

**National Association of Active and**

**Retired Federal Employees**

**Virginia Federation of Chapters**

**Chapter 595 Colonial Beach, Virginia 22443**

**Serving Westmoreland, King George, and Colonial Beach**

**Volume 27, Issue 1 - February 2022**

[Chapter 595's FACEBOOK Page](#)

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**MEETING NOTICE**

**February 8, 2022**

**12 PM at the Hunan**

**This months Speaker is John Pare - A physical Therapist at Mary Washington Home Health Care**

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**President's Letter: February 2022**

**Dear Members of Colonial Beach Chapter 595,**

**Well, winter is finally here! We have snow on the ground again! I regret that we had to cancel the January meeting but our chapter officers all agreed that it was the best thing to do. It does look like the numbers for the Covid are going down in Virginia and I have checked with a few other chapters in VA and they are deciding to try an in-person meeting.**

**So again, Happy New Year! Rich and I spent a month in Florida. We missed the first big snow storm but made it back just in time for the cold weather.**

**So now it is time to start planning for our February meeting which will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. Once again, thanks to our 2nd Vice President, Ann Mills for arranging our guest speaker for the meeting. It will be a physical therapist from Mary Washington Home Health Care.**

**Because we did not have a January newsletter, I did not get the chance to say thanks to Ann Mills and Loy Schuchart for organizing our holiday celebration at our December meeting. These two are a great team! Thanks again!**

**Also, at the December meeting we discussed the voting for the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN). Just in case you do not receive the emails from the VFN, Doris McAdams was elected to the position of 1st Vice President and all the recommended by-laws changes were passed.**

**Sorry if this is too boring, but I need to repeat our Rules of Engagement (ROE) for our in-person meetings. The owner, Alan, will ensure that all the sanitation guidelines from the CDC will be in place. We will enter by the back door and no one will be allowed in the front door. We must use exact change (cash) or a check to pay for our meal. No credit cards will be accepted. Alan would prefer that we order off of the lunch menu. If you do, your lunch, tax, and tip will be \$11.00. If do want something else off the menu, that's okay but you must have exact change. By following all of these procedures and social distancing during the meeting, we can keep each other safe and still enjoy our meeting.**

**You all know that our NARFE charity is Alzheimer's and if you look in your NARFE magazine, you will see that we reached the \$14 million goal and are now working on the goal of \$15 million. Because we had such a successful fund raiser for Alzheimer's, our November Harvest Supper, our chapter donation for 2021 was \$2,000. At our December meeting we voted to renew our chapter membership in the Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce and I asked them to put in the annual schedule of events our next Harvest Supper now scheduled for Saturday, November 5, 2022.**

**Despite the pandemic and lower attendance at our meetings, the one project of our chapter that has increased is our donations to the area food banks. I know you have seen the long lines for food in various places around the nation. King George and Colonial Beach are the same as everywhere else. If you can't make it to the meeting and you want to donate to the food bank, please give me a call (804 224-3069) and we will try to arrange a pick-up of some kind.**

**Looking forward to seeing you on February 8, if you feel safe but if you do not, we all understand.**

**Leslie Ravenell, President  
Colonial Beach Chapter 595**

**P.S. Thanks to everyone who has been so generously donating to our food bank program. This month's donation goes to St Elizabeths Catholic Church. Let's keep it up!!**

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**The following is from FEDWeek Weekly of Jan 29:**

**Agencies Told to Stop Processing Exception Requests, Discipline under Mandate**

**Federal agencies have been told that in light of a court injunction against the Coronavirus vaccination mandate, they are to suspend the processing of employees' requests for exceptions as well as any disciplinary actions they have begun for non-compliance by those who do not have an approved or pending request for an exception. Read at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/agencies-told-to-stop-processing-exception-requests-discipline-under-mandate/>**

**Enforcement of Vaccine Mandate Suspended Pending 'Ongoing Litigation' Updated: The Biden administration has said that in compliance with a federal court's order, it is suspending enforcement of the Coronavirus vaccine mandate for federal employees pending further legal developments. Read**

at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/enforcement-of-vaccine-mandate-suspended-pending-ongoing-litigation/>

**15 Per Hour Federal Employee Pay Minimum Taking Effect; Will Benefit about 67,000**

**The Biden administration's requirement for federal employees to make a minimum of \$15 per hour is to take effect as of the start of the pay period beginning January 30, benefitting about 67,000 employees at two dozen agencies.**

**An OPM memo to agencies carries out a policy announced soon after Biden took office. The Defense Department will account for about 50,000, the large majority of them "non-appropriated fund" employees who work at operations at defense bases such as officers' clubs and recreational facilities.**

**Other categories include about 9,700 custodial, food service and housekeeping workers at VA and about 2,000 at Agriculture including positions such as plant protection technicians and wildland firefighters.**

**OPM said the numbers are approximate and "may also vary slightly from month to month because of seasonality and agency workloads."**

**To carry out the changes, OPM created single nationwide pay scale covering employees in GS-1 through -4 (see <https://apps.opm.gov/SpecialRates/2022/Table001M01302022.aspx>). The Defense Department, which oversees salary rates for wage-grade employees, is to carry out comparable changes in those rates. Where changes can't be made by January 30 employees will be eligible for retroactive increases.**

Follow our chapter on FaceBook at [www.facebook.com/narfechg](http://www.facebook.com/narfechg)

## **Our Officers**

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