



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
except July & August

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

**October 2025**

**NUMBER 08-25**

**General Meeting Date & Time: October 13, 2025 1:00PM**

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

**Program: James Bray, Congresswoman Randall's Field Representative for Kitsap and Mason Counties, Will Discuss Services their Office Can Provide**

*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**

**11 October. Silverdale Walk to End Alzheimer's**

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

**10 November.10AM-1PM.Chapter Health Fair**

**10 November.....Membership Meeting**

**8 December..Myra Clodius Holiday Luncheon**



**PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers

The Federal Open Market Committee (Federal Reserve) lowered the prime interest rate 1/4 point on September 17<sup>th</sup> leaving it at 4.00 – 4.25 percent, which is what Trump desired at the July Federal Reserve meeting to juice the economy. However, inflation is ticking up more than anticipated, partially due to tariffs. Inflation is expected to build in the fall and winter months and into 2026. See NARFE October magazine for "Countdown to COLA" on page 21 (our magazine is always a month behind due to printing deadlines). This situation leaves the Federal Reserve having to weigh the cost of borrowing money against unemployment in the labor market, which is also starting to tick up. This scenario can lead to stagflation, which no one wants.

Also, the September 30<sup>th</sup> expiration date for funding the federal government is looming. Both parties want to pass a stopgap spending bill (continuing resolution); just the priorities are different and rolls switched between Republicans and Democrats from previous continuing resolutions that kicked the can down the road for years. At press time, President Trump needs sixty votes in the Senate to pass a seven-week continuing resolution. However, Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer wants protections in the resolution to ensure enhanced tax credits for healthcare programs, including subsidies for Affordable Care Act health insurance marketplace enrollees. If these subsidies are allowed to expire after 2025, the result could amount to a \$700 per year insurance cost increase for lower income families. A government shutdown looms if negotiations or compromise fails.

Speaking of health insurance increases, the projected increase for 2026 Medicare Part B and Medicare Advantage premiums is around 12 percent while the projected cost-of-living allowance (COLA) for federal retirees and social

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. security recipients is about 3 percent. Medicare Part B is projecting a monthly cost of approximately \$350.00 by 2034. That's only eight years away.

NARFE supports a change in the COLA formula for seniors. In lieu of using the CPI-W for seniors aged 62 and older, NARFE supports the CPI-E, E being for elderly, which is more reflective of actual costs incurred by older Americans. With the CPI-E, medical expenses are weighed more heavily than they are in CPI-W. The Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act has been submitted to this 119<sup>th</sup> Congress that addresses two primary areas for improvement: 1) Developing real cost-of-living changes experienced by the elderly, thus improving adequacy of benefits; and 2) adjustments to contributions for high income earners above established thresholds. Two goals of this bill are to expand the longevity of the Social Security Trust Fund and enhance benefit adequacy for recipients. Its projected implementation is not until 2031 which is why it isn't on the NARFE "Bill Tracker."

For current federal employees, H.R. 493/S.126 FAIR Act, or The Federal Adjustment of Income Rates Act, is presently in committee in Congress. It suggests a 3.3 percent increase in prevailing rate employees, overriding existing wage surveys plus a 1 percent increase in locality pay aiming to fairly compensate federal employees in high-income areas. However, it is unlikely that this bill will pass in the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress due to the current administration's focus on cutting government spending.

At our October meeting, remember that James Bray cannot speak for Congresswoman Randall. If you have questions for her, our Secretary, Bea Bull, will collect written letters from you and pass them along to James who will, in turn, pass them to Congresswoman Randall. Please include your full name and physical address on your letter to prove you are a constituent. If you'd like a response, please include your phone number and/or email address.

Congratulations Seattle Mariners! For the first time since 2001, they are baseball's American League West champions. This also puts Cal Raleigh, Mariners' catcher, with 60 home runs this season, in the running for the American League "Most Valuable Player."

