



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

February 2026

NUMBER 02-26

General Meeting Date & Time: February 9, 2026 1:00PM

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

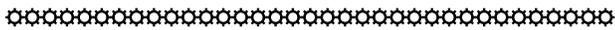
Program: Caitlin Newman, Program Supervisor, Kitsap County Public Works Solid Waste Division, Will Discuss Proper Recycling in Kitsap County

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

- 9 March.....Membership Meeting**
- 13 April.....Membership Meeting**
- 11 May.....Membership Meeting**



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

Last month I reported Congress has another Continuing Resolution deadline approaching on January 30th. There are still six appropriation bills to fund of the original twelve. One of these is the \$901 billion in defense spending that has bipartisan support. Congress has packaged four of the remaining five into a two-bill funding package. The first is Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies appropriations. The second is Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies appropriations. This is bipartisan Congressional rejection of Trump administration extreme cuts to federal programs. Ranking members of Congress chose to increase funding in programs that the White House attempted to eliminate. Where the White House proposed to slash resources, Congress chose to sustain funding. So, Congress, on a bipartisan, bicameral (House & Senate) basis chose to

reassert its power of the purse. These five bills together represent \$1.2 trillion spending.

However, there will be a separate vote on the remaining Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Bill. This is the contentious one due to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), detention policies, workforce issues, physical border barriers, fentanyl usage, gender surgery, and assumed threat to public safety. This bill may end up a stopgap Continuing Resolution throughout 2026 because it not only doesn't have Democratic support, some Republicans are questioning some of the Trump administration's tactics. This is a \$64.4 billion dollar bill to fund DHS but ICE already has \$75 billion in Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill act to be spent over four years. So, ICE will remain functional no matter what happens.

The latest report on DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) is in. Originally DOGE was to cut \$2 trillion from government spending, then they reassessed down to \$1 trillion, then down to \$250 billion savings in federal government spending. While there were workforce

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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.

reductions, canceled government contracts, reductions in USA aid abroad, website design improvements, and improvements on data collection and usage, the bottom line looks to be very sketchy. A lot of the early retirement personnel are now being replaced which increases costs. Most of the government contracts that were canceled due to DOGE sloppiness and lack of understanding what they were canceling have to be replaced which is an increase in costs. The USAID abroad contract, a \$312 million contract that was cut, stretched out until 2033. DOGE thought that was an annual contract while it was actually a ceiling value which probably would never have been spent. These reasons are why Elon Musk left DOGE and the White House declines to answer specific questions concerning DOGE.

The good news is that we will get better information technology and website design for the federal government which was what most of Musk's hires were good at doing to start with.

MONROE DOCTRINE

President Powers

James Monroe was the fifth president of the United States. He was so popular that he was re-elected for his second term in office without opposition. His fame comes from a speech to Congress in 1823, the "Monroe Doctrine." In that speech he advocated for USA not to interfere with European wars or their internal affairs and expected the same from Europe. At the same time USA would recognize existing European colonies but opposed any further colonization of the Americas. Any European attempt to control or oppress nations in the Americas would be seen as a hostile act against USA. This was in the early years of our country and we did not have the military strength to enforce this doctrine so what little recognition was afforded this doctrine was enforced by British naval power. For some time, Central American countries tried to get further commitment from our Congress but Congress refused.

James Polk, the eleventh president, brought renewed attention to the doctrine with his successful 1844 campaign to annex Texas and Oregon and expand our border to the Pacific Ocean. Texas was annexed in 1845; Oregon in 1849. This message wasn't actually translated into doctrine until the 1850s and took sharp criticism during the Civil War. By 1870 the popularity of the doctrine was unquestioned. In the next twenty years the cession of American territory to European states was made clear on at least eight occasions. President Taft

actually landed Marines in Nicaragua and President Wilson intervened forcibly in both Haiti and Dominican Republic. By the 1920s the doctrine was securely established in the minds of our citizenry.

