

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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President's Letter: June 2023

Dear Members of Colonial Beach Chapter 595,

It looks like summer is just around the corner! Rich and I just got back from three weeks in Florida visiting family and friends. It was a little warmer there but not much. So now it is time to get ready for our June meeting which will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. 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 know, the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) conducted its annual election with voting taking place from May 1 to May 31st. Stan Palen did such a great job of making it easy to vote electronically. You know I always say, if I can do it, anyone can do it on the computer. I hope you were able to vote. We are anxiously awaiting the results as the Ballots and Tellers Committee gets together to count the votes. You will receive an email from the VFN giving you the results and you will then find out who will lead the organization from July 1, 2023 until June 30, 2024. This is only the second time since we started one member/one vote that we had a contested election for the office of Federation President. So stay tuned.

The mission of NARFE is to protect your benefits and one way this is accomplished is through the training efforts for members. In your email and in the magazine, you should have already 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.

On the agenda for June is the discussion about our Annual August Picnic. I call it annual as this will be our 4th year to hold this event. We started in the middle of the pandemic in August of 2020 just with a few members who wanted to get together and now we have a tradition. The picnic will be held on the second Tuesday of August (August 8). So please come out to the June meeting as it will be the last time to give input on the planning of the picnic. As most of you remember we do not meet in July.

Please continue your generous support of our food bank program. Even though some things are getting better the price of food is going up. Did you hear about the price of beef!!! Food insecurity is still a problem.

Hope you can come out on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 to the Hunan Diner for our NARFE meeting.

Leslie Ravenell, President

Colonial Beach Chapter 595

This month Food Bank items go to Colonial Beach Baptist Church.

MEETING NOTICE

June 13, 2023

12 PM at the Hunan

**Our speaker this month is Mr. Harry Puffenberger
Discussing about Vernal Pools and Salamanders of Virginia**

Our speaker this month is Mr. Harry Puffenberger Discussing about Vernal Pools and Salamanders of Virginia

Here is his Bio: I have a degree in Forestry from Virginia Tech. I worked for the DoD for 35 years, 28 with the Corps of Engineers. Photogrammetry, Terrain analysis, surveying and LOTS of field work as a vegetation specialist.

I became a Virginia Master Naturalist in 2009, I have been President of the local chapter since 2020. I teach tree/plant ID, lead nature walks in Spotsylvania County and at James Madison's Montpelier.

I have been doing citizen science projects with vernal pools for for most of that time, counting spotted and marbled salamander eggs and reproduction cycles. In doing the vernal pool assessments I have become familiar with wood frogs as well.

I will talk about Vernal pools and Salamanders of Virginia. Virginia is host to 53 different species of salamanders 2nd only to NC with 56.

The following is from FEDweek of June 3, 2023:

[Expert's View: The Windfall Elimination Provision Revisited](#)

Bills to repeal or modify the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset have been introduced in every session of Congress since those provisions became law, writes benefits expert Reg Jones. While those bills never have come close to enactment, he looks at each provision in turn, starting with the WEP. You'll find his column at <https://www.fedweek.com/experts-view/the-windfall-elimination-provision-revisited/>

[Senators Add to Scrutiny of Telework; VA Announces Plans to Cut Back](#)

Two senators have joined other congressional Republicans in scrutinizing federal agency telework practices, pressing the GSA to collect and release information about office space usage rates.

Sens. Charles Grassley of Iowa and Roger Wicker of Mississippi said that federal employees should "return to their taxpayer-funded offices or get rid of unused office space that continues to lie vacant" in asking the GSA for data on the daily occupancy rates of federal office spaces to further determine how many federal employees continue to work remotely. Read at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/senators-add-to-scrutiny-of-telework-va-announces-plans-to-cut-back/>

[GAO Lists Hiring, Skills Gaps, Performance Management Among Top To-Dos for OPM](#)

GAO has listed 15 top priority recommendations for OPM, touching on longstanding issues regarding the federal hiring process, addressing skills gaps in the workforce, managing performance, and others. For a closer look, go to <https://www.fedweek.com/issue-briefs/gao-lists-hiring-skills-gaps-performance-management-among-top-to-dos-for-opm/>

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

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Meeting Date

May 9

At the Hunan

Address Correction Requested

We are on the Web
[https://www.vanarfe.org/
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