



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

April 2025

NUMBER 04-25

General Meeting Date & Time: April 14, 2025 1:00PM

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

**Program: Kitsap Regional Library Foundation Meet Your Local Author Event with
D.D. Black, Author of "The Bones at Point No Point"**

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

12 May.....Membership Meeting

9 June.....Membership Meeting

8 September.....Membership Meeting



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Thank you to those of you who contributed to our March NARFE-PAC Month. In these challenging times, NARFE and our allies are working to minimize damage done to the federal service. Grassroots advocacy resources help you communicate with Congress to protect your federal benefits. Take action via my follow-up article in this newsletter using our NARFE's website for their three priority bills in the 119th Congress.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, if you want to keep up with daily actions taken concerning our federal work force, health insurance updates, or retirees' annuities, use *NARFE Daily News Clips* and FEDHub.

Also in last month's newsletter, the word about Windfall Elimination Provision/Government Pension Offset (WEP/GPO) payments for the

majority of recipients was wrong. The Social Security Administration computer software was able to get back payments out in record time. This was very good news to most of the three million people affected. So, when you write your legislators, thank them for passing WEP/GPO in the closing hours of the 118th Congress.

The Department of Government Efficiency's (DOGE) end objective is to create enough cuts in federal government spending to justify extending President Trump's 2017 tax cuts initiated during his last administration. They expire December 31st of this year. They, along with G.W. Bush's 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, Obama and Biden's spending on social programs, and two meaningless wars, got us into our present fiscal mess. Our total national debt is now over \$36 trillion.

Congress is now very concerned about this because, just this last year (2024), spending on 'net interest' on our national debt has now increased to a point where it is more than national defense, Medicare, and Medicaid individually. Only Social Security spends more

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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.

than 'net interest' on our national debt. My girlfriend has to often remind me of the actual amount a trillion dollars really is. It is a stack of \$1,000 bills 67,866 miles high or a million million. **Editor's visual:** The distance around the Earth at the equator is 24,902 miles; so, stack \$1,000 bills around the equator 2.72 times!

DOGE is not going to save nearly enough money with their many reforms to justify extending Trump's tax cuts. Their only alternatives are either continue increasing the national debt to a point where they could possibly put us in a depression; make cuts to Social Security, national defense, Medicare, or Medicaid; or let the tax cuts expire. I say not only let the Trump tax cuts expire but undo the G.W. Bush tax cuts and no more meaningless wars. That will put us back to when Clinton was president and we were actually paying down the national debt. That is very unpopular and ain't (poor choice & poor grammar) going to happen.

Congress has been kicking the budget deficit reduction can down the road for a long time and now a few senators are finally sounding the alarm. That is why Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer crossed the party line to pass the Trump stopgap funding bill and avoid a government shutdown.

Editor's Note: In an interview with Stephen Colbert, Schumer stated that a shutdown would be ten times worse than the Continuing Resolution (CR) which contained huge funding cuts to federal programs. He explained that under a shutdown the executive branch (Trump/Musk/DOGE) would have complete power to determine what is essential allowing them to decimate the federal government.

In May, Congresswoman Emily Randall's field representative, James Bray, will be our chapter guest speaker. Judging by Randall's recent Bremerton Town Hall meeting, we should have a good turnout. She had to hold a second 300-person session to hear all her constituents' concerns about the current administration's policies impacting not only federal employees but those who rely on government programs and funding. The federal workforce is facing unprecedented challenges and together, as NARFE, we can push back against threats to ensure federal employees and retirees are treated fairly.

Editor's Note: To track progress on Project 2025, go to <https://www.project2025.observer/>

LEGISLATION – April Priority Bills President Powers

The April 2025 *NARFE Magazine* has three priority bills listed for the 119th Congress Bill Tracker. They are:

1. H.R. 493/S. 126 FAIR Act which provides federal employees a 3.3 percent pay increase in 2026 with a 1 percent average increase in locality pay. This bill calls for current federal sector pay increases to maintain a strong and talented federal workforce.
2. H.R. 492/S. 134 Saving the Civil Service Act prohibits establishment of Schedule F, also called Schedule Policy/Career or Schedule P/C. This bill ensures merit-based hiring and firing of civil servants. Schedule F would take civil service back to the early 1880s when each incoming administration would fire employees willy-nilly and replace them based on patronage to the incoming administration. This old system was called The Spoils System.
3. H.R. 491 Equal COLA Act provides full cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to FERS annuitants. Presently they get a reduced amount due to FERS addition of a Thrift Saving Plan with employer matching contributions. FERS retirees get what is called a "diet" COLA, or 1 percent less than CSRS and Social Security recipients when the COLA is over 3 percent. When the COLA is between 2 and 3 percent, FERS annuitants receive a flat 2 percent COLA. This is the range the Federal Reserve shoots for when determining interest rates. An inflation rate between 2 and 3 percent is considered healthy for the economy as a whole. When the COLA is less than 2 percent, FERS annuitants receive the full COLA.

