

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

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MEETING: Monthly on First Tuesday – Except July & August
WHERE: American Legion Post 177 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax
TIME: Social Hour – 11:30 AM Lunch – 12:00PM
 Cost – \$15.00

Speaker / Program – 12:30 PM
MEETING SCHEDULE: December 6, 2022
 January 3, 2023
 February 7, 2023

REMEMBER

If Fairfax County schools are closed because of inclement weather, Fairfax Chapter 737 luncheon meetings are also cancelled. Delayed openings in the school system does not impact our scheduled luncheons. All ZOOM meetings will continue as scheduled.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Members of Chapter 737 – December is that month which passes very quickly with so many activities. Among them is the Chapter sing-along membership meeting which will take place on Tuesday December 6th at the Fairfax American Legion Post beginning at 12:00 P.M. Check-in begins at 11:30 A.M. with some time to socialize. Groceries for Food for Others will be collected in the parking lot. Please plan to attend the December meeting. The cost is \$15 for the luncheon. As a reminder, Open Season for Federal benefits ends December 12th.

Also, this is the last issue of the Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter that will be edited by Bill Shackelford. Since Bill is taking the reins of NARFE as National President, the newsletter will be prepared, beginning with the January 2023 issue, by Chapter Secretary Jim Mays. Jim can be contacted at 703-978-0317 or mays.jl@verizon.net
 Best wishes for the end of the year activities.

Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President

SCAM ALERT

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HOLIDAY SCAMS – To ensure you have a safe and celebratory holiday season, be wary of these common holiday scams: phony selling, fake invoices and bank notifications, lookalike pages, 'your order has been canceled,' and 'renew your membership for the purchases you have made.' To help avoid getting scammed, here are some "best practices" offered by the FBI.

- Do not click on suspicious links or attachments in emails, websites, or social media.
- When buying from a website, check the URL to make sure it is legit and secure. According to the FBI, the website should have "https" in its address.
- Verify the buyer and check feedback ratings.
- Avoid sellers who act as authorized dealers or factory representatives.
- Beware if the seller responds to your questions by saying they are out of the country or away at a family emergency.
- Do not wire money directly and avoid using prepaid cards.
- Get tracking numbers and follow the delivery process.
- According to the Better Business Bureau, federal law requires that orders be shipped by the date promised and if you don't receive the items on time, you can cancel and demand a refund.

(Source: Virginia Sheriff's Institute Fall 2022 Newsletter)

FOOD FOR OTHERS

We will again collect food to contribute to "Food for Others" (FFO) who support those in need in Fairfax County. In November we collected 77 pounds at the meeting and delivered it to FFO. Bob Sottile collected 154 pounds from his neighbors in Hickory Farms Community Association that he delivered to FFO. **Way to go Bob!!** That is a November total of 231 pounds. Bob is also planning to collect from Hickory Farms neighbors again in November, the Tuesday after our meeting, to donate to FFO. This truly exemplifies community spirit to help others. Bring more for the December collection. This is a truly community minded project for NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737. From the 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. 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 Lenius at a Chapter meeting, or at 703-801-2551 by e-mail at leniussa@gmail.com.

December 6	Holiday Celebration – Music with guitar accompaniment, good food, great companionship & conversation.
January 3	TBD
February 7	TBD

Sharon Lenius – Program Coordinator

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of November 1, 2022, the Chapter account balance was \$8,426.90. Our disbursements totaled \$197.87 for the month of November. Our balance as of November 30, 2022, was \$8,471.58. Please remember that the cost of our luncheon has gone up to \$15.00 for your meal.

Donna Shackelford – Treasurer

LUCKY NUMBERS WINNERS

Bill Shackelford won a free lunch at the May meeting. The 40-40-20 raffles were claimed by John Parks who won 40% drawing (\$11.00) and Ruby Harney won the 20% (\$6.00) drawing in May. Congratulations to these winners!!!

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 or calling Sunrise at Fair Oaks at 703-289-0064.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

(As of November 16, 2022)

NATIONAL LEGISLATION – Returning from an extended recess, Congress has just four scheduled working weeks in which to decide on a range of federal workplace issues before the new Congress convenes in January and the process would have to restart. Democrats will be pressing to enact their highest priority bills while still in control of both chambers.

Foremost among them is a proposal to change the law so that a future administration could not issue an order similar to one issued by the Trump administration in late 2020 creating a new exceptive service schedule known as "Schedule F," essentially turning tens of thousands of competitive service jobs involved with making or carrying out policy into political appointive positions, without civil service protection or ending requirements for competition in filling those positions. While President Biden last year revoked that order, the prospect of a future Republican administration revoking Biden's order and reinstating a Schedule F has made changing the law to prevent such a sequence a high priority for federal organizations and their Democratic supporters in Congress.

The most likely course remains an amendment to the "must-pass" DoD authorization bill that will come to a Senate vote in a post-election session, with a conference to follow with the House and final enactment by the end of this year.

The DoD bill will also likely become the vehicle for a number of relatively minor improvement to benefits, including payments on the death of a federal employee in the line of duty and creating a presumption that certain conditions suffered by federal firefighters is work-related for purposes of injury compensation benefits.

Federal unions are also pushing for end-of-session action on measures that have progressed in the House such as putting TSA employees under standard civil service rules for pay, bargaining and other purposes; broadening whistleblower protections; and expanding bargaining rights of certain VA medical personnel.

In addition to the DoD bill, another top priority for Congress before year's end will be the need to extend agency funding beyond the December 16 expiration of the current stopgap measure. It is uncertain whether a new extension will go through the remainder of the fiscal year ending next September 30 or only until sometime early in 2023.

Several nominations of importance to the federal workforce meanwhile remain pending, including the five-member TSP board; the OPM deputy director position; and the Merit Systems Protection Board chairwoman. **(FEDweek)**

Insurance premiums for the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program will jump by an average of 8.7% in 2023, the largest increase in more than a decade. When OPM released the new rates, agency officials cited the increased use of healthcare services as the reason for the higher costs. **(Government Executive)**

Medicare Part B's standard monthly premium will fall to \$164.90 in 2023, a \$5.20 decrease from this year, welcome news after 2020, when the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services hit beneficiaries with the highest ever increase. The annual Part B deductible for 2023 is also decreasing to \$226, a \$7 decline. **(AARP Bulletin)**

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION – Governor Glenn Youngkin has released his vision for a comprehensive Virginia Energy Plan, which he says would diversify the energy sector by tapping into nuclear energy, natural gas, renewables, and other energy sources. The plan, diverging from Democratic-passed legislation signed by former Gov. Ralph Northam to gradually shut down carbon-emitting energy sources by 2050, has received mixed reactions from lawmakers, with Republicans applauding the governor's vision and Democrats expressing concern about scaling back the state's fight against climate change. Most of the governor's recommendations will require action by the General Assembly to move forward. **(The Center Square)**

Tom Hart – Legislation Program

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Please consider receiving your newsletter electronically. Contact your **NEW** Newsletter Editor Jim Mays at mays.jl@verizon.net 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 as well as the FEDHub platform at www.narfe.org. This issue of the Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter is being sent to 345 members with 209 being sent by USPS & 136 sent via e-mail.

William Shackelford – Newsletter Editor

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Articles for the January 2023 issue of Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter are due to the editor by e-mail at mays.jl@verizon.net by December 15, 2022.

Return Service Requested
NARFE - Fairfax Chapter 737
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Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver By November 30, 2022



DECEMBER 2022