



ANNANDALE CHAPTER NEWS

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Chapter 1159 (Annandale)

P.O. Box 1463, Annandale, VA 22003
Serving Current, Former & Retired Federal Employees and Spouses
and Survivor Annuitants

Like us on Facebook at NARFE-Annandale 1159

Find us on the web at: www.narfe.org/chapter1159

We meet at the Mason District Governmental Center
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia

August 2022

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 7th at 10:00 A.M.

Join us, either in-person or via Zoom, for our next meeting at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 7th, when Ann Shields will provide an interesting presentation on local POW camps during WWII. For details, as well as information on registering for the Zoom meeting, see page 4.

PREZ SEZ – *Now Is the Time for All Good Members to Come to the Aid of Their NARFE Chapter!* I hope everyone's summer is going well. It's not over yet but September is rapidly approaching, and our monthly chapter meetings will resume on September 7th. We have a great line-up of speakers coming up in the next few months. We will continue to have hybrid meetings but we do hope that we'll see even more people back at our in-person meetings. We had a good turnout in April and May and hope that continues, especially for our September speaker who will be talking about German POWs in the Washington DC area. She will be bringing photos, maps, interviews and artifacts to see so we hope you will attend in person to be able to view these historical items.

This year will be bringing the chapter new challenges which may put our continued operation at risk. As you are aware, NARFE Chapter 1159 operation has depended on a small group of stalwart volunteers serving in officer (**continued on page 2**)

(Prez Sez continued) and committee chair roles. Most of the Board members have been doing their jobs for many years; I knew when I took this job that losing any of these dedicated volunteers would put us in a tough spot. At the end of the year, we will be losing our Secretary and our Program Coordinator – both key positions. We also need additional assistance in the technology area. So here I am, once again, asking for volunteers. If we don't find additional hands and brains to work for the Chapter, it will disappear – as has happened to so many NARFE chapters in the last few years.

We've not been successful recently in getting volunteers, but I hope some of you will consider helping out. These jobs can be shared so all the responsibility will not fall on you. There will be training and assistance from those now holding the positions. They're not going to disappear – they will be available to provide help. The rest of the Board will also always be available to help out. I have been so thankful for the Board members this year – they've been constantly helpful and patient with me as I continue in my quest to try to learn the ropes of my job.

So, if you like NARFE -- if you receive benefit from meetings, presentations, and resources -- please take your turn in helping it run and serve our NARFE community. If what is needed isn't done, it will eventually be too late -- and that will be a shame. Please give serious consideration to volunteering and helping the chapter stay alive. **John Bankson** is the head of the Nominating Committee, with the assistance of **Mara Yachnin**. Please contact **John Bankson** at johnboy1607@outlook.com if you'd like to explore helping out. **Kim Rendelson, *President***

Mark your calendars and join us on Wednesday, October 5th, when Martin Bailey from AARP will provide a presentation on Identity Theft.

Inclement Weather Policy – When Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) are closed because of inclement weather on the day of a scheduled chapter meeting, the in-person meeting for that month is cancelled, but the meeting will still be held on Zoom. If the FCPS open only 2 hours late on the day of a chapter meeting, the in-person and the Zoom meeting will be held.

June Luncheon – On Wednesday, June 1st we held our first Spring Luncheon in two



John Cropp and Bill Kahl entertaining our members during lunch.

years. The luncheon was held at PJ Skidoos in Fairfax City and 35 members and guests attended. Everyone agreed the food was good as always. Entertainment got underway during dessert. **John Cropp** and **Bill Kahl** played the electric guitar and the electric bass, respectively, with John singing. Their set was very entertaining with songs ranging from “As Time Goes By” to “Folsom Prison Blues”. Following their performance, we held a Chapter business meeting. Chapter President **Kim Rendelson** welcomed **Frances Hudson**, a member who has made many contributions to the chapter and who now resides in Maryland, **Doris McAdams**, the VFN 1st Vice President, and **Jim Little**, the VFN Area 9 Vice President. Besides routine Chapter business items, the Chapter’s 2023

Nominating Committee was approved. The Committee will be charged with identifying chapter members willing to stand for election this November for all elected Board positions (President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). The Committee consists of **John Bankson** (Chair) and **Mara Yachnin**. Finally, we held an Alzheimer’s Raffle. Raffle ticket sales and donations raised **\$954** for Alzheimer’s Research.

Mary Lou Vroman, Secretary



Phil Gilliland, Joyce Price, Paul Fermoile, Doug Jones and Mort Glassberg enjoying getting together for our first Spring Lunch in two years.



