



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER

POST OFFICE BOX 1811

LOUISA, VIRGINIA 23093-1811

Contact: NARFE2065news@vanarfe.org

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ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Karen Cheatwood	703-606-6513	karenlaurasara@gmail.com
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2ND V.P.	Lee Miller	540-872-4696	leeandjulie7@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Marilyn Root	540-632-0241	rootger34@gmail.com
TREASURER	Charles Alvarez	540-894-4804	alv10214@aol.com
PAST PRESIDENT	Bill Martin	540-872-3345	bill@retireduSPs.net

CALENDAR

MAY	19	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant and ZOOM, program: VA State Legislative Plan with guest speaker Deborah Fisk from the VFN.
JUNE	16	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: TBA
JULY, AUGUST		No Meetings

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a nice turnout for the April meeting which was very informative; especially in finding out about the Virginia Federation. Those in attendance had a chance to meet and speak to the Area III VP Wynn Hasty since our chapter is a part of his area. Additionally, Dick Shrum, our program chair and 1st VP, gave an in-depth review of the NARFE website and the many informative benefits available to us NARFE members. The issue that was brought up and isn't very transparent is answering the question "Where does the money we pay to NARFE go?" We discussed, how the \$48 annual membership is allocated between NARFE and the federation but didn't get into how those funds from all of us are used. We did get into the \$10 annual chapter dues that is used for mailing the newsletter, liability insurance, the Christmas luncheon, etc. If anyone would like one of the officers to help with online access to NARFE or the VFN, please let me know.

One item that was on the agenda was the election of the NARFE President, Secretary/Treasurer and the Regional Vice Presidents. The May issue of the NARFE magazine does a good job of showing the regions within NARFE and includes candidate statements. As chapter president, I do receive some of these by email but feel that the information in the magazine is the way to go rather than inundating you with additional copies by e-mail or in our newsletter.

We also discussed the Virginia Legislative Plan and the updates that a few receive from the State Legislative chair. Based on the discussion, I will try to turn that information into the appropriate update and include it in the newsletter as appropriate.

FUTURE MEETING DATES (All on the 3rd Thursday of the month, except July and August). Please put these dates on your cell phone or write them on your calendar! Regular meetings May 19th and June 16th. Summer break July and Aug., resume meetings Sep. 15th; Oct. 20th; annual meeting annual meeting Nov. 17th and our Christmas Luncheon Dec. 15th.

Thank you for reading my rants and other notes, I appreciate the honor of being chapter president. If I can be of service to anyone, please don't hesitate to contact me. Take care of yourselves and stay healthy,

Also, I receive various e-mails from NARFE and include it in the newsletter when appropriate. This one is a paper that goes into having your affairs in order that, I think, has good info for all. I plan to print it out and add a copy to the papers that I keep for my kids.

<https://www.narfe.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/0222-Affairs-in-Order-Benefits-Guidance.pdf>

KAREN CHEATWOOD, PRESIDENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

NARFE Minutes April 21, 2022

Nine members were present including new member Steve Burrell who is still working for the Marine Corps. President Karen Cheatwood conducted the meeting that opened with prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the March meeting were approved after a motion by Charles Alvarez seconded by Bob Maher. The balance in the treasury is \$1069.10.

Charles paid the \$100 for liability insurance. Gerald Root moved that we continue to keep liability insurance,

Buying a tree in memory of Paul Brown was postponed until next month.

Dick Shrum stated that the National Board consists of 12 members: the ten regional presidents, the national president and the secretary. Advocacy is important. PAC money is given to candidates who support NARFE issues. The NARFE magazine supplies relevant information.

Wynn Hasty, Area 3 Vice President, who served in Human Resources for 32 years, spoke stating that he represents all chapters. Technology is being made easier for all members. He showed pictures and named leaders. He recommended webinars which are very informative.

Charles Alvarez won the 50/50 drawing of \$32 and donated his share.

MARILYN ROOT, SECRETARY

PROGRAM

I am tempted to shift my plans for the June Chapter meeting to "Celebrating the Arrival of Summer"! Why may you ask? As I write this, I note the frost warnings for Orange/Spotsy counties and all to the North this morning. Such an up/down year so far.....!

