



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

CHAPTER 2065 NEWSLETTER

POST OFFICE BOX 1811

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ELECTED OFFICERS

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CALENDAR

APRIL	17	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: Celebration of chapter's 40th year
JUNE	19	Chapter Meeting - 11:30 a.m., Roma's Restaurant, program: Uganda Medical Center, Bob Maher
OCTOBER	16	Chapter Meeting – 11:30 a.m. Roma's Restaurant, program: FEHB and PSHB updates for 2026

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi all, Things are looking up weather wise. There have been nice days plus with the change to daylight savings time and it being light out later, I've wanted to spend more time outdoors and enjoy spring.

The April meeting is going to be a bit of a celebration. Our chapter celebrates the 40th Anniversary of it's founding on 1 April. We are still working on plans for the meeting but will have the Virginia Federation Area 3 Vice President as our guest. He will give us an update of the VFN Conference which takes place the beginning of April in Harrisonburg. I hope you can join us for this milestone.

When it comes to the Virginia Federation Conference which will be held April 6 – 9th; anyone who is interested in attending and representing our chapter, please let me know. Additionally, the chapter has taken out an ad for the program book. We also have lost six members over the past year and they will be included in the memorial service.

As far as programs go this year, the board has made some adjustments and recommendations for the timing and scheduling of meetings in order to make sure that we can get the best information to you at the appropriate times. So, the schedule for 2025 is as follows:

April 17, 2025 – Chapter 40th Anniversary Celebration

June 19, 2025 – Update to medical support for Uganda from Bob Maher (Chapter Secretary)

July & August – Summer Vacation

September 18th meeting is going to be postponed until October 16th.

October 16, 2025 – Plan is to have a representative of BCBS or Aetna to discuss Health Plans within the FEHB and PSHB programs. As we found out last year, the detailed information for these programs isn't finalized with OPM until 1 October, so we should get the latest news and updates. (Note: last year we had a very good representative. One of the attendees set up a separate appointment with them and saved some money while getting more coverage in the process)

November 20, 2025 – Chapter annual meeting.

December 2025 – Christmas Celebration

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

The meeting was cancelled due to the extreme winter storm

BOB MAHER, CO-SECRETARY

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

FY2025 appropriations status:

We will be under a Continuing Resolution for the full year; H.R.1968 - Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 was passed by congress and signed by the President to avert a government shutdown on March 14th. Although the bill was mainly supported by republicans, some democrats voted to pass the bill in order to avoid a government shutdown rather than hold out for the budget to include certain democratic priorities.

For those affected by the Social Security Fairness Act that repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) became law January 5, 2025. From what I've been reading folks that have been receiving reduced benefits started getting their increased payments and retroactive payments starting the end of February. For those that have to apply for social security, as I did since the GPO denied me survival benefits; I urge you to call SSA 1-800-772-1213 Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET. I did, they made it easy, provided information set up a phone meeting to go through the application and send in some documents like my marriage certificate and my spouses death certificate.

Note: SSA also announced a new way to apply for retirement, spouse's or surviving spouse's benefits if you did not previously apply because of the WEP and GPO. According to their website, the SSA will take an application by telephone for people who did not previously apply for retirement benefits because of WEP or GPO. If you meet these conditions, call 1-800-772-1213. When the system asks, 'How can I help you today?' say 'Fairness Act.' Then, you'll be asked a few questions. Your answers will help to connect you to a WEP/GPO representative who will help you and get a phone interview scheduled.

The Legislative Action Center within the NARFE website has letters that they will e-mail to your congressional representative and senators for you. All you need to do is select the letter. Fill in your particulars so that they can align your letter with your representative and the Virginia senators, and they will send it. You can even personalize the letter. The website is <https://www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/>

Note: I just sent a letter asking our congressional representative and senators to protect benefits for federal employees and retirees.

KAREN CHEATWOOD, ACTING LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

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Program – *Vacant*

Holiday lunch – *Vacant*

Commission on Aging – *Vacant*