Anne Trotter, Jack Bagnulo, Frances Hudson, Margaret Breinholt and Bob and Vivian Miller catching-up during a lull in the lunch.

A Few Details for Our September 7th Meeting -- On September 7th, we will have a presentation by **Ann Shields** discussing WWII German POW camps and activities in the Washington DC area. Three local camps provide examples of the immense wartime program for confinement of 375,000 Germans in the US. Topics will include the labor program, escapes, interrogations, relationships with locals, and Nazi threats in camp. The camp histories of Ft. Meade, Ft. Hunt, and Fairfax Camp will be highlighted with photos, maps, interviews, and a display of POW items. In addition, **Debby Mossburg** of the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (George Mason University)** will provide a brief introduction to the Institute and its programs. Our meeting will be held both in-person and via Zoom. To attend on Zoom, let **Doug Jones** know (doujones500@verizon.net or **703-425-3361**) no later than **Sunday, September 4th**, so he can send you the meeting link and passcode. For those who attend in-person, masks are optional; but we prefer that you attend only if you have had appropriate Covid shots. We will be serving snacks and drinks. If you want to contribute snacks, please contact **Sharon Sellers (703-915-8765)** to coordinate.

Help Wanted – Elections for the Chapter's 2023 Executive Board (President, 1st and 2nd VP, Secretary and Treasurer) will be held in November. At our June 1st luncheon, Chapter members approved a Nominating Committee comprised of **John Bankson** and **Mara Yachnin**. John will serve as the Committee Chair. The Committee is looking for volunteers for positions on our Chapter Board. In particular, we need a volunteer for Chapter Secretary, which is a required position in order to continue as a chapter. In addition, we need a volunteer for the Chapter's Program Coordinator. If anyone is interested in volunteering to serve as an officer or committee chair, or has questions, contact John at **703-256-2295** or johnboy1607@outlook.com.

Alzheimer's Report – So far this year we have donated **\$2,471** to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. I will bring some booklets from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging to the membership meeting on September 7th. If you would like to help find a cure for Alzheimer's, you can send a donation by mail to: **Treasurer, NARFE Chapter 1159, P.O. Box 1463, Annandale, VA 22003**. Please make checks payable to *NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund* and include *Chapter 1159* on the memo line.

Phil Gilliland, Alzheimer's Chair

Legislation Report – *GPO/WEP: H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act* would

repeal the unfair Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) penalties, and is getting very close to a House vote! Per a relatively new House rule, any bill with 290 cosponsors (which the bill now has!) can be added to the House

Consensus Calendar. Once on the calendar, it is teed up for a vote; if it maintains those 290 cosponsors or more for 25 legislative days there may be a chance at a floor vote prior to the end of the 117th Congress. Getting closer.

Equal COLA Act, S.4221 & companion Bill H.R. 304, would ensure that cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for Federal Employees Retiree System (FERS) annuities match the measured change in consumer prices. This bill fixes a longstanding issue affecting FERS retirees whereby their earned annuities fail to keep pace with inflation due to an inequitable policy that reduces their annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).

PAY RAISE: The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) released its fiscal year 2023 (FY23) appropriations bill. Since Congress remained silent on the pay raise, it is possible the decision will be left with the president, who proposed a 4.6 percent average pay increase in his FY23 budget.

H.R. 6398, the Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act proposes a 5.1 percent pay raise. This is a standalone bill, introduced by Rep. Gerald Connolly, D-VA.

H.R.2954 - Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2021 & Senate Enhancing American Retirement Now (EARN) Act -- these bills would increase both the current required minimum distribution (RMD) age and the catch-up contribution limit for employer-sponsored retirement plans, including the Thrift Savings Plan. (H.R. 2954 has passed in the House.)

Public Service Reform Act H.R. 8550 – this bill is strongly opposed by NARFE as it would allow all federal workers to be considered at-will employees. It would also undermine and/or eliminate a merit-based civil service. This bill is the latest attempt, in addition to Schedule F, to reinstitute the spoils system. Furthermore, H.R. 8550 is likely to contribute to a more divisive and unstable government going forward.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2023 -- Rep. Connolly was successful in having an amendment included in NDAA Fiscal Year 2023 which limits the ability of the executive branch to bypass the framework of the merit-based civil service. Specifically, the amendment would prohibit the **(continued on page 6)**

(continued from page 5) reclassification of any position in the competitive service to an excepted service schedule that was created after September 30, 2020, and limit federal employee reclassifications to the five excepted service schedules in use prior to fiscal year 2021. Broadly speaking, this amendment would prevent future attempts to implement a new excepted service category (Schedule F) with rules more akin to those covering political appointments. NARFE strongly opposed Schedule F when it was implemented by Executive Order late in 2020. The current administration rescinded Schedule F, but future administrations could simply reverse that decision. If passed into law, the Connolly amendment would prevent this situation from occurring. (NDAA 2023 has passed in the House.)

