

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

May 2026

NUMBER 05-26

General Meeting Date & Time: May 11, 2026 1:00PM

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

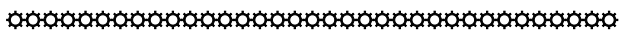
Program: Paul Andrews, Kitsap County Auditor, Will Provide an Update on Balloting and Voting as We Approach the Mid-term Elections

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

- 8 June.....Membership Meeting**
- 14 September.....Membership Meeting**
- 12 October.....Membership Meeting**



PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

NARFE-PAC 1st quarter 2026 contribution data has been released. Our chapter contributed \$5,245.84 with 44 members contributing. That represents 12.5 percent of our membership. For disbursements to our state's legislators, excluding political action committees (PACs), Susan DelBene, our 1st Congressional District Representative, received \$2,500.00. She is Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC). Rick Larsen, our 2nd Congressional District Representative, received \$1,500.00. He is ranking member on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Both political parties received additional disbursements this last quarter for their PACs. As previously stated, these funds enable our NARFE lobbyists to attend key political events.

Due to the continuing turmoil in Iran, Israel, and Lebanon, the Senior Citizens League is projecting a 4 percent cost-of-living-allowance (COLA) increase for Social Security and CSRS in 2027. This matches the 4.1 percent pay increase requested in the "FAIR Act of 2027" for current federal employees. The FAIR ACT is listed in our *NARFE Magazine* "Bill Tracker." If this current Strait of Hormuz blockade continues, these projections will require escalation. See my article "Oil Crisis" in our April newsletter.

President Trump still hasn't issued a reclassification for specific divisions of the labor pool effected by his new Schedule Policy/Career Rule. This may reclassify up to 50,000 employees. Federal agencies must first recommend to President Trump which roles/positions they think should be reclassified; President Trump will then issue subsequent executive orders to officially reclassify those specific positions into the new schedule. As previous newsletter articles have said, this is considered illegal and will force legal

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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. challenges including NARFE's support of "Saving the Civil Service Act of 2025." This concerns the "Civil Service Reform Act of 1883" that established a merit-based system, replacing political patronage with competitive examinations for federal jobs. For further information, see *NARFE Magazine* article, "The Civil Service After Trump 2.0 Part Two" in the May issue.

At the Washington State level there is going to be a hot-button issue on our November ballot: a progressive income tax. If you are interested in reporting on this issue to our membership, either pro or con, you are welcome. Come to an executive board meeting to get scheduled in.

The first full week in May, the 3rd through the 9th, is Public Service Recognition Week. If you would like to write our 'Thank You to Federal Employees' article for the Kitsap Sun's 'Letters to the Editor', contact our newsletter editor, Bea. She has written this letter to the editor for the last few years and I'm sure she would appreciate a new look.

Bremerton's Armed Forces Day Parade is on May 16th. We will have a NARFE entry. Hope to see you there.

The Criminal Side of Artificial Intelligence (AI) – What You Need to Know

Secretary/Treasurer Bull

Phone Calls

Scammer call centers are switching from employing humans to using AI which means they can generate tens of thousands of scam messages per minute, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That real-sounding voice you're having a conversation with? It may actually be AI.

Criminals use an image or a video from social media to create realistic audio/visual they can use in a scam. With just someone's photo and three seconds of their voice, AI can quickly generate a cloned voice and video capable of holding realistic conversations. They can also use your voice from a personalized voicemail or answering machine greeting to clone the voice. It is recommended to use the stock voicemail greetings.

Text Messages

You receive a text notifying you of an unpaid bill. Or an undeliverable package. Pause and reflect before reacting and DO NOT click any links in the text. If it's a scam, it can put malware on your phone that gives criminals access to your contacts. If you think you truly have an unpaid bill or a missing package,

use a bookmark to go to your account on the appropriate website.

