

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

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April 2023

President's Letter: April 2023

Dear Members of Colonial Beach Chapter 595,

Happy April Fool's Day!! Rich and I are now back from St Kitts. We had an incredible vacation on this wonderful island. If you are traveling to the Caribbean, I highly recommend the island of St Kitts. So, I did miss seeing you at our March meeting but now we can catch up at our April meeting which will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2022. Once again, our 1st Vice President, Jim Lynch, has lined up another interesting speaker. Please see the info on the speaker in this newsletter.

As you may remember, in the past the VFN held a conference every year in April. We are getting back on track and if you were at either the January or February chapter meeting, you were briefed on the upcoming VFN Conference. Rich and I will be leaving on Sunday to attend the VFN Annual Conference. During the conference the annual meeting is held with the presentation of officer nominations, nominations from the floor, the report of the by-laws committee, the President's report and the Region X report. If you receive emails from the NARFE system, you have already received several emails about the Annual Meeting. The VFN Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, April 3, 2023 9:00 am. I will brief everyone at the April chapter meeting on the results of the Annual meeting.

This year, it looks like there will be several VFN positions coming up for election where there is more than one candidate. This means that we will have a VFN ballot sent out to you by email if you have one or by regular mail (if you do not have email). Stay tuned as these ballots will be coming out and it will be important for you to cast your ballot.

If you have been reading your NARFE magazine, you know that March was NARFE PAC month. If you have not already, please consider donating to NARFE PAC. These funds support our NARFE lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill and through these efforts NARFE works to protect our benefits. Another way NARFE helps to protect your benefits is through the training efforts for members. In your email and in the magazine, you should have received information on LEGCON23 which will be held in June by Zoom. At this meeting, NARFE members learn how to work with their Congressmen and Senators so they will support those pieces of legislation that affect our benefits. Please let me know if you are interested in attending this meeting.

Please continue your generous support of our food bank program. Even though some things are getting better the price of food is going up and food insecurity is still a problem.

Hope you can come out on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

Leslie Ravenell, President

Colonial Beach Chapter 595

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

MEETING NOTICE

April 11, 2023

12 PM at the Hunan

**Our speaker this month is Ms. Jeanie Barbrow, from the
US Dept of Agriculture.**

Our speaker this month is Ms. Jeanie Barbrow, from the US Dept of Agriculture. Ms. Barbrow represents the Rural Development program in the Department. The RD program offers wide ranging services for those of us who live in rural communities.

Here is a description of the program from the web site.

Welcome to USDA Rural Development. We are committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through our programs, we help rural Americans in many ways.

We offer loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure.

We promote economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions and community-managed lending pools. We offer technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations.

We provide technical assistance to help communities undertake community empowerment programs.

We help rural residents buy or rent safe, affordable housing and make health and safety repairs to their homes.

The following is from FEDweek of April 1 2023:

['Best Places to Work' Report Shows Some Slippage](#)

The scores in the latest "Best Places to Work in the Federal Government" rankings overall were slightly lower, paralleling a similar decrease in a "satisfaction index" over 2021-2022 in the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey. Read at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/best-places-to-work-report-shows-some-slippage/>

[Remote Anesthesia? Audit Calls for Tighter Controls of Telehealth Costs in FEHB](#)

The rapid expansion of telehealth services in the FEHB program due to the pandemic has increased the risks of violations of patients' privacy and of improper billing, the inspector general's office at OPM has said.

The report is the latest in a series from the IG calling for controls on costs that are passed on in the form of premiums for both enrollees and the government, following several focusing on ineligible persons getting coverage as family members. The GAO recently issued a similar report on that latter issue. Read at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/remote-anesthesia-audit-calls-for-tighter-controls-of-telehealth-costs-in-fehb/>

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

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Meeting Date

April 11

At the Hunan

Address Correction Requested

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