



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**  
**CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER**

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**VOLUME XXXLI, NUMBER 07 – SEPTEMBER 2022**

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

|                                     |                        |                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b>                    | <b>Karen Cheatwood</b> | <b>703-606-6513</b> | <b>karenlaurasara@gmail.com</b> |
| <b>1<sup>ST</sup> V.P. /PROGRAM</b> | <b>Dick Shrum</b>      | <b>540-872-5409</b> | <b>dickshrum@hughes.net</b>     |
| <b>2<sup>ND</sup> V.P.</b>          | <b>Lee Miller</b>      | <b>540-872-4696</b> | <b>leeandjulie7@gmail.com</b>   |
| <b>SECRETARY</b>                    | <b>Marilyn Root</b>    | <b>540-632-0241</b> | <b>rootger34@gmail.com</b>      |
| <b>TREASURER</b>                    | <b>Charles Alvarez</b> | <b>540-894-4804</b> | <b>alv10214@aol.com</b>         |

**CALENDAR**

|                  |           |  |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program, future of chapter 2065</b>  |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   | <b>20</b> | <b>Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program, TBA</b>                     |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>  | <b>17</b> | <b>Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program, Annual business meeting</b> |

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lots of information in the letter this month and a big part of it is the *future of Chapter 2065*.

At the executive board meeting in July, the topics on the agenda were shadowed by discussions on the viability of our chapter. Most of the chapters that dissolve within NARFE do so for lack of anyone standing up to take on the job of chapter officers that are necessary to plan, manage and run the activities for the chapter. Chapter 2065 however hasn't had that problem in that we have a full slate of officers that continue to take on the activities essential to making a chapter work. Granted we are short some positions like membership chair, service chair, plus federal & state legislative chair but overall, we have managed to make meetings and activities possible. However, meeting attendance has been very small thus creating issues with asking folks to come to our meetings to present programs when the number of attendees is in the neighborhood of 5 to 8. This is sad in that asking someone to take time out of their schedule to present a program or discuss issues isn't feasible with no audience to speak of. In addition, we've had meetings where we didn't even have a quorum, which is only 10% of our membership, so couldn't even conduct business. When you read Dick Shrum's program section, the September meeting is going to discuss the viability of our chapter and see if we can come up with a way forward. Failing that, the November meeting, which is our annual meeting, when we usually elect officers, will start with a *vote to take steps to disband the chapter*. It is up to you as members to let us know what you would like to see happen and to become involved (even if it's only to attend some meetings).

In August, Dick Shrum and I attended the Midlothian Chapter 2265 Advocacy meeting. When we've attended in the past it was helpful that they had candidates for US Congress as their program. However, this time their speaker was Senator Tim Kaine. Senator Kaine talked about what was going on in the US Senate. Once the program got past that, questions and stories from the audience focused on the effect that the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) had on members of the audience. To say the least, these two Social Security issues affected many and some didn't get any social security due to both. There is more information on this in the Legislative Report. Please consider reaching out to our VA Senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, to request that they co-sponsor S. 1302.

The Midlothian Chapter 2265 has once again invited us to join them on Wednesday, September 14th at 10:00am. The guest speaker will be Gary Powers, who is the son of Francis Gary Powers, Founder and Chairman Emeritus of

The Cold War Museum, Honorary Board Member of The International Spy Museum, and a Past Board Member of The SAC and Aerospace Museum.

Mr. Powers has lectured on the Cold War, his father, the U-2 Incident, espionage, and the need to honor Cold War veterans, preserve Cold War history, and educate future generations about this time period for over 30 years.

His recent book, "*Spy Pilot: Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 Incident, and a Controversial Cold War Legacy*", helps to set the record straight in regard to the fake news that surrounds the U-2 Incident and tarnished his father's reputation. It gives an overview of what it was like to grow up in the shadow of a famous Cold War figure, his search for the truth after his father's death in 1977 when he was 12 years old, and how his research led to the USAF and CIA posthumously awarding Gary Powers, Sr. the POW Medal /Director's Medal and Silver Star in 2000 and 2012 respectively. During his talk he will also discuss other related books and Spielberg's 2015 Cold War thriller, *Bridge of Spies*, on which he was a technical consultant, that depicts his father's exchange for Soviet spy Rudolph Able in 1962.

This will be a very exciting opportunity to hear more details of the stories we already are familiar with.

Dick Shrum and I plan to attend this meeting and can work out carpools if anyone is interested in going with us. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

Another topic that affects all of us is the state taxation of our annuity and TSP. I have copies of the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) 2023 State Legislative Plan for everyone and will bring them to the September meeting. The #1 item is *exempting a segment of the CSRS Pensions equivalent to Social Security*. The General Assembly passed H.R. 1128 this year which exempts military & surviving spouse retirement benefits from VA income tax. If we could get a bill introduced and passed that would exempt a portion of the CSRS annuity that would put us in a position commensurate with those receiving social security and the military benefit as a part of their retirement.

John McGuire, who is our delegate in the VA General Assembly, is a co-sponsor of H.R. 1128 above. John is also retired military. It would help if anyone could talk to John and ask him to sponsor a bill exempting a segment of CSRS pensions like he has for the military. I plan to write him a letter suggesting just that.

