



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER

POST OFFICE BOX 1811

LOUISA, VIRGINIA 23093-1811

Contact: NARFE2065news@vanarfe.org

VOLUME XXXLIV, NUMBER 1 – JANUARY 2025

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Karen Cheatwood	703-606-6513	karenlaurasara@gmail.com
1ST V.P. /PROGRAM	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

FEBRUARY	20	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: Bob Maher Uganda Medical Center update
APRIL	17	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: TBD
JUNE	19	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

We are well into January and feeling the effects of the winter weather. I don't know about you, but I don't remember temperatures being this low in a few years and it's supposed to be even colder next week. Please take care of yourselves and stay warm and safe.

Our Christmas luncheon took place at Rhett's Bar and Grill in Zion Crossroads. We had great service, good food, excellent desserts and lots of friendly conversations while enjoying being together for the holidays.

Looking back on 2024, we had great times and sad times for our chapter. We lost three members; Ray Siewert, Jerry Robarge and Jerry Root. Each of these members was very active in the chapter when I joined many years ago and stayed that way for many years. They will be missed by all of us.

Even though our meetings went to bi-monthly with a break for the summer, Dick Shrum provided some very good and timely programs at the meetings. Most notably was our September meeting where we were educated about some major changes to the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program and Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) Program. Besides the postal program specific to them, issues were discussed dealing with Medicare Part B and Part D that OPM has allowed our health plans to automatically sign certain annuitants into these programs. Medicare Part C, also known as Medicare Advantage, was discussed as a number of federal health plans provide that option within FEHB and PSHB. Two good points regarding this meeting were that we had a few guests plus one of our members made an appointment with the BCBS representative and let us know that they were able to change plans along with picking up dental and vision plans while reducing their premiums.

Hopefully for the February meeting we will have some information on what is going on in Congress as the new administration that impacts us as federal retirees and employees.

We hope to see you at a meeting this year :->

As usual, if I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me. It continues to be a privilege to serve as your President, but I would welcome any help and/or suggestions.

KAREN CHEATWOOD, PRESIDENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

None, it was the Christmas Luncheon

PROGRAM NOTES

Member Bob Maher has recently returned from his trip to Uganda and will share his experience with us at the February meeting. He will also show pictures of his trip. This is new information, and we hope it will draw you into the meeting. Please come and visit with us.

EDITOR

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

FY2025 appropriations status: For this Fiscal Year, we are still under a Continuing Resolution (CR; [H.R. 10545](#)) through March 14, 2025.

As of Jan 15, 2025, the House had passed only 6 of 12 FY2025 appropriations while the senate hasn't passed any. In a way this makes sense as the idea is to wait for the new administration is in office before sending appropriation bills to the President for signature.

In case you haven't heard, H.R. 82 the Social Security Fairness Act to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) passed the house and the senate then was signed into law by the president on January 5, 2025. From what I've been reading folks that are currently receiving reduced benefits will be able to be covered but there has also been information that the Social Security Administration is working on what they need to do to implement the Social Security Fairness Act.

There has been a good bit of information in the news about proposed changes to benefits to both federal employees and annuitants. Among these are changes to telework and return of schedule F; some bills have been introduced in Congress to support this. Once the new administration is in place, hopefully we will provide updates when available.

NARFE played an important part in supporting and lobbying for the Social Security Fairness Act. They continue to advocate for federal employee and retiree benefits; part of that lobbying is dependent on members contacting their representatives and senators. Consider going to the advocacy page of the NARFE site to thank your representative and/or senators for voting for the Social Security Fairness Act.

<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.

Eugene Vindman; U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2815
fax 202-225-0011

Email: <http://vindman.house.gov> and search the site

John McGuire; U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4711
Fax: (202) 225-5681

Email: <https://mcguire.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

Luther Henry Cifers; State Senate-10th District
PO Box 87, Richmond, VA 23218
804 698-7510

E-mail SenatorCifers@senate.virginia.gov

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

E-mail DelBORrock@house.virginia.gov

Buddy Fowler; State Delegate-59th District
804-227-3177

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*