

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

Volume 29 Issue 1

January 2024

President's Letter: January 2024

Dear Members of Colonial Beach Chapter 595,

By the time you read this letter it will be 2024!! Happy New Year!! I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday. Rich and I went to his brother's house in Delaware but we came home with the flu and we are still recovering.

So ask anyone who was at the December meeting and they will tell you what a great Christmas party we had! As I wrote last month we played that game with the Christmas gifts where your number was called, you picked the gift and opened it. When the next person was called, they could take a new gift or steal yours! Everyone was so polite. I think the only gifts that were stolen were by Rich and me. But in the end everyone went home with gift they wanted. We also gave away Christmas ornaments and decorations.

But now it is time to get down to business for 2024. At our December meeting the following chapter officers were elected to serve in 2024: President: Leslie Ravenell, 1st Vice President: Jim Lynch, Secretary: Ann Mills, and Treasurer: Stan Palen. At our meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, Past VFN President, Bob Martin will install the officers for 2024.

Since it is January, Congress will be back in session: Will there be a government shutdown? Will they support our NARFE issues or vote against them? Will the WEB/GPO issue gain more momentum and actually make it to the floor for a congressional vote? Both Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger, Congressional District Seven and Congressman Rob Wittman, Congressional District One are already onboard. Also, our State Legislature will be in session soon. Will they support the state issues that our VFN Board has presented to them in our published pamphlet? I will have a copy of the VFN 2024 State Legislative Plan available for you at the January meeting. Our main issues are Exempting a Segment of CSRS Pensions Equivalent to Social Security Retirement, Age Deduction for State Income Tax, Family Caregiver Tax Credit, and Nursing Home Priorities. We will discuss these issues at the meeting. Lots will be happening in 2024 including a Presidential election.

So much to learn and discuss as we start off the new year. Please come out and join us for our meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at noon at the Hunan Diner.

Leslie Ravenell, President

Colonial Beach Chapter 595

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

Editor note: For those that have BC/BS Insurance, it appears that you should opt out of the Medicare option. Folks are finding the prescription costs are higher and some of the medications are not available to you. Apparently you can still opt out.

MEETING NOTICE

January 9, 2024

12 PM at the Hunan

Installation of officers and discussions of pending State and Federal Legislation that may have an impact on our wallet.

I thought I'd list the upcoming speakers we have lined up. We're grateful for them being willing to take the time out of their busy days to come visit our meetings.

January, Officer installation. The installing officer will be Bob Martin VFN Past President.

February, Lisa Hull, with the Northern Neck Regional Commission. She will tell us about the newly designated NN Heritage Area.

March, Ann Kloeckner is the executive director of Legal Aid Works.

April, Dr. Kelley Fanto Deetz, Stratford Hall

May, Lisa Biever, Northern Neck Land Conservancy

June, Ron Owens, Exec Secty, Potomac River Fisheries Commission

I'm working with some other members to fill out slots for next fall. If anyone has some ideas for speakers or topics, please let me know.

Jim Lynch, 1st VP

FEDweek Weekly Round Up: Wed, Dec. 27, 2023

[Order Signed for Largest Raise in Four Decades; New Localities to Take Effect](#)

President Biden has signed an executive order for a 5.2 percent federal employee pay raise in January, with 4.7 percent paid across the board and the funds for the other 0.5 percentage points used for locality pay. Read at <https://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/biden-signs-order-for-largest-raise-in-four-decades-at-5-2-percent/>

[2024 COLA below Those of 2022 and 2023 but Still on High Side for Recent Years](#)

The retiree COLA to be paid effective Monday (January 1)—3.2 percent to those retired under CSRS and 2.2 percent to those retired under FERS who are eligible for COLAs—will be well below those of 2022 and 2023 but apart from them still will be the largest since the 3.6/2.6 COLAs paid in 2012.

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

NARFE Chapter 595
8283 Oak Wood Dr
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Meeting Date

January 9

At the Hunan

Address Correction Requested

We are on the Web
[https://www.vanarfe.org/
Chapter-595](https://www.vanarfe.org/Chapter-595)