



July 2026

CHAPTER 236 SOUTH PUGET SOUND

2026 CHAPTER MEETINGS at 12 NOON

21 July
20 October
16 February 2027

Location: Super Buffet Chinese Restaurant 1390 Galaxy Dr NE, Lacey, exit 111 I5

Chapter website located on Federation Website: www.narfe.org/wa

The speaker for July is Olivia Huebner the Program Manager of the Dispute Resolution Center of Thurston and Mason counties. This organization is a nonprofit which offers affordable conflict resolution and training services to all citizens and businesses of the 2 counties.

President's Message – Tony Merola

The following is a reprint from the May newsletter. Tony considers these issues of importance to be repeated in the July newsletter.

Services for Seniors – across the USA

The U.S. has a nationwide network more than 600 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) established by federal law to serve older adults and caregivers in virtually every community, with each state divided into planning areas that are covered by a specific Agency on Aging, ensuring comprehensive support, though some states might have multi-county districts or the state manages the function if areas are sparse. You can find eldercare support by visiting eldercare.acl.gov.

(Modified from South Jersey Shore Chapter 1664 Newsletter, Jan 2026)

Advocacy Resources

Our voice is strong together as NARFE members. Washington State is a leader Federation across NARFE in our grassroots advocacy (we attained “Gold” status in 2025 Q4 in NARFE’s Grassroots Benchmarks) and you are invited to join in. NARFE WA provides resources on our website to help you advocate for our NARFE priorities, including contact info for our Representatives and Senators, status of current bills, and where our Washington Delegation stands on NARFE supported bills in Congress.

www.narfe.org/wa/links#advocacy

NARFE Headquarters provides us with many tools to speak for our issues online:

www.narfe.org/advocacy

NARFE Washington State Federation Elections

We need you! National-only and Chapter members are invited to run for our Federation offices in 2026 to serve in 2027 and 2028. If you are interested in serving NARFE in this way, or know someone who is, feel free to contact us now so you can fill out a nomination form when they become available.

www.narfe.org/wa/contact-us

Thank you for being a NARFE member!

Your membership supports the important work we do, supporting each other and advocating for our issues in Congress. Invite other Feds to join and enjoy the benefits of NARFE membership!

Courtesy of Curtis Price, Secretary, WSF – Contact: www.narfe.org/wa/contact-us

MEMBERSHIP CHAPTER 236 – Rosemary Igrec

Our chapter membership is 152. For the period from 1 May 26 to 3 July 26 there were 2 new members Benjamin [REDACTED] of Tumwater and Floyd [REDACTED] of Milton. Welcome to our new members. Six members were dropped due to nonrenewal, one member was reinstated, and 9 members renewed membership. Thank you to our renewing members and our reinstated member.

NARFE MEMBERSHIP – Steve Roy Region IX vice president

NARFE is at a crossroads as membership continues to decline. Since January the NARFE net membership has declined very steeply. As Nora MacDonald, Member Engagement Senior Director reported, we had a net decline in membership in January by 1573; in February there was a net decline in membership by 1149; in March there was a net membership decline of 729; in April there was a net decline of 3049 members and finally in May the membership decline was 1295 members. Since January, Nora has reported NARFE has declined 7,795 members.

There were 951 new members in the 1st 3 months of 2026 and 451 new members joined online during the May membership drive. It was extended to June 15 after Nora learned the online membership form was not working. It is clear NARFE is going to have to do some serious membership recruiting to overcome this large number of losses.

TREASURERS' REPORT – Gordon Craig

The May 31st, 2026 balance is \$13,316.09. Expenses for the month totaled \$433.15 and income for the month was \$97.72.

COLA UPDATE

May 2026 CPI-W index value is 328.829, a monthly increase of .70%. The percent towards the 2027 cola is 3.64%.

ALZHEIMER'S

The 2026 Walks to End Alzheimer's are now scheduled. The Olympia walk is Saturday, September 26 at Heritage Park, 5th Ave and Water Street SW. Registration begins at 10 am, the Ceremony at 11 am, and the walk begins at 11:30 am. The walk is 1.8 miles. The Tacoma walk is Saturday October 3rd at Dune Peninsula, Point Defiance Park, 5361 Yacht Club Rd, Tacoma. Registration begins 9:30 am, the Ceremony at 11:00 am and the walk begins 11:30 am. The walk is 1.54 miles. Early registration can be made now on the alz.org website.

PAC AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES MAY TO JUNE 2026 – Doug Rhuston

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES - Information current on June 14, 2026 from congress.gov. NARFE Bill Tracker [here](#) and current as of June 15 and covers more legislation than is included in the [NARFE Magazine bill](#) tracker. NARFE following bills in categories on the [on-line bill tracker](#):

- Federal Benefits – 13 bills

- Federal Annuities – 2 bills
- Federal Personnel Policy – 30 bills
- Federal Compensation – 12 bills
- Postal Service- 3 bills

Bills with an asterisk in the following synopsis are in the NARFE Bill Tracker from June/July 2026 *NARFE Magazine*, pages 12, 13, 14. Bills with a + are in NARFE's [on-line bill tracker](#).

