



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

March 2026

NUMBER 03-26

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

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

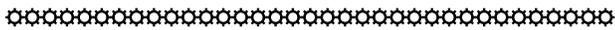
**Program: Annie Chatman, Paratransit Assessment Specialist, Kitsap Transit will
Talk About Using ACCESS Buses**

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

- 13 April.....Membership Meeting**
- 11 May.....Membership Meeting**
- 8 June.....Membership Meeting**



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

March is NARFE-PAC month. I urge you to donate. Your contributions help build relationships between our headquarters and key members of both political parties in Congress. These funds enable our lobbyists to attend key political events and advocate policies that protect our earned benefits, thus strengthening the federal workforce. Our Washington D.C. lobbyists are proactive with members of this 119th Congress to respond quickly to harmful proposals to our merit-based civil service system. See accompanying article in our March 2026 *NARFE magazine*, starting on page 22 with contribution form on page 26.

The Washington State Federation Legislative (National) and NARFE-PAC Coordinator Doug Rushton will provide a legislative update and PAC presentation during the business portion of

our March meeting. Bring your checkbook and make a contribution to NARFE PAC.

The Schedule Policy/Career rule, which I discussed in a previous newsletter, will come into effect on March 9th reclassifying about 50,000 people according to OPM. It will require people to sign waivers to get into this program. This is part of the 119th Congress' Big Beautiful Bill that changes upper management employees from civil service merit-based protection to a more politically based civil service system.

This is a step backward and a lot closer to the old spoils system which was based on alignment with a certain political party, favoring a certain locality, favoring specific contract awards, or exceptions to certain tariffs. NARFE is opposed to this rule and will challenge it via a lawsuit that has been on hold.

The League of Women Voters is challenging the Save America Act now being negotiated by Congress. Their opposition is over the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requiring all states to share their voter databases

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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.

with DHS. The federal government's proposed use of the above database for verification exceeds the executive branch's constitutional authority with respect to elections. The Constitution gives the states authority over times, places, and manner of holding federal elections. The purpose of this new legislation is to make it harder to vote by implementing burdensome national voter ID requirements.

President Trump's State of the Union message to Congress is scheduled for Tuesday February 24th at 6:00PM PST. This is after our newsletter publication date but I think, due to his slide in the voter polls, the message may be delayed until March so he can focus on midterm adjustments.

GREENLAND

President Powers

Greenland is the world's largest island. It is 26 percent larger than Alaska and three times the size of Texas. However only 1/3 of Alaska is north of the Arctic circle while 2/3 of Greenland is north of the Arctic circle. Greenland is actually part of the North American continental shelf separated from Canada's Ellesmere Island by a 600-foot-deep channel. Greenland's ice sheet averages one mile thick and covers 81 percent of the country. It is so massive that it has depressed the island's central landmass. If the ice ever melts, the interior would be a vast low-lying basin surrounded by coastal mountains. It will actually become an archipelago of islands if there is no rebound in response to the reduced weight from the ice melt. There are some areas 1,000 feet below sea level. The highest mountain is Gunnbjorn Fjeld at 12,119 feet, similar to our Mt. Adams. There is almost a continuous mountain range around the island averaging close to 10,000 feet high.

Greenland's loss of land ice is actually the most significant contributor to sea level rise. It is estimated that Greenland holds 12 percent of the world's fresh water supply. The Gulf Stream keeps Greenland more than 15 degrees warmer than its Canadian neighbor and the melting ice is uncovering vital mineral deposits such as uranium and iron ore. Cryolite, a mineral for smelting bauxite into aluminum, was heavily mined until 1987 when the source was depleted. Moulins, draining surface water to under ice rivers contributes an additional 8 percent melt-off and will continue to escalate due to increased heat from surface melt-off water.

Greenland has an extremely low population, totaling approximately 56,900; of these, 60 percent are Inuit, a Canadian Eskimo heritage with Danish cross breeding. Over 90 percent of the people live in urban

areas along the southwestern coast. Nuuk, its capital city, represents 35 percent of Greenland's population. Its harbor remains ice-free throughout the winter due to the Gulf Stream.

Thule, in extreme and remote northern Greenland (Arctic Circle), was an America airfield and weather station during World War II with thousands stationed there during the Cold War. It is located along the shortest route between Moscow and Washington D.C. It has now been renamed Pituffik Space Base to honor its cultural heritage. It is our missile warning, missile defense, and space surveillance center with solid state phased array radar.

President Trump is not the first to offer to buy Greenland. In 1867 Secretary of State Seward offered to buy Greenland but he could not get Congress interested after buying Alaska from Russia. In 1946 President Truman made a state secret bid of \$100 million in gold to buy Greenland. At today's price for gold which has escalated due to inflation, that bid would be worth \$14 billion.

Anyone who has played the continental board game, RISK, knows how strategic Alaska, Greenland, and Panama are for North American defense.

¹ A vertical or nearly vertical shaft in a glacier, formed by surface water percolating through a crack in the ice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEDcon26: Registration is now open for this event; go to <https://fedcon.narfe.org/>.

Federation Nominations and Elections: Are you interested running for federation president, vice president, secretary or treasurer? Please contact Bea (see back page for contact information).

Region IX Symposium: October 1-3, 2026 – Ellensburg, Washington. For more information: <https://www.narfe.org/region09/meetings-events/meetings/symposium2026/>

MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 21 February we have 351 chapter members. Five members are missing from the chapter roster: Guy [REDACTED], Nancy [REDACTED], Carol [REDACTED], Charles [REDACTED] and Michele [REDACTED]. Bruce [REDACTED] reinstated his membership; thank you Bruce! Two members were reported as deceased: Sherry [REDACTED] and Vito [REDACTED]. Our condolences to their families.

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

13 April – Kitsap Regional Library Foundation – Meet Your Local Author event was canceled because the Foundation was unable to schedule our selected author. However, they will provide a presentation on estate planning, including sharing the free will-planning resource FreeWill.

11 May – Paul Andrews – Kitsap County Auditor – Update on balloting and voting as we approach the mid-term elections.

TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Jan 1, 2026 Account Balance	\$63,703.79
Income	+1,849.28
Expenses	-2,033.07
Dec 31, 2025 Account Balance	\$63,520.00
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	+300.50
USPS Return Mail Acct	+117.05
TOTAL Net Worth Jan 31, 2026	\$63,937.55

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 February 2026 will be available at our March meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

At the February meeting, donations were received from Loraine [REDACTED], DeAnna [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 Vito [REDACTED].

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

<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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