



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
except July & August

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

June 2026

NUMBER 06-26

General Meeting Date & Time: June 8, 2026 1:00PM

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

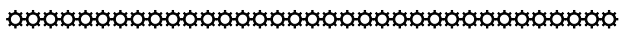
Program: Greg Nance, State Representative for the 23rd Legislative District, Will Tell Us About His 2025 Mississippi River Run

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

- 14 September.....Membership Meeting**
- 12 October.....Membership Meeting**
- 9 November.....FEHB Health Fair & Membership Meeting**



PRESIDENT
Bill Powers

This will be our last newsletter until after our summer break. We had a very good turnout for The Kitsap County Auditor's presentation in May. He answered all the false rumors about invalid elections and election results. In fact, he must have given a good report about us back at the county seat because the Kitsap County Assessor, Phil Cook, emailed our secretary asking to give a presentation. So, in October, he will bring us up to date on various topics pertaining to property tax, including the Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities Exemption. He says new legislation passed this year that will change the qualification requirements for the exemption in 2027. As always, you are welcome to invite guests or potential members to our chapter meetings. We encourage it!

Our chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Bea Bull, and I rode in her SUV in Bremerton's May 16th Armed Forces Day Parade representing our Bremerton Chapter 0181. The parade had nice weather this year, there was a good turnout, there were lots of military vehicles shown off, there were lots Navy brass at the reviewing stand, and there was a Joint Base Lewis-McChord helicopter fly over. We will also have an entry in the Silverdale Whaling Days Lions Grand Parade at 10:00AM on Saturday, July 25th. I will be participating in the Whale of a Run that morning so Bea Bull and her daughter and grandson will represent our chapter in that parade.

July 4th marks America's 250th Anniversary, officially called United States Semiquincentennial. It is an opportunity to remind us this grand experiment in self-government has endured for two and a half centuries. Our Constitution with its 27 Amendments governs our 50 states as one united nation.

As previously mentioned, we will have our Region IX (WA, OR, MT, ID & AK) Symposium
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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. in Ellensburg this October 1,2 & 3. If you are interested in NARFE advocacy, state federation duties, or virtual presentations from NARFE National officers, sign up. Our state federation is reimbursing the \$150 registration fee for the first 30 signups. So far only Bea and I are signed up from our chapter. Contact Bea for more information.

Inflation is on track for a 4 percent CSRS/Social Security cost of living adjustment and 3 percent for FERS retirees due to their Thrift Savings Plan benefits. There is a bill in Congress, Equal COLA Act, for FERS retirees. There is also a bill in Congress, FAIR Act 2027, for current federal employees to receive a 4.1 percent pay increase in 2027.

Members are encouraged to support NARFE efforts by contacting your representatives in Congress, letting them know that our advocacy represents the interests of all federal employees and annuitants.

The mid-term elections will soon be upon us. Know the issues and encourage the younger generations to vote. Their participation in mid-term elections is far below that of senior citizens.

Cuba President Powers

Cuba is our topic for June because the United Nations (UN) is declaring this island nation a severe humanitarian crisis. They have no coal, insignificant oil reserves, and negligible hydroelectric power potential. They were relying on oil from Venezuela as a power source but our administration blockaded their oil imports. This collapsed their power grid, disrupting health services, water access, and food distribution.

Transportation came to a standstill due to gasoline and diesel oil supply shortages. They are relying on charcoal for cooking and the UN is fearful of gang and street violence since the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa in October, similar to what happened in Haiti after their 7.2 Richter scale earthquake in 2021. Therefore, the UN is coordinating a \$94 million 'Plan of Action' to address the most vulnerable two million elderly of their nine million people.

Russia delivered 730,000 barrels of oil via tanker past our blockade, plus food and military hardware, with another Russian oil tanker on its way. Private sector shipments of diesel oil have been sent to keep businesses afloat. China is also a key economic partner and financier for survival of Cuba.

