



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FAIRFAX CHAPTER 737



<https://vanarfe.org/Chapter-737/>

MARCH 2023

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

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

March 7-Representative Gerald Connolly will speak at the 7 March 2023 luncheon. The membership meeting will begin at 12:00 p.m. He will begin his presentation at 12:30. Friends and relatives are welcome. Zoom access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84233003770?pwd=SVo2bjBuL1p6OFIvc3B5bGVKUjc5dz09>

April 4-Cancelled so members can attend the Virginia Federation of NARFE.

May 2-Mary Lipsey from the Burke Historical Society will talk about Clara Barton and her important role as a Leading Lady during the Civil War."

June 6-Third Annual Chapter Picnic Van Dyck Park in Fairfax City.

Inclement Weather Policy – When Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) are closed because of inclement weather on the day of a chapter meeting, the meeting is cancelled. The meeting will still be held if the FCPS open 2 hours late.

MEETING PROGRAM

The February meeting featured Derrick Cowles from Vienna City Government. He spoke about "How to Use Uber!." This was an interesting topic that generated many comments and questions at the Vienna-Oakton Chapter.

Ted Pasek – Co-Program Chair

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members of Chapter 737,

The speaker at the February 7th membership meeting, Mr. Nathan Salisbury from Sunrise Senior Living, gave a very interesting talk on Healthy Aging. I learned, for instance, that when talking with someone who is afflicted with Alzheimer's disease, give him about a minute to respond to a question. Mr. Salisbury gave several other good tips of advice. Our Fairfax Chapter is a generous donor to Alzheimer's research. It is, also, a generous donor to Food for Others. Dry goods will be collected in the parking lot before the meeting. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m.

Representative Gerald Connolly will speak at the 7 March 2023 luncheon. Friends and relatives are welcome.

The Fairfax chapter is planning a field trip to the Workhouse Center for the Arts in the middle of April. Please inform the trip leader, Sharon Lenius, at leniussa@gmail.com or me of your interest to join this tour. Mark your calendar for the Chapter 737 picnic which will be held on 6 June 2023 at Van Dyck Park in the City of Fairfax.

Volunteers to help run the local chapter are always welcome. I will be glad to tell you how you can contribute.

Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President

MARCH 2023

Virginia Federation of NARFE

The next annual conference is scheduled April 3 - 5, 2023 at the Hilton Embassy Suites in Hampton Convention Center at 1700 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, Virginia 23666. There will be speakers, break-out sessions, training, exhibitors and NARFE members from all over Virginia. More VFN conference information is available at <https://vanarfe.org/> . Call Embassy Suites, Hampton directly at 757.827.8200 and specify 'NARFE' group when registering. Save your place for \$98, single, 108 double, and free breakfast.

TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FINANCES:

As of 1/1/2023 balance:	\$8,315.15
Income during Jan	394.88
Expenses during Jan	871.78
As of 1/31/2023 balance:	7,838.25

I paid the per capita of \$462 to VFN accounting for half the expenses.

Donna Shackelford – Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP:

VFN (1/30/2023)	4,735 Chapter members
	6,308 National Only Members
	11,043 total

Chapter 737	262 Chapter members
	324 National Only Members
	586 total (Sixth in Federation in size)

During January, 1 new member and 2 dropped for non-renewal. I member passed away. I have sent email to one non-renewal.

Donna Shackelford – Membership

FOOD FOR OTHERS

In March we will continue to collect food for "Food for Others" which supports those in need in Fairfax County. At our February meeting our chapter's contribution was XXXX pounds! Continue the good work throughout the winter when times are even harder. From the www.FoodforOthers.org/give-food web site, here is more information. Bob Sottile delivered 169 pounds of food for the chapter. Needed items include:

Food Items (no more than 3 years expired, unopened, labeled, not homemade):

- Fresh fruits (oranges, apples, bananas, tomatoes, avocados, grapes, berries)
- Fresh vegetables (cucumbers, celery, peppers, lettuce, eggplant)
- Cooking Oil
- Dry goods – cereal, pasta, rice, (16oz packages), dried beans
- Canned vegetables tomatoes (crushed, peeled, diced, etc.), beans, corn, etc.)
- Canned meat (chicken, turkey, or seafood), 2oz – 15oz
- Canned fruit (packed in fruit juice instead of syrup) 11oz – 20oz
- Spaghetti sauce, 14oz – 1 lb (ideally in cans or plastic instead of glass)
- Fruit juice (100% juice) 32oz – 64oz

Perishable Food (Meat and Dairy unexpired, sealed, in original packaging):

Non-Food Items (New or Clean Reusable Grocery Bags 8 ½ x 14 x 15 and can openers)

Ted Pasek – Vice President

MEETING LUCKY NUMBERS WINNERS

Free lunch: Donna Shackelford

40-40-20 drawing: \$22 was won by Howard Anstice

40-40-20 drawing: \$11 was won by Mike Mahoney

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

NATIONAL LEGISLATION - Washington is in another big fight over whether to raise or suspend the nation's debt limit, which caps the amount of money the federal government can borrow. The fight began in earnest on February 1, when President Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy met at the White House to discuss the debt limit and other issues.

