



October 2026

NUMBER 08-26

General Meeting Date & Time: October 12, 2026 1:00PM
Meeting Place: Westside Improvement Club, 4109 West "E" Street, Bremerton
**Program: Mandy Bryan, Office Admin Manager, Kitsap County Assessor's Office,
Will Explain the 2027 Senior Citizen/Disabled Persons Property Tax
Exemption**

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

9 November.....FEHB Health Fair & Membership Meeting
14 December.....Holiday Luncheon at the Elks
11 January.....Membership Meeting

REGION IX VICE PRESIDENT

Steve Roy

President Powers is on a cruise so Region IX VP Steve Roy graciously allowed me to borrow parts of his article from the Everett chapter newsletter. Steve attended FEDcon26 and shares the following:

"The National Executive Board (NEB) met August 20-22 and took some first steps towards important NARFE governance issues. A joint NEB and Federation President meeting was held on August 23 to improve communications between the NEB and the federation presidents. The NARFE annual meeting was held August 23 and was widely attended in person as well as via zoom. During the annual meeting the National President and National Secretary/Treasurer gave their annual reports. Also on August 23, FEDcon26 included a business session and memorial ceremony where I acknowledge those

Region IX members (416) that have passed away since FEDcon24.

"The themes for FEDcon26 were learn, advocate, and lead. That we did with many tracts offered in separate breakout sessions held August 24-25, 2026. During this time members and officers got to meet, share ideas, socialize and continue sharing. We learned a lot from one another. I received much feedback about the positive learning experiences and sharing. It was a great success with 383 registered officers and members. During the Annual Meeting on August 23 there were almost 175 members in attendance via zoom.

"The Region IX Caucus was held August 24th with many Region IX attendees present including all 5 federation presidents, many officers, chair persons and members. I gave a report on the state of the region; NARFE membership as a whole has declined 10,398 members this year. Candidates were able to make their candidate statements which included Curtis Price, candidate for Region IX Vice President. Also National President Bill Shackelford made a candidate statement. I

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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!!

Region IX Vice President cont. introduced our Region IX Alzheimer's coordinator, Linda O'Donnell, from Bend, Oregon.

"Also, on August 24th many of us attended the off site gathering at the Bottleworks and Garage Hall Food Court for dinner and sharing. Deborah Fisk made her candidate statement for National President to the Region IX participants at that time. We had much fun this evening.

"During the Business Session on August 25 both candidates for National President spoke along with National Secretary/Treasurer candidate Cindy Renee Blythe. In addition, there was a presentation and discussion about the proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules amendments. The business session ended with the announcement that FEDcon28 will be at the Hilton Hotel in Omaha, Nebraska. The day ended by many Region IX members attending the baseball game."

SHRINKFLATION

President Powers

To find hard auditable evidence about shrinkflation, you have to be on your toes while shopping or do your homework ahead of time. Corporations are using ongoing inflation pressure and rising material costs to justify downsizing products while they are actually increasing profits for the stockholders. This is especially true for company brands for each grocery corporation. We currently have a second wave of shrinkflation that occurred during the 2023 and 2024 inflation wave. Companies are not only surviving inflation, they are weaponizing it. Some countries in Europe are pushing back against corporation tactics by requiring supermarkets to flag changes and put highly visible warning stickers next to products that have shrunk in size while maintaining their price. The grocery aisle has become a battlefield where only the most observant shoppers get what they are paying for. The consumers' reliable defense mechanism is the mandated price per unit. This is the small text in the shelf tag showing the exact price per unit.

Shrinkflation has also hit the new single-family home size sold nationwide, declining by almost 12 percent during this last decade. Consumers are paying more for less with the average price per square foot surging to over two-thirds more during this same period. Builders have been constructing smaller homes to help offset land, labor, material and mandated permitting costs. Demographic shifts and right-sizing with efficient layouts are also increasing cost per square foot. But smaller houses

have less maintenance with less heating, cooling and furnishing costs which can provide a savings down the road.

REMINDERS

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 and Bill Powers, John Burch and Melinda Ellis will do the Walk.

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 October 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.

Use Ballot Drop Boxes: When voting in the mid-term election, if at all possible, place your completed ballot in an official ballot drop box. In the Washington State primary election over 20,000 ballots were rejected because they weren't postmarked by the U.S. Post Office on the day they were received. If you **MUST** return your ballot by USPS, please mail it as early as possible.

THANK YOU FOR VOTING!!

MEMBERSHIP

Secretary Bull

As of 26 September we have 326 chapter members. Since the September newsletter, the following members went missing from the chapter roster: Darryll [REDACTED], Ron [REDACTED], Julia [REDACTED] and Jerome [REDACTED].

"Thank you!" to Steven Rossignol for reinstating his membership.

PROGRAMS

12 October – Phil Cook, Kitsap County Assessor, has asked his office admin manager, Mandy Bryan, who oversees the Senior Citizen/Disabled Persons property tax exemption, to provide the presentation.

We'll vote on the proposed bylaws amendment. We need 13 members for a quorum so please attend.

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. Price is \$20.00 per person and John Burch will begin taking reservations at the October membership meeting.

8 February – Jason Doty – Program Supervisor – Kitsap Division of Aging and Long Term Care – services available for seniors.

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.

TREASURER

Bea Bull and Rex Tauscher

Aug 1, 2026 Account Balance	\$65,458.17
Aug Income	+325.18
Aug Expenses	-00.00
Aug 31, 2026 Account Balance	\$65,783.35
USPS Bulk Mail Acct	+62.40
USPS Return Mail Acct	+117.05
TOTAL Net Worth Aug 31, 2026	\$65,962.80

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 September 2026 will be available at our October meetings.

ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Secretary/Treasurer Bea Bull

At the September meeting, donations were received from Bill Fuhrmeister, Bill Powers 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's new goal is **\$18 million by 2028.**



SUNSHINE CHAIR

Lois Barber

A "Speedy Recovery" card was sent to George [REDACTED]; "Thinking of You" cards were sent to Steve [REDACTED] and DeAnna [REDACTED]; and a "Happy Anniversary" card was sent to Steve and Karen [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
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