



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

May 2023

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 11:30 A.M.

Join us for lunch on Wednesday, June 7th at The Auld Shebeen (3971 Chainbridge Road, Fairfax). Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. Musical entertainment by Jeff Walthall. Reservations are required. For details, see page 6.

PREZ SEZ – Spring is here – at least most days and sometimes it’s summer already. Dreams of warm beach days and crashing waves dance through my head. I grew up going to Jones Beach with my grandmother, aunts and cousins, Camp Stephanie in Upstate New York with the same cousins where we slept in cabins in the woods, and days at Rockaway Beach with my parents and their friends. Lots of wonderful memories. So, my first order of business is to head to Ocean City for some R&R, wallowing in the pleasure of a pile of library books while listening to the calming sounds of the waves hitting the shore. What are your summer memories?

The Executive Board will be meeting in June to work on the Fall schedule of programs. If you have any ideas, please share them with one of us. And be sure to look for the Fall schedule in our August Newsletter. I look forward to seeing many of you at our luncheon at **The Auld Shebeen** – a new venue for us (no stairs) – which I hope we’ll all enjoy. The first person who is willing to get up and do the Irish Jig for us will have their luncheon cost reimbursed by me. I might even get up and try it with you. Have a wonderful summer and we’ll see everyone in September.

Kim Rendelson, Chapter President

Please note: We take the summer off, so our next newsletter will be our August 2023 edition and we will have no chapter meetings in July and August.

May Program Report – Virginia State Senator David Marsden (37th District) and House Delegate Vivian Watts (39th District) addressed our chapter meeting.

Senator Marsden focused his comments on the budget, juvenile detention, and climate change. Virginia is in the second year of its two-year budget cycle, and currently has a surplus. There has been support for more funding in mental health and education. Unlike the Federal Government, Virginia must balance its budget. Only 5% of the General Fund can go to the retirement of debt. An area of improvement within the Commonwealth is juvenile detention. In 2001, the state began using ankle bracelets to monitor some juvenile delinquents in lieu of incarceration, which allows juveniles to better integrate back into society. This practice has yielded measurable benefits by reducing the number of kids requiring residential incarceration and providing opportunities for rehabilitation.



Senator Marsden addressing Chapter members

Regarding climate issues, there's concern about the proliferation of data centers, which create a burden on power companies trying to meet future clean energy requirements. More could be done in urban areas to consider expansion of solar panels to parking lots, tops of buildings, and streets. There's a proposal to expand and fund charging stations for electric vehicles in Virginia's rural areas, especially those areas with tourist attractions.

Delegate Watts focused her comments on staffing standards in nursing homes, and the budget. Unlike most states, Virginia did not have staffing standards for nursing homes. We had a 20% higher death rate in nursing homes during COVID than other states, which might have been reduced had we had standards. People are living longer, and the costs of residential nursing homes are rising. We need more Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), as well as other positions to ensure better care. In Virginia and around the country insufficient pay and benefits are creating a high turnover rate for CNAs, thus further affecting staffing shortages. The good news is that legislation has been passed which establishes some staffing standards for the State's Medicaid patients, but key to success will be vigilant enforcement of those standards.

(continued on next page)

(continued from page 2) Regarding the budget, the Governor proposed a \$1.4B permanent tax cut. However, as proposed, higher income residents would receive a



Delegate Watts emphasizing a point during her presentation.

greater benefit than other taxpayers, and the bulk of taxpayers might only see a reduction or refund of \$150 or less – depending on income. The state tax cut proposal could change state funding for local activities, such as education, leaving local jurisdictions to generate funding at the local level.

Greater detail on the impact of state and local taxes on various localities can be found in a University of Richmond Public Interest Law Review article by Delegate Watts (*Vivian E. Watts, Virginia Tax Re-Structuring: 100 Years*


Ago, 50 Years Ago, and Now, 26 Rich. Pub. Int. L. Rev. 185 (2023). Available at: <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/pilr/vol26/iss1/9>).

