



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER

POST OFFICE BOX 1811

LOUISA, VIRGINIA 23093-1811

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PAST PRESIDENT	Bill Martin	540-872-3345	bill@retiredusps.net

CALENDAR

MARCH	17	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: discussion of Chapter meetings & programs.
APRIL	11	Online/Zoom – 11:30 a.m.: the VFN Annual Meeting (see Feb 8 email).
APRIL	21	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: guest speaker from the VFN.
MAY	19	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: guest speaker from the VFN.

NOTE: If Louisa County schools are closed because of weather, Louisa County Chapter 2065's meeting is cancelled.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I sit here to write this letter, the sun is shining. It's not warm yet but better than the bitter cold we've had so far this year. Enjoy the weather and the upcoming spring.

Your executive board met prior to the February meeting to determine a way forward for the chapter, both meetings and programs. This is partly due to a lack of input from members as to what you may be interested in and whether attending meetings is important. It may be in your best interest to join us for the March meeting as we will talk about recommendations from the board on moving forward. Some of them include:

- * Continuing with monthly meetings except for July and August when the chapter will be on summer vacation.
- * Meetings will continue to be held the 3rd Thursday of each month unless adjusted to join with another NARFE chapter or to support a planned program.
- * Meeting will usually be held at Roma's except for adjustments for a Christmas celebration and other programs.

Programs may be more geared to NARFE topics such as:

- To have Virginia Federation committee chairs as guest speakers in order to understand what is going on with NARFE and the VA federation. We may also utilize NARFE webinars.
- November will continue to be our annual meeting. This is the year that each of the executive committee offices come up for election. We will need a nominating committee to prepare a slate of candidates for the offices of President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer which are all 2 years terms.
- We would like to have a couple of offsite meetings each year.
- That leaves a couple of meetings with programs that are of interest to our members. Please note that it is getting hard to have a program when the audience is only 6 -8 members.

If any of you have any suggestions about chapter activities, increasing membership, NARFE and VA Federation items, please let us know. This is your chapter, we are just the ones trying to keep it going.

Take care of yourselves and stay healthy,

KAREN CHEATWOOD, PRESIDENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The NARFE meeting on February 17 opened with prayer and pledge to the flag. Lee and Julie attended by phone from Florida. Seven others attended. Since there was no newsletter because of weather canceling the last

meeting, there were no minutes, and the treasurer's report was postponed.

The group agreed to meet monthly except for July and August. Leaders from the state level, Virginia Federation of NARFE, (VFN), will be contacted to present programs such as membership, legislation, and Alzheimers. Two meetings may involve meeting at another site.

Supervisor Willie Gentry gave the program on aging. The Commission on Aging meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Betty Queen Center. The commission was disbanded but reinstated. Fourteen vendors providing services for seniors attended their Christmas luncheon. Future plans include contacting the 113 churches in the county. Gentry was disappointed that supervisors denied his request for \$2,000 to contact the churches. As the number of seniors over 65 continues to increase, big needs are for companionship and transportation. Louisa County continues to support JAUNT, the bus service. Since the pandemic, fares have been canceled. Gentry serves on the JABA board and many others. After 25 years, he is considering retiring in two years.

MARILYN ROOT, SECRETARY

PROGRAM

So much for the end of "Global Warming" that I thought might be happening in our last newsletter! This first week of March is looking like most days will be in the 60's and 70's, which is much more my preference for this time of the year and part of my program for this month.

Our February program was very good and about one of our favorite subjects – AGING! It covered the many activities and benefits available to us in our area; specifically, the scope of the Louisa County Commission on Aging (CoA) and the Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA). Supervisor Willie Gentry, who is very involved in the topic and formally active in both organizations, covered the full range of their activities. In addition, our Past President Bill Martin joined in the discussion since he also was an official member of the organizations. Looking forward, we may have a more detailed presentation, or even a visit to, one or more of the organizations covered by Mr. Gentry.

The March program will be a little different from the norm since it will be mainly about our future Chapter meetings and programs. For example, the Chapter meeting schedule/purpose will change a little, with no meetings in June and July (vacation), November focus on our annual meeting/elections, and December for our normal Christmas luncheon. The program portion of about half of our meetings will focus on NARFE issues and activities, and, we will be asking program officers from VFN

(Virginia Federation) to speak at our April and May meetings. The other half of our meeting programs will be more traditional, with a couple at Roma's (like last month) and some offsite, such as those at the Historic Society or Monticello. Again, this is where we need your help in the "programs" area. What would YOU like to have as a program in the coming months? Is there a topic or location that you have thought about, and would you even be willing to coordinate and lead that event? Please, let us know!

DICK SHRUM, PROGRAM CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP

No report

BILL MARTIN, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

Congress managed to pass a continuing resolution to keep the government open and to give themselves time to March 11th to work out appropriations for the remainder of this fiscal year. We'll let you know next month what that may entail.

Relevant federal government bills:

National Debt:

- S.3654 - The Debt Ceiling Reform Act was introduced into the Senate on Feb 15, 2022. It would not eliminate the debt ceiling but would move it from requiring action in congress to managing the debt limit to the executive branch, i.e. the Treasury secretary would have the power to adjust the debt limit with a notice to the appropriate congressional committees.
- A companion bill has also been introduced in the house. At a house hearing, it was stated that it would take it away debt ceiling decisions from the increasing dysfunction we see in Congress. The proposal was not liberal or conservative, as Treasury secretaries in both parties would eventually have the authority and that would create a "responsible" mechanism far better than the one we have now.

Postal Reform:

Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 (H.R.3076) passed in the House 02/08/2022.

- This bill addresses the finances and operations of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).
- It requires Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to establish the Postal Service Health Benefits Program within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program under which OPM may

contract with carriers to offer health benefits plans for USPS employees and retirees.

- The bill provides for coordinated enrollment of retirees under this program and Medicare.
- The bill repeals the requirement that the USPS annually prepay future retirement health benefits which has been a big issue making the USPS financial results in the negative..
- Additionally, the USPS may establish a program to enter into agreements with an agency of any state government, local government, or tribal government, and with other government agencies, to provide certain non-postal products and services that reasonably contribute to the costs of the USPS and meet other specified criteria.
- The USPS must develop and maintain a publicly available dashboard to track service performance and must report regularly on its operations and financial condition.
- The Postal Regulatory Commission must annually submit to the USPS a budget of its expenses and conduct a study to identify the causes and effects of postal inefficiencies relating to large items.
- The USPS Office of Inspector General shall perform oversight of the Postal Regulatory Commission

One of the benefits of being a NARFE member is the ability to send emails direct to your senators and representatives through the legislative advocacy center of the website, see URL below. There are a few already prepared letters, or you can write your own. NARFE will forward the email to your congressional representatives for you and will let you know that it was sent. I did take advantage of this benefit to send a letter on Social Security 2100. Please join me at

<https://new.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/>

**Karen Cheatwood in coordination with;
RAY SIEWERT, ACTING LEGISLATIVE OFFICER**

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

No report

MARILYN ROOT, ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report

CHARLES ALVAREZ, TREASURER

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Commission on Aging – *Vacant*