The United States borrows huge sums of money by selling Treasury bonds to investors across the globe and uses those funds to pay existing financial obligations, including military salaries, safety net benefits and interest on the national debt. Once the United States hit the current debt limit of \$31.381 trillion set by Congress on January 19, the Treasury Department began using "extraordinary measures" – suspending some investments and exchanging different types of debt—to try to stay beneath the cap as long as possible. That option could be exhausted by June. Responsibility for lifting or suspending the borrowing cap falls to Congress, which must get a simple majority in both the House and Senate to vote any change to the debt limit. Raising the debt limit has become a perennial fight, with Republican lawmakers using it as leverage to try to force spending cuts.

This year is shaping up to be the messiest in at least a decade. Republicans now control the House and have adopted new rules governing legislation that make it more difficult to raise the debt limit and strengthen Republican's ability to demand that any increase be accompanied by spending cuts. Senate Republicans have also insisted that increases to the debt limit should be tied to "structural spending reform."

The government could wind up defaulting on its debt if it is unable to make required payments to its bondholders. Economists and Wall Street analysts warn that such a scenario would be economically devastating and could plunge the globe into a financial crisis. (New York Times)

There are continuing negotiations. House Speaker McCarthy expressed optimism that both he and Biden can reach consensus. Republican Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, co-chair of the House Problem Solvers Caucus, said on February 5 that GOP members of his bipartisan group were ready to break with their party leadership on some aspects of the debt ceiling negotiations, but remain committed to attaching some spending cuts. Democratic Rep. Josh Gottheimer, the caucus' other co-chair, pushed back on previous assertions of the White House that it would not negotiate on the debt ceiling. (CNN)

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION - February 7 marked the halfway point of Virginia's 2023 General Assembly Session, a date known as "crossover," where bills that don't pass either chamber effectively are done and bills that do pass are considered in the other chamber.

Fiery debates about abortion, voter access and other topics will likely lead to few changes in the law as the House of Delegates, with a 52-48 Republican majority and the Virginia Senate, with a 22-18 Democratic majority, cancel one another out. Measures similar to proposals backed by Republicans in the House of Delegates aimed at restricting access to the ballot box, limiting access to abortion at various cutoff points and cutting corporate and income tax rates have already been rejected in the Democratic controlled Virginia Senate. (Washington Post)

The House of Delegates and the Senate have adopted their budgets, and the battle is on over how to bridge a \$1 billion gulf between the two chambers. Senior leaders of the two parties will try to hash out a final agreement in a conference committee before the assembly's scheduled adjournment Feb. 25, knowing that Gov. Youngkin is waiting his turn with vetoes and proposed amendments. (Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Tom Hart – Legislation Program

NARFE-FEEA FUND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

The 2023 NARFE-FEEA scholarship program is now accepting applications. Recipients will receive a one-time award of \$1,000 to put toward the 2023-24 school year. Applicants must be seniors in high school; children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren of NARFE members are eligible. The deadline to apply is 3 p.m. ET Thursday, March 16, 2023. For more information and to access the application, visit www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/. The scholarship program is funded by the NARFE-FEEA Fund, supported by NARFE members and administered by FEEA. In 1987, the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) established a scholarship program for children and grandchildren of federal employees. Ten years later, NARFE joined FEEA's Board of Directors and soon after that authorized creation of a scholarship program open to relatives of NARFE members. See the 2022 winners [here](#). To support the program, donations to the NARFE-FEEA Fund can be made online at www.feea.org/givenarfe or by check payable to NARFE-FEEA Fund mailed to: NARFE-FEEA Fund c/o FEEA, 1641 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Return Service Requested
NARFE - Fairfax Chapter 737
5340 GAINSBOROUGH DR.
FAIRFAX, VA 22032-2741



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver By February 25, 2023

NEWSLETTER

Please consider receiving your newsletter electronically. Contact your Newsletter Editor at mays.jl@verizon.net to make the change. By receiving the E-Newsletter, **the chapter saves money** and 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 346 members with 211 being sent by USPS & 135 sent via e-mail.

Articles for the **April 2023** issue of Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter are due to the editor by e-mail at Mays.JL@verizon.net by **March 15**.

James Mays – Newsletter Editor