In 2013 John Kerry, then Secretary of State, declared, "The era of the Monroe Doctrine is over," signaling a shift in Latin American policy, emphasizing cooperation versus domination. This declaration reflected a declining USA influence in the world. At that time Bolivia didn't like being called America's backyard by Kerry. Later, Trump in his first administration, revisited the doctrine to address Russian and Chinese influences in Venezuela due to the importance of oil in our world economy. This was tagged the "Donroe Doctrine." The threatened annexation of Greenland also added to the uproar. Annexation would damage our NATO alliance because America acknowledged Danish sovereignty over Greenland in 1916.

However, as most Americans know, USA ends up solving most regional problems which also include the Suez Canal, Cuban missile crisis, Sandinista Revolution, and Central/South American emigration from Marxist-leaning dictatorships.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Federation Nominations and Elections: Are you interested in serving on the nominating committee? Or in running for federation president, vice president, secretary or treasurer? Or do you know someone who would be perfect for one of those positions? Please contact Bea (see back page for contact information).

Region IX Symposium: October 1-3, 2026 – Ellensburg, Washington. This is in the planning stages so, if you're interested in attending, stop by the event page on the federation website. The federation and chapter have funds budgeted to assist members in good standing who wish to attend. <https://www.narfe.org/region09/meetings-events/meetings/symposium2026/>

MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 24 January we have 358 chapter members.

Two new members, Suzanne [REDACTED] and Malynda [REDACTED], joined the chapter; Jeffrey [REDACTED] and Janice [REDACTED] reinstated their membership; and Dedrick [REDACTED] transferred in from National-only – thank you and welcome! Dorothy [REDACTED], now living in Virginia, departed the chapter. Barbara [REDACTED] is deceased; our condolences to her family.

2026 AARP Tax Aide Sites

SHERIDAN PARK CENTER

680 Lebo Blvd, Bremerton

2/1/2026 – 4/15/2026

Wed, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Thu, 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

In-person. No appointment required.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND MAIN LIBRARY

1270 Madison Ave N, Bainbridge Island

2/1/2026 – 4/15/2026

Tue, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

Thu, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

Fri, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sat, 2:00 am -05:00 pm

In-person.

Appointment required. (206) 866-5269

PORT ORCHARD LIBRARY

87 Sidney Ave, Port Orchard

2/1/2026 – 4/15/2026

Sat, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Language: English

In-person. No appointment required.

POULSBO LIBRARY

700 NE Lincoln Rd, Poulsbo

2/1/2026 – 4/15/2026

Tue, 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Thu, 12:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Language: English

AND

Sat, 2/21, 3/21, 4/11

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Language: English and Spanish

In-person.

Appointment required. (360) 447-5450

SAINT GABRIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1150 Mitchell Ave, Port Orchard

2/3/2026 – 4/9/2026

Tue, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Thu, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Language: English

In-person.

Appointment required (360) 602-2658

For additional locations, go to the link below and enter your ZIP code in the box above the map.

https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations/

PROGRAMS

9 March – Annie Chatman – Kitsap Transit – ACCESS buses

13 April – Kitsap Regional Library Foundation – Meet Your Local Author event

TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher⁴⁸

Dec 1, 2025 Account Balance	\$65,013.48
Income	+1,728.90
Expenses	-3,038.59
Dec 31, 2025 Account Balance	\$63,703.79
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	+163.29
USPS Return Mail Acct	+117.05
TOTAL Net Worth Dec 31, 2025	\$63,984.13

The Chapter Life Membership Trust account has a continually fluctuating stock market share price. Its value will be updated and published at the end of each tax year. The 31 December 2025 value was \$16,667.80.

A treasurer's report for January 2026 will be available at our February meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

At the January meeting, donations were received from Lois [REDACTED], Stan [REDACTED], Loraine [REDACTED], John [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

A sympathy card was sent to the family of Barbara [REDACTED].

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

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

<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 2026 Rex Tauscher</p> <p>UNTIL DECEMBER 2027 Stan Barber John Burch</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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