



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
1ST V.P. /PROGRAM	Dick Shrum	540-872-5409	dickshrum@hughes.net
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

CALENDAR

DECEMBER	15	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: Christmas Luncheon
JANUARY	19	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: TBD
FEBRUARY	16	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: TBD

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays,

The November Chapter meeting included good news, at least for the next year. The decision was made to keep the chapter together for one more year and see if we get more interest and attendance from our membership. Additionally, some members have offered to provide membership materials and talk to local federal employees at the post offices to try and increase our membership.

Our meeting schedule will have some changes for next year, we will continue to meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at Roma's at 11:30 in January, February, April, May, June, October, November (Annual Meeting) and December for the Christmas Meeting. Our March and September meetings will move to the night before (Wednesday) starting at 5:30 pm while July and August continue to be summer break.

Each of the current officers agreed to continue in their position for that additional year. We are counting on you to make it worth our time and effort.

As you have already heard, the *Christmas Luncheon* will be at Roma's on December 15th. There is still time to join in, please let me know if you can make it. The chapter will supplement the cost of the luncheon so that your cost remains \$25 per person. If you need transportation to/from the Christmas luncheon, please let me know.

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) started when most of us were still federal employees. It continues today as it now includes retirees being able to have their charitable contributions withheld from your annuity check. The website to sign up for withholding is below and you can select specific charities to donate to. It helps to be able to let marketers know that you give through the CFC plus you don't have to worry about scammers.

<https://cfcvab.givecfc.org/>

2023 MEETING DATES and times - Jan 19th 11:30am; Feb 16th 11:30am; Mar 15th 5:30pm, Apr 20th, 11:30am May 18th 11:30am, Jun 15th 11:30am, Sep 20st 5:30pm, Oct 19th 11:30am, Nov 16th 11:30am and Dec 21st. 11:30am.

Note: The dinner meetings are so that still working members can attend and those that need to have

someone drive them to the meeting. The time of the meeting is early so that it is still light out.

If I can be of service to anyone, please contact me. Happy Holidays to all, hope to see you at the Christmas luncheon,

KAREN CHEATWOOD, PRESIDENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

NARFE Minutes, November 17, 2022

Eight members were present for the meeting which opened with prayer and the pledge. The following were present by zoom: Wynn Hasty Area 3 Vice President, Francis Boatman Vice President and membership chair, Debbie Fisk ECC and state legislative chair. All offered help and encouraged the continuation of the chapter.

Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The balance in the treasury is \$1330.32. Marilyn Root was reimbursed \$29.47 for the dogwood tree at St. Judes in memory of Paul Brown.

Lee Miller made a motion for the chapter to continue another year. This was unanimously approved. The same officers agreed to serve another year.

Making the military eligible for NARFE has been tabled.

In March and September 2023, dinner meetings will be held on the third Wednesday at 5:30. No meetings will be held in July and August. Meetings the other months will continue at 11:30 on the third Thursday.

Dick Shrum reported that future meetings will concentrate on NARFE issues, senior issues, and local issues such as the proposed hotel complex at the 208 bridge.

A free Christmas luncheon will be held December 8 at the Betty Queen Center.

The chapter Christmas luncheon will be held at Roma's at 11:30 on December 15. Checks should be mailed to treasurer Alvarez for \$25 per person. No silent auction will be held, but nonperishable food will be collected for the Food Bank.

MARILYN ROOT, SECRETARY

PROGRAM

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, November's Annual Meeting was primarily about looking at the chapter's future. And in relation to that, I described my plan to shift the focus of our

programs some, to regularly cover 3 areas in the newsletter and meeting, as follows: (1) NARFE issues/all aspects; (2) Aging & Seniors topics; and (3) Area Activities at the County and State level. I also plan to have 3-4 guest speakers/year, such as local election candidates in Sept and various Virginia NARFE officers. We will also continue to consider the option of when and if to use Zoom meetings, which would of course make it easier for some guest speakers or topics to be covered. In any event, your thoughts on any aspect of “Programs” are important to the future of the chapter, and would be very welcome, including whether you would attend via Zoom meeting. Please let us know.

Looking forward to our December meeting – the annual Christmas Luncheon at Roma’s – the program will be companionship, good will, good food and a few Christmas songs. Please come to the event, even if you haven’t ever attended a chapter meeting before, to say hello and enjoy the company! And in the meantime, I want to highlight a few of the current or upcoming items in these 3 categories I described above.

Re: NARFE: There continues to be a wealth of information for us retired and active Feds on the NARFE website. In particular, a major webinar on “*Estate Planning; Strategies for Feds*” will be held Wednesday, December 14 at 2 PM – go online to register. Plus, there are many past webinars available in the Archives relating to retirement options, service credit, health care, and such. The Advocacy section asks you to contact your legislators on items like WEP/GPO repeal (H.R. 82) and other goals. And don’t forget – you can earn \$10 and possibly other prizes when you sign up a new member by December 31st!

