



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

**CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER**

**POST OFFICE BOX 1811**

**LOUISA, VIRGINIA 23093-1811**

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**VOLUME XXXLII, NUMBER 3 – MARCH 2023**

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

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

**CALENDAR**

<b>MARCH</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Chapter Meeting - 5:30 p.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: NARFE and each other.</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: TBD</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>18</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**

Well, Spring is on the way, at least these warm days we have had make me hopeful.

For those of you that could not make the February meeting, I apologize but you missed a very, interesting, and informative meeting. Besides articles in the Central Virginian, there was a letter to the editor about Bob Maher and his time as Postmaster in Mineral. I have learned over the years that folks in our chapter have had very interesting and exciting careers. They have also been instrumental in supporting great causes that are interesting to all of us. They bring a lot of experience and life to Chapter 2065.

The March meeting will be our first dinner meeting. It will also be held at Roma's but will be 5:30 the third *Wednesday* of the month. In trying evening meetings, we had to consider that the local American Legion Post, with our Treasurer Charlie Alvarez as the Commander plus a number of our members who also belong, meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday evening of each month; so the March and September evening meetings were moved to Wednesday. The change to some evening meetings is to enable active employees to attend our meetings and to enable those members who may need help getting to the meeting to also attend. This will be our first test to see if changing the meeting schedule can help with attendance so that it makes sense to invite program speakers. Please join us, you don't have to be a member to come to any meeting. We would love to meet you.

We will talk about the Virginia Federation (VFN) Conference to be held in Hampton April 2-5, 2023. I assume that you received a notice from the VFN. Their website for further information is <https://vanarfe.org/conference2023/>. This is the bi-annual conference where there are usually guest speakers, training, exhibitors, and a banquet. Although the agenda is still in development, one thing I have found out for sure is the Management Award this year has been named in honor of our own Bill Martin; the award is given to a Virginia Federation member who actively supports the VFN and will be presented at the Banquet on Tuesday evening April 4th. If anyone is interested in going, please let me know as it would be great to have a representative from our chapter. The information on the honor that the VFN is bestowing on Bill is added at the end of this newsletter.

Your chapter officers are taking action to try to increase interest in chapter activities and increase chapter membership. These actions include placing an Ad in the 2023 VFN Conference Book and contacting prospective members to invite them to chapter meetings to see if they are interested in joining us. One thing that everyone needs to be aware of is that programs which are based on interest

and attendance could be a draw to prospective members. Please note that the Program section talks about this issue; it's up to you to help.

### **2023 MEETING DATES AND TIMES:**

March 15th 5:30pm Wednesday

Apr 20th, 11:30 Thursday

May 18th 11:30am Thursday

Jun 15th 11:30am Thursday

Sep 20st 5:30pm, Wednesday

Oct 19th 11:30am Thursday

Nov 16th 11:30am Thursday (Annual Meeting)

Dec 21st. 11:30am. Thursday (Holiday Luncheon)

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

If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions about anything associated with our chapter and/or being a federal retiree or active employee, please contact me (my contact information is at the beginning of the newsletter).

**KAREN CHEATWOOD, PRESIDENT**

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

NARFE Minutes, Feb. 16, 2023

Eight members attended the meeting which opened with prayer and the pledge. The minutes were approved, and the treasurer's report accepted. The balance is \$1002.81.

The VFN Conference will be held in Hampton April 3-5, and our chapter will pay the registration fee for anyone who attends. Paul Brown, Lucille Andrews, and Bill Martin will be remembered.

Dick Shrum said statehood for D. C. is no longer being supported.

Bob Maher presented the program on Uganda which he has visited ten times. Uganda, which is the size of Oregon, is called the pearl of Africa. He and the Knights of Columbus in Palmyra have built three medical centers there. He showed many interesting pictures of animals, the source of the Nile River, the equator, and the people.

President Karen Cheatwood won the 50/50 drawing of \$25 and donated her share.

