



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Northern Neck Chapter 1823



*Serving Active & Retired Federal Employees,
Spouses, and Survivor Annuitants*

Virginia Federation of Chapters – Area 1

February 2024 – April 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Oh no; it is so cold. We started off the new year with a round robin discussion for our Soup and Sandwich meeting. The discussion went really well. We also gained three new members.

The future is scheduled. We have a great slate of meetings as we go forward. I see great things for our Chapter. Marilyn gives very good reviews about Chapter 1823 at every board meeting. I do want to see us do a dinner trip this year. Looking forward to hopefully being able to go fishing this year.

I must apologize for not being what I feel is a hundred percent, but we have an excellent Board of Directors, and I am so proud to be a part of this board, and our great chapter. I am using our chapter as an example for other chapters. Most other chapters meet at the same place every month, and some take the whole summer off. I feel that they are missing so much. I appreciate the fact that we do meet every month, and that our members are willing to help get speakers for the meetings.

The annual State meeting and conference is being held at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Convention Center April 7-10 2024. This is going to be a great conference, and I would like to see a lot of our members attend. The rates can't be beat. Seventy-five dollars gets you the conference, two lunches, a banquet and reception. That is if you pay by the 15th of February. After February 15th the fee is Ninety dollars. The hotel is giving us government per diem rate of \$107.00 a night. If you want to check in a night early, or stay another day, you get the same rate. Go to VANARFE.org and under the heading of Conference 2024, and you will have access to the registration forms and Bulletin One, which explains the conference.

President

Larry McIlwee
804-450-3919

joseph.mcilwee@verizon.net

1st Vice President

Bruce McMillan
804-580-8666

mcmillan@va.metrocast.net

2nd Vice President

John Hodges
804-450-1302

joseph.mcilwee@verizon.net

Past Vice President

John Yonce
804-438-8011

jyonce@va.metrocast.net

Secretary

Betty Gasper
804-453-6919

bettybmtjoy@gmail.com

Treasurer

Ted Munns
804-438-4194

tedmunns@va.metrocast.net

Editor

Katherine Paris
804-472-3523

bayfishers3@aol.com

Senator Tim Kaine will be one of the keynote speakers. Also, Congresswoman Spanberger will be speaking on the WEP/GPO. Did you know that there was a German Prisoner of War camp in the Shenandoah Valley. We will have a historian, who has also written a book, do a presentation about the German Prisoner of War Camp in that area.

Stay tuned. We have a great year planned, and it will be getting better all the time.

God Bless You, and God Bless The United States of America.

Larry McIlwain

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

No new national legislation to report at this time.

– Bruce McMillan

STATE LEGISLATION

We have divided government in Virginia, with a governor from one party and the other party leading (with a slight majority) the House and Senate. Hopefully, they will cooperate and learn to compromise.

The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN), of which our chapter is a part, has developed a “2024 State Legislative Plan.” I participated in that development. The plan has 4 focus areas for legislation:

1. Exempting a segment of CSRS Pensions equal to Social Security treatment for State taxes.
2. Age deduction applied to all income levels.
3. Family Caregiver Tax Credit
4. Nursing Home priorities – Minimum hourly staffing (I pointed out that quality of staff is just as important, if not more so). Funds for the Virginia Center on Aging Geriatric Education Center (increases quality). And living wages for direct care workers.

– John Hodges

CHAPTER 1823 EVENTS

Past Events



On November 7th Chapter 1823 members met at the Henderson Methodist Church in Callao, VA. Robert Chapman, Educator and Consultant for Promoting Change through Self-Discovery, spoke to the group on the topic of “Behavior Change: It’s Not Easy, But Perhaps Simpler Than You Think.” He outlined 10 key characteristics of those who successfully overcome old habits and establish new ones.

On November 9th 7 stalwart fishing people joined Captain Dave and Mate Ray on the BayQuest for the Annual Fishing Trip. November 9th was a beautiful day on the Potomac River waters. Fishing was light as Captain Dave ran from “bump” to “bump” where the fish might be found. Hooked 35 fish, but only three of which were keepers. A fishing trip will be planned again next November. Hopefully, with better luck on the fish.

– Bruce McMillan



On December 6th thirty members enjoyed a wonderful holiday lunch at the Wicomico Parish Hall in Wicomico Church, VA. Terry Bain, of Excellent Eats, and her assistant catered a wonderful buffet luncheon for the group.



Guest Marilyn Riddle, Area Vice President, attended the luncheon and at the conclusion, swore in the Chapter’s new slate of officers.

Our Alzheimer's Silent Auction was another success. Proceeds from the Auction totaled \$396, and generous private donations of \$350 was also made.

On January 9th chapter members met at the Wicomico Episcopal Church in Wicomico, VA on a cold winter day for soup and sandwich. Unfortunately, the guest speaker was unable to make it due to contracting COVID. The group took the opportunity to discuss past and future meetings of the chapter, and to come up with ideas for future presenters and things the chapter would like to do.

