

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

President's Message

By Pat Meyers

How nice it is to see the signs of spring, i.e. trees and flowers in bloom and to have longer days to enjoy them! I will shortly be leaving for Hampton, VA to attend the VFN annual conference--my first. I look forward to meeting members throughout the state and sharing information with our chapter members upon my return. Special thanks to Evelyn Roll and Mileva Hartman for providing items for the silent auction to benefit Alzheimer's research and to those of you who helped to support the conference by becoming a "conference supporter."

Our March meeting was well attended and the program on Arlington County's guardianship program was well-received. We learned the difference between guardianship and conservatorship as well as alternatives to guardianship, and roles and requirements of guardianship, including how to become a volunteer guardian. If anyone would like a copy of the power point presentation, please let me know. We'll also have copies available at our April chapter meeting.

SAVE THE DATE of Wednesday, June 7, 2023 for our annual June luncheon. We are honored to have NARFE National President, William (Bill) Shackelford as our keynote speaker. Please plan to join us and welcome Bill to Chapter 7. Details about the luncheon are included later in this newsletter and a registration form will be included in the May issue.

If you read the Sun Gazette (newly named "gazette leader"), you'll know that the controversial resolution of the Arlington County Civic Federation to the Arlington County Board regarding its governance in Arlington and lack of communication with its citizenry passed after 7 months of work and rework. An alternate resolution proposed by the NAACP was defeated and that organization's chapter withdrew its membership in the ACCF. Stay tuned as the resolution goes forward.

I look forward to seeing you at our April 12th meeting. Best wishes to you for Easter and Passover festivities.

April 12 Meeting – Charlie Clark Poses: The Retrocession Riddle

By Norbert Erickson

What eventually became Arlington County is part of a 1790 carve-out from Fairfax County, which the Commonwealth of Virginia ceded to Federal jurisdiction for the Seat of the National Government. The 1846-47 process of returning whatever territory Virginia contributed was enabled by Act of Congress and Presidential signature. Why was this retrocession so necessary, who and what forces were at work?

Charlie Clark, "Our Man in Arlington", column writer, reciting extracts of his "Arlington County Chronicles", was the delightful entertainment serving during Chapter 7's December 13, 2014 holiday luncheon at Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery. Our return lecturer now researches and analyzes personalities and political winds which drove such a move. Delve into history with him and share the moment.

Update on WEP-GPO Repeal

Since we last visited this issue back in February, a companion bill to *HR 82* has been introduced in the Senate (*S 597*), with 35 original co-sponsors. Meanwhile, as of this writing (3/20/23) the number of co-sponsors for *HR 82* stands at 200, including 6 from Virginia. In case you have forgotten, the threshold under the House's Consensus Calendar Rule for forcing either a committee hearing or a floor vote is 290; thus, we're already well on our way.

Among Virginia's cosponsors are the three Congress(wo)men who collectively represent the totality of Chapter 7's membership---Reps. Beyer, Connolly, and Wexton. A word about Rep. Beyer (D-VA-8) is in order, since he has only recently come onboard (3/14/23). Noting his absence from the list of cosponsors, I asked Beyer (Annandale Town Hall Meeting, 3/13/23) if this meant that his previous support for WEP-GPO repeal in the 117th Congress had changed. Simply an oversight due to an overload of issues competing for attention was (in essence) his reply. In any event, he committed to becoming a co-sponsor; and true to his word, he signed on the very next day---3/14/23). Lesson for us as advocates? Even in today's oh-so electronically-connected world, there is still a role for face-to-face communication.

There is also work for us on the Senate side. Missing in action from the list of cosponsors of *S 597* are Senators Kaine and Warner. You know the drill. Go to www.NARFE.org, click on "Advocacy", then on "Take Action," and follow the prompts.

