



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER

POST OFFICE BOX 1811

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CALENDAR

JUNE 15 Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: JABA/Aging and Assisting.

JULY, AUGUST Summer Break -- Enjoy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy June, we are into the summer season and the weather has been so nice although a little cool. However, we're supposed to get up into the 80s this week so that's a sure sign that summer is here. I may even get into the water and that's my sign that the warm season has arrived.

Oh well, onto chapter issues. The May meeting ended up being short since my computer had issues and I couldn't plan too much but we did have a discussion on the June meeting and a future program. We talked about moving the June meeting although, as usual Dick Shrum, our great program chair came up with a good idea for a program which he is working to get set up so read more in the program section.

Attendees at the May meeting also voted for contested VFN offices of President and Secretary plus a couple of bylaws changes. Since voting ends May 31st it may be a few weeks until all ballots are received and counted so we will post results in the next newsletter,

We also talked about an evening program with a trip to Culpepper for dinner and a show. Some members are working on planning that for the fall so more information will be forthcoming if we can get the planets to align.

Last month I talked about the issue of attendance and guest programs. It can be hard to set up a program with such a small audience. This continues to plague our chapter and we will take it up at our annual meeting in November.

I hope everyone enjoys the warm weather and gets some sun since everyone can use sunlight in their life,

2023 MEETING DATES and times:

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

May 8 NARFE Meeting

As usual the meeting opened with prayer and pledge. Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The

balance in the treasury is \$1,212.00.

National legislation news focuses on decreasing spending and increasing the debt limit. 190 votes are needed for GPO and WEB. At the state level the budget is on hold.

There was no program since Dick Shrum is on vacation. Next month's meeting may be at Dick or Karen's homes. There will be no meetings in July or August. In the fall, attending a community concert in Culpeper will be considered.

Charles Alvarez made a motion to give \$75 to help send kids to American Legion training. This was seconded by Bob Maher and passed.

Alvareses won the 50/50 drawing of \$23 and donated their share.

MARILYN ROOT, SECRETARY

PROGRAM

As we move into the month of June, there are at least 2 things that we should note. First, we have successfully passed through another month of May, which has been recognized as "Older Americans Month" for the 60th year in a row. The theme this year was "Aging Unbound", to focus on diverse aging experiences and discuss how communities can assist. And second, we reached another June 1st – the beginning of hurricane season! – and it only took one day to identify Arlene as the first tropical storm of the season.

The May meeting was a little different from normal for me, since I was not there. Karen has covered her report above in this newsletter. At the same time, it is clear that I mis-spoke in the last newsletter when I said that I would be on a "planned vacation". Yes, there was one day and an evening which were very relaxing and vacation-like, but most of the week was power washing, painting, staining, and such at our beach house in North Carolina...

The upcoming June meeting will be a little bit of a repetition of some past programs, but the goal is to receive a much more detailed presentation of the specific benefits, services and opportunities for the aging in Louisa County. The speaker (one or more) will be from the JABA (Jefferson Area Board for Aging) office in Louisa County, which is located at the Betty Queen Center. The services available will be covered in detail, such as options counseling, personal home care, home health care, assisted living, nursing homes, senior centers and adult care centers. With the passing of Covid, the center at Betty Queen has resumed providing nutritious meals and engaging in activities and socializing with friends. In addition, they will cover the other side of the subject – the opportunity to volunteer and assist, along with the 650 volunteers who helped them last year. In FY22, JABA

helped 18,000 people, home delivered 47,000 meals, helped and advocated for 3,900 in long-term care, and provided insurance counseling services to 3,300. Finally, I plan to work with other Chapter officers about extending an invitation to other senior organizations (e.g., the local American Legion Post) to join us at Roma's for this program.

DICK SHRUM, PROGRAM CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP

No report

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

Status of Fiscal Year (FY)-24 Budget - We will know more about this as it has been part of the negotiations between President Biden and Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy in working on the debt ceiling.