The March 16 meeting will be held on a Wednesday at Roma's at 5:30 P.M. to accommodate members who are still working.

**MARILYN ROOT, SECRETARY**

## **PROGRAM**

For me, this is about the strangest Winter I have ever seen, what with almost 80 one day and the mid-20's a few days later. And this is coming from someone who sat through 22-hours of darkness/day and minus-115 wind chill in Northern Alaska! Nevertheless, it's predicted that

Summer should be here by July or so, and we can go down and sit on the dock anytime we wish...

I am very pleased to report that our program for the February meeting was one of the very best and most interesting we have had. Our very own Chapter member, Bob Maher of Palmyra, reported on his recent trip to Uganda with several fellow members of the Saints Peter and Paul Knights of Columbus Council. He was personally responsible for the creation of the St. Francis of Assisi Health Clinic in Uganda, when he travelled there in 2012 and found that there was no medical facility in the area. Working with fellow Council members and other organizations, they built and opened the clinic in 2014, followed by living quarters for the doctors and nurses. In 2020, they built a fresh water well for the facility and contracted for the addition of electric power from several miles away. The annual missions to Uganda were cancelled for a couple years due to Covid, but work continued to provide needed equipment, e.g., an ultrasound machine. In January of this year, the team returned to Uganda to fund and carry out a health mission for local residents in need of free healthcare, and over 1000 patients were treated during the five-day event. Through the use of over 200 photos and many short videos, Bob was able to provide a full picture of the clinic, its doctors and nurses, the local residents and neighborhood, and the surrounding countryside. Many of the most interesting related to the nearby upper reaches of the Nile River and the several game parks, including lions just sitting around waiting for their next meal! Finally, we thank the Central Virginian newspaper for their excellent article and calendar events on this topic.

As previously announced, the March meeting will be at 5:30 P.M. at Roma's, which hopefully will allow active/working members and others to attend. Given the different timeframe and nature of this meeting, I am planning to have a somewhat different type of program since we are hoping to have some new faces. To start, we can have a general discussion about NARFE, the good and bad, changes to consider, and anything to better serve the Federal Employee environment. The second step will be to consider the same for the Virginia Federation (VFN) and our Chapter 2065. These two topics may lead to action by our chapter officers. And finally, since we are hoping to see a few new faces at this evening meeting, we should spend some time getting to know each other a little better, by sharing some work experiences and accomplishments, and even personal stories.

Finally, I need ideas on how to handle the program portion of our future meetings, and whether we should even continue them with such a small number of attendees.

One suggested involves a road trip to Richmond to visit the Virginia War Memorial, remembering all Virginian fallen heroes.

DICK SHRUM, PROGRAM CHAIR

### NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

This update is short since there hasn't been a lot of movement on the FY2024 budget yet. The following are updates on items of interest:

- \* The [Social Security Fairness Act HR 82](#) was reintroduced in the house. This bill, if passed would revoke two provisions impacting the retirement savings of a specific subset of federal retirees. The bill currently has 168 co-sponsors including four from Virginia.
  - o As a note, I sent a letter to Representative Bob Good through the NARFE Advocacy website and finally got a response that he supported the alternative H.R. 5834, the *Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act* which would have properly balanced the advantages and disadvantages of both the WEP and the regular Social Security benefits formulas by replacing the WEP with a new proportional formula that was based on actual work history. However, H.R. 5834 has not been reintroduced in this session. Additionally, it doesn't even consider the Government Pension Offset (GPO)
- \* The [Equal COLA Act, H.R. 866](#). would ensure Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees maintain the value of their retirement annuities, earned through careers in public service by providing full cost of living adjustments to, correcting the policy that caps Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annual cost of living adjustment (COLA).
  - o Current law caps FERS COLAs at 2 percent if the COLA falls between 2 and 3 percent and reduces it by one percentage point if the COLA exceeds 3 percent. This policy leaves FERS retirees, especially those living on fixed incomes, unprotected from the impact of increasing consumer prices and fails to maintain the earned value of federal annuities in the face of rising inflation.