Increased Funding for Virginia's *Livable Home Credit (HB 2099)*

Among the smorgasbord of miscellaneous credits allowed against your Virginia state income tax that must be filed on VA Schedule CR is the Livable Home Tax Credit. Pursuant to *HB 2099*, the amount of funding to cover this program will be doubled in FY2024 to \$1M each for new construction and for retrofitting. While this credit is not means-tested, the maximum amount a taxpayer may claim for "eligible activities" in a given year (beginning in FY2023) is \$6,500 toward the purchase of a new home, or 50% of the cost of a retrofit not to exceed \$6,500. To qualify, an expenditure must embody (or enhance, in the case of retrofit) the design principles of accessibility or universal visitability. (Think design for "aging-in-place)."

Eligibility for the credit is not automatic. Application must be made through Virginia's Department of Housing & Community Development (dhcd.virginia.gov/LHTC). Since funds are limited, they are awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. Finally, if you succeed in snagging this credit, when tax time rolls around, you will file it on Virginia Schedule CR Section 1, Part 16, Line B.

Hello! Is everyone---or even *anyone*---still awake? Details, details, eh? Moreover, in today's economy, the Livable Home Credit might not be enough to make your proposed project financially feasible. But if you itemize on for your Federal 1040, expenses for accessibility/visitability home improvements most likely will be deductible. In order to be sure, check out the menu of eligible expenses under the category of "capital expenses" in IRS Pub. 502.

Membership Report

By Nancy Palmerino

Welcome to our newest chapter member Connie Sorrentino. We currently have 294 Chapter members and an additional 443 National members in our chapter area for a total of 737 Chapter and National members.

SAVE THE DATE – June Luncheon

What: Chapter 7 Annual June Luncheon
When: Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 11:30 am
Where: The Italian Cafe, 7161 Lee Hwy, Falls Church, VA
Cost: \$27.00

We look forward to having you join us at our chapter's annual June luncheon to welcome NARFE National President, William (Bill) Shackelford as our keynote speaker. The menu will include salad, bread, entree, dessert, non-alcoholic beverage, tax and tip. Members will be asked to select from the following entrees:

Poached Salmon: poached with garlic, lemon, herbs and Chardonnay wine; served with roasted potatoes & vegetables;

Pasta Primavera: Penne pasta served with portobello mushrooms, Shiitake mushrooms, sun-dried tomatoes, and asparagus in a chardonnay wine sauce:

Chicken Piccata: Boneless chicken breast sauteed in butter, capers, artichokes and lemon juice, served with linguini & vegetables

Spaghetti with meat sauce or marinara sauce.

Dessert: choice of spumoni or tiramisu.

Look for the reservation form in the **May** newsletter. Deadline for reservations will be **June 1, 2023**. You may also bring your reservation and check to the May 10th chapter meeting.

LEGcon23 – NARFE's Virtual Legislative Training Conference

Learn to advocate for NARFE's legislative priorities and become an active participant in protecting and defending your federal benefits. The conference will be held June 20-22, 2023, with a pre-training "Know Before You Go" session on June 14 to familiarize registrants with the procedure and instructions for their successful participation in the conference and the virtual visits with lawmakers. Go to www.NARFE.org, click on "Advocacy", then on "LEGcon23" for more information and to register. Registration fees may be reimbursed by Chapter 7 post conference with copy of receipt.

Alzheimer's Report

By Nancy Palmerino

Thank you to all who continue to donate to Alzheimer's research at our monthly meetings. In February we collected \$105.35 with the help of the emptying of a piggy bank, and in March we collected an additional \$50. This brings our total collected to-date for 2023 to \$200.35. We will continue to have empty piggy banks available for you to fill with change and return at future meetings.

Audit Committee Volunteers Needed

If you're willing to give an hour or two to help audit our chapter's financial records for 2022, please contact Pat Meyers at 703-578-3372. The task is important and doesn't require much time or experience but is required annually. We need 2 members to accomplish the audit.

Meeting Place and Time

Our meetings are held at the Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington. There is a parking garage on Park Drive with free parking up to 4 hours. As you enter the center from the garage, the Beech Room is across the hall to your left. Social time begins at 12:00 noon and our program begins at 12:30 pm.

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Your Elected Officials

United States Senate

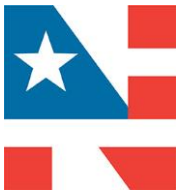
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