Email

AI is responsible for half of all spam emails and 82 percent of all phishing emails. When you don't recognize the sender, mouse over the sender's name to reveal the email address. If you don't recognize it, send it straight to the trash. If you do open the email, NEVER click on a link they provide.

Social Media

Facebook is notorious for running deepfake videos such as images of doctors or celebrities selling products or soliciting donations for a cause. **DO NOT click on the ad!** If you want to learn more, jot down the information, then do a Google search to see if the product or cause is legit or a known scam. By the way, Meta gets paid for these ads and each click they receive regardless of whether it's a legitimate ad or a deepfake.

Chatbots

I frequently use the Amazon chatbot to report a problem with an order or item. The bot converses like a real person but, if you use it frequently, you'll find the responses feel scripted. When it IS a real person, you'll sense the difference. The one thing you need to remember is legitimate chatbots will NEVER ask for any credit card, bank account or other personal information such as your date of birth.

Where you live

Older adults are being targeted because they tend to have the most assets. Moving into a senior community can trigger an onslaught of scams. If your computer, tablet or phone suddenly emits an alarm and a message pops up that your device has been infected, simply turn the device off. DO NOT respond to the message. If, after turning your device back on, there still seems to be a problem, contact a legitimate provider, e.g., Dell, HP, Apple, Microsoft or Geek Squad for help. Never use a link or phone number provided in the alarm message.

“Pause, reflect, protect”

Resources

AARP Fraudwatch Network

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/about-fraud-watch-network/>

Free National Helpline 877 908 3360

Do you think you're the victim of a scam? Free National Helpline will connect you with trained specialists who provide free, confidential guidance.

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The Criminal Side... cont.

National Elder Fraud Coordination Center

<https://www.fightelderfraud.org/>

The National Elder Fraud Coordination Center (NEFCC) works across state and international boundaries to aggregate and analyzing reports of fraud. They tie together cases for federal law enforcement investigation and prosecution.

Source

Various Authors, "Fraud 2026: Your Guide to Spotting Scams," March/April 2026, *AARP Bulletin*, pgs. 6-23.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEDcon26: <https://fedcon.narfe.org/>

August 23-25, 2026 – Indianapolis, Indiana. The Washington State Federation (WSF) will reimburse \$800.00 to the first five members in good standing to apply. The chapter also has funds budgeted. Contact Bea for more information.

Region IX Symposium:

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

October 1-3, 2026 – Ellensburg, Washington. The WSF will reimburse the \$150.00 registration fee for the first 30 members in good standing who apply. Contact Bea for more information.

Federation Nominations and Elections: Are you interested running for federation president, vice president, secretary or treasurer? Contact Bea.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 25 April we have 350 chapter members. There are 15 new prospective members: Jonathan [redacted], Anthony [redacted], Stuart [redacted], Brittney [redacted], Michael [redacted], Jeanine [redacted], Joann [redacted], Christopher [redacted], Steve [redacted], Dolly [redacted], Carrie [redacted], Todd [redacted], Hong [redacted], Brian [redacted], and Jeannette [redacted].

PROGRAMS

8 June – I invited Greg Nance, State Representative for the 23rd 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.

14 September – Jason Driver – Kitsap Regional Library Director – The future of Sylvan Way branch.

TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Mar 1, 2026 Account Balance	\$65,021.87
Income	+553.82
Expenses	-741.26
Mar 31, 2026 Account Balance	\$64,834.43
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	+249.59
USPS Return Mail Acct	+117.05
TOTAL Net Worth Mar 31, 2026	\$65,201.07

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 April 2026 will be available at our May meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary/Treasurer Bea Bull

At the April meeting, donations were received from Loraine [redacted] 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, 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601-7633**

NARFE reached its \$17 million goal in March. The new goal is **\$18 million by 2028.**

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

A sympathy card was sent to Bill [redacted] in the loss of his wife Janice. A birthday card was sent to Burton [redacted] who is celebrating another year past 100.

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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