

Serving all Current and Retired Federal Civilian Employees, Spouses and Survivor Annuitants

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MEETING: Monthly on Second Tuesday – Except July & August
WHERE: American Legion Post 177
 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax
TIME: Virtual Meetings
 Via ZOOM Cloud
 At 12:00 NOON
 Speaker / Program – 12:30 PM
MEETING SCHEDULE: April 13, 2021
 May 11, 2021
 June 8, 2021

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Spring is here and the weather is warming. More and more of us have had at least one and many two Covid vaccine shots. Can we avoid another resurgence of the virus? Keep wearing the masks as we hope the situation continues to improve. Make plans to include our virtual chapter meetings

SAD NEWS: Here is some sad news about Chapter 737 member Annabelle Linden. Annabelle is in Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital in Aldie, Virginia after suffering two minor strokes. She is OK, can speak and physically is fine. Encompass Health is an acute rehab place where she will have more PT and exercise than in a hospital or nursing home. There will be 3 hours of exercise daily. Annabelle is listed as Royston-Linden, alphabetically under "R" not "L". The facility address is Encompass Health; 24430 Millstream Drive; Aldie, Virginia 20105. She can have only one visitor at a time while in this facility. The address where your cards may be sent: c/o Randy & Becky Royston; 4230 Linden Street; Fairfax, Virginia 22030. This address is Annabelle's son and daughter-in-law.



Our next food collection for "Food for Others" will be in the American Legion Post 177 parking lot on April 14th, between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Please bring your donation so we can exceed 300 pounds.

Please note that the March program on "Scams" was recorded. There is a link to the program on the VANARFE.org website near the top on the right side. Enjoy hearing the program again or sharing it with friends and relatives.

We are talking about a picnic for our June chapter meeting, maybe at Burke Lake Park, but not yet decided. Let me know what you think of the idea and whether you would participate. We will still follow all Covid protocols as required to keep everyone safe. Details have yet to be worked out.

The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) annual conference is being planned for October 11-13 in Midlothian/Richmond, Virginia. We are proceeding with plans for in-person participation. Keep your fingers crossed that we will be able to have the meeting this October and you will be able to get out of your house and visit with your NARFE friends.

HELP WANTED: Let me add that we are (still) looking for new volunteers to get active with our chapter. The Federation has subscribed to ZOOM as the platform for our virtual meetings and providing a zoom subscription to share among the chapters in each area for chapter and training meetings. We need a coordinator for the meetings of our five Area X chapters.

While March was NARFE-PAC Month, you can support NARFE-PAC also in April. This provides funds to support congress men and women to support NARFE's interests. This is part of what NARFE does to protect our benefits.

The April program will be presented by Ms Kathryn Strong, M.S., R.D., will speak on "Fight COVID in Your Kitchen." She is a registered dietician and a Virginia Tech Extension Agent for Food, Nutrition and Health in Fairfax County. **NOTE: The Program will begin at 12:30 PM rather than our usual 1:00 PM start time!**

The electronic link is under the Programs Schedule below. If you are unable to join electronically, you can use your telephone with the following information.

DIAL: 301-715-8592 US (Washington D.C) **MEETING ID:** 895 8974 1470 **PASSCODE:** 211689

Remember ZOOM will work with a smartphone, tablet or PC. All you need to do is click on the link. The link for the April13th meeting is in the "Program Schedule" information in the Newsletter. Remember your friends who are not as familiar and help them attend virtually. Please share with anyone who might be interested. Our Chapter is inviting other chapters from our VFN Area X to join us to view/listen to our programs. Anyone is invited to join us, especially to attend the program. We look forward to seeing new faces.

Stay safe and continue to wear your mask – even if you have had a vaccine shot.

Ted Pasek – Chapter President

PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Due to the continuing pandemic, our Chapter 737 face-to-face meetings are cancelled. The meetings will be virtual using the **ZOOM** application. Chapter meeting begins at 12:00 noon and the program will begin at 12:30 PM. If you have program requests or if you have any comments on the programs, please feel free to contact our Program Chair Ted Pasek at a Chapter meeting, or at 703-322-9322 or by e-mail at tedpasek@verizon.net.

April 13, 2021	Ms Kathryn Strong, M.S., R.D. - - - "Fight COVID in Your Kitchen."
ZOOM LINK	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89589741470?pwd=MEdzWXk3aS81VXRPL1hVdHpITGNUUT09
May 11, 2021	Virginia Delegate David Bulova - - - Update on 2021 General Assembly Meetings in Richmond
June 8, 2021	Chapter 737 Picnic - - - Exact Place - TBD

Ted Pasek – Program Coordinator

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

As part of 29 Diner's "COMMUNITY FIRST INITIATIVE" John Wood, owner of the 29 Diner in Fairfax, presents a \$500 contribution in support of Alzheimer's Research to NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737 on March 15, 2021. John has supported our Chapter for five or six years with "All You Can Eat" BBQ for Alzheimer's annually. We are very appreciative of all his support for Alzheimer's Research.

Annabelle Linden - Chapter Alzheimer's Chair



<<<<<Pictured (L to R) are John Wood, 29 Diner owner; Annabelle Linden, Alzheimer's Chair; and Ted Pasek, Chapter President.

NOTE: In view of Annabelle Linden's illness and recovery, donations to Alzheimer's Research can be mailed to either President Ted Pasek or Federation Alzheimer's Research Coordinator Donna Shackelford.

