

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

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**MEETING:** 2nd Annual Chapter 737 Picnic  
**WHERE:** Van Dyck Park in Fairfax City at 3720 Old Lee Highway  
**TIME:** Social Hour – 11:30 AM Lunch – 12:00PM  
 Speaker / Program – 12:30 PM  
**MEETING SCHEDULE:** September 6, 2022  
 October 4, 2022  
 November 1, 2022  
 December 6, 2022

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

It seems that public events are becoming more relaxed as it seems as if infections of the coronavirus has greatly subsided, it is still around. A friend of mine contracted the coronavirus a few days ago. In that light, we need to remain vigilant in practicing appropriate etiquette when in public.

The main event in June is the Fairfax Chapter 737 2nd Annual Picnic which will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup>. We will celebrate at the Van Dyck Park, 3720 Old Lee Highway in Fairfax City at the Upper Pavilion. Access from Old Lee Highway is between St Leo's Catholic Church and the Fairfax City Police Station. Time: 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM.



Bring your own food, family, and retired Federal friends. Chips, water and soft drinks will be provided. Have a fun time at this chapter social event. Ted Pasek will bring some garbage bags and we already have plenty of volunteers bringing drinks so come and enjoy. It is outdoors so you should be comfortable around others. Please notify Ralph Thompson at 703-801--2551 or Ted Pasek at [tedpasek@verizon.net](mailto:tedpasek@verizon.net) if you plan to attend and how many will be coming.

If someone has a musical instrument to play, such as guitar or keyboard, please bring it. Alternatively, does anyone have a boom box we can play some "oldies but goodies" CDs. Thanks. Let Ted or Sharon Lenius know if you have something to volunteer. Everyone bring their singing voices! Enjoy this spring season.

**Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President**

**FOOD FOR OTHERS**

We will continue our collection of non-perishable food to donate to "Food For Others" at the Chapter picnic. Bob Sottile and Ted Pasek will be collecting food donations in the Van Dyck Park parking lot before, during and after the June 7th meeting. Members generously donated 218 pounds of food during the April meeting. From the [www.FoodforOthers.org/give-food](http://www.FoodforOthers.org/give-food) web site, here is more information. Most needed items include:

- Fresh fruits (oranges, apples, bananas, tomatoes, avocados, grapes, berries)
- Fresh vegetables (cucumbers, celery, peppers, lettuce, eggplant)

- Oil
- Cereal
- Canned tomato products (crushed, peeled, diced, etc.), 4oz – 1 lb
- Canned meat (chicken, turkey, or seafood), 2oz – 15oz
- Rice, 16oz packages
- Spaghetti sauce, 14oz – 1 lb (ideally in cans instead of glass)
- Canned fruit (packed in fruit juice instead of syrup) 11oz – 20oz
- Dried or canned beans (black, kidney, pinto, etc.)
- Pasta
- Fruit juice (100% juice) 32oz – 64oz

**Non Food Items:**

- New or Clean Reusable Grocery Bags 8 ½ x 14 x 15
- Can openers

We are also happy to accept perishable items including meat and dairy products that are sealed, in their original packaging, and **UNEXPIRED**. We are unable to accept donations of items that are more than 3 years expired, opened items, food that is not labeled, homemade items, or cooked food.

**Ted Pasek – Immediate Past Chapter President**

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2022**

Our regular face-to-face meeting location, American Legion Post 177, is **OPEN** now and we have resumed meeting in-person. So, COVID-19 willing, we will be meeting in person if all goes well in the Fall. 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 Sharon Leniussa at a Chapter meeting, or at 703-801-2551 by e-mail at [leniussa@gmail.com](mailto:leniussa@gmail.com).

- June 7 SAVE THE DATE! 2nd Annual Chapter Picnic. Van Dyck Park in Fairfax City at 3720 Old Lee Highway
- September 6 Ms. Mary Lipsey, Burke Historical Society, speaking about Clara Barton and her work with Civil War soldiers and formation of American Red Cross.
- October 4 Alzheimer’s Research Month - Speaker TBD
- November 1 Presentation of the Colors by American Legion. Speaker TBD

**Sharon Lenius – Program Coordinator**

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

As of May 1, 2022, the Chapter account balance was \$9,474.69. In April, we disbursed \$350.20, and our income was \$391.60. There have been no other transactions during the month. Our balance as of May 31, 2022, was \$9,516.09.

**Donna Shackelford – Treasurer**

**LUCKY NUMBERS WINNERS**

Donna Shackelford won a free lunch at the May meeting. The 40-40-20 raffles were claimed by Donna Shackelford who won 40% drawing (\$11) and Ted Pasek won the 20% (\$5) drawing in May. Congratulations to these winners!!!

