, if you attend, please stop by and say “hello”.

2023 Chapter Officer Elections – There’s still time to volunteer for a chapter officer position or nominate someone. Nominees are:

President – Bill Powers

Vice President – Ralph Sanders

Secretary – Bea Bull

Treasurer – Rex Tauscher

Executive Board Member – Stan Barber

Executive Board Member – John Burch

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our income for August was \$298.41 with expenditures of \$100.61 for an increase of \$198.20. Our net worth as of 31 August was \$35,725.81. A Treasurer’s report for September 2023 will be available at our October meetings.

ALZHEIMER’S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

Total Alzheimer’s donations received as of 23 September 2023 are \$705.02. Thank you to Stan Barber, Lee Burnett, John Burch, Bill Powers and Ralph Sanders for their donations.

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 Lee Burnett in the loss of his wife, Carol.

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

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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>

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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
800-456-8410

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