



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

October 2024

NUMBER 08-24

General Meeting Date & Time: October 14, 2024 1:00PM

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

Program: Joe Crain, Bremerton Executive Director, St. Vincent DePaul, Will Present the Expansion of Their Facility

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

30 October. PSNS FEHB Program Health Fair

11 November. Chapter-hosted FEHB Program Health Fair – 10:00AM to 1:00PM

11 November.....Membership Meeting

9 December.....Holiday Luncheon

13 January.....Membership Meeting

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Our chapter received an inheritance from Myra Clodius' estate this last month in the amount of \$31,788.31. She and her husband, Charles, were long-time members of Chapter 0181. For many years, she presented our "Thought for the Day" at the start of each monthly chapter meeting and organized our Holiday Luncheon sign-ups. We deposited the funds in an unused Kitsap Credit Union savings account until our executive board can decide how to better invest the funds. This money basically doubles our chapter total net worth. **Thank you, Myra!**

We are planning our annual Holiday Luncheon with three options being bid upon. The Eagles Aerie on Sheridan Road where we had our 2023

luncheon; The Elks Lodge on Pine Road where we had our 2022 luncheon; and The Willows Senior Living, also on Pine Road, where we held many prior luncheons. We will make a final decision about the location at our October executive board meeting and set the luncheon price.

Our Washington State Federation and Region IX are holding a symposium October 24-26 in Kennewick, Wash. Our secretary and I are unable to attend due to prior commitments. With the money already set aside for our registration and our above windfall from Myra, we are offering two **FULL** scholarships to the symposium. If interested, contact Bea Bull, our Western Washington District VP. We previously offered this opportunity but without the **FULL** scholarship.

This is for those of you who live in the Bremerton area and are interested in state politics. Greater Kitsap Chamber of Commerce is holding a forum for 23rd Legislative District candidates on 1 October at 8:00AM at the Cloverleaf meeting room on Wheaton Way. Another forum will be held the following week,

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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!!**

President cont. 8 October, also at 8:00AM, at the Cloverleaf for the 26th Legislative District candidates. I'm sure the ferry system and housing will be hot issues on the agenda.

Finally, I no longer have my landline, only my cell phone: 360-473-6301.

WASHINGTON STATE INITIATIVES

Find information about the Initiatives that will be on the ballot in November at the League of Women Voters site: lwvwa.org/page-18780.

WEP/GPO LEGISLATION STATUS

President Bill Powers

The Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82/S. 597, would repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Much attention has been given to this subject over the past 40 years and NARFE is presently pushing for an up or down vote in the House of Representatives. Both senators and nine out of our ten Washington State representatives are co-sponsors of this bill. A bipartisan effort to advance H.R. 82 to a House vote was successful.

A discharge petition signed by 218 legislators is required to force House Speaker Mike Johnson to schedule a vote on the Social Security Fairness Act H.R. 82. This was accomplished with seven* of our ten legislators signing the discharge petition. There is a one-week "layover period" following petition success. However, this pushed the vote into the October recess period in anticipation of the 2024 election cycle. The earliest that H.R. 82 could be called up for a vote is in November. November and December are called the lame duck session because representatives, such as Derek Kilmer whose term ends 3 January 2025, chose not to run for re-election.

Even if the House successfully votes to pass the measure, the bill's sponsors will find an uphill battle in the Senate. The Senate version, S. 597, has 63 cosponsors. This is enough to break the filibuster; however, the Senate will only have 24 working days before the end of the 118th Congress on 3 January 2025. This is due to the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays.

If passed by both the House and Senate, this will be a huge and well-deserved success for both NARFE and the bipartisan Problem Solving Caucus.

***Editor's Note:** Congressman Kilmer and Congresswoman Strickland signed the discharge petition on the first day. Please contact your

representative's office and thank them for their support to move this legislation forward.

MEMBERSHIP & MUSINGS

V.P. Ralph Sanders

As I started to write the October 2024 membership report, I happened to look at the October 2023 report and guess what? I wrote a paragraph about the national budget; I could change the dates and use the same material that I used last year, but I decided to pick a different subject for this year.

H.R. 1002, Saving the Civil Service Act, is legislation that was introduced in February 2023 by Representative Gerald Connolly (D-VA) and has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. The legislation would generally prohibit changes to the classification of positions in the excepted service unless certain conditions are met. This is known as Schedule F. It appears that OPM has made new rules concerning Schedule F, precluding the need for the legislation currently.