Bills that were recently introduced or re-introduced that may be interesting:

- \* [H.R.716](#)— **Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2023** with 22 **Cosponsors**: would provide for cost-of-living increases for certain Federal benefits programs based on increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the elderly; at this time it based on the CPI for Urban wage earners.
- \* [S.135](#)— **Prevent Government Shutdowns Act of 2023** that provides continuing appropriations to prevent a government shutdown if any of the appropriations bills for a fiscal year have not been enacted before the fiscal year begins and continuing appropriations are not in effect.
  - o S. 135 also limits official travel, congressional recesses or adjournments, and the consideration of legislation that is unrelated to appropriations after the beginning of a fiscal year if the appropriations process has not been completed

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**

**VIRGINIA LEGISLATION REPORT**

In the last update we provided information on the Virginia Federation Legislative Plan for 2023. It's nice to report that HB 1446 to increase staffing at nursing homes passed both the house and the senate and is on the Governor's desk for signature. The bill would require facilities to provide an average of 3.08 hours of nursing care to each resident each day. The staffers could be certified nursing assistants, licensed practical nurses or registered nurses. The law would take effect in July of 2025

Letters to the Governor may help, as he has been vetoing all of our bills. If you have a minute, please send him a note and let him know how important this legislation is to so many families. Please share this with anyone who you think may take the initiative to send a quick note.

EMAIL FORM:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/constituent-services/communicating-with-the-governors-office/>

USPS MAIL: Governor Glenn Youngkin, P.O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218

**ALZHEIMER'S REPORT**

President Karen Cheatwood won the 50/50 drawing of \$25 and donated her share.

**MARILYN ROOT, ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR**

**2022 William F. Martin Management Award**

The 2022 William F. Martin Award (formerly The Management Award) will be given in honor and memory of William "Bill" Franklin Martin, who passed away on June 10, 2022.

Bill was employed by the United States Postal Service from May 1962 until October 1992, starting as a mail carrier, and retiring from the postal service headquarters in Washington, D.C.

To his friends, Bill was known as a volunteer machine! It is with much love and gratitude that the 2022-2023 Board of Directors voted unanimously to honor Bill and his legacy for the 2022 Management Award.

To list just a few of his many accomplishments:

NARFE Region X VP 2010 (held the office prior Bill Shackelford)

- VFC President 2009
- VFC 1st Vice President prior
- VFC 2nd Vice President
- VFN Treasurer
- VFN Area VIII
- VFN Area V Vice President
- VFN Area III Vice President
- Chairman NARFE Electronic Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC)
- Member National Communications Advisory Committee (NCAC)
- Chapter 2065 President (multiple years)
- Chapter 2065 1st Vice President
- Chapter 2065 Membership Chair, Webmaster, etc.
- Region X Net Coordinator
- Life Member 1992 to 2022
- Bill attended many NARFE and VFC/VFN conferences as a Delegate at Large; member of Ballot & Tellers Committee, Nominating Committee

He was also very active locally:

- Member Louisa County Planning Commission
- Chair Louisa County Electoral Board
- Treasurer Volunteers of Louisa
- Treasurer Louisa Crime Solvers

Director Lake Anna Rescue (Prior President, Treasurer or Secretary)

President of two Home Owners Associations

In 2001 Bill was the recipient of Geico National Public Service Award in recognition of his volunteer service.

More information on the award can be found at

<https://vanarfe.org/conference2023/>.

### **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,

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the screen information requested.

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**Bryce E. Reeves;** State Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> 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 – *Vacant (can be part of the Service Officer)*

Public Relations – Dick Shrum 540-872-5409

Program – Dick Shrum 540-872-5409

Holiday lunch – Marilyn Root 540-634-0241

Commission on Aging – *Vacant*