



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

March 2024

NUMBER 03-24

General Meeting Date & Time: March 11, 2024 1:00PM

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

**Program: Stephanie Hahn, Kitsap Outreach Representative from Congressman
Kilmer's Bremerton Office, Will Provide an Update**

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

8 April.....Membership Meeting

13 May.....Membership Meeting



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Our March guest speaker will be Stephanie Hahn, Congressman Kilmer's Bremerton office Kitsap Outreach Representative. Since March is NARFE-PAC month, our other speaker will be Washington State Federation Legislative (National) Coordinator Doug Ruston. We will also give a demonstration for accessing the Washington State Legislative website.

Six of the "Let's Go Washington" initiatives have shown a lot of interest. Three of these will be taken up by the legislature and may be adopted prior to the November election. The other three will be voted on in November.

We have scheduled discussions with each of the 6th Congressional District candidates running for Congressman Kilmer's position. The first of the discussions will be with Hilary Franz; we will meet with her during our March executive board meeting. These discussions will continue, one each month, until we have met with all the candidates. The purpose of these meetings is to get to know these candidates, explain NARFE advocacy to them, and our position on a few issues.

All the Bills presented in the 118th Congress that are not made into law will have to be re-introduced in the 119th Congress if NARFE wants to continue advocating for these issues. One of these candidates, when elected, would become a junior member of the 119th Congress, and subject to co-sponsorship requests.

In last month's newsletter I discussed a problem with the new Defense Biometric ID System (DBIDS) badge to enter Naval Base Kitsap. I said that I would request assistance from our NARFE National office. The issue was brought to the attention of our Region IX VP Steve Roy to address at National. He reviewed it and determined that we should bring the issue up with our congressman's representative at our March membership meeting. I'll report on results.

Besides being NARFE-PAC month, it is also Washington's Presidential Primary month. Submit your vote in one of the white drop boxes by 12 March or by U.S. Mail a week early. Note that some candidates have dropped out of the race since the ballots were printed. There is also an option on the ballot to vote for uncommitted delegates. This means that there will be a certain number of Washington State delegates, depending upon the votes received for this category, at the national convention who are free to vote for any candidate of their choice on the first ballot.

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!!**
Two newsletters were returned costing \$0.68 each.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

President Bill Powers

As of the newsletter deadline, the Senate has tailored a contingency resolution for a short-term patch to extend government funding to two different dates, similar to the January stopgap deal. Speaker of the House Johnson will probably need a two-thirds vote threshold to pass this contingency resolution and get it to the President's desk.

Unfortunately, Congress doesn't seem able to come up with budgets for each of the different departments of government. It has been over 25 years since Congress passed a budget and actually lowered the government debt; that was during the Clinton Administration.

We will provide an update on budget negotiations next month. However, until Congress can agree on Ukraine support, Mexican border crossing negotiations, and Israeli/Palestine proposals, I think they will continue kicking the can down the road. As for the Federal Reserve, it sounds like they are going to keep borrowing rates "as is" until their July meeting. By then they should have enough positive data to lower rates.

On the brighter side, three stock market indexes hit an all-time high: the S&P 500, NASDAQ 100 and Dow Jones Industrial Average. All three closed at record levels. For those of you who own NVIDIA, it added \$277 billion in value, the most in stock market history. The company had triple digit revenue growth and its market cap is almost \$2 trillion dollars now. It deals with artificial intelligence and is breathing fresh life into the stock market.

Also on the brighter side, Odysseus successfully made a soft landing near the south pole of the Moon. This is the first privately built spacecraft to land on the lunar surface. It has been 50 years since an American spacecraft has made a soft landing on the Moon. By SpaceX getting involved in space exploration, they have brought costs way down.

USING THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

Bea Bull, Secretary

NARFE has made it very easy to contact our congressional representatives via the National website. Go to www.narfe.org and mouse over "ADVOCACY", then click on "Take Action". Select the topic about which you wish to write and simply complete the form and send it. NARFE recommends adding a personal touch to the pre-written letter, e.g., tell your story about how this legislation affects you.

MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS

V.P. Ralph Sanders

The musings for this month are: 1) I am certain that most of you realize this is an election year. Well, get out there and elect someone! 2) We have three elected federal officials in the State of Washington: two Senators and one Representative. How long has it been since you dropped them a line and said "howdy". We elect these folks and then never talk to them again until the next election cycle and then wonder why they did not do what we expected them to do. Unfortunately, I can fall into this trap just like the rest of you.

We will get started with the membership report for the dates from 25 January to 22 February. The Bremerton chapter now has 384 members. Five members were found to be deceased during this period: Clara B█, Lyle B█, Wanda F█, Carolyn P█ and Sandra █ S█. Our condolences to the families of these members. Two members were dropped for nonrenewal: Jeff George and Gary Martell. If you should know either of these members, please urge them to reinstate their membership.

We have no new members for this report. Gary G. O█ reinstated his membership this month. Thank you, Gary, for doing so. There were eight members who renewed their membership during this period; thanks a bunch, to all of you.

If you have any questions regarding NARFE or Bremerton Chapter 0181, please contact any of the officers listed on the back of this newsletter.

PROGRAMS

Secretary Bea Bull

11 MARCH – March is NARFE-PAC month. Our guest speaker, Washington State Federation Legislative (National) Coordinator Doug Rushton, will discuss legislation and explain the importance of donating to NARFE-PAC.

8 APRIL – We will partner with the Kitsap Regional Library Foundation to interview local author, Jonathan Evison.

13 MAY – Melanie Magnenat from KidVantage will share what this local charitable organization does. We will participate in their "Diaper Derby" by collecting diapers as a donation to KidVantage. The most needed sizes are 5 and 6.

10 JUNE – Phil Cook, Kitsap County Assessor, will discuss changes to the Senior/Disabled persons exemption program for property taxes.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Reminder! 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, mouse over “ABOUT US”, and click on “Policies and Procedures”; review the document and submit your comments to me at 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. 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) at least two weeks before the meeting.

Candidates Needed! – Candidates are needed for the Region IX VP position (replaces Steve Roy) and for all federation officer positions (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer).

If you're interested in the Region IX VP position or wish to nominate someone, please contact Steve Roy at stevenroy1@yahoo.com or 425-344-3926.

Anyone interested in becoming a federation officer or nominating someone, please contact Washington State Federation President Cray Henry at wsf.cray.henry@gmail.com or 571-512-0476.

Federation officer position descriptions can be found on the federation website at www.narfe.org/wa/. Mouse over the “ABOUT US” tab and click on “Policies and Procedures”. Click on the “Standing Rules” PDF and review the pages in Article II – Officers.

Region IX Symposium – This regional event, scheduled for October 24-26 at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, will bring in

members from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

Our planning committee is busy obtaining speakers and arranging information sessions. The Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) plan reps will be onsite to address USPS employee/retiree questions about the new Postal Service Health Benefit (PSHB) plans that will roll out in 2025.

This is the first in-person event since COVID and we are excited to once more gather with NARFE members we haven't seen in perhaps four years!

Watch the federation website (www.narfe.org/wa/) for information as it becomes available, or contact Bea Bull, who is the planning committee secretary.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our account balance for December was \$16,443.74 and, for January, \$17,050.39, for an increase of \$606.65. The Life Membership Trust account value 4th quarter to 30 December 2023 has increased \$0.41 per share for a value change of positive \$737.79; the total trust value is \$16,213.31. The balance in the bulk mail account was \$258.15, and in the return mail account, \$150.73 for a chapter net worth as of 31 January of \$33,672.58. A Treasurer's report for February 2024 will be available at our March 2024 meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

Alzheimer's donations were received from Bea B█, Bill F█, DeAnna G█ and Pete M█. 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, 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601-7633**

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

A “thinking of you” card was sent to Lanny R█.

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

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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/

NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE
www.narfe.org

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE
877-217-8234

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