



# National Active and Retired Federal Employees Northern Neck Chapter 1823



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

Virginia Federation of Chapters – Area 1

February 2025 – April 2025

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, here we are again, time for another newsletter. Time is moving along. We have inaugurated our 47<sup>th</sup> President. Oh, and it is really cold, and record of 8" of snow in the Outer Banks, and snow in Louisiana, and Myrtle Beach. Some of these folks don't have snow plows. Hmmm. It is still not too late for us to have snow either, but I kind of hope it is over for the year, and that we can head back to warmer temperatures.

Folks, as usual, we have an interesting year of meetings unfolding with interesting speakers and activities. Please try to attend, and also, I need each member's help in recruiting new members. I would like to thank Carol Brown for stepping up to the task of being our Membership Chair, and she can use our help in this task. I know that many of us have friends, or former co-workers that have retired from the Federal Government that we can recruit to join our chapter. But, oh wait, they can still be active Government employees. Remember, it is **National Active and Retired Federal Employees**.

Another milestone is that the WEP/GPO bill passed and was signed into law by President Biden.

I really want each one of you to consider taking a little winter trip to the great area of Harrisonburg, Virginia April 6-9, 2025 for our annual conference. The room fee for each night is only \$107.00, at the Hotel Madison, and Shenandoah Valley Convention Center. There will be companies there with all kinds of information for retirees, and great speakers at the conference. The Federation is supplying lunch Monday and Tuesday, and a Reception on Monday night, and a banquet on Tuesday night for the affordable price of \$95.00 for early bird, and after February 15<sup>th</sup>, \$120.00. There will be activities in the local area that you can visit.

### **President**

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The rooms are studio with either two queen, or one king bed, and very comfortable. The hotel is on the wonderful campus of James Madison University.

I am running for the office of President of the Virginia Federation of NARFE for the coming year. I would treasure your support and votes in this endeavor.

Please try to keep warm, and make sure to attend our monthly meetings the first Tuesday each month. We don't meet in the same place each month. Thank you for being a member of our chapter, and God Bless each and every one of you.

*Larry McIlwee*

**NATIONAL LEGISLATION**

With the installation of a new Congress, any legislation not previously passed will have to be introduced again for consideration. The current Administration is preparing a wide range of Executive Orders to implement its policy choices.

At this time, it appears that most proposals focus on active-duty Federal employees. I suggest that Chapter members subscribe to the NARFE Daily News Clips for up-to-date reports.

– Bruce McMillan

**STATE LEGISLATION**

No state legislation to report. For any new information and updates, please visit [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org).

– John Hodges

**CHAPTER 1823 EVENTS**

**Past Events**



It was a pleasant day to go fishing on **November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024** with Captain Rowe and his First Mate on the BayQuest out of Lottsburg,

VA. Every one worked hard, but only three keeper rock fish. Still fun. Next year, we may wish to target other species such as Blues and Spanish Mackerel for more action.



– Bruce McMillan



**On November 5** Chapter members and guests met at the Ditchley Cider Works (DCW) in Kilmarnock, VA for a cider tasting. Opened in the fall of 2018, DCW is a small, veteran-owned and operated maker of hard apple cider, and producer of pork, beef, and poultry products and venue for group events and experience visits. Owner Cathy Calhoun shared her and her husband's efforts in starting up the Cidery after they purchased it through an auction and talked about the history and their renovations of the plantation.



**On December 3<sup>rd</sup>** 33 attendees met at the Wicomico Parish Hall in Wicomico Church, VA for the annual holiday luncheon.

Terry Bain, of Excellent Eats, and her assistant catered a wonderful buffet luncheon for the group.



Guests in attendance included Bill Shackelford, NARFE National President; and his wife, Donna Shackelford, Alzheimer's Research; Marilyn Riddle, Area I Vice President and Congressional District Liaison; Doris McAdams, Public Relations; and Francis Boatman, Membership Chair. At the conclusion, Francis Boatman swore in the Chapter's new slate of officers.



Many thanks go to Bruce McMillan for making arrangements at the church and to Excellent Eats for their excellent food and service. Betty Gaspar negotiated the meal pricing thus saving our Chapter funds that we used for a tip and for an offering to the Church.

### **Upcoming Events**

**February 4** – Chapter members will meet at the Backdraft in Kinsale, VA to celebrate Black History Month, PJ Haynie, a long-time farmer and 4<sup>th</sup> generation from Northumberland, will speak about black farmers in the Northern Neck. Members and guests will order off the menu.

**March 4** – Members and guests will meet at Bella's pizza. Sean Peterson, Warsaw Chief of Police, will talk to the group about public safety. Members and guests will order off the menu.

### **ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH**

Collection tabulations for Chapter 1823 NARFE Alzheimer's Research covered two months, November and December. Collected funds, both RMD and checks, were promptly mailed to Donna Shackelford so all donations would count for tax year 2024. Donna confirmed independently that the RMD timing was, in fact, critical so that early submission was essential. Donna logged in our contributions and sent them to the NARFE central office in Chicago. Together with this special handling in November and December's silent auction items and more voluntary donations, our Chapter collected \$2,274.26. Good Going!

– Ted Munns

### **NARFE ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE**

The Virginia Federation of National Active and Retired Employees (VNF) will hold its 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference April 6-9, 2025, at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Convention Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia. There will be great speakers, vendors, and mini market. Hotel

rates will stay the same as 2024 however food prices may increase. To book your room for the special price of \$107 please go to <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4328165>. For more information on the conference please visit the VFN website at [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org). Attendance is highly recommended.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

A special thanks again to Carol Brown for volunteering to be our Membership Chair. If you know of someone who could be a member of NARFE, please invite them to join, or better yet bring them to one of our meetings. If you have any questions, you can e-mail Carol at [stan-carol.brown1@outlook.com](mailto:stan-carol.brown1@outlook.com).

### **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**

**December – Doris McAdams**

#### **REMINDER!**

If you change your email address, please send your new address to [narfehp1823@yahoo.com](mailto:narfehp1823@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.

## **CHAPTER 1823 CONTACTS**

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

## ***UPCOMING MEETINGS***

- February 4**    **1:00 pm – Black History Month. Backdraft**, 7415 Oldhams Road, Kinsale, VA.    Speaker: PJ Haynie, local farmer.    Attendees will order of the menu.
- March 4**    **1:00 pm – Public Safety. Bella's Pizza**, 1673 Tappahannock Blvd., Tappahannock, VA.    Speaker: Sean Peterson, Warsaw Police Chief.    Attendees will order of the menu.
- April 1**    **1:00 pm – Henderson United Methodist Church**, 72 Henderson Drive, Callao, VA.    Speaker: TBD.    Light refreshments will be provided.
- May 7**    **12:00 pm – Spring Memorial Luncheon (NOTE DATE CHANGE TO WEDNESDAY). Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury**, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington VA.    Speaker: TBD.    More information will be coming out at a later date.