



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER

POST OFFICE BOX 1811

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ELECTED OFFICERS

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CALENDAR

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
JULY, AUGUST		Summer Break -- Enjoy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You will see at the end of this newsletter a picture of the plaque that our chapter purchased to honor Bill Martin and his work with NARFE, especially the Louisa chapter. The memory of Bill should be near and dear to us as he kept the chapter going and each of us involved. I wish that I had the same thoughts/actions as Bill so that we could ensure that Chapter 2065 will continue.

The April meeting included a webinar on Long Term care. If you read any of the statistics, a good number of us may need some form of long-term care in our lives. The webinar included thoughts and suggestions that would help each of us. The April meeting also had eight members in attendance.

The May meeting leaves us with what to do for a program? What do you want to hear? Would you rather go to a local winery or brewery for lunch? Please let any of the officers know what you're interested in? 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 a meeting or two. Please contact any of the officers or myself if there is anything that we can do to increase interest or to assist you in getting to a meeting.

The Virginia Federation Conference took place the beginning of April. The William Martin Management Award went to Connie Bails, past VFN President. The only thing that I can say is congratulations Connie.

2023 MEETING DATES and times:

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

April 20, 2023 NARFE Minutes

Eight members attended the meeting which opened with the pledge and prayer. The March minutes were approved

as printed in the newsletter and the balance in the treasury is \$1,240.83. The N99 was filed.

The plaque to honor Bill and Gail Martin was mounted on the LARI gazebo by Dick Shrum. The William Martin Management Award was presented to Connie Bails at the VFN conference.

The WEP and GPO bills in Congress are both sponsored. A bill was presented to increase the debt limit. Chapter member Charles Layman sent a check for Alzheimers to our P.O. Box which was returned. But the chapter still has a post office box in Louisa.

Today's program was a webinar called *How to Prepare for Long Term Care*.

The Blantons won the 50/50 drawing of \$26. They chose to keep \$7.

The May meeting will be held at Romas.

MARILYN ROOT, SECRETARY

PROGRAM

Spring is here!!! Well, there are still a few days cooler than we'd like to see, and a few that seemed much more like the middle of summer, still scheduled to arrive on June 21st. Keep in mind that it's a very busy month too, beginning with the First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month on the 1st, Cinco de Mayo on the 5th, and most importantly Mother's Day on the 14th. For those of you who enjoy boating, either here on Lake Anna or elsewhere, keep in mind that National Safe Boating Week is May 20-28 as we prepare for Memorial Day and the boating season this summer.

The April meeting covered the NARFE webinar on Federal Long-Term Care Insurance, which helped to answer many critical questions about it and how it can help provide resources to pay for health care as you age. Note that there is also a more recent webinar on *How to Prepare for LTC: Aging Gracefully While Financially Secure*. Together, they provide an abundant source of knowledge and wisdom on the topic, including the many options and potential financial benefits that are available to us. For example, some plans can reduce your long-term costs by starting at a younger age. Others provide a substantial or complete refund of your costs if you never have to implement the LTC benefits.

The upcoming May meeting will be a very interesting one for me, since I will miss it due to a planned vacation. Please review our President's comments above in the newsletter, where she asks what we want to do for our programs! Depending on what she may receive before the meeting, there could be a specific and timely topic. There are also other webinars available to present, including the one on Tax Planning for Federal Retirees. There are many ideas covered in it, including a technique to maximize tax

benefit by adopting a plan for charitable donations over time. Clearly, another topic for the May meeting is to provide a focus on the upcoming elections within the Virginia Federation, either through completion of paper ballots or to go online during the meeting to cast your vote. In any event, we continue to 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.

Finally, some wordplay: “Just so everyone is clear, I’m going to put my glasses on.” “How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.” And “Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.”

DICK SHRUM, PROGRAM CHAIR

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

Status of Fiscal Year (FY)-24 Budget

FY2024 Budget Request hearings continue but action on appropriations bills haven’t been formalized so far.

The following are updates on items that we have been keeping track of:

Update to the [Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 H.R. 82 and S. 597](#) – Cosponsors have risen to 249 representatives and 39 senators. Virginia representatives who cosponsor have increased to 7 plus Senator Kaine has signed on as a cosponsor to S. 597. 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.

The [Equal COLA Act, H.R. 866](#). – has 20 Co-sponsors. This Bill would provide full cost of living adjustments (COLA) for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees by matching their annual COLA to that of CSRS adjustments. Currently the Bill sponsored by Gerry Connelly (VA-11 district) and co-sponsored by Abigail Spanberger (VA-7).

[H.R.716— Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2023](#) currently has 25 democratic cosponsors although none of them from Virginia. This bill would provide for cost-of-living increases for certain Federal benefits programs based on increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the elderly whereas it is currently 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 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

Blantons won the 50/50 drawing of \$26. They chose to keep \$7.

MARILYN ROOT, ALZHEIMER’S CHAIR

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS & APPOINTED POSITIONS

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State Legislation – *Vacant*

Membership – *Vacant*

Sunshine – *Vacant*

Public Relations – Dick Shrum 540-872-5409

Program – Dick Shrum 540-872-5409

Holiday lunch – Marilyn Root 540-634-0241

Commission on Aging – *Vacant*

**The Gazebo on the lawn of Lake Anna Rescue
recently dedicated to Bill and Gail Martin**

