



# 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

May 2024 – July 2024

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! Well, it is spring once again. It has been a good year, but a trying year. I am so blessed to be the President of the Northern Neck Chapter. We have a great chapter, and as I look at other chapters, I believe we have the best meetings of the Federation.

In the past year, I have had many trying times, but in those times, I have really noticed how our Chapter, and the Virginia Federation of NARFE gave me support. I feel like having caring members really makes the job so much easier. We still need to strive to recruit new members.

The conference was a success. We did have a time when some of the Federation board doubted that it would be very well attended, but we had 123 registered attendees. We had the highest number of exhibitors and vendors, and actually set a record. Next year will be even better. We had three professors from James Madison University that spoke to the group. A Dr. Philip Frana did a presentation on Artificial Intelligence. Dr. Edna Reid spoke on Cyber Security for Seniors. Dr. Timothy Walton spoke on the CIA Past and Future. I do encourage you to attend the conference next year, if at all possible. It will be held at the Hotel Madison again next year. They gave us the best rates of anybody. I am running for First Vice President of the Virginia Federation once again. Please vote. Out of 10,000 plus members, only 356 voted last year.

I look forward to continuing serving with you for the rest of this year. We have some great meetings coming up. Please invite your friends that you worked with and other retirees that you meet to our chapter. Thank you and have a great summer!

*Larry McIlwee*

### **President**

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## NATIONAL LEGISLATION

NARFE Headquarters reported “The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security held a critical hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) on April 16, the second hearing this Congress focused on these issues.” There are 318 House cosponsors and 53 Senate cosponsors of the bills to eliminate these provisions affecting retirees who have both government service- based pensions such as CSRS and earned Social Security benefits from private sector employment. The next major steps would be for the House bill to be “marked up” in Committee and scheduled for consideration by the full House. One estimate indicates that this repeal could cost the Social Security Trust Fund approximately \$150 Billion. NARFE headquarters strongly encourages members to contact their Senators and House Representatives to support this action.

– Bruce McMillan

## STATE LEGISLATION

The Commonwealth of Virginia does not have a budget (yet). One was passed by the House and Senate. However, the governor made over 200 amendments to the budget and returned it. The Governor’s office and Legislative leaders agreed to start over, work together, and create a new budget. A special session will be held to complete the new budget.

I attended the Virginia Federation of NARFE 2024 Annual Meeting and Conference held 7 through 10 April in Harrisonburg, VA. It was excellent and I learned a lot. On 10 April I met with Ms. Carol Brown, the new VA NARFE State Legislative Chair, to organize for 2025. I’ll be working with her and other Chapter State Points of Contact (POC) to craft the VA NARFE 2025 State Legislative Plan. In addition, I plan to participate with Ms. Brown and other Chapter POCs and visit our representatives and senators early next year.

– John Hodges

## CHAPTER 1823 EVENTS

### Past Events



**On February 6** Chapter members met at The Backdraft Restaurant in Kinsale, VA. Guest speaker Alva Jackson, Program Director of the Northern Neck Hidden History Trail (and owner of Ma Margaret’s B & B in Reedville, VA) spoke to

the group about a new interactive website that will use new and existing information from various sources, people and historical documents in the Northern Neck of Virginia and enable users to develop their own tour of the Trail. This Trail reveals a more comprehensive and inclusive historic picture through the lenses of people of color to promote a greater sense of place. For more information, you can contact Ava at [nkhhtrail@gmail.com](mailto:nkhhtrail@gmail.com).

**On March 5** Chapter members met at Bella Pizza & Italian Restaurant in Tappahannock, VA. Guest speaker Calvin Balderson, Chief of Emergency Services, Northumberland County Rescue Squad spoke to the group on Public Safety.



Chief Balderson described the variety of emergency services provided by Northumberland County. There are 22 full-time and 17 part-time staff members and they rely heavily on volunteers. The county covers 586 miles and has approximately 12,000 residents. Emergency services average 8 emergency calls daily. **On April 7-10** the annual Virginia Federation Conference (VFN) was held in Harrisonburg, Virginia at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center. VFN 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (and Chapter 1823

President), Larry McIlwee served as the Conference Coordinator. Larry sang a solo for the Memorial Service at the conference. Other Chapter Members who attended included Stan and Carol Brown, John Hodges, Bruce McMillan, and Jim and Nellie Landrum.

**Upcoming Events**


**May 7** – The 2024 spring anniversary memorial luncheon begins at noon and will be held again at the Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington, VA. Our guest speaker will be Henry Lane Hull.

**July 2** – the Chapter will meet at the Reedville Fishermen’s Museum in Reedville for a tour of the facility and for our annual ice cream social.

**Annual Chapter 1823 Fishing – 2024**

Bruce McMillan will schedule the Annual Fishing trip on Bay Quest for early November. Unfortunately, due to over fishing of Rockfish, the current regulations only allow one keeper per person that is between 19 and 24 inches for this year.

**MEMBERSHIP**



***In Memoriam***

It is with much sorrow that we announce the passing of Chapter Member ***Thomas (Tom) Schroeder*** on February 28, 2024. Our deepest condolences go out to all of their family and friends. They will be very much missed.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!**

**Nina Bhat and Elsie Sykes.**

**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.

If interested please contact Larry McIlwee at [joseph.mcilwee@verizon.net](mailto:joseph.mcilwee@verizon.net) or Bruce McMillan at [mcmillan@va.metrocast.net](mailto: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**

**February – Carole Boyd**  
**March – Betty Gasper**

**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 - 25<sup>th</sup> Dist.)**

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 Montross, VA 22520  
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### **Ryan T. McDougle (VA State Senator - 26<sup>th</sup> Dist.)**

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### **M. Keith Hodges (VA State Delegate - 68<sup>th</sup> Dist.)**

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### **Hillary Pugh Kent (VA State Delegate - 67<sup>th</sup> Dist.)**

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### **Mark Warner (U.S. Senate)**

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### **Tim Kaine (U.S. Senate)**

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### **Rob Wittman (U.S. House of Representatives)**

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#### **REMINDER!**

If you change your email address, please send your new address to [narfechp1823@yahoo.com](mailto:narfechp1823@yahoo.com).

#### **VA Federation of Chapters**

Check the website at [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org) to find our Chapter's quarterly newsletter, website, and other additional information.



**NARFE**

### ***LAWS CAN CHANGE – SO CAN YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFITS!!***

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|--------------------|---|
| <b>May 7</b>       | <b>12:00 pm – Spring Memorial Luncheon.</b> Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington VA. Speaker: Henry Lane Hull.   |
| <b>June 4</b>      | <b>1:00 pm – TBD.</b> Speaker: TBD. More information will be coming out at a later date.  |
| <b>July 2</b>      | <b>1:00 pm – Reedville Fisherman's Museum.</b> Facility Tour and Ice Cream Social. Entrance Fee: TBD  |
| <b>August 6</b>    | <b>1:00 pm – TBD.</b> Speaker: TBD. More information will be coming out at a later date.  |
| <b>September 3</b> | <b>12:00 pm – Annual Picnic at Belle Isle Humphrey's Shelter #1.</b> (Burgers, hotdogs & sausages will be furnished). Last names starting with A-L bring a salad/side dish, M-Z a dessert). Speaker: Congressman Rob Wittman. The Democratic counterpart will be contacted. |