



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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CALENDAR

APRIL	20	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: Webinar on LTC
MAY	18	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: TBD
JUNE	15	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

It's starting to look like nicer weather is on the way. I've noticed that the trees have buds on them plus the daffodils and tulips are really in bloom. It makes me feel good when I see all the beautiful colors. Hope that you enjoy beautiful spring blooms too.

Our March meeting was the first dinner meeting since we changed the chapter meeting schedule to enable active employees and those that may need help attending to join us for a meeting. We had eight members in attendance. It was nice to see members other than the officers. It was also nice to visit with everyone and to be able to make decisions on items that are relevant to Chapter 2065. It was pleasant to discuss some interesting topics and enjoy a meal with friends and colleagues.

Attendance of 8 members is a nice turnout since we are a small chapter with only 49 members. However, this still creates a problem when it comes to programs as it becomes difficult to invite guest speakers when we can't even guarantee a group of eight or more. Although each of your chapter officers tries to ensure that they will be in attendance at all meetings, things come up so we need your help in joining us for meetings. Please contact any of the officers or myself if there is anything that we can do to increase interest or do to assist you in getting to a meeting.

Since the Virginia Federation Conference will be held next week, I hope to have information to report on the conference and on the William (Bill) Martin Management Award.

2023 MEETING DATES and times:

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 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 you have any ideas, comments or suggestion about anything associated with our chapter and/or being a federal retiree or active employee, please contact me.

KAREN CHEATWOOD, PRESIDENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

NARFE Minutes March 15, 2023

Eight members were present for the 5:30 p.m. meeting at Roma's. The meeting opened with prayer and the pledge. Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Because the treasurer was not present, there was no report.

The federation conference will be held in Hampton April 2-5. The chapter took a half page ad in the booklet for \$65. Three of our chapter's deceased members will be remembered. They are Paul Brown, Lucille Andrews, and Bill Martin. Bill will also be remembered with a management award.

Bob Maher made a motion, seconded by Dick Shrum, to spend \$100 for umbrella insurance. This was approved unanimously.

A suggestion was made to meet with another group to hear political candidates. A 5.2 % pay increase has been proposed. State legislation includes new standards for nursing homes.

When the weather warms, LARI will pressure wash the gazebo. Dick will then install the plaque in memory of Bill and Gail Martin.

Steve Burrill won the 50/50 drawing which totaled \$34. He accepted \$10 and donated \$7.

MARILYN ROOT, SECRETARY

PROGRAM

For me, it was so great to see Spring arrive on March 20th, along with quite a few days with temperatures up in the 60s! The next big event for us to plan on is the first day of Summer, on June 21st this year.

For the first time, our March meeting was held at 5:30 in the evening at Roma's, which we hoped would allow some of our active/working members and others to attend. And as announced, the program was a little different from others to recognize and take advantage of new faces. It started with a general review of the national NARFE, its programs and benefits, the good and bad, changes to consider, and anything we think might better serve the Federal Employee environment. In general, the broad belief is that the organization is very helpful to our group of Americans, the perks and information are fine, and nothing major was identified. The one item noted was HQ's support of Statehood for DC, which many object to, but they recently deleted that position and now support only "representation for residents". The Virginia Federation (VFN) was reviewed and, while there were no specific problems raised, there was broad concern that the organization was simply not as effective as it used to be with the substantial reduction in the number of chapters/members across Virginia. Finally, our own Chapter 2065 was reviewed, noting that we are still

considering closure of this chapter due to the decreasing membership and so few members attending monthly meetings – this will be reviewed again at the November Annual Meeting. We finished with some members talking about their experiences as a Federal Employee, e.g., mine were great and unique!

Our upcoming April meeting will present a recent NARFE webinar that should be of major interest to members: “How to Prepare for Long-Term Care: Aging Gracefully While Financially Secure”. As we all know, a chronic-illness or disability may curb our independence and create the need for daily living assistance. Long-term care can clearly cause financial burdens, and very often emotional costs and physical burdens to the person who serves as the primary caregiver. The webinar will guide us through how to plan and prepare – emotionally and financially – for the prospect of future LTC costs. Finally, I still welcome any suggestions you may have for a program, noting that we are considering a road trip to Richmond to visit the Virginia War Memorial, remembering all Virginian fallen heroes.

DICK SHRUM, PROGRAM CHAIR

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

Status of Fiscal Year (FY)-24 Budget

President Biden introduced his FY-24 Budget on March 10, 2023. His budget request, seeks total discretionary spending of \$1.695 trillion, split between \$886 billion for defense programs and \$688 billion for nondefense, reflecting increases of 3% for defense and 7% for non-defense over FY23. The budget is the President’s blue print for the next fiscal year which starts Sept 30,2023. More details can be found in the FY24 Fact Sheet at the following website:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/briefing-room/2023/03/09/fact-sheet-the-presidents-budget-for-fiscal-year-2024/>.

The FY-24 Budget seeks changes to federal employee benefits, they include:

- Improved access to behavioral health services by requiring coverage of three primary care visits and three behavioral health visits without cost-sharing for all Federal Employees Health Benefits Program plans
- The budget strengthens healthcare affordability by limiting cost-sharing for insulin in FEHB
- The plan also would “equalize survivor benefits payable to disabled children under both retirement systems. Currently,

only disabled children under FERS whose annuity terminates due to substantial employment income may have their survivor annuity reinstated if the survivor becomes incapable of self-support. This proposal would extend the same opportunity for reinstatement to CSRS disabled children, equalizing the rules between the two retirement programs

- Also mentioned, although without explanation, is increasing family member eligibility under the Federal Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) and shortening the length of contracts with carriers in that program “to allow flexibility for new carriers.”
- The administration proposed giving federal employees a [5.2% pay raise in 2024](#)

Remember that there will be changes and adjustments as the appropriations bills make their way through congress. We will highlight items and issues that may be of interest to us as federal employees, retirees and spouses so stay tuned.

The following are updates on items that we have been tracking:

- The [Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 H.R. 82](#). This bill, if passed would revoke the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) that impact the retirement savings of a specific subset of federal retirees. Currently there are 207 cosponsors — 146 Democrats, 61 Republicans — not including its sponsor. Six representatives from Virginia are included as co-sponsors.
- The companion Senate Bill [S. 597](#) was reintroduced March 1, 2023. It is the same as HR-82 and would repeal WEP and GPO. This Bill currently has 31 bipartisan cosponsors but *DOES NOT* include VA Senators Tim Kaine or Mark Warner.
- 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). The Bill sponsored by Gerry

Connelly (VA-11 district) is also co-sponsored by Abigail Spanberger (VA-7) and has 15 co-sponsors.

Bills that were recently introduced or re-introduced that may be of interest:

- [H.R.716— Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2023](#) with 23 **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.

Consider going to the advocacy page of the NARFE.org website where there are prepared letters on topics the topics discussed above 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**

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Steve Burrill won the 50/50 drawing which totaled \$34. He accepted \$10 and donated \$7.

MARILYN ROOT, ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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