



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
except July & August

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

**March 2025**

**NUMBER 03-25**

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

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

**Program: WSF President Tony Merola Will Introduce Himself and WSF Legislative (National) & PAC Coordinator Doug Rushton Will Preside Over "March is NARFE-PAC Month"**

*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**

- 14 April.....Membership Meeting**
- 12 May..... Membership Meeting**
- 9 June.....Membership Meeting**



**PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers

February has been a busy month for NARFE headquarters and membership is growing; President Trump has become our best recruiter in years. A lot of civil servants have lost their jobs and many more are concerned about theirs, all due to the perception of waste, fraud, or abuse plus retribution for perceived injustices toward President Trump's first term as president. There are lawful ways to realign priorities and even downsize but this shock-and-awe, razed-earth strategy without Congressional safeguards is not the way a Democratic Republic functions. To keep informed about NARFE's up-to-the-minute actions concerning national politics, I urge you to utilize FEDHub and *NARFE Daily News Clips* (see instructions pg. 3). Our National President, Bill Shackelford, who was re-elected to a second term, and his administration have been good at posting up-to-date information. To review

FEDHub usage, go to our December 2024 Chapter 0181 newsletter article, "FEDHub Tutorial" on page three.

Last month I asked those affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) to be patient. I thought that, due to understaffing at the Social Security Administration, including a hiring freeze, it would take a few months to begin issuing back payments to the three million people affected. Now they are saying it could be a year of more. This is also due to the complexity of the situation concerning back payments to January 2024, cost of living adjustments, spousal issues, etc.

March is NARFE PAC Month. We will have our new Washington State Federation President, Tony Merola, as our guest speaker. He will be joined by our state NARFE PAC Coordinator, Doug Rushton, who has visited us previously. They will be emphasizing the importance of contributing to this national fund-raising event to support national legislative actions. Please plan to contribute; fund will go toward flipping seats during the mid-term elections.

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**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.

They will also be encouraging members to virtually participate in NARFE's LEGcon25 on June 9, 10, and 11. The state federation and our chapter have budgeted funds for registration to this virtual event via your home computer. In this two-way exchange, you will be able to question Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Emily Randall, or their legislative aids, depending on availability at that time. June 9<sup>th</sup> is also our chapter meeting date, so our officers will miss the first LEGcon25 training day to attend our chapter meeting.

NARFE National has filed a lawsuit blocking implementation of what was previously called Schedule F and is now called Schedule Policy/Career, or Schedule P/C. They also filed a lawsuit against Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) access to records inside three federal government departments as a violation of the Privacy Act. Also, NARFE is coordinating with their allies in Washington D.C. representing other federal employees such as postal workers. And, they are working with Congress to counter abuse or misuse of executive authority and stop unconstitutional or illegal actions.

As I stated above, these are very busy times and it's important to stay current on what is happening and what NARFE is doing to defend federal employees and retirees.

### **LEGISLATION – the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment** President Powers

The 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the U.S. Constitution were called the Reconstruction Amendments because they were written right after the Civil War. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves. But as we are well aware in today's world, one president's actions can quickly be canceled or undone once the following president takes office; therefore, these three amendments were written. Amendment proposals are allowed by Article V of the Constitution. They must be passed by two thirds of both Houses and ratified by legislatures of three fourths of the states. The 13<sup>th</sup> abolished slavery and involuntary servitude. The 14<sup>th</sup> established citizenship rights and equal protection of the law. The 15<sup>th</sup> prohibits federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on race, color, or previous servitude.

Of all the articles of the Constitution, the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment is the one that generates the most lawsuits. In fact, the former Confederate states refused to ratify the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, so Congress

required them to ratify it as a condition for regaining federal representation.

The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment has five sections. Section One below has the amendment's big guns.