VFN Virginia 2023 State Legislative Plan:



The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) State Legislative plan, with 5 priorities, has been formalized and approved by the Federation Board. The 5 priorities are: exempting from state tax a portion of CSRS annuities equivalent to Social Security; removing the means-testing for the current Age Deduction; allowing Virginians to opt to itemize deductions on their state Tax return when taking the Standard Deduction on the Federal return; support for a Family Caregiver tax credit of up to \$1,000; and support for Nursing Home Standards of Care and staffing. The VFN is currently working to identify legislative partners to introduce or follow through with legislation in the General Assembly. A copy of the Plan is available on our NARFE Annandale Website.


Mary Ann Munley, *Legislation Chair*

Adopt-a-Road – Our thanks to **Mary Ann Munley, Mary Lou Vroman, Phil Church, Margaret Breinholt and Doug Jones** for joining us on our **May 19th** litter patrol and to **Sharon Sellers, Phil Church, Margaret Breinholt, Mary Lou Vroman, Jack Bagnulo, Mary Anne Munley and Doug Jones** for assisting in our litter pick-up on **July 21st**. Please join us for our next litter pick-up on **Thursday, September 22nd**. If you plan on joining us let **Doug Jones** know (doujones500@verizon.net or **703-425-3361**), so he can contact you if we have to cancel or if there are any other changes. We will meet at the corner of Evergreen Lane and High Place in Annandale at 10:00 a.m. We have permission to park in the lot at High Place and Evergreen (to use the lot, pull in facing High Place).



ACCA Food Pantry Drive Starts September -- It's time to restock those shelves where previous supplies have drastically dwindled over the summer months. With our Fairfax County Mason District Police partners, three food drives are planned for **September 8th, October 6th and November 3rd**. **Donations may be dropped off at the Mason District Police Station/Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, lower parking lot from 10:00 a.m. until noon.** Also, a collection box will be available in the conference room during our September through November NARFE Chapter 1159 membership meetings. Items most needed are canned soup, meat stew, canned chicken and tuna, uncooked pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned ravioli, mac & cheese, canned fruit, laundry soap and personal care items. If you would like to make a cash donation, please make your check out to **ACCA**, include on the memo line **Food Pantry**, under the memo line write **NARFE, Chapter 1159** and drop it off with our collection team or mail it to **Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) Food Pantry, 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003**. Should you have questions or need help getting your donations to us, contact **Sharon Sellers, 703-915-8765**. Thank you all for your generous support. See you there September 8th!

Election of NARFE National Officers and Regional Vice Presidents – *Time is almost up!* - The 2022 process for the election of NARFE National Officers and

 Regional Vice Presidents is almost over. Ballots must be received at Election Services Co. by 11:59 p.m. ET on Wednesday, August 31, 2022. Note the ballot also includes several proposals to amend NARFE bylaws. The August edition of *NARFE Magazine* includes instructions for voting online or by mail starting on page 8. Candidate Statements can be found starting on page 44 of the May 2022 *NARFE Magazine*. These officers serve two-year terms. Each of us is involved in determining the kind of leadership NARFE will have at the National level and, therefore, the direction of the organization. The August magazine has both a phone number and an email address for those needing voter assistance. Please vote to ensure your voice is heard.

Mark Your Calendars – **Congressman Gerry Connolly** is holding his annual FEHBP Open Season event this year on December 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center.

NARFE Fall Membership Drive – From September 1 through December 31, 2022, current members will earn \$10 for each new NARFE member they recruit (the recruiter's ID number must be provided on the NARFE application or on the online application form when the new member joins –you can find your membership ID on the mailing label for your *NARFE Magazine*, or contact **Doug Jones** for your ID number). In addition, recruiters will be eligible for monthly prizes throughout the contest as well as a Grand Prize of a new Kindle Fire (watch your *NARFE Magazine* for more details). To make sure our voices are heard by Congress we need to strive to increase membership, and all members should view themselves as recruiters. So please get involved in this important effort and recruit. (A *Membership Application* can be found on page 50 of your August *NARFE Magazine*, or contact **Doug Jones**, at doujones500@verizon.net or **703-425-3361** for applications.)

