

NARFE Seattle Chapter 0043 Meeting

August 21, 2025

Guest Speaker: Doug Rushton, Washington State Federation (WSF) Legislative Chair



Doug Rushton, LEG Chair spoke to the attendees about NARFE's mission is to defend and advance the earned pay/benefits of federal civil servants by advocating for legislation that supports federal employees and retirees and opposing legislation that is detrimental to their interests. NARFE also aims to promote/protect the general welfare of federal employees and retirees, advise them on their rights, and represent their interests before government authorities. Doug mentioned that in the NARFE website under Advocacy this is a Issue Brief with NARFE Advocacy Priorities for 2025-26. Some topics include:

- Oppose Cuts to Earned Federal Retirement and Health Benefits – NARFE supports maintaining current retirement and health benefits. Also, Past proposals were to cut or eliminate cost-of-living adjustments (COLA). Doug mentioned that members should contact their legislators to introduce the R-CPI-E in their calculations for COLA. The R-CPI-E is a research series of Americans age 62+, which considers the spending patterns of older American. It is not used in government calculations. District VP Bea Bull and Member Duffy Clarke showed support for its use.
- Protect the Integrity of Government Operations and the Merit-Based Civil Service. NARFE opposes the implementation of Schedule P/C (Policy/Career formerly known as Schedule F). NARFE opposed the across-the-boards reductions to the

size of the federal workforce through Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Doug Rushton mentioned that more contractors would need to be trained, and our current staffing levels are the same as in 1953 (Truman Administration) so why is the need to cut staff that is already trained? He also mentioned that John Hatton, NARFE-PAC is working to have H.R. 491 (Equal COLA Act), H.R. 492 (Saving the Civil Service Act), and H.R. 493 (FAIR Act) passed. Representative DelBene has co-sponsored all three bills. Representative Emily Randall has co-sponsored H.R. 493. Senator Patty Murray co-sponsored S. 624 Equal COLA Act (the Senate version of H.R. 492) and S. 134 Saving the Civil Service Act (the Senate version of H.R. 492). Senator Maria Cantwell and Representative Pramila Jayapal have not sponsored any of the bills. Doug suggested that our chapter members should ask both Senator Cantwell as well as Congresswoman Jayapal to support these bills.

There was a lively Question and Answer period with many members encouraged to contact their Congressional Staff and provide their own personal stories concerning health issues that would have been financial hardships if it weren't for FEHB. Many members were grateful for Doug Rushton's presentation and personal stories. Chapter members asked if officers would request someone from Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal's Office for the next meeting in November.

A member recommended a book called Who Is Government?:The Untold Story of Public Service, by Michael Lewis, and referred members to www.census.gov for additional information.