*+[H.R. 1: Big Beautiful Bill Act](#). Describes bill signed into law and the Senate and House versions on federal benefits. No cosponsors. (NARFE opposed)

*+[H.R. 70/S. Res. 147: No SmartPay for Anti-2A Companies Act](#). Regarding Postal Service independence and no privatization. **A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and is not subject to privatization.** Four House and seven Senate cosponsors. (NARFE supports).

*+[H.R. 491/S.624: Equal COLA Act](#). Makes FERS COLAs the same as CSRS. Eighty-two house cosponsors (DelBene & Randall). Murray is one of 20 Senate cosponsors. [S.624](#). NARFE articles on H.R. 491 – [here](#). (NARFE supports).

*+[H.R. 492/S.134: Saving the Civil Service Act of 2025](#). Blocks return to schedule F (AKA "Schedule Policy/Career"). Keeps merit-based approach. One hundred four House cosponsors (DelBene, Larsen, and Randall from WA). Twenty-four cosponsors in Senate, includes Murray. [S.134](#). NARFE article – [here](#). (NARFE supports).

+[H.R. 493/S.126: Federal Adjustment of Income Rates \(FAIR\) Act](#). Proposes a 4.3% federal employees pay increase with a 3.3% across the board increase and an average locality pay increase of 1%. Sixteen Senate cosponsors, none from WA; 36 House cosponsors, two of which are DelBene and Randall. NARFE articles on H.R. 493 – [here](#). (Connolly version). (NARFE supports).

*+[H.R. 1522: Federal Retirement Fairness Act](#). Civilian service in temporary positions after 1988 creditable under FERS. Randall is sponsor. 148 cosponsors, including DelBene, Jayapal, Larsen, Gluesenkamp Perez, Randall, Schrier, Smith, and Strickland. (NARFE supports).

+[H.R. 1700 / S. 770 – Social Security Expansion Act](#). Enhances social security benefits by increasing the first bend point percentage from 90% to 95%, adopts a new computation for COLAs known as the Consumer Price Index for Elderly (CPI-E), increases the minimum benefit for low-income earners based on years of service, and extends the benefit eligibility age for children who are full-time students from 19 to 22. Thirty seven cosponsors, one of which is Jayapal (WA-07). Ten Senate cosponsors but none from WA. (NARFE supports).

*+[H.R. 2550/S.2837: Protect America's Workforce Act](#). Overturns executive order against certain unions. 48 Senate cosponsors (Cantwell & Murray are cosponsors); 226 House cosponsors (from WA –DelBene, Jayapal, Larsen, Gluesenkamp Perez, Randall, Schrier, Smith, & Strickland). NARFE articles on H.R. 2550 - [here](#). (NARFE supports).

*+[H.R. 4440 Protecting Federal Employees Workforce Act](#). To amend title 5, United States Code, to require agencies to provide official personnel record files to Federal employees and former Federal employees, and for other purposes. Seventeen cosponsors including Jayapal from WA—07. (NARFE supports).

*+[H.R. 5249: Limit on Sweeping Executive Reorganization Act](#). Walkinshaw bill requiring president and executive branch to provide Congress with a Reorganization Impact Report, which Congress must approve prior to President may enact major federal employee terminations. Five cosponsors, none from WA. (NARFE supports).

+[H.R. 5676 Stop Stealing Our Jobs Act](#). This bill prohibits the President or the head of an executive agency from removing a federal employee from the civil service (e.g., as part of a reduction in force) during a lapse in discretionary appropriations (*i.e.*, government shutdown) unless the employee is a political appointee. Sixteen cosponsors but none from WA. (NARFE supports).

[H.R. 5940/S. 3480: Seniors Deserve SMARTER Care Act of 2025](#). Sponsored in House by DelBene and 42 cosponsors, including Jayapal, Larsen, Randall, Schrier, Smith and Strickland. About WISer. Members should encourage Baumgartner, Gluesenkamp Perez, and Newhouse to cosponsor. Senate version sponsored by Murray and 19 cosponsors, including Cantwell.

[H.R. 6130/S. 3267 ASAP Act](#) (About ALZ). [H.R. 6130](#) is to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of blood-based dementia screening tests. This Act may be cited as the "Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention Act of 2025" or the "ASAP Act". 141 cosponsors including Jayapal (WA-07), Strickland (WA-10), and Larsen (WA-02). Senate version ([S. 3267](#)), has 37 cosponsors, one of which is Cantwell.

*+[H.R. 7480/ S. 3823](#): **Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act**: This bill would provide federal employees with a 3.1% across-the-board pay raise in 2026, plus a 1% average increase to locality pay rates. Twenty-eight House cosponsors (Jayapal and DelBene from WA) and 12 Senate cosponsors (none from WA).

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC) ACTIVITIES

[Contribution and Distribution Reports](#) are done quarterly and a yearly total is presented. This information is through March 31, 2026. The next update will be shortly after the end of June.

