



June 2025

NUMBER 06-25

General Meeting Date & Time: June 9, 2025

1:00PM

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

**Program: Madysen McLain Presents, "The Mustard Seed Project of Key Peninsula:
Building a Senior-Friendly Community"**

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

26 July.....Whaling Days Parade

8 September.....Membership Meeting

13 October..Membership Meeting

5 November.....PSNS FEHB Plan Health Fair

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

This will be our last newsletter until after our summer break. The "Big Beautiful Bill" that President Trump wants finalized has been passed from the House to the Senate as of our newsletter deadline.

My experience with these types of negotiations, bottom line, is that spending will increase necessitating more money being paid toward interest on the national debt. The difference between Republican and Democrat administrations is how the budget process is administered. President Trump wants tax cuts and more national defense with less emphasis on social programs. The majority of voters agreed with him and that is why he was elected.

One area where the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) highlighted spending that

taxpayers wanted stopped is illegal alien expenditures. DOGE estimates that 11 million undocumented immigrants entered the U.S. during the Biden administration, putting the border in chaos. Many of these foreign nationals were released, provided shelter, food, cell phones, and either bus tickets or flown to interior cities of the U.S. DOGE estimates that \$17 million was spent on bed-space for illegal aliens. Border crossings are now at an all-time low.

Another area of attention that has been focused upon lately is the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Over the years, different administrations have called upon FEMA to do more and more to address disaster relief. They haven't kept up with demand causing increasing complaints concerning settlement of claims. The administration says FEMA is too fragmented and too large. The Government Accounting Office (GAO) listed FEMA disaster aid as a top inflationary item in the federal budget. They estimate that \$19 billion will be saved if the GAO is made more efficient. The administration's

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. solution is to provide funding for the affected states and turn the actual disaster relief over to each state.

We will have our 6th Congressional District Representative, Emily Randall's, Field Representative for Kitsap and Mason Counties, James Bray, as our guest speaker in October. I realize this is a long way off but I bring it up now because our meeting will be on October 13, Columbus Day. This is a holiday for current federal employees and I encourage you to mark your calendar and attend our meeting. Let Congress know your thoughts about how the new administration's changes have been working out for you so far.*

I rode in the May 17 Bremerton Armed Forces Day Parade in a truck provided by Tim and Brittany Boom. They decorated their truck up real nice with the new magnetic signs provided by our secretary, Bea Bull. Brittany and Tim are members of Kitsap Federal Manager's Association (FMA). The weather didn't cooperate; it was cooler than normal with some rain. Due to these conditions the crowd was smaller than usual.

Finally, NARFE's LEGcon25, which is a three-day ZOOM meeting put on by NARFE National, will be held June 9, 10, and 11 with a "Know Before You Go" session on June 3. This is your chance to directly talk with your representatives and senators (or their staff) in Washington D.C. about how current events impact you. The first two days are updates about how NARFE National is negotiating all the changes brought on in the first 100 days of the current administration. The last day is a Zoom meeting with representatives and senators (or their staff). The cost is \$160.00 which will be reimbursed by the Washington State Federation and our chapter funds. Contact Bea Bull for instructions on claiming your rebates.

***Editor's Note:** Please respect that James cannot speak for Congresswoman Randall; he will be introducing himself and discussing services the Bremerton office provides. However, we can certainly hand him a packet of letters for the Congresswoman to read. Please include your name and mailing address so she can verify that you're a constituent and, if you wish a reply, provide your phone number or email address.

"Big Beautiful Bill" & Current Employees President Powers

House Bill H. Con. Res. 14, the Reconciliation Bill, passed the House of Representatives early Thursday morning, May 22. It's manager's amendment has

some improvements to the bill that NARFE fought for and won. However, this bill still undermines the merit-based civil service by cutting earned federal benefits and policies. It would eliminate the FERS annuity supplement. The annuity supplement is for those federal workers who have earned Social Security benefits and are eligible to retire prior to age 62. You can learn more about this supplement by logging into the NARFE National website and searching "Question of the Week: Voluntary Early Retirement."

The Reconciliation Bill will give incentive payments to those who shift to at-will employment, which means the employee will forego their right to dispute a firing. The merit-based employment exists to protect against cronyism and corruption by filling ranks with qualified individuals.

The final language out of the House dropped the change from high 5 to high 3 for figuring retirement benefits. It also dropped the requirement of a significant increase in employee contributions to their retirement. It also included exemptions for those who are subject to mandatory retirement such as police, fire and air traffic controllers.

The final product will not be known until the Senate reviews and makes its changes to the bill and the President signs it. If you have specific concerns, contact information for both of our Senators is on the back page of this newsletter.

AUGUST IS GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY MONTH

Our Congressional representatives will be back in their districts during the month of August. Take advantage of opportunities to attend town halls, rallies and other events where you'll have an opportunity to share your thoughts with them.

ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE

Thank you to Bill Powers and Tim and Brittany Boom for representing Bremerton Chapter 0181!



MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 24 May we have 356 chapter members.

One member is missing from our member listing: Robert [REDACTED]. One member, Garry [REDACTED], was reported deceased; our condolences to his family.

“Thank you” to Deborah [REDACTED] for reinstating her membership!

We have one new member: Jerry [REDACTED]. Welcome to NARFE and to the Bremerton chapter!

There are two new prospective members: Courtney [REDACTED] and Stacy [REDACTED]. We hope you'll join NARFE!

If you need anything over the summer, please reach out to me; I'm only an email or phone call away.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

11 October 2025 Silverdale Walk to End Alzheimer's: The chapter will have a table at the Walk so stop by to say hello. To join the chapter team or make a donation, go to the district website (see last page), click on the “2025 Silverdale Walk to End Alzheimer's” tab and follow the instructions. We will also have donation sheets at the September meeting.

Snow Birds: Remember to update your contact information with NARFE National membership at 800-456-8410.

Keep those logins current: Time again to log into your OPM, TSP and Social Security accounts to keep your login credentials active.

PROGRAMS

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

13 October – Emily Randall's Field Representative for Kitsap and Mason Counties, James Bray

10 November – 10:00AM – 1:00PM FEHB Plan Health Fair – Reps will be the program speakers

WSF BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Washington federation members will **vote on a WSF Bylaws Amendment in June**. You will find a prominent link on the WSF home page at www.narfe.org/wa for the changes and voting instructions. You will also receive emailed voting instructions from WSF Secretary Curtis Price on 16 June 2025. If you are unable to vote using the online platform link in that email, or need a paper ballot, please contact him at curtprice@gmail.com or 605-390-3053.

TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Apr 1, 2025 Acct Bal	\$64,507.84
Income	744.85
Expenses	1,183.22
Apr 30, 2025 Acct Bal	\$64,069.47
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	366.44
USPS Return Mail Acct	118.85
TOTAL Net Worth Apr 30, 2025	\$64,554.76

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 May 2025 will be available at our June meetings.

The chapter financial audit will be conducted June 4 prior to the executive board meeting.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

At the May meeting, donations were received from Al [REDACTED], Curtis [REDACTED], Rex [REDACTED] and Don [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

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Melinda [REDACTED] (mom), Larry [REDACTED] (wife), Steven [REDACTED] (wife) and James [REDACTED] (wife). A “speedy recovery” card was sent to George [REDACTED] and a “thinking of you” card was sent to Loraine [REDACTED].

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

We wish everyone a safe and pleasant summer!

Watch for the next newsletter in September.

<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>
---	--	--