Re: Aging and Seniors Topics. The major event continues to be the Christmas Lunch and Resource Fair on December 8, 11am – 2pm, at the Betty J. Queen Center. It’s a great free lunch, with 10-12 tables and many handouts on “aging information” – call 540-967-4420 to register. An excellent website for info on this and similar topics is the Louisa County Commission on Aging – louisacounty-coa.github.io – which describes their programs and the many resources available through them and JABA, the Jefferson Area Board on Aging.

And finally, Area Activities. An excellent local entity is the Historic Society – louisahistory.org – which provides great information about our surroundings, such as the guided tours and many programs available via the website and its email you can sign up for. Another excellent entity is the Louisa County Resource Council on Council Lane, off Chalklevel Road just east of Louisa. It’s a three-fold operation: free handouts to those in need, a great place to donate old items you don’t need and/or just cleaned out of your closet or garage, and a great place to buy things at an excellent price!

DICK SHRUM, PROGRAM CHAIR

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget process update:

As usual, congress is still in the process of working on the 2023 budget. There are rumblings that there will be an extension to the current Continuing Resolution (CR) through Dec. 23rd. The Dec. 23 deadline would bring Congress up against the holidays, providing an extra incentive for lawmakers to wrap up their work for the year.

Democrats (the majority party) in Congress are moving forward to write their own omnibus funding bill ahead of a potential shutdown this month without Republican support. I have read that lawmakers are including enough republican priorities so that the measure will win bipartisan support to pass both the house and the senate and get signed into law.

- * The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which is usually passed before the appropriations, has been used by congressional representatives and senators to add items that have a better chance of passing. For fiscal year (FY) 2023 there are more than 1,000 amendments with a handful having an impact on federal employees and retirees; they include:
 - Preventing a Patronage System Act: language was added to the NDAA and would prevent any current or future administration from creating new federal job classifications. It would block any return of Schedule F or a similar action that could destroy the civil service merit system.
 - The Honoring Civil Servants amendment: would adjust death benefits for those who

were killed serving the country. The death benefit would increase from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for the individual's family and funeral allowances would increase from \$800 to \$8,800.

- The Fairness for Federal Firefighters Act: is a proposed amendment such that federal firefighters would receive workers' compensation for cardiovascular disease, certain types of cancer and other infectious diseases which are common for firefighters to get after years on the job.

Other items of interest:

- 2023 will bring an unusual raise for social security beneficiaries. Besides a COLA of 8.7%, the cost of Medicare will decrease by a small amount next year which would put more funds available for other necessities.
- Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 – (H.R. 82). Although the bill has 305 co-sponsors, not one of the Virginia Representatives has signed the discharge petition. There is a prepared letter on the NARFE.org legislative advocacy site that you can sign and NARFE will forward it to your representative; I altered mine to let Representative Spanberger know that she hasn't signed the discharge petition and urged her to do so.
- Chance to Compete Act: would make changes to the federal hiring process by increasing the use of subject-matter experts, as well as placing a larger emphasis on candidates' skills, in the federal hiring process.
- The Senate passed the Federal First Responders Fair RETIRE Act, which would ensure the special retirement system for federal first responders still applies to those who get injured on the job and later have to switch career fields. The bill is moving forward for Presidential signing.

Consider going to the advocacy page of the NARFE.org website where there are prepared letters on topics that NARFE, with member input, had determined to be important to us or you can write your own and they will ensure that it is emailed to your representative and senators.

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

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

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

The 50/50 collected \$27. Maher won and donated his share to the chapter charities fund.

MARILYN ROOT, ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Mark R. Warner; United States Senate,
Washington, DC 20510

202-224-2023

fax 202-224-6295

Email-Go to:

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

Tim Kaine; United States Senate,
Washington, DC 20510

202-224-4024

fax 202-224-6363

Email-Go to: <http://kaine.senate.gov/contact/> and fill out the screen information requested.

Abigail Spanberger; U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515

202-225-2815

fax 202-225-0011

Email: <http://www.spanberger.house.gov> and search the site

Bryce E. Reeves; State Senator, 17th District
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Mark J. Peake. State Senator, 22nd District

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS & APPOINTED POSITIONS

Service Officer -- Vacant

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, *Actg.* 540-967-1544
 State Legislation – *Vacant*
 Membership – *Vacant*
 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*

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON INFORMATION

This year we are again having our annual NARFE Christmas luncheon at Roma’s (our normal meeting location) on Thursday, December 15th at 11:30 am. The menu will be a buffet including two Italian dishes, salad, rolls, drinks, and dessert. The Cost will be \$25 (adult beverages are extra). Please send payment to Charles Alvarez at 49 Andrew Court, Bumpass, VA 23024 and make your check out to *NARFE Chapter 2065* with a note indicating “*Christmas luncheon*” before December 5th and include the coupon shown below.

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Louisa Food Bank. Please be generous in helping those who are struggling economically this year.

NARFE CHAPTER 2065 2022 CHRISTMAS LUNCH RESERVATION

Name(s)

Please accept my reservation(s) for _____ person(s) for the NARFE Christmas Luncheon at Roma’s on December 15, 2022, at \$25 per person. I have enclosed \$_____ in payment.

Please mail before December 5th to: Charles Alvarez, 49 Andrew Court, Bumpass, VA 23024