



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

**CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER**

**POST OFFICE BOX 1811**

**LOUISA, VIRGINIA 23093-1811**

*Contact: NARFE2065news@vanarfe.org*

**VOLUME XXXLII, NUMBER 9 – NOVEMBER 2023**

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Karen Cheatwood</b>	<b>703-606-6513</b>	<b>karenlaurasara@gmail.com</b>
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> V.P. /PROGRAM</b>	<b>Dick Shrum</b>	<b>540-872-5409</b>	<b>dickshrum@hughes.net</b>
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> V.P.</b>	<b>Lee Miller</b>	<b>540-872-4696</b>	<b>leeandjulie7@gmail.com</b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b>VACANT!</b>		
<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>Charles Alvarez</b>	<b>540-894-4804</b>	<b>alv10214@aol.com</b>

**CALENDAR**

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: Chapter Annual Meeting</b>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Christmas Luncheon - Noon., Bavarian Chef, Madison, VA, See PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for address and details</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program TBD</b>

**NOTE: If Louisa County schools are closed because of weather, Louisa County Chapter 2065's meeting is cancelled.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hopefully I'll remember to cover everything that is important to our chapter and the future.

The October meeting turned out to be a discussion among the executive board about possible scenarios for the future. Unfortunately, a few members who planned to attend the meeting and were just as interested as I was to visit the Louisa Historical Society and the Sergeant Museum had last minute issues and let us know that they would not be able to make the meeting. Our chapter did use the funds in the charity fund supplemented by donations from a few of us to thank the Historical Society for hosting our chapter meeting and to have the chapter recognized on their website and in documentation.

As we've all been aware, the November Chapter meeting is our annual meeting that is required in the Bylaws. The 2022 annual meeting was when the current officers volunteered to try another year to keep the Louisa Chapter going. Along with that we made some adjustments to the scheduled meetings so that members who are current employees could attend a couple dinner meetings and/or those who needed help getting to the meeting could do so. I, for one, don't really feel that these changes have enabled much of an increase in attendance. Thus the 2023 annual meeting finds us in the same spot as last year but with one important change; we **need a secretary as required in our Bylaws**.

From what I've heard the reason most chapters that have closed do so because no one wants to take on the duties of Chapter Officers. This is definitely not the case for the Louisa Chapter. The only open position is Secretary since Marilyn Root moved to be closer to family. Discussions at the October meeting included a number of options for consideration:

- ⇒ Dissolve the chapter
  - Discussion: None of us really want to see this happen. We've heard from some of you that you enjoy the newsletter even though you cannot make it to meetings. However, the NARFE magazine does provide a lot of the information that is important to us as

retired or active federal employees. There are also several emails that anyone can sign up for that provide information on items/articles relative to federal employees and retirees.

- If the chapter closes, all members have the option to transfer to another chapter or to become a national only member.
  - There is a defined process with steps that have to be taken before a chapter can close. It is a good bit of effort on all parts to complete the process.
- ⇒ Maintain the Louisa Chapter with a reduced number of meetings; possibly 2-4/year
- This would enable us to continue to keep Louisa as a NARFE chapter name. Possibly step up attendance in that it would be a better opportunity to learn about legislative, service and programs at the meetings.
  - This would require new Chapter Bylaws which Dick Shrum and I have said that we'd take on if this option were chosen.
  - Schedule of meetings would be TBD at this point.
  - Newsletters would only be published with the meeting scheduled.
  - Thoughts with meeting infrequently is that members will forget the meeting.
- ⇒ Other suggestions and recommendations? Please contact Dick Shrum or me or any of the officers by phone or e-mail. Contact information is at the beginning of this newsletter.

*MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL IS THAT EACH OF YOU LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN TO LOUISA CHAPTER 2065.* You can respond to this email or send any of the officers your comments, rants and/or suggestions. This is your chapter as well as ours, please help us to make it work for all. A sample proxy form is shown below; you can copy it and send it to us.

- [ ] Dissolve chapter**
- [ ] Maintain chapter with reduced meeting schedule**
- [ ] Keep chapter current meeting schedule & I'll try to attend one or two meetings**

*NOTE: If anyone would consider becoming Chapter Secretary, please contact me ASAP.*

The **Chapter Christmas Luncheon** will be held **Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at Bavarian Chef (5102 South Seminole Trail, Madison, Va 22727). If you haven't been there, the servers are in costume and serve delicious authentic German food. I know this is out of the immediate area but Dick and I are willing to drive folks if that would help. If you are interested in attending, please get in touch with me by the Chapter meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> (earlier is better) as we have to give the restaurant counts.

Note: The plan is to order off the menu unless we get over 12 or so attendees then we can talk to the restaurant about pre-arranged menu selections.

### **2023 MEETING DATES and times:**

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 11:30am Thursday (Annual Meeting)

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>. Noon. Sunday (Holiday Luncheon) at Bavarian Chef in Madison, VA

### **2024 MEETING DATES and times: TBD???**

If you have any ideas, comments, or suggestions about anything associated with our chapter and/or being a federal retiree or active employee, please contact me.

It has been a privilege serving as your President and it bothers me that this chapter may have to close.

**KAREN CHEATWOOD, PRESIDENT**

### **PROGRAM**

Here we are – November – and things are moving quickly when it comes to the weather. We've had frost warnings several days now, and the morning temperature was about 27 degrees today. But we are still a little on the lucky side: it looks like about half the country has already had some snow, and they think more is coming soon. So, if you can, stay warm!

