

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
except July & August

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
ASSOCIATION, BREMERTON CHAPTER 181**  
P.O. Box 4514, Bremerton, WA 98312-0392

**February 2024**

**NUMBER 02-24**

**General Meeting Date & Time: February 12, 2024 1:00PM**

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

**Program: Paul Haithcock from Western Washington University, Poulsbo Campus, will explain how their cyber farm uses "honey pots" to prevent hacks**

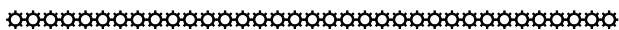
*NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.*

**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**

**11 March.....Membership Meeting**

**8 April.....Membership Meeting**



**PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers

Inflation is one of the key voter issues in the coming November 2024 election. Last month Civil Service Retirement System retirees received a 3.2 percent increase, Federal Employees Retirement System a 2.2 percent increase, and federal employees a 5.2 percent increase. I bring these up because currently financial analysts are saying that overall inflation is running at 3.4 percent with core inflation at 4.0 percent. Rent, long-term leases, and new home pricing, plus a current 30-year mortgage interest rate hovering above 7.0 percent continue to be a national problem. However, the stock market is saying, "We think better times are ahead".

Locally, our Bremerton City Council rejected Mayor Wheeler's proposal for a homeless congregate shelter off Oyster Bay Road on city property in West Bremerton. The mayor highlighted his proposal as a guest speaker at our NARFE Holiday Luncheon. Instead, the City Council preferred a hybrid development off Wheaton Way corridor by Hollis Street in East Bremerton. I see two problems with this solution. First is timing. I doubt negotiations and development will coincide with the Salvation

Army's homeless shelter schedule to keep the homeless off the streets. The city has to provide shelter availability for the homeless before they can enforce removal of tents from streets and parks. However, the Salvation Army extended their shelter availability to spring 2025. Second is funding. This is going to break the city's budget. They are going to need private, county, state, or federal fiscal assistance to develop this non-city property.

A problem was brought to my attention for which I'm going to request assistance from our NARFE National organization. A lot of us, when we retire, get a retiree badge from Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) Pass & ID. This allows us to enter the outer area of PSNS, not the industrial area. I got one when I retired and renewed it upon badge expiration date, approximately every seven years. But last year when I was doing a volunteer job taking a disabled military retiree's wife into PSNS for commissary privileges, I was told that my badge was no longer acceptable. I was to go to Pass & ID to get a different badge. I did this and got a Defense Biometric ID System (DBIDS) badge to continue my volunteer work for the next time I had to enter PSNS. The problems are:

- 1. This badge is only good for one year; I have to go back in October to renew;

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**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!!

**Nine newsletters were returned costing the chapter \$6.84.**

## President cont.

2. The badge is only good at Naval Base Kitsap for Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facility privileges;
3. An OPM Standard Form 50-B (SF-50) Notification of Personal Action and an original birth certificate are required. I had all the necessary paper work but most retirees have long ago lost or misplaced these papers; and
4. I thought that this change was for Naval Base Kitsap only but it is a national requirement.

It is just one more item where government is chipping away at our retirement benefits. We originally had to have all this data to work and retire. I have been asked to refer this item up to NARFE National to ask why the restrictions were put in place and what can be done to ease the paperwork.

## **Legislative Report** President Bill Powers

As we all know, Congress avoided another government shutdown when Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, announced a deal with President Joe Biden and Senate Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer. The shutdown is delayed until the first week in March to allow negotiations among the different party factions on both sides of the aisle. Signed into law was a two-tier funding bill going through 1 March and 8 March. The idea is to give Congress a little bit of breathing room to agree on individual spending bills without shutting down our government.

The major short-term issues are U.S./Mexico border security; continued funding support for the Ukraine/Russian war; and negotiations to bring Israel and the Hamas/Houthi coalition to a peaceful resolution to Israeli security and Palestinian sovereignty. The long-term issues are deficit spending and the national debt. We will address what has been resolved, if anything, in our March newsletter.

Locally, our election for Washington State's Sixth Congressional District seat is down to three candidates. Congressman Derek Kilmer (D) is not running for re-election and Kate Dean (D), Jefferson County Commissioner, withdrew her candidacy due to lack of campaign contributions. If you strongly support a candidate, it is very important to support them in the early stages; lack of financial support shows weakness.

Our secretary sent out letters and NARFE white papers showing our purpose, membership and certain bills we are tracking to the three candidates. Our goal is to invite each candidate to a separate executive board meeting to discuss issues and get to know each of them. We have had positive responses from two of them to date.

