

NARFE

Since
1921

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National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees
Virginia Federation of Chapters
Chapter 595
Serving Colonial Beach, Westmoreland, and King George

Volume 28 Issue 1

January 2023

President's Letter: January 2023

Dear Members of Colonial Beach Chapter 595,

Happy New Year!! I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday. For those of you who missed our holiday party in December, you really missed a very special time. Thanks to Ann Mills and all who helped her for making it happen. Also, at the party we collected \$110.00 to bring to the Westmoreland Rehabilitation Center to help purchase gifts for the residents. Loy Schuchart brought our gifts to the Center and gave them to the Activities Director. She was so pleased because the Center had admitted some new residents since the Angel Tags had been given out. If not for our donation, these new residents would not have had gifts on Christmas.

But now it is time to get down to business for 2023. At our December meeting the following chapter officers were elected to serve in 2023: President: Leslie Ravenell, 1st Vice President: Jim Lynch, 2nd Vice President: Ann Mills, Secretary: Maria Wendt, and Treasurer: Stan Palen. At our meeting on Tuesday, January 10, these newly elected officers will be installed by a member of the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) Board. I am confirming the details within the next few days.

The official charity of the National Active and Retired Employees Association is Alzheimer's. Our recent Alzheimer's event in November resulted in our largest chapter donation in many years. At the December chapter meeting the 50/50 donation was given back to the chapter to help in our fundraising efforts. As you can see from our donation to the Westmoreland Rehabilitation Center, our chapter continues to support our local community. Our donations to the local food banks in Colonial Beach and King George are another example. Please keep these donations coming. So, both at the national and local level, Chapter 595 is doing its part.

Since it is January, on the legislative front, we have a new Congress ready to be sworn in and this will make 2023 an interesting year to see where the new Congress will stand. Will they support our NARFE issues or vote against them? Will the WEB/GPO issue gain momentum again? Also, our State Legislature will be in session soon. Will they support the state issues that our VFN Board has presented to them in our published pamphlet? Stay tuned! Lots will be happening in 2023. Finally, what about that 8.7 percent COLA? I sure was happy to get my pay statement with the raise in my annuity. What about you?

So much to learn and discuss as we start off the new year. Please come out and join us for our meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at noon at the Hunan Diner.

Leslie Ravenell, President

Colonial Beach Chapter 595

P.S. FOOD BANK, FOOD BANK, FOOD BANK!! Please don't forget!

This month's donations go to King George Dept of Social Services

MEETING NOTICE

January 10, 2023

12 PM at the Hunan

**This month it is Installation of Officers and a speaker
from the Virginia Federation of NARFE**

The following is from FEDWeek Weekly of December 28:

[January Raise Finalized, Will Range from 4.37 to 5.15 Percent](#)

President Biden has issued an executive order formalizing an average 4.6 percent federal raise effective January 1, with 4.1 percent paid across the board and the funds for an additional 0.5 percentage points divided as locality pay, resulting in increases that will range from 4.37 to 5.15 percent. Read at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/january-raise-finalized-will-range-from-4-37-to-5-15-percent/>

[Upcoming COLA for Retirees to Be Largest in Four Decades](#)

The retirement COLA to be paid effective Sunday (January 1)—8.7 percent to those retired under CSRS and 7.7 percent to those retired under FERS who are eligible for COLAs—will be the largest since the 8.7 percent paid in 1982, before the latter system even existed.

[For Retirees, Changes in Social Security, Medicare Figures Ahead](#)

For those drawing Social Security benefits, the earnings test applying to beneficiaries aged 62 through that program's "full" retirement age (66 and six months, for those starting to draw benefits in 2023), will rise from \$19,560 to \$21,240 in 2023. Those beneficiaries lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$2 in earnings through employment or self-employment above the limit.

A separate earnings test applies only to earnings for months in the year an individual reaches full retirement age but prior to the individual attaining that age. One dollar in benefits will be withheld for every \$3 in earnings above \$56,520, up from \$51,960. There is no limit on earnings beginning the month an individual attains full retirement age.

For purposes of determining the benefit offset under the windfall elimination provision—which can reduce Social Security benefits of CSRS retirees who worked long enough in each system to qualify for a benefit from each—the annual "substantial earnings" threshold will rise from \$27,300 to \$29,700.

The 2023 Medicare Part B (physicians and related services) premium will be \$164.90 a month for most enrollees, a decrease of \$5.20. Those with annual taxable incomes above a threshold (which will be \$97,000 for single filers and \$194,000 for joint filers) also pay surcharges. The Part B annual deductible will decrease by \$7 to \$226.

In Part A, which covers hospitalization and related costs, the deductible will rise to \$1,600, an increase of \$44. Proportionate boosts also will apply to coinsurance for periods longer than 60 days per benefit period: for the 61st through the 90th day in a benefit period, to \$400 per day, and beyond the 90th day, to \$800 per day.

The average monthly premium for Part D prescription drug coverage will be \$31.50, down about 50 cents. Federal retirees who retain their FEHB coverage, as most do, typically do not enroll in Part D even if they are in Part B, because prescription drug coverage is part of FEHB plans.

Follow our chapter on FaceBook at www.facebook.com/narfecbkq

NARFE Chapter 595
8283 Oak Wood Dr
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Meeting Date
January 10
At the Hunan

Address Correction Requested

We are on the Web
[https://www.vanarfe.org/
Chapter-595](https://www.vanarfe.org/Chapter-595)