Congresswoman Randall cosponsored H.R. 493 and Senator Murray cosponsored S. 134.

You don't need to log into the NARFE National website to take action. Go to www.NARFE.org, mouse over the Advocacy tab and click on Take Action. Scroll down to find three blocks for the above three pieces of legislation. Under any or all of these bills, you can send a message. You have to enter your name, email, home address, and ZIP code so the representative/senator knows you are a constituent. If you have trouble, contact our district webmaster listed on the back of this newsletter.

Editor's note: Two more important pieces of legislation were introduced after this issue of *NARFE Magazine* went to print: H.R. 1522 Federal Retirement Fairness Act to allow temporary employees to make a deposit and count their time toward retirement (formerly introduced by Congressman Kilmer); and H.R. 1637 to reinstate veterans who were fired by the Trump administration (Congresswoman Randall cosponsored this legislation).

MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 29 March we have 354 chapter members.

No members are missing from our member listing this month. "Thank you" to Edward [REDACTED] and Michael [REDACTED] for reinstating their membership! One member, Susan [REDACTED], passed away; our condolences to her family.

We have five new members: Lisa [REDACTED], Patricia [REDACTED], Katherine [REDACTED], Stephen [REDACTED] and Michael [REDACTED]. Welcome to NARFE and to the Bremerton chapter!

BREMERTON FEDHub

Five more people have agreed to terms for a total of 56; we're still a long way from 354. Remember, this is now NARFE's method for communicating with members. I checked the report for members receiving emails and see there are 195 members with "NO" in that column.

If you've turned off emails, please go in and turn them back on. I promise you will not be inundated.

On 15 April, I'll send an email regarding plans for a 2026 WSF Biennial Conference. If you don't receive it, please email me at tbkbull@gmail.com; I'll send you instructions for checking your FEDHub email settings.

D.D. Black's Bio



D.D. Black writes crime fiction set in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. He is the author of the International Bestselling Thomas Austin Crime Thrillers and the FBI Task Force S.W.O.R.D. series. When he's not writing, he can be found strolling the beaches of the

Pacific Northwest, cooking dinner for his wife, and throwing a ball for his corgi over and over and over.

PROGRAMS

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

8 September – Ashlee Cameron and Scott Lake, Future First, to discuss reverse mortgages

2025 WSF Annual Meeting

The federation will hold a virtual annual meeting on 28 October at 10:00AM. Watch for updates in the months to come about agenda items, speakers and the meeting Zoom link.

TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Feb 1, 2025 Acct Bal	\$63,097.89
Income	1,556.21
Expenses	406.25
Feb 28, 2025 Acct Bal	\$64,247.85
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	210.45
USPS Return Mail Acct	135.81
TOTAL Net Worth Jan 31, 2025	\$63,594.11

A CD in the amount of \$5,104.31 was renewed for a 12-month term.

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 March 2025 will be available at our April meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

At the March meeting, donations were received from Loraine [REDACTED], Bea [REDACTED], Pete [REDACTED], Rex [REDACTED] and Bill [REDACTED]. 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, 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601-7633**

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

A sympathy card was sent to Edward [REDACTED] in the loss of his wife, Susan; and to Holly [REDACTED] in the loss of her sister, Amber [REDACTED].

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

HAPPY SPRING!



<p>PRESIDENT NARFE-PAC CHAIR Bill Powers 360-473-6301 powersw@silverlink.net</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT Vacant</p> <p>SECRETARY/TREASURER NEWSLETTER EDITOR Bea Bull</p> <p>ASSISTANT TREASURER Rex Tauscher</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE CHAIR-NATIONAL Vacant</p> <p>LEGISLATIVE CHAIR-STATE Vacant</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Vacant</p> <p>SERGEANT AT ARMS William Fuhrmeister</p> <p>SUNSHINE CHAIR Lois Barber</p> <p>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS UNTIL DECEMBER 2025 Stan Barber John Burch</p> <p>UNTIL DECEMBER 2026 Ralph Petersen Rex Tauscher</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 Charlie 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 Emily Randall 345 – 6th Street, Suite 500 Bremerton, WA 98337 360-373-9725</p> <p>1102 A St, Ste 326 Tacoma, WA 98402 253-272-3515</p> <p>D.C. phone number 202-225-5916 http://randall.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>
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