- › The bill's debt limit suspension runs through January 1, 2025, past the next congressional and presidential election.
- › The bill, if passed as-is, provides for a 3.3% increase in defense spending (up from \$858.4 billion to \$886.3 billion, matching the amount in President Biden's budget) for FY2024.
- › Would cap nondefense spending authorized in annual funding bills at \$703.7 billion, a 5.4% cut from FY2023.
- › Apparently, there's an unwritten agreement to repurpose unspent COVID-19 relief funds and adjust amounts dedicated to the Internal Revenue Service to permit the total level for nondefense discretionary spending to remain roughly even to the current year.
- › FY2025, annual defense and nondefense spending would increase about 1% from the FY2024 level.
- › The bill also provides a mechanism to avoid a government shutdown, allowing for a continuing resolution with 1 percent across the board cuts if lawmakers fail to pass, by the end of the calendar year, the annual funding bills consistent with the budget caps in the bill.
- › Finally, the bill includes additional provisions and adjustments to work requirement rules for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and some reforms to streamline environmental permitting for energy projects.

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

- – Cosponsors have risen to 277 representatives (195 democrats and 82 republican) and 44 senators.(36 democrats, 5 republicans and 3 independent) Virginia representatives who cosponsor have increased to 8 plus Senator Kaine has signed on as a cosponsor *Update to the Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 H.R. 82 and S. 597 to S. 597.*

New items that we may add to our tracking include:

- Social Security 2100 - May 22, 2023: More than 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, yet the Trust Fund is set to deplete in nine years- triggering a 20% across the board benefit cut for seniors, veterans, the disabled and their dependents.

Social Security 2100 permanently improves Social Security's long-term health by extending the Trust Fund solvency and aligns with President Biden's pledge not to increase taxes on the middle class:

Increases and Expands 12 Essential Benefits

- Increases benefits 2% across the board for all Social Security beneficiaries for the first time in 52 years!
Improves the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), so it reflects the inflation actually experienced by seniors.
- Increases benefits to boost lower income seniors.
- Improves benefits for widows and widowers from two-income households.
- Restores student benefits up to age 26, for the dependent children of disabled, deceased, or retired workers.
- Increases access to benefits for children living with grandparents or other relatives.
- Repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) that currently penalize many public servants.
- Ends the 5-month waiting period to receive disability benefits.

- Increases benefits by an additional 5% for the most elderly who have been receiving benefits for 15 years or more.
- Provides caregiver credits to ensure that people (mostly women) are not penalized in retirement for taking time out of the workforce to care for children or other dependents.
- Ends the disability benefit cliff, replacing it with a gradual offset for earnings.
- Cuts taxes for 23 million middle-income beneficiaries.
- Corrects an unintended flaw in how Social Security benefits are wage-indexed, to prevent benefits from dropping (a “notch”) if the wage index decreases.
- Ensures that these benefits do not result in reduced Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments or a loss of eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP.
- Combines the “Old-Age and Survivors Insurance” (OASI) and the Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds into one fund to ensure seamless benefit payments.

Social Security 2100 Pays for These Benefits by:

- Ensuring millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share by applying FICA to earnings above \$400,000, with those extra earnings counted toward benefits at a reduced rate.
- Closing the loophole of avoiding FICA taxes and receiving a lower rate on investment income by adding an additional 12.4% net investment income tax (NIIT) only for taxpayers making over \$400,000.
- The National Alzheimer’s Project Act (NAPA) is set to expire by 2025. [HR 619 and S133 have been introduced as the NAPA](#)

[Reauthorization Act](#). These bipartisan pieces of legislation would continue the critical work of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease to support Alzheimer’s research and improve the delivery of clinical care and services for people living with Alzheimer’s and their families.

Consider going to the advocacy page of the NARFE.org website where there are prepared letters on some of 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

Alvareses won the 50/50 drawing of \$23 and donated their share.

Editor’s note: Please review the article On page 44 in the June/July NARFE Magazine, “*Moderate Physical Activity May Cut Risk of Dementia, ...*” I have also read other articles regarding this encouraging topic.

MARILYN ROOT ALZHEIMERS CHAIR

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