

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
except July & August

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

**April 2026**

**NUMBER 04-26**

**General Meeting Date & Time: April 13, 2026 1:00PM**

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

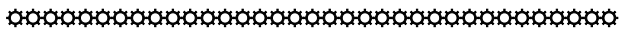
**Program: Wendy Kile and Kari Driskell from Kitsap Regional Library Foundation  
will Talk About Estate Planning and Using the FreeWill Platform**

*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 May.....Membership Meeting**
- 8 June.....Membership Meeting**
- 14 September.....Membership Meeting**



**PRESIDENT**

Bill Powers

First, I want to thank those who sent in their 'March is NARFE-PAC Month' contribution. As previously stated, these funds enable our lobbyists to attend key political events and advocate policies that protect our earned benefits. We will report on our chapter's first quarter 2026 contributions, January through March, when NARFE headquarters releases the data.

Secondly, the Schedule Policy/Career rule, discussed previously in our newsletter, has not been issued yet but a Trump Executive Order seems eminent. This is the reclassification of approximately 50,000 senior-level federal employees to a more politically based civil service system. The National Treasury Employees Union has litigation to confirm employees' statutory rights would continue to

exist even though Trump issues an Executive Order stating otherwise. NARFE supports H.R. 492/S. 134, Saving the Civil Service Act of 2025, which keeps the merit promotion approach. Our Congresswoman Emily Randall cosponsored this legislation.

There is other legislation that NARFE has given the thumbs-up; see the NARFE "Bill Tracker" in your April *NARFE Magazine*. We need chapter members to ask Congresswoman Randall to cosponsor one in particular: H.R. 7480, FAIR Act 2027. This legislation proposes a 4.1 percent pay increase for current federal employees in 2027. This legislation also has a senate bill that needs Senators Murray and Cantwell to cosponsor; it is S. 3823, FAIR Act 2027.

With inflation rearing its head again and with the economy slowing down, stagflation of the 1970s may return. This will be really bad news for the new incoming Chairman of the Federal Reserve, Kevin Warsh. He starts his term in office in May of this year when confirmed by the

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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.

Senate. If you have time, 24 minutes, to watch a *YouTube* video, "Stagflation 2.0," you will understand my concern. Type in "The 1970s Are Back (Stagflation Explained)" then scroll down to the video, "Stagflation 2.0."

In closing, last year I harped about the national debt. Our 2025 April newsletter reported our national debt at \$36 trillion; this April, one year later, it is now \$39 trillion. THREE TRILLION DOLLARS IN ONE YEAR!

## **OIL CRISIS**

President Powers

Crude oil is by far the world's largest traded commodity, representing 30 percent of global commodity trading at 100 million barrels per day. The U.S. consumes 20 percent of the world's oil, China 16 percent, India 6 percent and Russia 4 percent. Throw Canada and Mexico into the mix and you have half of the world's oil consumption. The two mainly quoted oil market futures contracts are: 1) North Sea Brent (Brent-Scotland) crude oil; and 2) West Texas Intermediate (WT1 also called Texas Light Sweet) crude oil. Other well know oil suppliers are Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Dubai, Iran, Iraq, Russia, Venezuela and Alberta (Western Canadian Select-WCS tar-sands oil).

As everyone knows, the reason for the spike in oil prices is due to the Israel/American attack on Iran. As of this writing, all of the world's oil prices are hovering around \$100/barrel and climbing. A barrel of oil is 42 gallons, an international benchmark. Iran controls the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow gateway to the Persian Gulf, which only has about a two-mile-wide trough through which these very large tankers (longer than four football fields) can safely pass. Due to this and the threat of tanker attack, the insurance companies said they would not insure a super tanker attempting passage through the Strait as long as this war continues, thus shutting off 20 percent of the world's oil supply, one-third of the world's liquified natural gas, one-third of the world's fertilizer and one-fourth of the world's aluminum. These very large crude oil tankers cost over \$100 million and a cargo of crude oil is worth over \$200 million in today's market. Plus, there is the messy and costly cleanup after a military encounter.

Another area of concern is the Babel-Mandeb Strait off the coast of Yemen which is the entrance to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal from the Gulf of Aden. This has previously been an area of concern due to Yemen's Houthis militant attacks on shipping. This

strait also has only a two-mile-wide safe shipping lane. With the Suez Canal closed, tankers would travel around South Africa and the Cape of Good Hope, adding time and expense to their journey.

