

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

November 2024

NUMBER 09-24

General Meeting Date & Time: November 11, 2024 1:00PM
Health Fair: 10:00AM – 1:00PM

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

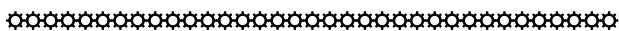
Program: The Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan Reps Will Provide an Overview of Their Plans

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

- 9 December.....Holiday Luncheon**
- 13 January.....Membership Meeting**
- 10 FebruaryMembership Meeting**
- 10 March.....Membership Meeting**



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

I encourage members, if able, to sign up for our holiday luncheon at Bremerton Elks Lodge on Monday, 9 December, at 1:00PM. John Burch is taking reservations. Cost is \$20.00 and choices are flank steak, salmon, or chicken cordon bleu. This is a good price because our chapter is paying for the Lodge rental and gratuity portion of the luncheon out of proceeds from interest accumulated on our Chapter Life Membership investment. In recognition of the donation from the Myra Clodius estate, which I discussed in our October newsletter, our luncheon is renamed the "Myra Clodius Holiday Luncheon." We will use interest accumulated from this donation to help pay for future luncheons to keep costs down for our members.

November is health fair month. Open Season is 11 November through 9 December. The PSNS FEHB program health fair will be at the Kitsap Conference Center, 100 Washington Ave, Bremerton, on Wednesday, 30 October, from 7:00AM to 5:00PM. We will have a table at the conference center for this event. Our chapter-hosted FEHB program health fair will be on Monday, 11 November, from 10:00AM to 1:00PM at the Westside Improvement Club, 4109 West 'E' Street off National Avenue in Bremerton. Representatives from major health plans will be available to answer questions and will briefly describe their plan changes for 2025 at the start of our regular meeting at 1:00PM.

For those who missed the Kitsap Sun article, Derek Kilmer's new job will be as a senior vice president for the Rockefeller Foundation. He will be in charge of a newly created U.S. Program & Policy team. He will oversee several philanthropy projects with the capacity to expand economic opportunity and strengthen our democracy. Derek has been our 6th Congressional District Representative for the

Continued on page 2

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. last 12 years. Before that he served eight years in the State Legislature. Derek is a good friend of our NARFE organization and will be missed. He will be replaced by either Emily Randall or Drew MacEwen based on the results of our 2024 Washington General Election on 5 November.

The latest cost-of-living adjustment for CSRS retirees and Social Security recipients will be 2.5 percent beginning in January 2025. This is based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). FERS retirees will receive a 2 percent "diet" COLA. For those keeping track of the minimum wage in Washington State, in January it will increase to \$16.66, the highest state minimum wage in the country. Some cities have a higher minimum wage; the federal minimum wage is still stuck at \$7.25; and some states have an even lower minimum wage for tipped workers.

Remember to vote.

REPORT FROM THE REGION IX SYMPOSIUM

Secretary Bull

Jenn Rafael, NARFE National Director, Communications and Marketing, provided an update on the Association Management Software (AMS) upgrade. The ability to access member records is working but reports are still being tested. This not only impacts chapter officers' ability to run membership and financial reports, it prevents NARFE National from tracking dues income which, in turn, prevents them from sending dues monies to the federations and chapters. Jenn hopes these problems will be solved by Thanksgiving.

Chapter 0181 currently has 360 members. Sadly, we've learned of three members who passed away: Carolyn M█████, K. E█████ N█████ and Daniel A█████ T█████. Our condolences to their families.

John Hatton, NARFE National Staff Vice President, Policy and Programs, discussed H.R. 82/S. 597 Social Security Fairness Act. He is confident that, because sufficient signatures were obtained on the discharge petition, H.R. 82 will be voted on by the House after election day. He expects this legislation to pass. What we, as grassroots advocates need to do, is contact our congressional representative to remind them to vote, and urge them to vote "yes." Contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

John is less confident about S. 597 passing. The support is there but, because the Senate operates under different rules, it's harder to get this

legislation onto the floor for a vote. So, it's back to us at the grassroots level to put the pressure on our Senators to get this legislation out of committee and onto the Senate floor for a vote.

NARFE National President Bill Shackelford discussed ideas for recruiting new members. Street Level Studio has been hired to produce TV-quality ads to target current federal employees; USPS employees are being targeted on Facebook; and Nora MacDonald, NARFE National Director of Member Engagement, announced that they are planning a radio program in the Bremerton area to target federal employees. Also, there are plans to make federal human resources departments aware of NARFE's expertise in federal benefits. WSF President Cray Henry asked that chapters be made aware of National's recruiting focus so they can be the boots-on-the-ground targeting the same group, e.g., forestry employees or postal employees, or DOD employees.

Continued Pg. 3

"Myra Clodius Holiday Luncheon"

In Grateful Recognition for the Gift from Her Estate

Where – Elks Lodge, 4131 Pine Rd NE, Bremerton

When – 9 December at 1:00PM

Price - \$20.00 per person – make checks payable to "Bremerton NARFE Chapter 0181"

Reservations Required – Please contact John Burch at 360-377-7784 to make your reservation and payment.

Reservation Deadline – 30 November 2024

MENU OPTIONS

*Flank Steak, Roasted Potatoes,
Spring Veggies*

Salmon, Rice Pilaf, Salad, Roll

*Chicken Cordon Bleu, Rice Pilaf,
Salad, Roll*

Cookies for Dessert

**Mayor Wheeler will be our guest
speaker**

Region IX Symposium cont. President Shackelford also discussed switching NARFE from a 501(c)(5) organization to a 501(c)(4), (6) or (3); John Hatton, in a later presentation, acknowledged that, as a 501(c)(3) organization, chapters would no longer be able to encourage members to make NARFE-PAC donations.