And finally, our Christmas luncheon will be at Roma's on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas luncheon was held there last year, the food was fine and taking leftovers home was encouraged, the wine was a great addition plus there were a couple bottles raffled off. Please plan to join us.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES.** *(All on the 3rd Thursday of the month, except July and August),* please put these dates on your cell phone or calendar. Sep 15<sup>th</sup>; Oct 20<sup>th</sup>; Nov 17<sup>th</sup> for our annual meeting and Dec 15<sup>th</sup> for our Christmas Luncheon.

If I can be of service to anyone, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Take care of yourselves and enjoy the beautiful weather,

**KAREN CHEATWOOD, PRESIDENT**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

No meeting in August, see president's letter above.

*Editor for/*

**MARILYN ROOT, SECRETARY**

### **PROGRAM**

As we all realize, we are rapidly approaching the Fall season and should get mentally ready for the huge loads of leaves that will soon invade Louisa County! And in the meantime, 2065 will be spending some time to look at our situation and where we want to go in the future.

Much of our agenda is laid out in the President's column and is expected to take a couple months to come to some definitive decisions about Chapter 2065. The purpose of my input is to remind us where we've been when we had a more active participation in our meetings, when we had as many as 20 or more members attending. Programs included visits to Monticello, the Louisa Historical Society and Civil War history in Spotsylvania Courthouse, and substantial in-person presentations by a host of experts at our monthly events at Roma's Restaurant. Certainly, a major impact was caused by COVID over the past couple years, and we cancelled some meetings and used virtual online presentations to be watched from home. Through this period, one of the most critical factors affecting our programs has been the major decrease in the number of attendees, and it just doesn't seem right to ask major speakers to attend when we only have 5-6 members showing up for the programs.

Nevertheless, we have had some good programs in recent months: Willy Gentry on our local Aging Organizations (CoA and JABA), Federal Benefits Open Season with a GEHA rep, and Meet and Greet with some local candidates, all of which were very helpful and timely. In addition, there were a couple of online presentations focused on NARFE, its website and coverage of the many benefits the organization provides for us, and a primary reason we're members. In recent newsletters, I have suggested that we should probably focus on NARFE for half of our programs, and more traditional topics (e.g., birds) for the other half. Throughout this discussion, I

would note that I have not received any input or comments from chapter members when asking for them in my articles.

In the end, the issue of programs may become moot if the Chapter decides to disband and transfer to another chapter. If so, the choices will be Fredericksburg (90), Charlottesville (135), Ruther Glen (2112), and three in Richmond: Richmond (60), Midlothian (2265) and Tuckahoe (1727). Some of these have major programs, such as the Midlothian one being held in September. I think an alternative path could be for individual members to choose their own chapter, such as one near their Florida home, or to become a national-only member. Finally, I have put this forward as one of the many topics we will consider as we tackle the future of Chapter 2065.

**DICK SHRUM, PROGRAM CHAIR**

### **NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT**

#### **Fiscal Year 2023 Budget process update:**

The House to-date has only passed 6 of 12 appropriations bills while the senate hasn't passed any.

Rather than add a table to update since things change so much, we'll just provide status as of today:

- \* FY2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 8294, passed July 20, 2022. It contains the appropriations for Agriculture, Energy-Water, Financial Services, Interior & the Environment, Military Construction - Veterans Affairs, Transportation-HUD

#### **Other items of interest:**

\* Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 (2021-2022): House Bill 82 and the companion Senate Bill 1302 -is at a critical juncture since the 117<sup>th</sup> session of congress ends Dec 31, 2022. Any bills not passed by that time would have to be reintroduced and go through the process again in the next legislative session.

These bills, if passed, would eliminate:

- the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that affects many federal and state retirees since it reduces social security payments by as much as \$500/month for those federal and state retirees that have also earned a pension from government that did not have to pay into social security but worked before/after or otherwise in jobs that withheld social security.
- The Government Pension Offset (GPO) that affects many spouses that cannot qualify for social security benefits based on their spouse's social security benefits.

These bills would right a wrong in that federal employees, state employees, fire fighters, teachers, etc. in states that do not come under social security are being denied social security benefits.

In the House, Representative Abigail Spanberger is an original cosponsor of HR 82. However, neither of the Virginia senators have signed onto cosponsor S 1302 although Senator Kaine has indicated that he would do so.

Consider going to the advocacy page of the NARFE.org website where there is a letter already prepared and ask our senators to become cosponsors. With both House and Senate being back in session in Sep, this is the best time to get them to support these bills as congress will most likely be out of D.C. in order to campaign until after the election.

**Please log in to the NARFE.org website below to have emails forwarded to your house and senate offices to let them know what you'd like them to support.**

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

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

### **LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS**

**Mark R. Warner;** United States Senate,  
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Email-Go to:

<http://warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=contact> and fill out the screen information requested.

**Tim Kaine;** United States Senate,  
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**Abigail Spanberger;** U.S. House of Representatives,  
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### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS & APPOINTED POSITIONS**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Service Officer -- <i>Vacant</i>                 |              |
| Chaplain– Marilyn Root                           | 540-634-0241 |
| Newsletter Editor – Lee Miller                   | 540-872-4696 |
| Alzheimer’s Fund – Marilyn Root                  | 540-634-0241 |
| National Legislation – Ray Siewert, <i>Actg.</i> | 540-967-1544 |
| State Legislation – <i>Vacant</i>                |              |
| Membership – <i>Vacant</i>                       |              |
| 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 – <i>Vacant</i>              |              |