



September 2026

NUMBER 07-26

General Meeting Date & Time: September 14, 2026 1:00PM

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

Program: Jason Driver, Director Kitsap Regional Library, Will Provide an Update on the Future of the Sylvan Way Branch

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

12 October.....Membership Meeting

9 November.....FEHB Health Fair & Membership Meeting

14 December.....Holiday Luncheon at the Elks

PRESIDENT

Bill Powers

We're back from our summer break and here to serve our membership.

First off, voting is now open through 30 September for the NARFE National 2026 election. The online ballot has been customized for you. If you provided NARFE National with an email address, just click on the link in the email sent by Election Services Co. for NARFE narfehelp@mg.electionservicescorp.com subject line NARFE Election - Voting Open. If you don't see it, check your spam and trash folders. Mine was dated 8/26/2026 @ 09:35AM. If voting by mail, you should have already requested a ballot; if you didn't, see page 50 of the September *NARFE Magazine*. (For more information about NARFE National voting, see insert.)

For information about voting for federation officers, please see insert.

Secondly, our Secretary/Treasurer, Bea Bull, and I will not be going to the NARFE Region IX conference in Ellensburg, Washington until October 1st so we won't be reporting on the conference until the November newsletter.

Thirdly, we have reserved the Bremerton Elks Lodge for our December Holiday Luncheon. It will be on December 14th at 1:00PM. Reservations are required and the cost will again be \$20.00 per person. The chapter is footing part of the bill to encourage participation. Mayor Wheeler said last year he would like to return this year to again present his slide show on the status of Bremerton.

Fourthly, I do not expect any items in our NARFE Bill Tracker to get out of committee in this 119th Congress. Hopefully, the 120th Congress, which starts in January 2027, will tackle some of the serious problems that are affecting our national debt (see accompanying article in this newsletter).

Continued pg. 2

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. Lastly, we will present bylaw changes to our membership at the September meeting to reflect current conditions (see insert for details).

NATIONAL DEBT UPDATE

President Powers

In August 2026, our national debt surpassed the \$40 trillion mark. Our national debt has doubled during the Trump I, Biden, and Trump II presidencies, a ten-year period, and increased by almost \$3 trillion in the last year alone. The major contributing factors are:

1. Military and defense costs including recent operations in Ukraine, Gaza, and Iran.
2. Project 2025 enacted income tax cuts.
3. The Social Security entitlement program; baby boomers are retiring in large numbers.
4. Medicare costs for an aging population with multiple expensive health issues.
5. Coronavirus pandemic emergency borrowing including the CARES Act & American Rescue Plan.
6. Surging interest costs as our national debt increases; this item now exceeds all other budget items.

We are currently a divided nation with roughly 30 percent Republican, 30 percent Democrat, and 40 percent Independent. This makes it difficult to set policy and pass legislation to alleviate problems with the above six contributing factors.

The more we borrow, the more we escalate inflation. Another word for inflation is devaluation of the American dollar.

The Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent, took a surprising move in August to use the Treasury's General Account (TGA) to buy back long-term bonds with the hope of lowering bond yields. By lowering bond yields he reduces the interest paid on our \$40 trillion national debt, item #6 of the above contributing factors. The TGA is basically Treasury's checking account, a rainy-day fund, funded by tax collection, presently holding \$950 billion. This money is used for Treasury's cash needs and is what is used to avert a government shutdown when there is a debt ceiling impasse.

There is an old saying in the financial world, "Don't fight the FED" (Federal Reserve). That also goes for the U.S. Treasury.

Visit the U.S. Debt Clock at:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PSNS FEHB Plan Health Fair: This event is scheduled for Wednesday, 4 November, at the Kitsap Conference Center, 100 Washington Ave, Bremerton. The event opens at 7:00AM and closes at 5:00PM though many reps begin packing up around 4:00PM. Parking is available in the underground parking garage.

Kitsap County Walk to End Alzheimer's: This year's Walk will again take place at Silverdale Waterfront Park, 3337 NW Byron Street, on Saturday, 10 October. Registration begins at 10:00AM, ceremony begins at 11:00AM followed by the Walk. Bea will staff a NARFE table so stop by to say "hello."

The Bremerton NARFE Chapter 0181 Walk page is set up on the district website (see back page for link). Follow the instructions to join the team and/or make a donation. Remember though, once you submit your information to the Alzheimer's site, you will be inundated with emails so you may wish to wait until the last minute. As an alternative, there will be donation forms at the September meeting you can mail with a check.

Chapter-hosted FEHB Plan Health Fair:

We need your help! The executive board decided it isn't cost-effective to place an ad in the Kitsap Sun so we'll be relying on word-of-mouth, social media (Facebook and Nextdoor) and flyers distributed around the area. If you know of a place to display a flyer, please contact Bea.

