



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
except July & August

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

**November 2025**

**NUMBER 09-25**

**FEHB Plan Health Fair: November 10, 2025 10:00AM to 1:00PM**  
**General Meeting Date & Time: November 10, 2025 1:00PM**

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

**Program: FEHB Plan Reps Will Summarize Their Plans**

*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**

- 5 November.....PSNS FEHB Plan Health Fair**
- 8 December..Myra Clodius Holiday Luncheon**
- 12 January.....Membership Meeting**
- 9 February.....Membership Meeting**



**PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers

The days are getting shorter and winter is coming. The meteorologists are predicting a La Nina which means a colder and wetter than normal winter for the Pacific Northwest. This will be good for forestry but intensifies hurricanes in the southeast. We in Kitsap County are 14 inches behind normal precipitation for this year with two months to go.

The September consumer inflation report is due at the end of October. It will set the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) for Social Security and federal retirees' benefits for 2026. This report will be released after our newsletter deadline. The experts are predicting a 2.8 percent COLA boost with potential spillover increases to November and December data. This is due to the government shutdown which

suspends data input. In other words, the September report will be a guesstimate.

Healthcare open season will soon be upon us. The PSNS Health fair will be at the Kitsap Conference Center from 7:00AM to 5:00PM on November 5<sup>th</sup>. NARFE will have a table at this health fair so stop by and introduce yourself then enter our drawing for a \$50.00 Applebee's gift card.

The chapter will also hold its annual health fair with most of the healthcare program representatives available to answer questions. This will be from 10:00AM to 1:00PM on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, prior to our general membership meeting at the Westside Improvement Club off National Avenue. Guests are welcome.

Now is the time to sign up for our Myra Clodius Holiday Luncheon. It will be at the Bremerton Elks Lodge off Pine Road on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Reservation information, cost, and menu selections are listed in this issue of our newsletter or come to our November meeting to sign up. I met Mayor Wheeler at the No Kings

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. event and he is looking forward to being our guest speaker at the luncheon.

The government shutdown has created a lot of questions and kept our elected representatives in the Senate and House very busy. If you have questions and desire a written answer, submit questions directly to your elected representative or senators. Their address is on the back page of our newsletter in the blocked off area. As most of you know, James Bray, Congresswoman Randall's Field Representative, canceled his appearance at our October meeting due to the government shutdown constituent concerns requiring immediate attention.

The NARFE-PAC contribution report is in for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. This data appears on the NARFE-PAC section of NARFE's website. Total national contributions for this cycle are up over a quarter million dollars and individual contribution averages increased by \$13.58 to \$66.94 nationally. Our chapter contributed \$3,875.84 with 43 people donating. This is approximately 10 percent of our chapter donating. Thank you.

Last but not least, we are requesting a volunteer for our executive board due to ill health of a present position holder. The only requirement is monthly attendance at executive board meetings lasting about 1½ hour.

### **Tariffs - The Good-The Bad-The Ugly** President Powers

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution states, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises," as well as, "To regulate commerce with foreign nations."

By declaring a national emergency, President Trump has inserted himself into Congress' domain by having the Executive Branch of government invoke tariffs. He is doing this to rectify our persistent national trade deficit which is caused by a lack of reciprocity in our trade relations. He is right to a certain extent; our trade partners suppress consumption by their constituents, which suppresses demand for imports and artificially increases competitiveness. Currency practices and value-added taxes also suppress domestic consumption. With America open to imports, our trade partners have few incentives to provide reciprocal export treatment. Other practices by other countries that restrict U.S. exports include import barriers, government subsidies, and lack of environmental standards.

It is critical for our defense industry to maintain manufacturing in certain advanced industrial sectors. With this we maintain capacity, innovation, and readiness. It is said that a nation's ability to produce domestically is the bedrock of its national and economic security.

However, it's Trump-imposed tariffs in the commodities marketplace that are hurting America's small businesses, farmers, ranchers, and consumers. In some cases, he is imposing tariffs on countries that he thinks he is punishing, such as Brazil's coffee. Another example is the Argentina beef deal, which is just the opposite from Brazil. He is raising the amount of beef Argentina can import, quadrupling the tons with low tariffs. This does not sit well with the American ranchers who've increased prices by 14 percent this year.

The one that gets me the most is the tariff on Madagascar vanilla which is known for its rich, sweet, and creamy flavor, often called Bourbon vanilla. Originally Trump had a 47 percent tariff on it but lowered it to a 15 percent. Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world with 75 percent of its population living below the poverty line. So why are we punishing them?

### **“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 at 360-377-7784 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**

## MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 25 October we have 349 chapter members.

One member is missing from our member listing: George [REDACTED]. One member, Glenn [REDACTED], transferred out to an Idaho chapter. One member, Frank [REDACTED], transferred back in from National-only membership. And we have one new member: Michael [REDACTED].

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Chapter Bylaws Amendment:** Members will vote on the following wording 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 [tbbull@gmail.com](mailto:tbbull@gmail.com).

**Chapter Officer Election:** Current officers are listed below; please consider volunteering for a position or nominating someone from the floor. The election will be held at the November membership meeting.

- 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.”

**FEHB Open Season:** The Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season will run from 10 November through 8 December 2025. Premium charts are now available at:

<https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/premiums/>

Or, go to the district website, click on “FEHB Plan Information for 2026 Plan Year” and click on the link provided.

**FEDcon26:** August 19-21, 2026 – Indianapolis, Indiana. For budget planning purposes, does anyone plan to attend this NARFE National conference? If so, please let Bea know by 30 November 2025.

## PROGRAMS

8 December – Myra Clodius Holiday Luncheon – reservations required

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

9 February – Caitlin Newman – Program Supervisor Kitsap County Public Works Solid Waste Division – proper recycling

## TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Sep 1, 2025 Account Balance	\$65,450.44
Income	+402.96
Expenses	-681.39
Aug 31, 2025 Account Balance	\$65,172.01
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	+131.07
USPS Return Mail Acct	+117.08
TOTAL Net Worth Aug 31, 2025	\$65,420.16

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 October 2025 will be available at our November meetings.

## ALZHEIMER’S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

At the October meeting, donations were received from Loraine Brockerman, DeAnna Gossett, Al Holl 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 Ben [REDACTED] the loss of his wife, Mary.

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



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



<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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