2026 Quarter 5 NARFE-PAC [Contributions](#) from Washington State and Nationally.

Contributors	Amount	Sustainers
218	\$24,490.10	21
National		
15,389	\$1,139,482.76	592

2025 Q5 NARFE-PAC [Disbursements](#) to candidates (Through March 31, 2026)

District	Name	Party	Amount Given	Notes
01	Suzan DelBene	D	\$2,500	NARFE Advocacy Staff Attended DC Event
02	Rick Larsen	D	\$2,500	NARFE Advocacy Staff Attended DC Event
03	Marie Gluesenkamp Perez	D	\$1,000	NARFE Advocacy Staff Attended DC Event
06	Emily Randall	D	\$2,000	NARFE Advocacy Staff Attended DC Event
07	Pramila Jayapal	D	\$1,000	NARFE Advocacy Staff Attended DC Event
			\$9,000 total	

Note: From the NARFE HQ Policy group on June 15, since the quarter 5 report, the following additional distributions have been made: DelBene -\$2,500; Gluesenkamp Perez - \$1,000; and Schrier - \$1,000. Total disbursement, therefore, is \$13,500. Candidate total contributions: \$365,500. Non-candidate total: \$160,000. Leadership PAC total: \$200,000. Total disbursement: \$725,500. A \$2,500 disbursement to American Defense and Military PAC on behalf of Rep. Smith. \$1,000 to Democratic Majority Fund, Leadership PAC on Behalf of DelBene. \$7,500 to MPAC Leadership PAC on behalf of Patty Murray.

Doug Rushton
National Legislative Chair
National PAC Chair
Washington State Federation
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Chapter 0236 Olympia-Timberline

WESTERN WASHINGTON DISTRICT VPI - BEA BULL

NARFE NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND BYLAWS AMENDMENTS – Voting for NARFE National officers and the Region IX VP will begin after FEDcon206 and run through September. Virginia Federation President Deborah Fisk is challenging incumbent William Shackelford for National President.

Also, there will be several bylaws' amendments on the ballot:

- B-26-03 removes the restriction on Regional VPs holding other positions in their chapters or federations.
- B-26-05 brings National elections into alignment with the new three-year terms for officers.
- B-26-06 removes a large section about National dues and National Executive Board (NEB) fiduciary obligations; gives the NEB the responsibility to establish National membership dues (current bylaws require a vote of the membership to increase member dues).
- B-26-07 specifies the National Secretary/Treasurer shall be the authority for approving chapter bylaws and amendments (current bylaws state "approved at NARFE headquarters.").
- B-26-08 specifies the National Secretary/Treasurer shall be the authority for approving federation bylaws and amendments (current bylaws state "approved at NARFE headquarters.").

- B-26-09 removes “Be the final governing authority over all NARFE headquarters operations, including hiring, termination, organizational structure, and business conducted on behalf of the organization” to comply with the DC Act.
- SR-26-01 reduces the number of required chapter officers to two: president and treasurer (or secretary/treasurer).
- SR-26-02 adjusts the timing for the NARFE National Annual Meeting to comply with the new three-year terms for officers.
- SR-26-03 removes the requirement to place a paper ballot in *NARFE Magazine*; members who can’t vote electronically may contact NARFE National for a paper ballot.

NOTE: Vote every line on the ballot or your ballot will be disqualified!

FEDERATION ELECTIONS – The federation continues to search for candidates for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Please consider stepping up. Contact me for more information about position descriptions.

FEDcon26 – Registration is now open for this event; go to <https://fedcon.narfe.org/>. If registering between now and 8/7/2026, registration is \$250.00; after 8/7/2026 it's \$300.00. All non-members pay \$300.00. If you wish to attend, the WSF will reimburse the first five members in good standing (dues are paid up) \$800.00 each toward registration and travel costs. Please contact WSF President Tony Merola at [REDACTED] and copy WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton at [REDACTED]. Or you can call Tony at [REDACTED].

REGION IX SYMPOSIUM – This event in Ellensburg, Washington, October 1 -3, 2026, will be held on the Central Washington University campus with accommodations at the Ellensburg Best Western Plus. Thirty hotel rooms are reserved and attendees may begin making reservations. For instruction on getting the group rate of \$110.00 per night and for up-to-date event information, visit the Region IX website at <https://www.narfe.org/region09/meetings-events/meetings/symposium2026/>.

Registration for the Symposium is \$150.00. Again, the federation has funds available to help members attend this event. The first 30 members in good standing (dues are paid up) to contact WSF President Tony Merola and WSF Treasurer Arlene Patton (see above instructions) can apply for a reimbursement of their registration fee after the event.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable summer! Please cast your NARFE votes in September!!

Bea Bull

Western Washington District VP

[REDACTED] (leave a message and I will return your call)

Chapter Officers

President – Tony Merola – 253-564-0086
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PAC – Tony Merola

Vice president – Timothy Leadingham – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Secretary – Mary Traxler – [REDACTED]
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Treasurer – Gordon Craig – [REDACTED]
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Newsletter – Milton Oster – [REDACTED]
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Membership Chair – Rosemary Igrec – [REDACTED]
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