Now for a little about this island nation. Havana, their capital, is only 105 miles from Key West in Florida

and 300 miles via airplane to Miami, an hour flight away. Cuba is actually an archipelago including over 4,000 islets. There are only eight inhabited islands; the Cuban mainland and the 'Island of Youth' plus six having temporary habitation as tourism resorts. Twenty-five percent of the islets are under marine and coastal environment protection. This accounts for Cuba's coral reefs being among the healthiest and pristine in the Caribbean.

They have high biodiversity, coral cover and fish population due to this marine protection. The main island is 778 miles long and 120 miles wide at its widest point. Three quarters of the main island is relatively level land with an average elevation of 325 feet. This is significant for agriculture, especially sugar cane. The highest mountain peak is in southeastern Cuba; it is 6,476 feet, similar to the shorter of the two Brothers in our Olympics, but with no snow. Cuba is noted for its beaches of powdery white sand and turquoise colored ocean on the north slope.

Now for the politics. Cuba has been Communist since 1959 when Fidel Castro's guerrillas overthrew the corrupt Fulgencio Batista government. This corrupt government was backed by our U.S. government and our wealthy sugar plantation owners, thus the poor people rebelled. The Communists seized approximately \$1 billion worth of U.S. investments in Cuba in 1960 dollars. In 1961 the Bay of Pigs Invasion to overthrow Castro failed, causing the U.S. government serious repercussions. Then in 1962 the Soviet Union established offensive missile bases in Cuba. This led to President Kennedy demanding prompt removal of the missiles which created an international incident. These bases were dismantled, Cuba released the prisoners from the failed invasion, and the U.S. paid \$50 billion worth of food and medicine to Cuba. This started our embargo of all trade with Cuba, one of the longest-standing embargoes in history.

Like all dictatorships, Castro promised elections and a constitutional government. But within 1 1/2 years he made it clear he was going to maintain dictatorial power. Corruption, inefficiencies, ruthless disregard for individual liberty and freedom, and irresponsible executive power has characterized one Cuban government after another. This has been ongoing since the mid-1800s.

President Trump has been saying he would be doing something with Cuba very soon and has spoken of a friendly takeover of this island nation. I say I've seen enough of our failed nation-building throughout the world. I say let's solve some of our own problems. Let the UN deal with Cuba.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Logins: Remember to access your OPM, TSP and Social Security accounts to keep logins active.

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. **NOTE:** Leaving an item unvoted will invalidate your ballot.

MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 23 May we have 346 chapter members. Michael [REDACTED] and Sheri [REDACTED] joined the chapter – welcome! There is one new prospective member: Linda [REDACTED]. Six members are missing from the roster: Suzanna [REDACTED], John [REDACTED], Bill [REDACTED], Michelle [REDACTED], Joseph [REDACTED] and Nancy [REDACTED].

PROGRAMS

8 June – **REMINDER:** Because the legislative session is over and Congressman Nance 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.

Curtis served a 30-year career with the Department of Interior, USGS, as a physical scientist applying, supporting and practicing geographic mapping and database technology, and then taught at the university level. He served as a director and held office on many nonprofit (arts and advocacy) boards in communities where he has lived.

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

12 October – Phil Cook – Kitsap County Assessor – Senior Citizen/Disabled Persons property tax exemption

9 November – FEHB plan health fair opens at 10:00AM – reps will review their plans at 1:00PM

14 December – Holiday Luncheon – reservations required

TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Apr 1, 2026 Account Balance	\$64,834.43
Income	+573.81
Expenses	-489.88
Apr 30, 2026 Account Balance	\$64,918.36
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	+249.59
USPS Return Mail Acct	+117.05
TOTAL Net Worth Apr 30, 2026	\$65,285.00

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 May 2026 will be available at our June meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary/Treasurer Bea Bull

At the May meeting, donations were received from Bea [REDACTED], DeAnna [REDACTED], Al [REDACTED] and Rex [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**

NARFE's new goal is **\$18 million by 2028.**

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

No cards were sent in May.

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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