Upcoming Events

February 6 – The chapter will be meeting at the Backdraft Restaurant in Kinsale, VA. Guest speaker Alva Jackson, owner of Ma Margaret's B & B in Reedville, VA will speak to the group. Chapter members and guests will order off the menu.

March 5 – Chief Balderson, Northumberland County Rescue Squad, will speak to the group on Public Safety. Location will be provided at a further date.

April 4 – **CANCELLED** for attendance at the Virginia NARFE Conference.

NARFE ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

The annual state conference for National Active and Retired Employees will be held; April 7-10, 2024, at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Convention Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The 2024 Conference Theme is "Together We Will Succeed." For more information visit the VFN website at www.vanarfe.org.

MEMBERSHIP

Chapter 1823 Membership Chair Still Needed! Please give it some consideration and let the board know if you would consider taking this much needed position. In this time, we need

all the members we can get to help support and protect our retirement benefits. The Membership Chair is supported by our Board, the State Membership Chair, as well as the National Membership Chair and would be responsible for membership recruitment, retention, and reinstatement. Later this year, the President of the Virginia Federation of NARFE, and the still acting Membership Chair, will be meeting with us to discuss membership.

If interested please contact Larry McIlwee at joseph.mcilwee@verizon.net or Bruce McMillan at mcmillan@va.metrocast.net.

SERVICE OFFICER INFORMATION

I am available to provide assistance to members on procedures and forms governing delivery of annuity payments, federal life and health insurance, survivor benefits, change of beneficiary, or federal income tax withholding.

I can also assist in resolving problems involving claims submitted to OPM by chapter members. Please contact me at (804) 453-4466, if you need assistance.

– Bud Bolger

Winner of the 50/50 Cash Drawing

November – John Hodges
December – Gary Wood
January – Bruce McMillan

CHAPTER 1823 CONTACTS

Alzheimer's – John Yonce (438-8011)
Chaplain – Mike Ramming
Membership – Vacant
Nat'l Legislation – Bruce McMillan (580-8666)
State Legislation – John Hodges (804-450-1302)
Programs – Vacant
Publicity – Nellie Landrum (529-6415)
Sergeant-at-Arms – Stan Brown (453-7502)
Service Officer – Bud Bolger (453-4466)
Network Coordinator – Linda Steele (472-8982)

LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

Richard H. Stuart (VA State Senator - 25th Dist.)

P.O. Box 1146
 Montross, VA 22520
 Phone 804/493-8892 / Fax: 804/493-8897
 Email: senatorstuart@senate.virginia.gov

Ryan T. McDougle (VA State Senator - 26th Dist.)

P.O. Box 187
 Mechanicsville, VA 23111
 Phone 804/730-1026 / Fax: 804/730-1051
 Email: senatormcdougle@senate.virginia.gov

M. Keith Hodges (VA State Delegate - 68th Dist.)

P.O. Box 928
 Urbanna, VA 23175
 Phone 804/277-9801 / Fax: 804/695-0216
 Email: DelKHodges@house.virginia.gov

Hillary Pugh Kent (VA State Delegate - 67th Dist.)

P.O. Box 785
 Warsaw, VA 22572
 Phone: 804/456-8360
 Email: DelHKent@house.virginia.gov

Mark Warner (U.S. Senate)

919 E. Main St., Suite 630
 Richmond, VA 23219
 Phone: 804/771-2221 / Fax: 804/771-313
 Email: Chris_Monioudis@warner.senate.gov

Tim Kaine (U.S. Senate)

507 East Franklin Street
 Richmond, VA 23219
 Phone: 804/771-2221 / Fax: 804/771-8313
 Email: Marc_Cheatham@Kaine.Senate.gov

Rob Wittman (U.S. House of Representatives)

508 Church Lane
 Tappahannock, VA 22560
 Phone: 804/443-0668 / Fax: 804/443-0671
 Email: www.wittman.house.gov

VA Federation of Chapters

Check the website at www.vanarfe.org to find our Chapter's quarterly newsletter, website, and other additional information

CHAPTER 1823 Website

Visit us at www.narfe.org/site/chapter1823 or Google "NARFE Chapter 1823" to view upcoming and past events, newsletters, and important links. You can also get to the website by going onto www.vanarfe.org and clicking on "List of Chapters" on the left column and then clicking on "1823".

REMINDER!

If you change your email address, please send your new address to narfechp1823@yahoo.com.



LAWS CAN CHANGE – SO CAN YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFITS!!

- February 6** **1:00 pm – Black History Month, Backdraft**, 7415 Oldhams Road, Kinsale, VA. Speaker: Alva Jackson, Owner of Ma Margaret's House B&B in Reedville, VA. Chapter members and guests will order of the menu.
- March 5** **1:00 pm – TBD.** Speaker: Chief Balderson, Northumberland County Rescue Squad, "Public Safety."
- April 2** **CANCELLED** due to the VANARFE Conference being held April 17-19 19 April.
- May 7** **12:00 pm – Spring Memorial Luncheon.** Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington VA. Speaker: TBD. More information will be coming out at a later date.