## **MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS**

V.P. Ralph Sanders

Not too many musings this month so we will get started with the membership report. This report will cover the dates from 20 December to 25 January. The Bremerton Chapter now has 390 active members on its register. One member, Louis C , passed away during this period. Our condolences to the family of this member. Two members were dropped for nonrenewal: Gregory A and Gary O . If you know either of these members, please urge them to reinstate their membership.

We had two new chapter members join during this period: Tammy J and Karen R . Thank you very much for joining NARFE and Bremerton Chapter 181. Should you have any questions regarding NARFE or the chapter, please feel free to call any of the officers listed on the back page of this newsletter.

There were fourteen members who renewed their membership during this period; we would like to thank you for your continued support. Starting with this month's newsletter, we added thirty-six new prospective members to our mailing list. There are too many of you to list your names but we hope you will join NARFE. If you have any questions, please call, or come to one of our monthly meetings. The meeting information is on the front page of the newsletter.

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

*As a reminder, your February annuity statement will show your FEHB and FEDVIP plan premium adjustments.*

## PROGRAMS

Secretary Bea Bull

12 FEBRUARY – Paul Haithcock 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. WSF Legislative Coordinator Doug Rushton and Stephanie Hahn, Kitsap Outreach Representative, from Congressman Kilmer’s Bremerton office will join us.

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.”

13 MAY – Melanie Magnenat from KidVantage will share what this local charitable organization does. We will participate in their “Diaper Derby” by asking members to bring a package of diapers to the meeting as a donation to KidVantage.

10 JUNE – Phil Cook, Kitsap County Assessor, will provide an update on significant changes to the Senior/Disabled persons exemption program for property taxes.

## SECRETARY

Bea Bull

**Washington State Federation Bylaws Revisions** – The Washington State Federation is updating its bylaws, which must be approved by a majority of federation members voting. They will be posted for your review in two places:

1. On the federation website at <https://www.narfe.org/wa/about-us/policies-and-procedures/> or go to [www.narfe.org/wa](http://www.narfe.org/wa), mouse over “ABOUT US”, and click on “Policies and Procedures”; review the document and submit your comments to me at [tbkbull@gmail.com](mailto:tbkbull@gmail.com); or
2. On the Washington Federation forum of FEDHub; look for a Washington State Federation thread with the subject line “Proposed and Endorsed Updates to the Washington State Federation NARFE Bylaws”; review the document and make your comments in the forum.

The deadline for submitting comments is 30 March 2024. A special Zoom meeting is scheduled for 23 April to discuss all comments and proposed changes followed by a vote to approve the updated bylaws.

Information on how to attend the meeting including the Zoom link will be available on the federation website ([www.narfe.org/WA](http://www.narfe.org/WA)) at least two weeks before the meeting.

**Combining Districts** – At the 23 January 2024 Washington State Federation Executive Committee meeting a vote was held to combine Districts II and III with me as the District VP. The Western Washington District will be Seattle, Vancouver, Everett, Bremerton, Olympia/South Puget Sound, Sequim/Olympic Peninsula, Longview/Kelso and Sno-King. The Eastern Washington District will be Spokane, Tri-Cities and Colville Valley with Mary B as the District VP.

## TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our account balances for November were \$18,558.87 and for December balances were \$16,443.74, for a decrease of \$2,115.13. The Life Membership Trust account value as of 31 December 2023 has increased \$0.41 per share for a value change of plus \$737.79.

Our net worth as of 31 December was \$34,343.40. A Treasurer’s report for January 2024 will be available at our February 2024 meetings.

## ALZHEIMER’S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

Alzheimer’s donations were received from Stan and Lois B and Al H . We thank everyone for your donations.

**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: Alzheimer’s Association  
225 N Michigan Ave, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601-7633**

## SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

Thinking of you cards were sent to Steve F and Don and Lola Z .

If you know of a chapter member in need of a little sunshine, please contact Lois at 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 2024**  
Ralph Petersen  
Lanny Ross

**UNTIL DECEMBER 2025**  
Stan Barber  
John Burch

**WESTERN WASHINGTON  
DISTRICT VP**

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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.narfe.org/wa/ NEW

**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  
Tacoma, WA 98402  
Tacoma Phone Number 253-572-3636  
D.C. Phone Number 202-224-2621  
www.murray.senate.gov

**Senator Maria Cantwell**  
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