



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

**CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER**

**POST OFFICE BOX 1811**

**LOUISA, VIRGINIA 23093-1811**

*Contact: NARFE2065news@vanarfe.org*

**VOLUME XXXLII, NUMBER 1 – JANUARY 2023**

**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>
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<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>JANUARY</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: Dick Shrum, the Trifecta.</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: Bob Maher, Uganda Mission.</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program TBD</b>

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Happy New Year, I hope you have a great 2023,*

I can honestly say that everyone has had a better Christmas than I had. We postponed it due to Covid and continue to do so until each of us have tested negative. That may take some time as I just tested positive this morning. So, please forgive me if anything doesn't make sense.

Our annual Christmas luncheon was small and laid back but gave everyone who attended a chance to get to know each other better and enjoy some holiday cheer. Marilyn brought music and we sang Christmas carols which always adds to the feeling of Christmas.

NARFE sent out an email a few days ago about the Political Action Committee (PAC) 2021-2022 election cycle. They were thanking those who supported PAC as they were able to raise nearly \$1.7 million, disburse more than \$1.3 million to candidates and committees, and send NARFE members to more than 130 local fundraising events. The final NARFE-PAC contribution and disbursement reports will be published in the January NARFE newsletter, showing how the PAC performed over the 2021-2022 cycle. This is separate from your membership dues and is used to donate to candidates for the US House of Representatives and the US Senate who support benefits for federal employees and retirees.

I would like to reiterate that the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) has been open to retirees for a few years now. The donations can be withheld from your annuity or you can send a check as your donation. The website to sign up for withholding is <https://cfcvab.givecfc.org/> and you can select specific charities that your donation would go to. I like this because I can tell any telemarketers that I give through the CFC. It also makes it easier to avoid scammers.

The Virginia General Assembly starts the 2023 session on January 11<sup>th</sup>. For 2023, you will have the same delegate and Senator that you've had in the past. In my case that is John McGuire (56<sup>th</sup> district delegate) and Bryce Reeves (17<sup>th</sup> senate district). Due to redistricting from the 2020 census, all state delegates and senators must rerun for office. The other part of redistricting is that they must reside in the district that they represent so the November election should be interesting. I will try to keep you up to date on the bills in the 2023 session that may be of interest to us. I will also try to update information on district changes and candidates as we get closer to the elections.

## 2023 MEETING DATES and times:

Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 11:30am; Thursday

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 11:30am; Thursday

Mar 15<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm, Wednesday

Apr 20<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am Thursday

May 18<sup>th</sup> 11:30am Thursday

Jun 15<sup>th</sup> 11:30am Thursday

Sep 20<sup>st</sup> 5:30pm, Wednesday

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 11:30am Thursday

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 11:30am Thursday (Annual Meeting)

Dec 21<sup>st</sup>. 11:30am. Thursday (Holiday Luncheon)

**Note:** *The dinner meetings are so that active members can attend and those that may have someone drive them to the meeting. The time of the year was selected so that it is still light out.*

If I can be of service to anyone, please contact me.

I hope 2023 is a good year for each of us,

**KAREN CHEATWOOD, PRESIDENT**

## PROGRAM

As always, the December Christmas luncheon was an excellent opportunity for attending members to share the joy of the season – including the songs – and to be joined by a couple of spouses who don't usually attend our meetings. Unfortunately, Karen and I did not get to attend the *Christmas Lunch and Resource Fair* at the Betty Queen Center, since I was a little late in reserving our seats and they were already packed. If you did attend, please come to our January meeting, and share the experience.

For our January meeting, I will be presenting much of the program, but I'm asking everyone to join in on various topics. The agenda will be the 3 areas set forth in recent newsletters and meetings, as follows: (1) NARFE issues/all aspects; (2) Aging & Seniors Stuff; and (3) Area Activities, at the County and State level. For example, I'll give an overview of NARFE's webinar on "*Estate Planning; Strategies for Feds*" which gave some excellent guidelines to prepare for your future. For senior stuff, I will have a good assortment of pamphlets and info passed out at the December Luncheon and info on upcoming events. FYI, you may be pleased to know that JABA, Jefferson Area Board on Aging, has earned a 100% national rating as a charitable, tax-deductible institution by Charity Navigator, which is not given to very many organizations. Finally, there will be information on upcoming and planned activities here in the Louisa County

area. Again, I am hoping that everyone present will participate and give additional info on these topics.

Looking forward to our February meeting, we are very pleased to have Bob Maher, one of our very own Chapter 2065 members. Some 10 years ago, Bob initiated a major humanitarian effort to provide health and charitable assistance to an extremely poor section of Uganda in Africa, through his Palmyra-area Knights of Columbus. Since then, his group traveled there annually for a few weeks, until Covid blocked the last couple years. You will notice that Bob will be absent at our January meeting since he and his team will be in Uganda. But he will be the program in February with pictures and information about this great project. In the meantime, don't forget about one of our excellent local entities – 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! See you in January...

**DICK SHRUM, PROGRAM CHAIR**

## **NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT**

### *Fiscal Year 2023 Budget update:*

President Biden signed a \$1.7 trillion omnibus package funding the government for the 2023 fiscal year.

- \* The legislation includes \$772.5 billion in nondefense discretionary spending and \$858 billion in defense funding
- \* It includes the Electoral Count Act legislation, which clarifies the vice president's role in certifying a presidential election as ceremonial. This is intended to help prevent a repeat of the violence at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021
- \* It provides Ukraine with \$40 billion in military and economic aid.
- \* Sets aside \$38 billion for emergency disaster assistance.

President Biden issued an executive order formalizing an average 4.6% federal raise, effective January 1, 2023, for federal employees, with 4.1% paid across the board and the funds for an additional 0.5% as locality pay.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which is usually passed before the appropriations has been used by congressional representatives and senators to add items as they 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.

- \* One item approves a \$15/hr. minimum wage for government contractors.

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 plus notify you that the e-mail/letter has been sent.

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

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

## **LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS**

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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*