



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
except July & August

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

**February 2025**

**NUMBER 02-25**

**General Meeting Date & Time: February 10, 2025 1:00PM**

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

**Program: Jamie Sage, Account Executive – Kitsap County, Envision Hospice, Will  
Discuss Qualifying for Hospice and How to Know When to Call**

*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**

**10 March.....Membership Meeting**

**14 April.....Membership Meeting**

**12 May.....Membership Meeting**



**PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers

The election process is over. President Trump has taken office. Mike Johnson (R-LA) retains his House Speaker position and John Thune (R-SD) is the new Senate Majority Leader for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) retains her Senate seat for another six years, her fifth term, and Emily Randall (D-WA) is our new 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative. Our chapter secretary has contacted Emily Randall's Kitsap County District Director, Katy Crabtree, and we are planning for Emily Randall as our guest speaker for May if her schedule permits. Trump's first 100 days in office will be over and Emily will have a better idea of what to expect for the rest of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress at that time.

Most federal government trifectas (control of House, Senate, and Presidency) last only two years. Republicans are well aware of this and plan to move quickly to pass ambitious policies

that reflect Trump's campaign promises. His top four priorities will be: 1) Tax cuts that will affect most of our 2025 tax returns in 2026; 2) Border security which will stop the influx of foreign nationals at our southern border; 3) Domestic energy production which will cause gasoline prices to fall instead of rising this coming summer; and 4) More lenient regulations which will stimulate growth and infrastructure investment. One thing they won't do is stop the ever-increasing federal debt which is now over \$36 trillion. Congress is planning to increase the federal debt ceiling by \$1.5 trillion and projects hitting the new ceiling in early 2026.

President Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act into law before leaving office. This will increase Social Security benefits for nearly three million people. See our separate article on this subject on page two of this newsletter.

We had a very good turnout for our January general membership meeting. A Washington State Alzheimer's Program Manager from Seattle gave us an informative talk. We had general public attendees and NARFE members who had never previously attended a meeting.

Continued on page 2

**MOVING? SNOWBIRDS?**

Even if it's from one apartment to another in the same building or complex, please contact Bea at 360-286-7798 to update your mailing address!!! USPS charges a fee for returned newsletters. THANK YOU!!

## President cont.

We presented Rex Tauscher with a plaque for 20 years of service as our treasurer. I turned the bookkeeping portion of the position over to our secretary, now secretary/treasurer. Rex will still help her with some of the leg work due to the fact that she is already wearing so many hats to keep our chapter functioning.

In closing I'll quote from Representative Kilmer's departing words to Congress, "In a democracy, every citizen regardless of his interest in politics, 'holds-office'; every one of us is in a position of responsibility; and, in the final analysis, the kind of government we get depends upon how we fulfill those responsibilities."

## **LEGISLATION**

### President Powers

The Social Security Fairness Act, HR82, repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). The law repeals WEP and GPO for benefits payable after December 2023. The first step beneficiaries must take is to ensure your Social Security registered address and direct deposit banking details are correct. If you have not applied for spousal or survivor benefits due to GPO, apply soon. You can sign in or create an account at <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>. If you have not previously filed, you may file online at <https://ssa.gov/apply> or schedule an appointment.

Due to the hurried process to put this legislation into law, many of the details of how the law will be executed haven't been sorted. The Social Security Administration is already under-staffed and they will need to begin issuing back payments to three million people.

Be prepared to wait for months for retroactive payments because most claimants will have complex work histories involving both public and private sector employment.

With the current Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) having Trump's ear, this issue, which will be expensive, will cause some disruption in this new administration and create a major logistical hurdle for them.

So, if you are one of the three million recipients, watch our monthly (except July and August) newsletter for updates. Also, for some of you, this may put you in a higher tax bracket or you'll see your Medicare premiums rise as a result of this new law.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### Secretary Bull

As of 24 January we have 356 chapter members.

Two members transferred to National-only status: Joe and Kevin. If you know these members and believe their chapter membership was dropped in error, please ask them to call the NARFE National membership department at 800-456-8410 and request to be put back into Bremerton Chapter 0181.

Another member, Theo, is missing from our member listing; if you know him, please have him contact the NARFE National membership department. With the database upgrade still ongoing, it is possible that a member's dues were paid but their expiration date was not advanced.

Chapters received September, October and November dues but NARFE National is still manually processing some mail received in November and has yet to disburse December dues.

What that means to you: If you paid your dues between 1 December 2024 and now, you may see a delay in having your expiration date advanced (it's on your *NARFE Magazine* mailing label, second line). Since the National office is all-hands-on-deck now to manually enter data, if you have concerns about your expiration date, please reach out to me rather than the NARFE membership department. Thank you so much for your patience while National gets the bugs worked out of their upgraded system.

## **BREMERTON FEDHub**

### Secretary Bea Bull

Thank you to the members who sent me their email addresses to add to the AMS database!

Since many members may have never logged into the NARFE National website and therefore don't have login credentials for FEDHub, let's begin with a tutorial for getting those login credentials.

If you don't have an email address, the first thing you need to do is create one.

Then go to [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org); you'll experience a popup; click the X in the upper right corner to close it.

Click on "Login" in the top right corner.

Continued on page 3

NARFE login instructions cont.