**PROTECT YOURSELF FROM “SKIMMING”**

**BE ALERT** - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines “skimming” as an event that occurs when devices are illegally installed on ATMs, point-of-sale (POS) terminals, or fuel pumps capture data or record cardholders' PINs. Criminals use this data to create fake debit cards or credit cards and then steal from victims' accounts. Skimming is estimated to cost institutions and consumers more than \$1 billion annually. Here are a few tips offered by the FBI on what you can do to protect yourself from skimming when using a fuel pump, ATM, or POS terminal:

- Inspect ATMs and other card readers before using. Look for anything loose, crooked, damaged, or scratched. Don't use the reader if you notice anything unusual.
- Pull at the edges of the keypad before entering your PIN. Then, cover the keypad when you enter your PIN to prevent cameras from recording your entry.
- Use ATMs in a well-lit, indoor location, which are less vulnerable targets.
- Be alert for skimming devices in tourist areas, which are popular targets.

- Use debit and credit cards with chip technology. In the U.S., there are fewer devices that steal chip data versus magnetic strip data.
- Avoid using your debit card when you have linked accounts. Use a credit card instead.

Contact your financial institution if the ATM doesn't return your card after you end or cancel a transaction.

## **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

(As of May 17, 2022)

**NATIONAL LEGISLATION** - Congress has started the process of writing the bills that set spending levels and make policy decisions for the upcoming fiscal year, including matters such as agency staffing levels and the next federal pay raise.

The Appropriations committees of both the House and Senate have been holding hearings on the administration's budget plan issued in March, the first step in a process designed to result in enactment of a dozen measures by September 30. However, in practice the typical outcome is enactment of one or more temporary measures with final decisions not reached until months later.

That again appears to be the most likely outcome, with Congress scheduled to be in session only most of 10 weeks before the deadline, and then recess for all of October until mid-November after the mid-term elections. In many recent years, only the House has made substantial progress on the individual spending bills, with the Senate often producing only broad outlines and then working out details in later meetings with the House.

Among the issues that has been attracting early attention in one of those bills, the general government measure, is the potential size of the January 2023 federal employee raise. President Biden has proposed a 4.6 percent average increase, with some variance by locality, while federal employee organizations and many Democrats in Congress have been advocating for 5.1 percent.

Another common practice of recent years, though, is for Congress to take no position on the raise, leaving the decision in the President's hands---generally resulting in a default raise of what he originally recommended.

Issues regarding staffing levels meanwhile have been raised regarding the IRS and the VA, and federal law enforcement entities, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Bureau of Prisons. **(FEDweek)**

Through seven months of the counting period toward the January 2023 federal retirement cost of living adjustment, the COLA count stands at 6 percent, following an increase in April of 0.5 percentage points in the inflation index used to set the COLA.

Barring a change of direction in inflation during the rest of the measuring period, the count already is in line to top the increase paid in January of this year, which was 5.9 percent for those retired under CSRS and 4.9 percent for those retired under FERS who are eligible for COLAs (generals not until reaching age 62).

The increase was the largest since the 8.7 percent paid in 1982, before the FERS system even existed. **(FEDweek)**

**VIRGINIA LEGISLATION** - The General Assembly's regular session adjourned in mid-March, with the budget and dozens of other bills still unfinished. There was still no budget deal to vote on when lawmakers returned on April 4 to go into special session, and there was no budget when the legislature returned on April 27 to take up Governor Youngkin's vetoes and amendments to regular bills.

The state's current budget year is set to end June 30, meaning lawmakers have several weeks to act to avoid a potential government shutdown. The main sticking point in the budget negotiations has been over the scope of billions in tax cuts proposed by Gov. Youngkin. The Republican-led House of Delegates largely supports them. Senate Democrats have rejected several key tax proposals, including Youngkin's push for a gas tax holiday and to lower some filer's income taxes by doubling the state's standard deduction.

The two lawmakers leading budget negotiations, House Appropriations Chairman Barry Knight, R-Virginia Beach, and Senate Finance Committee Chairwoman Janet Howell, D-Fairfax, reported after meeting that that they were making.

## **SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING**

**HELPING VETERANS FIND THE CARE THEY NEED** – We are proud to have so many veterans and their spouses call Sunrise home. Veterans looking for senior care may be able to take advantage of a valuable benefit through the **Department of Veterans Affairs Aid and Attendance** program. Learn more by visiting [www.SunriseSeniorLiving.com/Veterans](http://www.SunriseSeniorLiving.com/Veterans) or calling Sunrise at Fair Oaks at 703-289-0064.



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**Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver By June 2, 2022**

**ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER**

Please consider receiving your newsletter electronically. Contact your Newsletter Editor at [WShack1951@aol.com](mailto: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](http://www.vanarfe.org) as well as the FEDHub platform at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). This issue of the Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter is being sent to 346 members with 211 being sent by USPS & 135 sent via e-mail.

***William Shackelford – Newsletter Editor***

**NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

Articles for the September 2022 issue of Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter are due to the editor by e-mail at [WShack1951@aol.com](mailto:WShack1951@aol.com) by **August 24, 2022**.

**Please Join Us**  
**For Our**  
**2nd Annual Chapter Picnic**  
**At Van Dyck Park in Fairfax City**  
**On June 7!!!!**