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process or law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Let's start with the citizenship statement. This was originally intended to head off the opinion held for decades that African-Americans were not citizens. There is presently an opinion by the Trump administration that Section One above does not apply to children born to undocumented immigrants. This was previously litigated in the Supreme Court and determined that “All persons born in the U.S.” means “All persons born in the U.S.” Chief Justice John Roberts defended one such case early in his career and won. We'll see how he rules when Trump's lawyers attempt to overturn this ruling. Will he declare stare decisis, a legal principle which means to stand by things decided. Or will he flip his previous judgement?

The second hot topic of the amendment has to do with depriving any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law. Privacy has been considered part of liberty. Fifty years ago, Harry Blackmun, a Republican, wrote the majority opinion stating a woman's right to privacy in her choice of reproduction options is a basis for legal abortion in the first trimester. In Chief Justice Roberts confirmation hearing, he stated that abortion was stare decisis. When Roe v. Wade was overturned, he flipped, and opened the door for states to ban abortion. As it turned out, it was a 6-3 decision, so it didn't matter.

The Insurrection Clause of Section Three was brought before the Supreme Court due to the January 6, 2021 attempt to take over Congress by Trump supporters claiming that the 2020 presidential election was stolen. It was judged that only Congress enjoys the power to enforce this section of the amendment through Section Five of this amendment. Section Five grants Congress the power to enforce this article by legislation. That is how the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were passed.

## MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 22 February we have 355 chapter members.

One member transferred to National-only status: Stu [REDACTED]. Six members, Jeffery [REDACTED], Edward [REDACTED], Janice [REDACTED], Delores [REDACTED], Vernon [REDACTED] and Michael [REDACTED] are missing from our member listing; if you know them, please have them 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. One member, Elbert [REDACTED], passed away.

We have four new members: Christine [REDACTED], John [REDACTED], Michelle [REDACTED] and Marjorie [REDACTED]. Welcome to NARFE and to the Bremerton chapter!

Chapters received December dues in early February and January dues arrived on time. It looks like that aspect of the upgrade is now back on track.

### NARFE Daily News

To sign up for *NARFE Daily News* emails, go to <https://www.narfe.org/communications/enewsletter/> and click on "SIGN UP FOR NARFE EMAILS." Enter your email address and choose which emails you wish to receive then click "Save."

### BREMERTON FEDHub

So, we all have NARFE logins set up now, yes? 😊 And now we're ready to log into and set up our FEDHub accounts. I see we're up to 51 Bremerton community members who have set up their accounts and agreed to terms. Since this is now NARFE's method for communicating with members, let's see if we can up that number some more.

From the NARFE.org website, mouse over "For Members" and select "FEDHub: NARFE Member Community."

Directly above the FEDHub logo on the left you'll see "Quick Start Guide" which will walk you through the steps for setting up your account and getting started.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

May is KidVantage Diaper Derby Month. I've again entered our chapter horse, "Federal Family's Advocate" in the derby. We won't have a diaper drive like last year, but you can always make a donation to KidVantage to help our local young families in need.

Go to <https://www.kitsapgreatgive.org/> and search KidVantage; follow the prompts to make a donation.

## PROGRAMS

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

12 May – Emily Randall's Field Representative for Kitsap and Mason Counties, James Bray

9 June – Madysen McLain, The Mustard Seed Project, a senior living community in Key Center

## TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Jan 1, 2025 Acct Bal	\$63,492.56
Income	810.20
Expenses	1,204.87
Jan 31, 2025 Acct Bal	\$63,097.89
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	210.45
USPS Return Mail Acct	135.81
TOTAL Net Worth Jan 31, 2025	\$63,444.15

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 February 2025 will be available at our February meetings.

**Correction:** December income was misstated as \$4,806.91; it should have been \$1,806.91.

### ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

At the February meeting, donations were received from Al [REDACTED], Bea Bull, John Burch, Bill Fuhrmeister, Pete [REDACTED] and Rex Tauscher. 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 sympathy card was sent to Sonia [REDACTED] in the loss of her husband, Elbert.

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

<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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