



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER

POST OFFICE BOX 1811

LOUISA, VIRGINIA 23093-1811

Contact: NARFE2065news@vanarfe.org

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ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Karen Cheatwood	703-606-6513	karenlaurasara@gmail.com
1ST V.P.	Dick Shrum	540-872-5409	dickshrum@hughes.net
SECRETARY	Bob Maher	434-589-1170	paws618@embarqmail.com
TREASURER	Charles Alvarez	540-894-4804	alv10214@aol.com

CALENDAR

DECEMBER	19	Luncheon	- 11:30 a.m., Rhett's Bar & Grill, program: socialization
FEBRUARY	20	Chapter Meeting	- 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: TBD
ARIL	17	Chapter Meeting	- 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: TBD

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah and a very Happy New Year to each of you and your families.

We have good news and not so good news from the Chapter's annual meeting last month. The good news is that the chapter will continue for 2025 with current officers continuing in their positions except we could use a 2nd Vice President. The issue that I see facing us is the vacant position of a program chair as that is the idea maker regarding guest speakers and/or programs we try to plan for at our meetings; please send us your ideas and/or consider assisting with this important planning position.

The chapter will continue to meet every other month with a summer break and Christmas luncheon. Our meeting schedule for 2025 is Feb 20th, Apr 17th, Jun 19th, Sep 18th, Nov 20th and Dec 18th.

The last 2024 MEETING will be the Christmas Luncheon on December 19th. It will be at **Rhett's Bar & Grill, 134 Wood Ridge Terrace Suite 100, Zion Crossroads, Va 22942**. This is across US-15 from the Walmart shopping area in Zion Crossroads. As an added incentive, the chapter is planning to cover dessert for attendees. If you'd still like to join us, please drop me a line. Also, if anyone would like to share a ride, please let me know.

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 November meeting had nine members in attendance; it was nice to see those who joined us.

Karen reported that HR82 passed the House. The Senate equivalent bill, S597, needs to be approved by December, or the process starts all over again. This bill is called the Social Security Fairness Act.

Several members discussed how NARFE PAC distributed political donations mostly to Democratic federal campaigns, but some local. Most kept their opinions to themselves, luckily.

In order to have a chapter, we need a President and Secretary. Karen agreed to serve again as our President and Bob agreed to stay on as Secretary. Charlie agreed to be Treasurer and Lee will continue to be editor of our newsletter. We need a new program coordinator and Dick agreed to assist whoever takes on that responsibility. One thought was to have a member assume responsibility for a program for just one meeting. For example, Bob is willing to present updates to his Uganda program after his next trip. Another idea was a road trip to the veteran's memorial or other places of interest in Richmond. If anyone has suggestions, please forward them to Karen or

bring them to the next meeting. As a reminder, our meetings are the 3rd Thursday of Feb, Apr, Jun, Sep, Nov and Dec. These could fluctuate if something comes up, but notice will be given. Mark your calendars and be sure to join us.

Our Christmas lunch will be at Rhett's Bar and Grill in Zion Crossroads on December 19th, 11:30am. We will order from the menu. Karen will discuss with them a way the chapter can cover some portion of the expense, perhaps desert. Reservations should be sent to Karen by December 5th, a separate email will be sent as a reminder.

There was discussion about how our charity money (other than Alzheimer's fund) could be distributed. This is something we should think about for the next meeting. Bob agreed to take on responsibility for the 50/50 as this is the source of our charity contributions and hasn't been done recently.

Charlie provided the Treasurer's report. Charlie motioned and Dick seconded the approval of the last meeting minutes.

Everyone should be receiving emails about web training courses from National. Karen offered to forward them to anyone who doesn't receive them, just let her know. There should be another person authorized to sign checks for the chapter. Karen and Dick will coordinate in January.

Bob shared his very positive experience using a BC/BS representative who helped him save significant money on medical plans. GEHA and many other companies offer these services. It pays to shop around.

Lee motioned and Charlie seconded to adjourn the meeting.

JULIE MILLER, CO-SECRETARY

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

FY2025 appropriations status: The current Continuing Resolution (CR) is still in effect until Dec 20, 2024. There hasn't been any news regarding an extension or action by Congress on the FY2025 appropriation bills. Stay tuned as things should heat up quickly.

An item that we have been tracking is really in play now; H.R. 82 the Social Security Fairness Act to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), passed the House on Nov 12th with overwhelming bipartisan support, 327-75. Although S.597, the Senate version of the Social Security Fairness Act has 60 co-sponsors which is enough to be brought to the floor for a vote also giving it a filibuster-proof majority. We are now urging the Senate to bring this bill to the floor. Since this is the furthest these bills have gotten, it makes sense to continue the momentum before the session ends this month. Please use the NARFE Action

Center to urge your senators to make that happen. The issue is that this is the last month of the current Congress; if S. 597 does not get to a floor vote, everything that has been done so far will have to be restarted in the next Congress.

There is currently a rally going on at the U.S. Capitol jointly hosted by NARFE, the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the National Education Association (NEA), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization (AFL-CIO), and more – to urge Senators to vote on and pass the Social Security Fairness Act. We'll also be joined by leaders of the effort in the Senate and House. Hopefully that will get some action in the Senate.

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.

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

KAREN CHEATWOOD, 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, 28th District
PO Box 7021, Fredericksburg, VA 22407
540-645-8440

E-mail district17@senate.virginia.gov

John J. McGuire III; State Senate-10th District
PO Box 87, Richmond, VA 23218
804 698-7510

E-mail SenatorMcGuire@senate.virginia.gov

Robert D. Orrock, Sr.; State Delegate-66th District
P.O. Box 458, Thornburg, VA 22565
540-891-1322

E-mail DelBORock@house.virginia.gov

Phillip A. Scott; State Delegate-63rd District
2215 Plank Rd. #287, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-360-3789

E-Mail DelPScott@house.virginia.gov

Nicholas L. Freitas; State Delegate-62nd District
P.O. Box 693, Culpepper, VA 22701
540-222-7706

E-Mail DelegateNFreitas@house.virginia.gov

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & APPOINTED POSITIONS

Service Officer -- *Vacant*

Chaplain-- *Vacant*

Newsletter Editor – Lee Miller 540-907-2440

Alzheimer's Fund – *Vacant*

National Legislation –Karen Cheatwood 703-606-6513

State Legislation – *Vacant*

Membership – *Vacant*

Sunshine – *Vacant*

Public Relations – Dick Shrum 540-872-5409

Program – *Vacant*

Holiday lunch – *Vacant*

Commission on Aging – *Vacant*