Ted Pasek
6714 Colewood Estates Road
Clifton, Virginia 20124-1635

Donna Shackelford
14429 Round Lick Lane
Centreville, Virginia 20120-1680

SERVICE OFFICER

The FEMA Funeral Reimbursement Program is reimbursing up to \$7,000.00 for COVID-19 funerals

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? – To be eligible for funeral assistance, you must meet these conditions:

- The death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

- The death certificate must indicate the death was attributed to COVID-19.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or a qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020.
- There is no requirement for the deceased person to have been a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien.

HOW TO APPLY - In April, FEMA will begin accepting applications. If you had COVID-19 funeral expenses, we encourage you to keep and gather documentation. Types of information should include:

- An official death certificate that attributes the death directly or indirectly to COVID-19 shows that the death occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.
- Funeral expenses documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) include the applicant's name, the deceased person's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the funeral expenses happened.
- Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. We cannot duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, government agencies, or other sources.

John & Constance Bails – Co-Service Officers

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of February 1, 2021, the Chapter account balance was \$8,944.81. During February and March, we paid \$193.20 for our newsletter, and received \$451.83 from NARFE Headquarters for chapter dues. There have been no other transactions during the month. Our balance as of March 31, 2021 is \$9,203.44.

Donna Shackelford – Treasurer

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

NATIONAL LEGISLATION – On March 11, President Biden signed into law a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package finally approved by House Democrats on March 10, following party-line Senate passage. The House voted 220-211 on final passage, with one Democrat, Rep. Jared Golden (D-Maine) joining all Republicans in opposition to the bill. Although Republicans and Democrats were divided along party lines, both parties agreed that this round of COVID-19 relief is one of the most progressive packages ever written into law. **(HuffPost)**

The bill includes \$1,400 stimulus checks for most Americans, extends \$300 weekly unemployment benefits into September, establishes about \$10,000 in tax forgiveness for the jobless, increases the child tax credit to roughly \$3,000, includes \$350 billion in state and local government aid, another \$128 billion in funding for schools, \$46 billion for contact tracing and testing, \$25 billion for rental assistance, \$25 billion to help struggling bars and restaurants, and billions more for vaccines, pandemic supplies and other public health measures. **(CNBC)**

The bill includes \$39 billion for child care providers, \$40 billion for higher education and boosts subsidies for customers who buy insurance through the Affordable Care Act. The bill also includes a provision that could make it easier for President Biden to eliminate student debt by not requiring beneficiaries to pay taxes on canceled loans. Biden said he might cancel up to \$10,000 in student debt using executive action. **(NBC NEWS)**

The final package looks remarkably similar to what Biden proposed in January before he was even inaugurated. Despite razor-thin majorities in both the House and Senate, Democrats got on board with the president's proposal. There were, however, some changes made to appease moderate Senate Democrats who were concerned benefits would go to some higher income families. The stimulus payments are cut off entirely for individuals who make more than \$80,000 (or \$160,000 for joint filers), though the full payments will go to all individuals making up to \$75,000 a year (or up to \$150,000 for joint filers), as Biden initially proposed. Democrats also kept federal unemployment insurance aid at its current \$300 per week level, instead of expanding it to a \$400 weekly benefit as Biden had initially called for. **(HuffPost)**

The Internal Revenue Service has extended the 2020 federal income tax due date to May 17, 2021. **(My Federal Retirement)**

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION – The Democrat-controlled General Assembly passed more than 500 bills during a six-week session ending February 27, including historic votes to make Virginia the first Southern State to abolish the death penalty and make marijuana legal to possess and buy on January 1, 2024. Governor Ralph Northam has so far signed more than 100 of them into law, including bills shifting any municipal elections previously held in May to November, allowing restaurants to sell alcoholic drinks for takeout and delivery until July 1, 2022, allowing people on Medicaid to get up to a 12-month prescription of birth control, requiring carmakers to sell a certain percentage of electric or hybrid cars, allowing localities to hold early voting on Sundays and the bill abolishing the death penalty. The General Assembly adopted a \$141 billion two-year budget that would restore and surpass raises that teachers, state employees and public employees lost during the health emergency, giving 5% raises to teachers,

Return Service Requested
NARFE - Fairfax Chapter 737
14429 Round Lick Lane
Centreville VA 20120-1680



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver By April 8, 2021

State employees and state supported local employees, plus additional money to police, correctional officers, social workers and local registrars.

The General Assembly will reconvene April 7 for its “veto session,” when lawmakers will take up the governor’s suggested changes or vetoes to legislation. Gov. Northam is expected to make changes to legislation setting up the regulatory framework for marijuana sales. **(Richmond Times-Dispatch)**

Tom Hart – Legislation Program

SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING



SUNRISE GIVES BACK – Our Northern Virginia food drive was a huge success! Our communities collected a total of 1,126 pounds of food to donate to the Capital Area Food Bank. We thank our generous contributors whose efforts will help so many local families, as well as our team members who bundled up during the cold weather to make the food drive possible. Our dedicated team members and spirit of giving back are all part of what makes Sunrise so special. Read more stories about our heroes in orange at www.sunriseseniorliving.com. To learn more about assisted living at Sunrise or to request a free resource guide, please contact Valerie Parker, Director of Community Relations, at 703-932-1246 or valerie.parker@sunriseseniorliving.com

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Please consider receiving your newsletter electronically. Contact your Newsletter Editor at WShack1951@aol.com to make the change. By receiving the E-Newsletter, **the chapter saves money** & you enjoy pictures of chapter activities in color. The newsletter is also on the Virginia Federation website at www.vanarfe.org. This issue of the Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter is being sent to 365 members with 237 being sent by USPS & 128 sent via e-mail.

William Shackelford – Newsletter Editor

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Articles for the May, 2021 newsletter are due to the editor by e-mail at WShack1951@aol.com by **April 23, 2021**.

**CHAPTER 737 NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2021**