As planned, our April program focused entirely on our organization – "All About NARFE". We touched on all phases of NARFE, including the national, regional, federation and chapter levels, to better understand what and how it operates to benefit us retired and active federal employees. Unfortunately, Bill Martin, our past chapter president who has also served as a regional vice-president and federation officer, was unable to attend and add his extensive knowledge on the topic. But we did have Wynn Hasty, our current VFN Area Vice President; Karen Cheatwood, chapter president and past VFN Secretary; and me, chapter vice-president and past VFN Secretary. Our review included the NARFE website, with specific emphasis on advocacy (e.g., legislative action center), federal benefits institute, member Quick Links/Perks, and webinars. It also highlighted the constant flow of information via the monthly magazine, frequent email announcements, the new *FEDHub* serving as the NARFE

Online Community Domain for all members, and the bimonthly Insider newsletter for local leaders. Wynn covered the scope of VFN activities, officers, and services, all available via the website. In summary, it should be noted that there is a wealth of information available to NARFE members to answer our questions, participate in activities, and interact across the community when and as desired.

The May program (to be available on Zoom) will be a continuation of the theme, with specific focus on Virginia legislative issues and how they are covered within the VFN. Our speaker will be Deborah Fisk, current State Legislation Chair, Electronic Communication Chair, and President of Chapter 2265, Midlothian. She will cover the issue in three parts: review of past legislative issues and status; current issues under consideration for adoption in July; and the action plan going forward when the Plan is adopted and conducted. Each chapter and federation member will be urged to contact their representatives to seek support. As indicated, the May chapter meeting will be held at Roma's in Louisa, as usual, but it will also be available via Zoom so that more members can join in and participate online from home or on the road. The Zoom details and reminder will be sent out via email about a week prior to the meeting. So, please consider joining us and learn about Virginia legislative issues that affect us.

As previously stated, 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

H.R.3076 - Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 became law in April

- The bill addresses the finances and operations of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).
- It requires OPM to establish the Postal Service Health Benefits Program (PSHBP) within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program under which OPM may contract with carriers to offer health benefits plans for USPS employees and retirees. (Note that it states plans and in further research, the PSHBP could have the same plans as

FEHB as long as there are 1500 or more postal members in the plan. We'll just have to wait and see how this works in 2025 when it is implemented.)

- The bill provides for coordinated enrollment of retirees under this program and Medicare.
- The bill repeals the requirement for USPS to prepay future retirement health benefits.
- Also, USPS may establish a program to enter into agreements with 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.

For awareness purposes, USPS is raising rates for regular, First-Class mail by 6.5% and by 8.5% for package services. On July 10th the cost of a standard stamp would go from \$0.58 to \$0.60.

The proposed pay raise in the budget for federal employees for 2023 is 4.6%. It would be the largest raise since 2002, the White House has said that "federal pay adjustments have not kept pace with the national labor market overall, or increases in the cost of goods, services and benefits". The 4.6 figure matches the number indicated by federal pay law and matches the proposed raise for uniformed military personnel.

Other relevant congressional items:

- The Honoring Civil Servants Killed in the Line of Duty Act (**H.R. 7376**), would increase death benefits payable to the families of federal workers who die on the job from \$10,000 to \$100,000 and increases the government's coverage of funeral expenses from \$800 to \$8,800. Those figures would automatically increase each year in line with inflation. A similar bill is in the senate.

One of the benefits of being a NARFE member is the ability to send emails directly to your senators and representatives through the legislative advocacy center of the website, <https://new.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/>

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.

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

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Charles Alvarez won the 50/50 drawing of \$32 and donated his share.

MARILYN ROOT, ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Treasury Fund

Balance – April. 30, 2022 \$ 1069.10

CHARLES ALVAREZ, TREASURER

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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Email-Go to:

<http://warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=contact> and

fill out the screen information requested.

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Alzheimer's Fund – Marilyn Root 540-634-0241

National Legislation – Ray Siewert, *Actg.* 540-967-1544

State Legislation – *Vacant*

Membership – Bill Martin 540-872-3345

Sunshine – Cathy Mills-Mann 540-872-4697

Public Relations – Dick Shrum 540-872-5409

Program – Dick Shrum 540-872-5409

Holiday lunch – Marilyn Root 540-634-0241

Commission on Aging – *Vacant*