



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER

POST OFFICE BOX 1811

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CALENDAR

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|--|
| APRIL | 18 | Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: Louisa County Sherriff's Office, Sgt. Chuck Love |
| JUNE | 20 | Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: Update on Uganda Medical Center, Bob Maher and possible guest speaker |
| JULY &AUGUST | | Summer break |

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that each of you have been enjoying the beautiful weather that we've been having lately. Spring is here as the plants and trees are blooming everywhere. It is a suitable time to be in central Virginia and appreciate that we live in a fantastic area.

A lot has been going on with NARFE: The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) conference starts in a few weeks and Marilyn and Gerry Root will be representing Chapter 2065 at this conference. We should get a report from them on the activities they took part in and hope that they have a good time. If anyone else would like to attend, please let me know.

There have been emails announcing the NARFE Conference in St. Louis, Missouri on Aug 18-20, 2024. There is more information on the programs, scheduling, and hotel at the NARFE.org website.

Getting down to our chapter level, we've come up with ideas for programs at our meetings until the Annual meeting in November. However, if there is something that anyone particularly would like to see us try to have, please let us know and we will put it on the agenda.

I do not know about any of you, but I have been seeing the questions and comments from fellow NARFE members on FedHub. It is a chat site that is for and available to all NARFE members and provides experience, comments and views from other federal retirees and employees. The latest has included discussion on the fact the OMB encouraged federal health plans to automatically sign their members up for Medicare D if you paid for Medicare B. It amazes me that NARFE fought for the postal employees for years about being required to take Medicare B to keep their health plan. So now that is a done thing for new postal retirees, there doesn't seem to be any fight by NARFE for the rest of us. I think this is something that NARFE should be advocating for us, if anyone knows how to make HQ get on the band wagon for us, please let me know.

2024 MEETING DATES and times: April 18, 2024, at 11:30am Romas in Louisa; June 20, 2024, at 11:30am Romas; September 19, 2024, at 11:30am Romas; November 21, 2024, at Romas; December TBD. (July and August is summer vacation). Please note the meeting location may change depending on our program.

It continues to be a privilege to serve as your President, but I would welcome any help and/or suggestions. I would also hope to see you at a meeting,

KAREN CHEATWOOD, PRESIDENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance Led by Karen with six members present.

The legislative update was given on the WEP/GPO which now has 300 sponsors. Hopefully this issue will be addressed in the near future.

Gerry and Marilyn Root will be attending the VFN conference representing our chapter. We will also be placing a chapter ad for the conference.

The treasurer's report was given which is not published. If anyone wants to know give a call.

There was a small discussion on Geha healthcare just prior to the regular program.

For the program, everyone spoke about their government service or anything they wanted to talk about. Dick gave a very good and interesting talk. We also discussed future programs.

Chapter by laws were given out and there was no Alzheimer drawing.

Charlie made a motion to adjourn seconded by Bob.

BOB MAHER, CO-SECRETARY

PROGRAM

Well, we can confirm now that there was no truth to the rumor that Global Warming may have ended, as I reported in my last article. We clearly had several days in the near 80's in recent weeks, along with a few days in the 30's. And now, Springtime is here again, and it looks like the next two weeks will be in the 55-65-degree range, as it should be.

At our February meeting, the program was "Everyone Speaks!" and all our attendees spent a little time on their topic of choice. For me, it was enjoyable to go back to growing up on Lake Erie, graduating from the USCG Academy, a Bermuda yacht race, years on and off ships, duties with maritime organizations, and such until retirement from my paying jobs. With my move to Lake Anna, it all shifted to the local waters, teaching the boating safety course, and becoming a member of the CG Auxiliary, LACA water quality monitoring, and a LAAC member for Louisa County, all with the sunrise over the lake waking me each morning. And now to April... Even with our smaller number of attendees, I have arranged for an outstanding local organization and expert to attend our meeting and discuss matters of great importance to Louisa County and to each of us individually. The speaker will be Sergeant Chuck Love of the LC Sheriff's Office, who spoke to us a couple years ago. He will cover many of the current LCSO programs: animal control, apps and alerts, law enforcement academy and adventure program, chaplain corps, LCSO Foundation, project lifesaver, and the many youth programs and benefits. Of note is their SHIELD Program, a community-focused policing method to counter crime, threats, and even terrorism by engaging community members and partners. Finally, we will cover

the local Most Wanted List, but I've confirmed that not a single chapter member is on the list. Please consider attending the meeting and bring your questions with you.

Regarding future programs, the June meeting will provide a follow-up report on this year's medical assistance trip to Uganda from Bob Maher and his team in Palmyra. This fall, we will have a medical insurance expert to provide guidance on changes to the system and particular information for Federal retirees. We are always appreciative of any ideas or suggestions you may have, and in the meantime, stay warm!

DICK SHRUM, PROGRAM CHAIR

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

On February 29th Congress passed a 4th Continuing Resolution (CR) to once again work on the 2024 appropriations bills. They also announced that they reached an agreement for 2024. The CR was again staged in 2 phases, but the areas in each stage had changed; they are:

Since we are past March 8th, the status of H.R. 4366, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024," covers Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy-water, Interior-Environment, Veterans Affairs-Military Construction, and Transportation-HUD was signed by the President and provides full-year funding through September 30, 2024.

The remaining appropriations are still being worked since there are issues with funding for the Department of Homeland Security. Release of text for the complete six-bill package is now expected Monday March 18th at the earliest. This puts Congress on a compressed timeline to clear the legislation before Friday March 22nd, when deadline #2 comes up.

The issues with Homeland Security bill include two major areas of contention; Republicans' desire for more funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention bed capacity, and Democrats' push for more money for Transportation Security Administration pay raises, as TSA workers were historically paid less than those at other agencies.

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 – Co-sponsors have increased to 310 in the house (204 Democrats, 106 Republicans) and 53 in the senate (41 democrats, 9 republicans and 3 independents).

The other bills related to Social Security are H.R.4583/S.2280-Social Security 2100 Act.

For **FY 2025** which starts 1 October 2024, the President, in his budget, has proposed a 2% pay raise for current employees. It will be many months before we know the

results of this proposal.

Consider going to the advocacy page of the NARFE.org website where there are prepared letters on some of the topics discussed above or that are important to federal employees/retirees. You can write your own letter/e-mail and they will ensure that it is sent to your representative and senators plus notify you that the e-mail was sent. NARFE also gives you the ability to send comments to your representative and senator using Twitter ("X") if that is your preference. These topics include Saving the Civil Service Act, Long Term Care Premiums, Equal COLA, etc.

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

**Karen Cheatwood in coordination with;
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