Congressional Federal Workforce Caucus:

This group of legislators is dedicated to defending federal employees' rights. Congresswoman Randall is the only Washington State legislator to join this caucus so far. If you contact her, please thank her; if you're in another congressional district, please urge your representative to join. For more information, refer to page 11 in the August *NARFE Magazine* or go to:

<https://walkinshaw.house.gov/about/fedworkforcecaucus.htm>.

NARFE Election Results: Both National and Federation elections run through 30 September. National results will be presented in the November *NARFE Magazine*; federation results will be presented in our November chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 29 August we have 328 chapter members. Since the June newsletter, the following members went missing from the chapter roster: Jerry [REDACTED], Laurie [REDACTED], Teri [REDACTED], Laurie [REDACTED], Jorge [REDACTED], Randy [REDACTED], Jim [REDACTED], Brian [REDACTED] and Gary [REDACTED]. Helen [REDACTED] canceled her membership and Loy [REDACTED] relocated and transferred his membership to North Carolina.

“Thank you!” to Ann [REDACTED], Alice [REDACTED] and Patrick [REDACTED] for either renewing or reinstating their membership.

There is one new prospective member: David [REDACTED].

The following members were reported deceased: Leroy [REDACTED], Dennis [REDACTED], Francine [REDACTED], Ralph [REDACTED] and Birgita [REDACTED]. Our condolences to the families.

PROGRAMS

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.

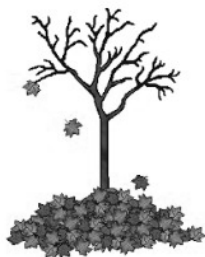
9 November – FEHB plan health fair opens at 10:00AM – reps will review their plans at 1:00PM.

14 December – Holiday Luncheon at the Elks Lodge on Pine Road – reservations required.

12 April 2027 – Kitsap Regional Library Foundation (KRLF) and Ballast Books – KRLF: top 10 books checked out from the library in 2026 – Ballast Books will provide those books for purchase so bring your checkbook or credit card.

10 May 2027 – Bremerton Chapter 0181 celebrates its 75-year anniversary.

Happy Fall...and...Welcome Back!!



TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

May 1, 2026 Account Balance	\$64,918.36
May Income	+437.44
May Expenses	-247.24
June Income	+408.52
June Expenses	-405.95
July Income	+397.04
July Expenses	-50.00
July 31, 2026 Account Balance	\$65,458.17
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	+125.10
USPS Return Mail Acct	+117.05
TOTAL Net Worth July 31, 2026	\$65,700.32

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 August 2026 will be available at our September meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary/Treasurer Bea Bull

At the June meeting, donations were received from Loraine [REDACTED], John [REDACTED], Lee [REDACTED], Bill [REDACTED], DeAnna [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

Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Leroy [REDACTED], Dennis [REDACTED], Francine [REDACTED], Ralph [REDACTED] and Birgita [REDACTED].

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

PRESIDENT NARFE-PAC CHAIR Bill Powers 360-473-6301 powersw@silverlink.net VICE PRESIDENT Vacant SECRETARY/TREASURER NEWSLETTER EDITOR Bea Bull ASSISTANT TREASURER Rex Tauscher LEGISLATIVE CHAIR-NATIONAL Vacant LEGISLATIVE CHAIR-STATE Vacant MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Vacant SERGEANT AT ARMS William Fuhrmeister SUNSHINE CHAIR Lois Barber EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS UNTIL DECEMBER 2026 Rex Tauscher UNTIL DECEMBER 2027 Stan Barber John Burch	WESTERN WASHINGTON DISTRICT VP Bea Bull 360-286-7798 tbkbull@gmail.com REGION IX VP Steven Roy 425-344-3926 stevenroy1@yahoo.com WSF SERVICE OFFICER Charlie Caughlan 360-693-0435 csquare@pacifier.com NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE www.narfe.org LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE 877-217-8234 ADD YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS 800-456-8410 NARFE STATE WEBSITE www.narfe.org/wa/ NARFE DISTRICT WEBSITE Webmaster – Bea Bull www.narfewadistiv.org CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE https://www.facebook.com/narfechap181 OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (OPM) Phone: 1-888-767-6738 Hours of operation: 7:30AM – 7:45PM ET with best time to reach someone being 6:30PM – 7:30PM or at 7:30AM. Mailing Address: Office of Personnel Management Retirement Operations Center P.O. Box 45 Boyers, PA 16017	SENIOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE 360-337-5700 OR 1-800-562-6418 OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES 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 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 Congressional District 6 Emily Randall 345 – 6th Street, Suite 500 Bremerton, WA 98337 360-373-9725 1102 A St, Ste 326 Tacoma, WA 98402 253-272-3515 D.C. phone number 202-225-5916 http://randall.house.gov Congressional District 10 Marilyn Strickland 6000 Main Street SW, Suite 3B Lakewood, WA 98499 No phone number listed Lacey City Hall - 3rd Floor 420 College St SE, Suite 3000 Lacey, WA 98503 360-459-8514 D.C. phone number 202-225-9740 https://strickland.house.gov
---	--	--