Invitation to VFN Legislation Presentation – Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton) is having a meeting on **Thursday, September 15th** in which **Deborah Fisk, Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) State Legislation Chair**, will discuss the VFN's 2023 Virginia State Legislation Plan and other issues involving NARFE. All NARFE members are invited to attend. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. and will be held at the **Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna**. To attend please RSVP to **Kathy Arpa**, President of the Vienna Chapter, by Wednesday, September 7th at mkarpa@hotmail.com.

Get to Know Your Board -- In NARFE, we have all worked for different agencies and held a variety of positions. However, in monthly meetings, we don't often have time to learn about each other's backgrounds. This is the third in our series spotlighting our Chapter 1159 Board Members. In this issue, we will introduce **Mary Lou Vroman**, who is the **Chapter's Secretary**:

Personal – I was born a country girl in the village of Reynolds, IL thereby adding one to the total population of about 500 residents. I spent my early years in the rural area where my family owned and worked a farm. Let me just say there was plenty of fresh air and our meals were basically homegrown and homemade. Unfortunately, I have never been able to cook the way my mother did. **(continued on page 9)**

(continued from page 8)

Education – I attended grade school at the Sacred Heart Catholic School in Rock Island, IL and graduated from Rock Island Senior High School. Subsequently, I earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Northern Illinois University and a M.A. degree in Management and Administration from Central Michigan University. Later, while working at U. S. Marine Corps (USMC) Headquarters, I attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C.

Family – I have one brother. He and my sister-in-law have three children (two boys and a girl), so I'm now the great aunt to three boys and four girls, all of whom are growing too fast. I also have two cats!

Work – I went to work right out of college at an independent Marketing Research firm in Cincinnati, OH. In that job, I was able to travel the country from coast-to-coast conducting the surveys needed for the various clients. Having never traveled out of Illinois much until then, let alone been on an airplane, it was a grand adventure for me. From that small firm, I moved on to Proctor & Gamble in Cincinnati and analyzed brand research. After that, I began my federal career. I worked for forty years as a civilian with the Department of Defense in the areas of programming, budgeting including budget execution, and financial management. I started as a Program Assistant in the Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation (RDT&E) Division at Headquarters, USMC, in Washington. Over time, I became Head of the Programming and Budget Branch within the RDT&E Division. This position allowed me to be in on the ground floor of acquiring the funding to explore new technologies and capabilities and develop solutions to ensure Marine Corps forces had the systems and platforms they needed to fulfill their missions. Ultimately, I moved from the RDT&E arena to become Head, Department of the Navy Stock Fund, Marine Corps Division. I subsequently worked at the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) where I retired from the position of Chief, Headquarters Financial Management Office.

Activities/Hobbies - I like sports of all kinds, especially tennis, as well as reading, watching old movies, playing with the cats, and enjoying nature.

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

Retirement - I retired in 2006 and joined NARFE's Annandale Chapter 1159 that same year. In the following years, I served as the Chapter's Legislation Chair (as well as Virginia Federation of NARFE Congressional District Leader for the 11th Congressional District), 1st Vice President, and President. I am currently serving my fourth year as Chapter Secretary.

**** 0 ****

Executive Board

President

Kim Rendelson
krendelson49@gmail.com
 703-204-0388

1st Vice President

John Bankson
johnboy1607@outlook.com
 703-256-2295

2nd Vice President

Pat Drobnek
drobp@aol.com
 703-967-3935

Treasurer

Jack Bagnulo
jbagnulo@cox.net

Secretary

Mary Lou Vroman
mlvnet@cox.net

Legislation

Mary Ann Munley
mamunley@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Doug Jones
doujones500@verizon.net

Alzheimer's

Phil Gilliland
PMGilliland@verizon.net

Public Relations

Lorin Goodrich
lorin.goodrich@outlook.com

Programs

Carol Rubin
carolleerubin@gmail.com

Outreach

Rosemary Arnolts
 703-578-7619

**Senior Citizens Council
 Representative**

Gabe Goldberg

Service Officer

Carol Lutz
 703-916-8546

Hospitality

Sharon Sellers
 703-915-8765

Member at-Large

Pat Jack

Web Coordinator

John Bankson
johnboy1607@outlook.com
 703-256-2295

Membership

Doug Jones
doujones500@verizon.net
 703-425-3361

Greeter

Mara Yachnin