

NARFE

Since
1921

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

Dear Members of Colonial Beach Chapter 595,

Happy Labor Day, Everyone. I hope you are all adjusting to these high temperatures. The time is really flying by. Did you know that it is only sixteen weeks until Christmas!!! But the summer is over and it is time to get back to business with our September NARFE Chapter meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at the Hunan Diner. So here is what happened over the summer.

On the second Tuesday in August, we had our 4th annual summer picnic. Thanks to Ann Mills and Loy Schuchart we were able to hold it in a beautiful location, the picnic and beach area at EBB Tide Beach. About twenty of us feasted on fried chicken and fabulous sides. Thanks to all who helped to make this picnic a success and thanks to all who attended. One member who was attending for the first time said he would for sure be back next year. You might as well put the second Tuesday of August 2024 on your calendar for the 5th annual Chapter Picnic!!!

Some of you may remember that at our meetings and in the newsletter, we have been discussing changes to the Dahlgren base access policy for retired federal civilians. Several of you also asked me about it at the picnic and I said I would check. So I have been in touch with the Dahlgren Public Affairs Officer and the latest is that a new policy is in effect. If you have a retired federal ID card, it is no longer valid and you must go to the base and get a new one. If you do not have one, you can go to the base and apply for one with your SF50. The new policy has several new procedures that you may be surprised about. Please come to our meeting on September 12 and find out all the latest information.

August is typically a month for vacation. So you may have been busy when the September NARFE magazine arrived in your mail box and you may have put it aside. Please take it out and look at page 10 for the article on the latest Federal Budget proposal. It has some very significant changes for both retired and active federal employees. Also if you are affected by the WEP (like I am), the latest on that legislation is on page 9. We can also discuss these issues at our September meeting.

I am very excited about our speaker for the September meeting, Christine Almassy. She is not only the granddaughter of long time chapter member, Dot Almassy, but she is also a member of our chapter as well. She will give a talk on the National Park Service (her employer). Please check the 1st Vice President's input for more information.

SAVE THE DATE: At the September meeting we will be discussing our annual Harvest Supper, our fundraiser for Alzheimer's. It will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at the Colonial Beach Moose Lodge. Also, even though it is September, it is not too early to start discussing plans for our Holiday meeting in December.

Looking forward to catching up with everyone on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at noon at the Hunan.

Leslie Ravenell, President

Colonial Beach Chapter 595

This month Food Bank items go to King George Dept of Social Services

MEETING NOTICE

September 12, 2023

12 PM at the Hunan

**Our speaker this month is Cristine Almassy, National
Park Service Employee**

Notes from the First Vice President:

This month we welcome as our speaker, our very own Christine Almassy. Christine will speak to us about her experiences as a National Park Service employee. She will focus on some of the things she's involved with at the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, or GEWA as it's known in the park service.

Christine grew up in the Fredericksburg area and later attended Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, where she majored in history and archeology. After teaching for a couple of years, she realized that while she loved the kids and interacting with them, she didn't like sitting in a classroom for 8 plus hours a day. So a career change was in the offing and Christine came to work at the Birthplace in 2019. She is currently assigned to the Interpretation and Education Division.

Her talk will include some information about her workday. She'll also tell us a little about some of the new initiatives in the National Park Service, including the impact of the park service on regional economies.

And finally, Christine will tell us about what's new at the Birthplace and the sister site, Thomas Stone National Historic Site in Charles County, Maryland:

- Upcoming events and Anniversaries: America 250,100 years at GEWA, George Washington's 300 birthday...
- Northern Neck National Heritage Area/ Southern Maryland National Heritage Area
- 1 million \$ Exhibit project at THST projected to be completed in late 2025.
- New 450-page Historic Resources Report for GEWA by Philip Levey: What I'm most excited about! What to expect from GEWA now...

The following is from FEDweek of August 26, 2023:

MSPB Rejects Restrictive Ruling on Whistleblower Protections

In a ruling that could pave the way to broader whistleblower protections for federal employees, the MSPB has returned to a hearing officer a case involving the issue of whether a disclosure would not qualify for protection because it was part of the employee's regular duties. Read at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/mspb-rejects-restrictive-ruling-on-whistleblower-protections/>

Report Compares Retirement Programs for Federal Employees, Members of Congress

A Congressional Research Service report compared the retirement programs of federal employees and members of Congress, including changes enacted a decade ago that ended-for members of Congress first elected afterward-an enhanced benefit for them. For a closer look, go to <https://www.fedweek.com/issue-briefs/report-compares-retirement-programs-for-federal-employees-members-of-congress/>

OPM Issues Guidance on Hours of Work Policies for Offsite Work

OPM has issued guidance to clarify when travel time for teleworkers and remote workers constitutes hours of work for purposes including eligibility for overtime.

The guidance covers both telework-in which an employee is expected to regularly report to work at an agency site and that remains the official duty station for purposes such as locality pay rates-and remote work, in which there is no such expectation and the offsite work location is the duty station. Read at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/opm-issues-guidance-on-hours-of-work-policies-for-offsite-work/>

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

<p>NARFE Chapter 595 8283 Oak Wood Dr King George, Virginia 22485</p>

Meeting Date
September 12
At the Hunan

Address Correction Requested

<p>We are on the Web https://www.vanarfe.org/ Chapter-595</p>
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