Our October meeting at the Louisa County Historical Society in Louisa was excellent, but a little disappointing in the small number of participants. Karen has fully covered the numbers and agenda in her report above, so my focus will be on the organization itself. For those who missed it, the organization's website is [louisahistory.org/home](http://louisahistory.org/home), which offers lots of information on the many topics and projects. Its Executive Director, Katelyn Coughlan, was an excellent hostess for the entire event, joining us for lunch and participating in several conversations with us. A large part of that was her coverage of the several permanent exhibits that focus on the Louisa area, including native Americans, the

Revolution and Civil Wars, education, transportation and government, all found in the Sargeant Museum. There is an excellent selection of merchandise available, including books, historic maps, magazines and a variety of memorabilia. As planned, we brought lunch for all chapter members and Katelyn, including soft drinks, water and "fruit juice" (aka Chardonnay), with a choice of sandwiches and salads from Food Lion. If you haven't visited the facility, give it thought and even consider membership. It's an excellent experience and a definite benefit to the Louisa County region.

The November meeting is our annual business meeting, and, as such, no program is planned. Karen has described the agenda and importance in her President's message above. It will be a very important meeting as we consider our future. At the same time, another issue and request has come to Karen and me, which I plan to put on the table for discussion. Mike Rigdon, a longtime active participant in Lake Anna Civic Association and many other Virginia organizations, has focused on environmental quality and preservation for many years. While he is retiring from LACA, he will continue to remain very active in the region. First, he has invited our members to register and receive newsletters and other information on the subject. But second, with direct focus on the potential benefits that may come from our membership, he has asked NARFE and our chapter members to provide assistance in grant writing and general guidance related to Federal RFPs. To quote him, he feels "that NARFE members possess a great deal of experience in these matters that could ultimately benefit the lake as well as the entire watershed." Please consider this and come to our meeting with your thoughts on this.

**DICK SHRUM, PROGRAM CHAIR**

### **NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT**

*Status of the FY2024 Appropriations:*

**Agriculture (H.R. 4368/S. 2131)** passed the House - 9/28/2023

**Defense (H.R. 4365/S. 2587)** passed the house 9/28/2023

**Energy-Water (H.R. 4394/S. 2443)** passed the house 10/26/202 and is being consider as part of a minibud.

**Homeland Security (H.R. 4367/S. 2625)** passed the house 9/28/2023

**Legislative Branch (H. R. 4364/S. 2302)**

**Military Construction-Veterans Affairs (H.R.**

4366/S. 2127) passed the house 7/27/2023 and is being considered in the Senate as part of a minibus

**State-Foreign Operations (H.R. 4665/S. 2438)** passed the house 9/28/2023

**Transportation-HUD (H.R. 4820/S. 2437)** being considered in the Senate as part of a minibus

An item of note, we are halfway into the Continuing Resolution (CR) that Congress passed at the last minute on September 30 in order to keep the government running. Since the House finally elected a speaker Mike Johnson of LA, they should start moving again. However, there is talk of enacting another CR which could go to Jan 15 of 2024. More to come.

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

- **Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 H.R. 82 and S. 597** – has **298 Cosponsors** (201 Democrats, 97 Republicans) and S. 596 has 46 co-sponsors (36 democrats, 7 republicans and 3 independents) Virginia cosponsor representatives remained at 8 plus Senator Kaine is a cosponsor to S. 597.

- \* With newly elected Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson, and his stance on **Social Security**, Medicare and Medicaid as America's entitlement programs. Since he has vigorously championed budget resolutions proposing trillions in cuts to these programs., I'll only be updating this item if anything changes.

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. These topics include Saving the Civil Service Act, Long Tern Care Premiums, Equal COLA, etc.

<https://www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/>

**Karen Cheatwood in coordination with;  
RAY SIEWERT, ACTING LEGISLATIVE OFFICER**

### **LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS**

**Mark R. Warner;** United States Senate,  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-2023  
fax 202-224-6295

Email-Go to:

<http://warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=contact> and fill out the screen information requested.

**Tim Kaine;** United States Senate,  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-4024

fax 202-224-6363

Email-Go to: <http://kaine.senate.gov/contact/> and fill out the screen information requested.

**Abigail Spanberger;** U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-2815

fax 202-225-0011

Email: <http://spanberger.house.gov> and search the site

**Bob Good;** U.S. House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4711

Fax: (202) 225-5681

Email: <https://good.house.gov/> and search the site

**Bryce E. Reeves;** State Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District  
PO Box 7021, Fredericksburg , VA 22407  
540-645-8440

E-mail [district17@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district17@senate.virginia.gov)

**Mark J. Peake.** State Senator, 22<sup>nd</sup> District

E-mail [district22@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district22@senate.virginia.gov)

**John J. McGuire III;** State Delegate-56<sup>th</sup> District  
PO Box 87, Richmond, VA 23218  
804 389-8601

E-mail [DelJMcGuire@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelJMcGuire@house.virginia.gov)

**Robert D. Orrock, Sr.;** State Delegate-54<sup>th</sup> District  
P.O. Box 458, Thornburg, VA 22565  
540-891-1322

E-mail [DelBORrock@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelBORrock@house.virginia.gov)

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS & APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Service Officer -- *Vacant*

Chaplain– VACANT

Newsletter Editor – Lee Miller

540- 872-4696

Alzheimer's Fund – VACANT

National Legislation – Ray Siewert, *Actg.*

540-967-1544

State Legislation – *Vacant*

Membership – *Vacant*

Sunshine – *Vacant*

Public Relations – Dick Shrum

540-872-5409

Program – Dick Shrum

540-872-5409

Holiday lunch – VACANT

Commission on Aging – *Vacant*