Oil production has ceased in the Persian Gulf area because they only have so much storage capacity and there is the threat of attack on storage facilities. With this war premium and supply loss, the oil market will remain tightened for months, if not for the rest of the year, if military strikes continue. It is reported that Elon Musk's AI chatbot, Grok, predicts hostilities will continue through June 2026. Japan offered Iran \$2 million for safe passage of their tankers through the Strait of Hormuz via Iranian territorial waters. Other countries are also negotiating with Iran. This is called a cost of war!

Our oil supply comes from the Alaskan National Petroleum Reserve on the Arctic coast, called Alaska North Slope oil. It is transported to the Port of Valdez by the Alaskan pipeline for shipment through Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska to our west coast refineries. Alaskan crude oil pricing generally runs a little higher than West Texas Intermediate and lower than North Sea Brent.

In closing, Washington State has the second highest cost of gasoline in America. Besides the above political costs, we have the combination of a high state gasoline tax and an equally high state Climate Commitment Act (carbon tax).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FEDcon26:** Registration is now open for this event; go to <https://fedcon.narfe.org/>. The early-bird rate (now through 5/22/2026) is \$225; 5/23/2026 – 8/7/2026 is \$250; and after 8/7/2026 is \$300. All non-members pay \$300. If you wish to attend, the Washington State Federation (WSF) will reimburse the first five members in good standing \$800 each. Please contact WSF President Tony Merola at [TIGER7565@AOL.COM](mailto:TIGER7565@AOL.COM) and copy WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton at [apatton1202@outlook.com](mailto:apatton1202@outlook.com). Or you can call Tony at 253-820-2408.

**Region IX Symposium:** October 1-3, 2026 – Ellensburg, Washington. If you wish to attend, the WSF will reimburse the registration fee for the first 30 members in good standing who contact Tony and Arlene (see above instructions). For more information go to:

<https://www.narfe.org/region09/meetings-events/meetings/symposium2026/>

**Federation Nominations and Elections:** Are you interested running for federation president, vice president, secretary or treasurer? With WSF Secretary Curtis Price stepping down to run for the Region IX VP position, the federation is in dire need of someone to run for secretary. Please contact Bea (see back page for contact information).

**AARP Tax Aide Sites:** The listing was in the February and March newsletters. If you still need it, please contact me or 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/](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locations/)

**NARFE National Special Referendum** – The Special Referendum passed by about 85 percent of members voting. Beginning in 2028, all National Executive Board (NEB) members (President, Secretary/Treasurer and Regional Vice Presidents) may run for two consecutive three-year terms. In the interim, all NEB members may run for another two-year term, including President Shackelford, who would not have been eligible to run again without the passage of the Special Referendum which cost \$29,119.61.

Watch your *NARFE Magazine* for candidate statements; voting will begin in August after FEDcon26.

### MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 28 March we have 351 chapter members. One member, Debra [REDACTED], is missing from the chapter roster. Three members were reported as deceased: Doris [REDACTED], Dick [REDACTED] and Elizabeth [REDACTED]. Our condolences to their families.

We have two new members, Jennifer [REDACTED] and Kathryn [REDACTED], and Vincent [REDACTED] appeared on our roster; thank you for joining us! We have one new prospective member: Dede [REDACTED].

### PROGRAMS

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

8 June – I invited Greg Nance, State Representative for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District, to tell us about his 2025 Mississippi River Run. I will know in May if he’s available. If not, I will announce a different speaker. **NOTE: Because the legislative**

**session is over and he is running for re-election, he can’t discuss legislation or his candidacy.**

WSF Secretary Curtis Price will join us in June to present his campaign speech. He is running for the Region IX VP position since Steve Roy is stepping down. The Region IX VP serves Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

### TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Feb 1, 2026 Account Balance	\$63,520.00
Income	+1,811.04
Expenses	-309.17
Feb 28, 2026 Account Balance	\$65,021.87
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	+159.30
USPS Return Mail Acct	+117.05
TOTAL Net Worth Feb 28, 2026	\$65,298.22

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 March 2026 will be available at our April meetings.

### ALZHEIMER’S CHAIR

Secretary Bea Bull

At the March meeting, donations were received from Al Holl, Pete Miller 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

Sympathy cards were sent to Burton [REDACTED] in the loss of his wife [REDACTED] and to the family Dick [REDACTED].

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

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