The National bylaws amendment to discontinue the sale of National Life Memberships passed; therefore, Bremerton will discontinue the sale of Chapter Life Memberships. All currently held Life Memberships will continue to be honored.

Jenn Rafael announced that chapter communities will now be introduced on FEDhub. She started the first one with her own chapter in Massachusetts; Bremerton will be the second chapter to have its own FEDhub community with me as the administrator. All Chapter 0181 members with an email address in the NARFE database will be automatically enrolled in the community and this will become a primary channel of communication with you. I encourage you to use it and, if you need help, ask me.

Region IX VP Steve Roy announced awards that were presented at FEDcon24: Washington State Federation received a Gold Advocacy Benchmark Award for member advocacy activities and the “Third Place in the U.S. Certificate” for “Total Amount of Alzheimer’s Donations Received.” He also presented two federation-level awards to the Bremerton chapter: “Highest Total Alzheimer’s Donations” and “Highest Per Capita Alzheimer’s Donations.” Good job Bremerton members!!

CHAPTER ELECTION

At the November meeting we will conduct the election for 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. No nominations were received from the floor at the October membership meeting.

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.

PROGRAMS

11 NOVEMBER – Chapter-hosted FEHB plan health fair – 10:00AM to 1:00PM. I’m expecting BCBS, Kaiser, GEHA, Aetna and United Healthcare.

Open Season Dates – 11/11 – 12/9

9 DECEMBER – Holiday Luncheon – 1:00PM – Elks Lodge (see pg. 2 for details).

13 January – Lauren Carroll, Washington Alzheimer’s Association Program Manager.

TREASURER

Rex Tauscher

Our account balance for the end of August was \$33,752.25, and for the end of September was \$65,762.36, for an increase of \$32,010.11. The Life Membership Trust account value will be reported as share value as of April 1, 2024 which was \$16,159.31, until the end of 2024 tax year. We received a trust donation to our account of \$31,788.86 in September for an account value of \$65,762.36 as of 30 September 2024. Balances in the bulk mail and return mail accounts were, respectively, \$208.00 and \$135.81 for a net worth as of 30 September of \$66,106.17. A Treasurer’s report for October 2024 will be available at our November 2024 meetings.

ALZHEIMER’S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

At the October meeting, Alzheimer’s donations were received from Loraine B██████, DeAnna G██████, Al H██████, Rex and Carol T██████ and Don Z██████. 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 Daniel A██████ T██████ and one will be sent to the family of Carolyn M██████ if we obtain an address.

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.

<p>PRESIDENT Bill Powers 360-473-6301 powersw@silverlink.net</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Ralph Sanders</p> <p>SECRETARY NEWSLETTER EDITOR Bea Bull</p> <p>TREASURER Rex Tauscher</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE CHAIR-NATIONAL Vacant</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE CHAIR-STATE Lyn Damschen</p> <p>NARFE-PAC CHAIR Bill Powers</p> <p>SERGEANT AT ARMS William Fuhrmeister</p> <p>SUNSHINE CHAIR Lois Barber</p> <p>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS UNTIL DECEMBER 2024 Ralph Petersen Vacant</p> <p>UNTIL DECEMBER 2025 Stan Barber John Burch</p>	<p>WESTERN WASHINGTON DISTRICT VP Bea Bull 360-286-7798 tbkbull@gmail.com</p> <p>REGION IX VP Steven Roy 425-344-3926 stevenroy1@yahoo.com</p> <p>WSF SERVICE OFFICER Charles Caughlan 360-693-0435 csquare@pacifier.com</p> <p>NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE www.narfe.org</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE 877-217-8234</p> <p>ADD YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS 800-456-8410</p> <p>NARFE STATE WEBSITE www.narfe.org/wa/</p> <p>NARFE DISTRICT WEBSITE Webmaster – Bea Bull www.narfewadistiv.org</p> <p>CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE https://www.facebook.com/narfechap181</p> <p>OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (OPM) Phone: 1-888-767-6738</p> <p>Hours of operation: 7:30AM – 7:45PM ET with best time to reach someone being 6:30PM – 7:30PM or at 7:30AM.</p> <p>Mailing Address: Office of Personnel Management Retirement Operations Center P.O. Box 45 Boyers, PA 16017</p>	<p>SENIOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE 360-337-5700 OR 1-800-562-6418</p> <hr/> <p>OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES</p> <p>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</p> <p>Senator Maria Cantwell 915 – 2nd Avenue, Suite 3206 Seattle, WA 98174 Seattle Phone Number 206-220-6400 D.C. Phone Number 202-224-3441 www.cantwell.senate.gov</p> <p>Congressional District 6 Derek Kilmer 345 – 6th Street, Suite 500 Bremerton, WA 98337 360-373-9725</p> <p>950 Pacific Ave Suite 1230 Tacoma, WA 98402 253-272-3515</p> <p>D.C. phone number 202-225-5916 http://kilmer.house.gov</p> <p>Congressional District 10 Marilyn Strickland 6000 Main Street SW, Suite 3B Lakewood, WA 98499 No phone number listed</p> <p>Lacey City Hall - 3rd Floor 420 College St SE, Suite 3000 Lacey, WA 98503 360-459-8514</p> <p>D.C. phone number 202-225-9740 https://strickland.house.gov</p>
---	--	---