Now we will get on with this month's membership report. Bremerton Chapter 0181 now has 363 members, a loss of 33 members over the last 12 months. We have lost four members due to non-renewal this month: Domenic [REDACTED], Guy [REDACTED], Randall [REDACTED] and Steven [REDACTED]. We have one new Prospective Member: Doreen [REDACTED]. We welcome you and hope that NARFE can fulfil your expectations. Fifteen members renewed their membership for another year. We thank you for your support.

I am certain that you have noticed the significant decrease in chapter membership this year. There are numerous reasons why members are dropping: Some have dropped their chapter membership to become National-only members believing that NARFE National carries the big stick. Not to take away from all that the National organization accomplishes, but grass roots lobbying, which is our real power, can only be done at the chapter level.

If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding NARFE or Bremerton Chapter 0181, feel free to contact any member listed on the back page of this newsletter.

2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Join the NARFE National Fall Membership Drive where current members earn \$10.00 for every new member they recruit. See the October *NARFE Magazine* page 70 for details.

CHAPTER ELECTION

It's time to elect two executive board members for the January 2025 through December 2026 term. Ralph Petersen has agreed to run again and Rex Tauscher will run for the open position. We will take nominations from the floor at the October membership meeting or contact John Burch or Ralph Petersen to nominate someone.

PROGRAMS

11 NOVEMBER – Chapter-hosted FEHB plan health fair – 10:00AM to 1:00PM. Meeting at 1:00PM – Reps will present their plans.

9 DECEMBER – Holiday Luncheon – 1:00PM – location to be determined.

2025 Program Ideas – The Kitsap Regional Library Foundation has agreed to partner with us for another “Meet the Author” event; we are considering D.D. Black, author of a series of books set in the Pacific Northwest.

I'm also looking at inviting our new 6th Congressional District Representative; someone to speak about reverse mortgages and the new federation president, Tony Merola.

SECRETARY

Bea Bull

Federation Elections – Since there was only one nominee for WSF President, Vice President and Secretary, the advisory committee elected them by acclamation meaning there will be no election by ballot. The new officers are as follows: President – Tony Merola (Olympia/South Puget Sound); VP – Kathy Brooks (Spokane); and Secretary – Curtis Price (Everett). There is no nominee for the Treasurer's position. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

PSNS FEHB Program Health Fair – This event will be held in the Kitsap Conference Center ballroom again this year. Parking is in the adjoining parking garage

WHERE: 100 Washington Avenue, Bremerton

WHEN: 30 October from 7:00AM to 5:00PM.

We could really use some volunteers to help staff the table!! Please contact Bea for more information.

Chapter-hosted FEHB Program Health Fair Flyers – If you have somewhere you can post a flyer announcing this event, the flyer is available on the district website under the “Events” tab. Look for the November meeting under an orange bar.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our account balance for the end of July was \$17,171.67, and for the end of August was \$17,592.25, for an increase of \$420.58. The Life Membership Trust account value has increased from \$9.01 per share on 31 December 2023 to \$9.25 as of 18 September 2024 for an increase in account value as of 31 August of \$431.88. Balances in newsletter mailing accounts were, bulk mail \$226.62 and return mail \$137.87, for a net worth as of 31 August of \$34,116.74. A Treasurer's report for September 2024 will be available at our October 2024 meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

Our 2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's was 21 September at Silverdale Waterfront Park. It was a beautiful day for the event and several members dropped by to visit with Rex and me. To date our team has raised \$435.00. You can continue to make donations through 31 December 2024; visit the “2024 Alzheimer's Walk” tab on the district website or ask me for a donation form. Donation forms will be available at the October membership meeting.

At the September meeting, Alzheimer's donations were received from Loraine [REDACTED], DeAnna [REDACTED], Al [REDACTED] and Region IX VP Steve Roy. We thank everyone for their 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 sympathy card was sent to the family of Gwen [REDACTED] and a “Thinking of You” card was sent to Lois [REDACTED].

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 FALL!

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PRESIDENT

Bill Powers 360-473-6301
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
Bill Powers

SERGEANT AT ARMS
William Fuhrmeister

SUNSHINE CHAIR
Lois Barber

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
UNTIL DECEMBER 2024**
Ralph Petersen
Vacant

UNTIL DECEMBER 2025
Stan Barber
John Burch

**WESTERN WASHINGTON
DISTRICT VP**

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NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE
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877-217-8234

ADD YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS
800-456-8410

NARFE STATE WEBSITE
www.narfe.org/wa/

NARFE DISTRICT WEBSITE
Webmaster – Bea Bull
www.narfewadistiv.org

CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE
<https://www.facebook.com/narfechap181>

**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

**SENIOR INFORMATION &
ASSISTANCE**

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OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

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