

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 cash or check made out to NARFE Chapter 737
MEETING SCHEDULE: Monthly on First Tuesday – Except July & August
CONTACT: Email TedPasek@verizon.net if you plan to attend

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

April 14- Tour of Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, Virginia

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 VanDyck Park in Fairfax City.

MEETING PROGRAM

Speaker: Representative Gerald Connolly from Virginia's 11 district talked about issues before the current congress, explained congressional dynamics and took questions. He talked about the weaponization of government committee set up under the Republican controlled congress that he has been assigned to. It is supposed to look for evidence of the Deep State and civil servant attempts to circumvent administration initiatives. He discussed the Republican attempts to abolish the Office on Management and Budget and convert professional 50,000 positions to political appointee positions. When he requested the administration provide their legal basis for undertaking an action that requires congressional approval he was provided a legal document that was totally redacted except for the title. The congressman talked about his attempts to get civil service Cost of Living Adjustment for government employees, particularly FERS employees, in line with the COLAs used for Social Security. The support of Ukraine was also talked about. He took questions after his status talk.

A question about voting rights was discussed. He said that legislation looking for fraudulent votes could turn up a couple here and there. His position was that expanding voting opportunities would get the 40 of the population that does not vote out and make elections more credible and secure. Questions on Mexican crime, drugs, relocation of US factories and illegal immigration were talked about. The position honest police, military and politicians are in is that they don't get support up and down the chain, they are not paid well and they are given the choice of getting a bag full of money or a bag full of their families heads. It helps keep Mexico working with US factories there and it provides opportunities for workers who would otherwise head to the US to support their families increasing illegal immigration. Madeline in the District 11 Fairfax office is available to help with questions and issues related to Federal benefits and issues. Representative Gerry Connolly and Chapter VP



Ted Pasek

Ted Pasek – Co-Program Chair

Business: VP Ted Pasek recognized NARFE National President William Shackelford who attended the Chapter 737 meeting. Ted talked about the upcoming third annual Chapter 737 picnic on June 6, the cancellation of the April 4 meeting, the Alzheimer's donation jar, Food for Others, and the Virginia Federation of NARFE conference.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members of Chapter 737,

The 7 March membership meeting was very well attended. Representative Connolly gave an interesting status report about his initiatives and other advancements made by Congress in promoting the interests of Federal employees.

Remember that there will not be an April membership meeting, because the Annual Meeting and Conference of the Virginia Federation of NARFE will be taking place at the same time. See <https://vanarfe.org/> for details.

But a field trip is planned to tour the Workhouse Arts Center on Friday 14 April 2023. The plan is to leave the Fairfax American Legion Post at 11:15 a.m. Please inform Sharon Lenius by e-mail at: leniussa@gmail.com, if you plan to join the tour.

Again, I am making an appeal for two, preferably three, volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. Please inform Mike Fleming of your interest to serve on this required committee. I am seeking volunteers who are not current members of the Board and who plan not to run for office.

Sincerely yours,

Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President

Special Programs

Join Chapter 737 Members and Guests for a special Tour of the Workhouse Arts Center on Friday, April 14, 2023.

WHAT: Tour of Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, Virginia

WHERE: 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton, VA 22079

WHO: NARFE Chapter 737 Members and Guests

WHEN: Friday, April 14, 2023, 11 am – 3 pm

WHY: This is the NARFE Chapter 737 Event for April 2023; No April Lunch Meeting due to VA NARFE Conference

HOW: Carpool from Am Legion 177, Oak St; Meet in Parking Lot 11 am, Depart 11:15am

OR

Meet at Center, Lucy Burns Museum at 11:50am to begin Noon Tour at Lucy Burns Museum and visit various Artists' Work Shops

Lunch in Occoquan – 1:30 pm Madigan's Waterfront, 201 Mill St, Occoquan, VA <https://madiganswaterfront.com/>
Separate checks.

MISC: Learn about the history of the Workhouse Arts Center, which began as a Progressive Era reformatory where prisoners learned useful trade to make the facility self-supporting. The Workhouse gained visibility by holding suffragist Lucy Burns and dozens more playing a pivotal role in passing the 19th Amendment.