Click on “Member.”

Click the dot in front of “Click here to get help with Username and/or Password” and enter your email address in the “Enter Email Address” box, then click “Find My User Account.”

If your email address is found in the AMS database, NARFE National will email you your username and a link to reset (or set) your password.

If your email address is NOT found in the AMS database, click on the “Contact Customer Service” button. You will be directed to a contact form where you can request login credentials.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

You’ll see your annuity amount adjust in February when your premiums for medical, dental and vision change.

We now have Bremerton contact information for Congresswoman Emily Randall; see the back page of this newsletter. A Tacoma address is still pending. In an email, she announced her committee assignments: “I’m very proud that I’ll be serving on the Natural Resources Committee and the Oversight and Government Accountability Committee.”

If you have an online OPM account, you should have your IRS 1099 form. Those with TSP accounts should have that 1099 form as well.

Tax aid site information is available and included as an insert in this newsletter.

Due to recent resignations and reassignment of duties, the reverse side of the insert is a revised officer/chair listing.

**PROGRAMS**

10 February - Jamie Sage, Account Executive, Envision Hospice and Ben Douglas, Director, Generations Home Care. Jamie will talk about qualifying for hospice and when to call. She will shine some light on the myths and truths about hospice. Ben will talk about the services his caregivers can provide from personal care/bathing and hygiene to meal preparations and transportation. Check out their websites:

<https://envhospice.com/>

<https://generationshomecare.org>

Programs cont.

10 March – Washington State Federation (WSF) President Tony Merola and WSF Legislative (National) and PAC Coordinator Doug Rushton

14 April – Kitsap Regional Library Foundation “Meet Your Local Author” event with D.D. Black

**TREASURER**

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Dec 1, 2024 Acct Bal	\$64,760.71
Income	4,806.91
Expenses	3,075.06
Dec 31, 2024 Acct Bal	\$63,492.56
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	340.30
USPS Return Mail Acct	135.81
TOTAL Net Worth	\$63,968.67

The Chapter Life Membership Trust account value will be reported until the end of the 2025 tax year at the December 31, 2024 share value, which was \$16,213.31.

A Treasurer’s report for January 2025 will be available at our February meetings.

**ALZHEIMER’S CHAIR**

Secretary Bea Bull

A donation was received from Bonnie in December. Donations were received from Loraine, John, Bill, DeAnna, Al and Don at the January meeting. Thank you!

**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

A “Thinking of You” card was sent to Lola.

If you know of a chapter member in need of a little sunshine, please contact Lois at 360-297-2671.

♡ HAPPY VALENTINES DAY! ♡

<p><b>PRESIDENT</b>  <b>NARFE-PAC CHAIR</b>  Bill Powers 360-473-6301  powersw@silverlink.net</p> <p><b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>  Vacant</p> <p><b>SECRETARY/TREASURER</b>  <b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>  Bea Bull</p> <p><b>ASSISTANT TREASURER</b>  Rex Tauscher</p> <p><b>LEGISLATIVE CHAIR-NATIONAL</b>  Vacant</p> <p><b>LEGISLATIVE CHAIR-STATE</b>  Vacant</p> <p><b>MEMBERSHIP CHAIR</b>  Vacant</p> <p><b>SERGEANT AT ARMS</b>  William Fuhrmeister</p> <p><b>SUNSHINE CHAIR</b>  Lois Barber</p> <p><b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS</b>  <b>UNTIL DECEMBER 2025</b>  Stan Barber  John Burch</p> <p><b>UNTIL DECEMBER 2026</b>  Ralph Petersen  Rex Tauscher</p>	<p><b>WESTERN WASHINGTON</b>  <b>DISTRICT VP</b>  Bea Bull 360-286-7798  tbkbull@gmail.com</p> <p><b>REGION IX VP</b>  Steven Roy 425-344-3926  stevenroy1@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>WSF SERVICE OFFICER</b>  Charlie Caughlan  360-693-0435  csquare@pacifier.com</p> <p><b>NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE</b>  www.narfe.org</p> <p><b>LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE</b>  877-217-8234</p> <p><b>ADD YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS</b>  800-456-8410</p> <p><b>NARFE STATE WEBSITE</b>  www.narfe.org/wa/</p> <p><b>NARFE DISTRICT WEBSITE</b>  Webmaster – Bea Bull  www.narfewadistiv.org</p> <p><b>CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE</b>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/narfechap181">https://www.facebook.com/narfechap181</a></p> <p><b>OFFICE OF PERSONNEL</b>  <b>MANAGEMENT (OPM)</b>  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><b>SENIOR INFORMATION &amp; ASSISTANCE</b>  360-337-5700 OR 1-800-562-6418</p> <hr/> <p><b>OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES</b></p> <p><b>Senator Patty Murray</b>  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><b>Senator Maria Cantwell</b>  915 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  <b>Emily Randall</b>  345 – 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  Bremerton, WA 98337  360-373-9725</p> <p>Address pending  Tacoma, WA 98402  253-272-3515</p> <p>D.C. phone number 202-225-5916  <a href="http://randall.house.gov">http://randall.house.gov</a></p> <p>Congressional District 10  <b>Marilyn Strickland</b>  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  <a href="https://strickland.house.gov">https://strickland.house.gov</a></p>
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