**Snowbirds – please remember to update your mailing address!**



## **"Myra Clodius Holiday Luncheon"**

In Grateful Recognition for the Gift from Her Estate

**Where** – Elks Lodge, 4131 Pine Rd NE, Bremerton

**When** – 8 December at 1:00PM

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

**Reservations Required** – Please contact John Burch [REDACTED] to make your reservation and payment.

**Reservation Deadline** – 30 November 2025

## **MENU OPTIONS**

*Flank Steak, Roasted Potatoes,  
Spring Veggies*

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*Salmon, Rice Pilaf, Salad, Roll*

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

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*Cookies for Dessert*

**Mayor Wheeler will be our guest  
speaker**

**Attention National Life members who pay chapter dues:** At the September membership meeting, members voted to grant National Life members Chapter Life membership at no additional cost. In other words, National Life members will no longer need to pay Bremerton chapter dues. The members involved have been notified by first class mail.

This decision requires a bylaws amendment to Article IV - Dues. The following wording has been proposed and will be voted on at the November membership meeting.

**"Chapter members who are NARFE national-level life members shall be exempt from paying chapter dues and granted chapter life membership status."**

If you have any questions or comments, you may contact Bea at 360 286 7798 (leave a voicemail) or [tbkbull@gmail.com](mailto:tbkbull@gmail.com).

## MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 27 September we have 350 chapter members.

Two members are missing from our member listing: Randall [REDACTED] and Kerry [REDACTED]. One member, Kelly [REDACTED], transferred out to National-only membership. Two members, Carolyn [REDACTED] and Lore [REDACTED] were reported deceased; our condolences to those families.

There are six new prospective members: Tamara [REDACTED], Kathy [REDACTED], Anthony [REDACTED], Eugene [REDACTED], Leslie [REDACTED] and Charles [REDACTED]. We hope you'll join NARFE!

If I've missed welcoming someone, I apologize; our AMS reports are on the fritz again.

## 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 October meeting.

### 13 October Nominations:

Current officers are listed below; please consider volunteering for a position or nominating someone from the floor.

- President - Bill Powers
- Vice President - Vacant
- Secretary/Treasurer - Bea Bull
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Bill Fuhrmeister
- Executive Board Member - Stan Barber
- Executive Board Member - John Burch

**PSNS FEHB Plan Health Fair:** 5 November from 7:00AM - 5:00PM, Kitsap Conference Center Ballroom, 100 Washington Ave, Bremerton. We will staff a NARFE table so stop by and say "hello."

**2026 Medicare Part B Premium:** The standard Medicare Part B premium for 2026 is projected to be \$206.50 per month, an increase of \$21.50 from the 2025 premium of \$185.00. This represents an 11.6 percent increase and includes a rise in the annual Part B deductible to \$288.00 from \$257.00. Higher-income beneficiaries will pay additional Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAA) on top of this standard premium. (Google search)

**FEHB Open Season:** The Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season will run from 10 November through 8 December 2025.

## PROGRAMS

10 November - 10:00AM - 1:00PM FEHB Plan Health Fair - Reps will be the program speakers - Election of officers

8 December - Myra Clodius Holiday Luncheon - reservations required

12 January - Lauren Carroll, Program Manager - King & Kitsap Counties, Alzheimer's Association Washington State Chapter

## TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Aug 1, 2025 Account Balance	\$65,087.98
Income	+422.06
Expenses	-59.60
Aug 31, 2025 Account Balance	\$65,450.44
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	+190.81
USPS Return Mail Acct	+117.08
TOTAL Net Worth Aug 31, 2025	\$65,758.33

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 September 2025 will be available at our October meetings.

## ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

At the September meeting, donations were received from Stan [REDACTED] and Loraine [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, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601-7633**

## SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

Sympathy cards were sent to the family of Lore [REDACTED] and to David [REDACTED] in the loss of his wife. "Thinking of you" cards were sent to DeAnna [REDACTED], Ralph [REDACTED] and Don [REDACTED].

If you know of a chapter member in need of a little sunshine, please contact Lois [REDACTED].

<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>1102 A St, Ste 326  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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