<https://www.workhousearts.org/lucy-burns-museum>

RSVP: Sharon Lenius, leniussa@gmail.com 703-801-2551 leave message, please by COB Thursday, April 13

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:

Balance on hand 2/1/2023	\$7,838.25
Income during month	310.00
Expenses	<u>237.50</u>
Balance as of 2/28/2023	\$7,909.75

MEMBERSHIP:

<u>Virginia Federation of NARFE</u>	<u>Chapter 737</u>
4,666 Chap	257 Chapter
<u>6,241</u> National	<u>326</u> National
10,907 Total	583 (plus 1 transferring to Chapter)

5 dropped non-renewal; 9 prospective; 7 renewed

Donna Shackelford – Membership

MEETING LUCKY NUMBERS WINNERS

Free lunch: Ralph Thompson

40-40-20 drawing: \$34 was won by Mel Kollander

40-40-20 drawing: \$17 was won by Nancy Robinson

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

NATIONAL LEGISLATION- On March 9, President Biden rolled out a 6.8 trillion proposed budget for fiscal year 2024. It has no chance of passing a Republican House, but serves as an opening bid in what will be a fraught budget battle, as well as a policy blueprint for Mr. Biden’s anticipated re-election campaign.

Biden’s proposed budget includes \$842 billion in defense spending, as well as \$6 billion in support of Ukraine amid Russia’s ongoing invasion.

Among major domestic proposals included in the budget are a national paid family and medical leave program providing up to 12 weeks of leave, universal preschool and funding to expand community college. It would also provide \$25 billion for immigration enforcement and \$5 billion in new election assistance funding. The budget also proposes expanding the Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,600 for children under age 6 and \$3,000 for older children.

To pay for the proposals, Biden is proposing a new 25 percent minimum tax on billionaires and reversing two Trump-era tax cuts: raising the corporate tax from 21% to 28% and restoring a 39.6% rate for single filers making over \$400,00 and couples earning more than \$450,000 annually.

Biden’s budget release comes with lawmakers facing a summer deadline to lift the debt ceiling or risk an unprecedented default on the national debt. House Republicans have insisted on significant spending cuts in exchange for raising the debt ceiling to avoid an economically disastrous default, but had yet to reveal what they want in and out of the budget. Democrats have called for a “clean” increase to the debt ceiling not tied to federal spending. (ABC News, NY Times)

The annual budget proposal also begins the consideration of a federal pay raise for the following year. Some Democrats and employee organizations are seeking an 8.7 percent increase, but to this point Biden has followed the formula in federal pay law, which in 2024 would indicate 5.2 percent. Even the lower rate would be a tough sell this year to the new House Republican majority.

The budget also acts as the vehicle for debate over benefits policies. GOP leaders in the House could again turn to ideas including requiring federal employees to pay more towards their retirement, reducing the government share toward FEHB premiums, reducing the value of annuity benefits for future retirees, and more. (Fedweek)

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION- The Virginia General Assembly ended its legislative session on Saturday Feb. 25 without reaching an agreement on sweeping changes to the state budget, leaving both tax cuts and massive new spending on the table as Republicans and Democrats couldn’t break a deadlock over priorities. Virginia already has a two-year budget, but attempts to amend it stalled.

Senate Democrats opposed plans for extensive tax cuts, requested by Gov.Youngkin. Youngkin was seeking \$1 billion in tax cuts on top of \$4 billion in tax cuts the General Assembly approved last year. Senate Democrats were holding out to use more revenue to make up for long-underfunded education expenses and to provide raises for teachers.

Instead of an agreement, the legislature passed a four-page stop-gap measure to revise funding for some essential functions of government as budget negotiations continue. Gov. Youngkin indicated a special session will be called when they are ready.

One major item that did get resolved was tightening of regulatory oversight of Dominion Energy. A 59-page bill subjects Dominion to rate reviews every two years, rolls a series of surcharges into a base electricity rate, sets up a mechanism for securitizing a spike in fuel costs and reasserts regulatory control over how much Dominion can earn. (Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Tom Hart – Legislation Program

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



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver By March 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 **May 2023** issue of NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter are due to the editor by e-mail at Mays.JL@verizon.net by **April 15**.

James Mays – Newsletter Editor