Several options for a tax cut are under consideration by the State Senate: 1) one-time rebate rather than a structural change, based on the surplus; 2) increase the standard deduction so it brings the floor up for everyone; and 3) for families in most need, make Earned Income Tax Credit 100%. The House leans toward supporting the Governor's permanent tax cut. However, revenues are going down, drawing closer to original projections so the current surplus may not be sustained.

Snacks were provided by: **Anne Trotter, Mary Ann Munley, Loretta Nester, Fran Walinsky, Pat Jack, Della Dahl, Carol Rubin, Kim Rendelson, Norene Gerstner and Sharon Sellers.** A total of **31** attended in-person (10 joined on Zoom, but due to sound problems on the Zoom transmission, most left early).

Fran Walinsky, Secretary

Nominating Committee – Elections for the Chapter's 2024 Executive Board positions (President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer) will be held in November. At our June luncheon members will be asked to approve a Nominating Committee that will nominate a slate of candidates. **John Bankson** has agreed to chair the committee. Please consider volunteering to join John and serve on the committee. Also, consider running for an elected Board position. This is the first step to filling roles needed to keep our chapter vibrant and growing. To volunteer, or if you have any questions, contact John at johnboy1607@outlook.com or **703-256-2295**.

LEGISLATION REPORT –

Federal Legislation -- H.R. 2811, Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023 (Debt Ceiling Increase/Federal Spending Decrease) -- The House passed legislation to increase the Debt Ceiling by \$1.5 trillion or until March 31, 2024, whichever comes first. But it would also require a reduction in nondefense discretionary spending, reverting FY 2024 budget funding to fiscal year 2022 levels, reportedly representing a 23 percent average cut. In addition, funding increases would be limited to 1 percent per year for the next 10 years. Within the legislation are some specific programs to be rescinded (like \$80 million for the IRS to improve operations; limited or no tax credits for green energy enhancements, etc.). But a lot of specifics are left to be determined, and that should bring a level of concern

FY 2024 Federal Budget – The House has yet to come forth with its FY 2024 budget proposal. However, should H.R. 2811 (see above) pass the Senate, just how does an agency operate at FY 2022 levels when employee pay was increased 5% in FY 2023, contractors have increased labor costs, and goods and services have increased with inflation. The federal community could be impacted with reduced pay and benefits, increased cost sharing, or higher taxes. Please pay close attention to any NARFE “Calls for Action” issued during the summer months.

Federal Debt Ceiling approaching -- If the current stalemate between the Administration and the House continues, there could be a delay in issuing payments for federal salaries, annuities, Social Security, and Medicare reimbursement to providers. While the Federal Government has been on the brink of default before, wisdom prevailed and default was avoided, but not without a cost by way of increased borrowing expense. (If you expect to receive a tax credit for buying a “green” heat pump technology, an electric car, or an induction stove, you may be surprised – if passed, H.R. 2811 claws back those tax credits. Be prepared - you might be better served to save your money just in case you do not receive timely annuity checks this summer.)

H.R. 82/ S. 597, Social Security Fairness Act -- The Bill now has 262 co-Sponsors, getting closer to the 290 co-sponsors needed to calendar a floor vote. This bill would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions which negatively impact many federal and state/municipal retirees by cutting their earned Social Security benefits.

(Legislation Report continued on page 5)

NARFE PAC Reminder - NARFE Advocacy doesn't take a summer vacation! Please consider a contribution to NARFE PAC over the summer – it would be a good investment in preserving your earned benefits.

State Legislation -- The Virginia General Assembly's Reconvene session is concluded. Left unresolved was the Governor's request to pass changes to the budget that provide \$1 billion in tax relief for Virginians and deliver over \$2.6 billion for job growth, public safety, education excellence, and behavioral health services. At issue is the best way to reduce taxes while increasing services. Sounds good, but as always, the devil is in the details.



Mary Ann Munley, Legislation Chair

Alzheimer's Report – Beta-amyloid plaques are one of the unwanted structures in the brain that promote Alzheimer's disease. The plaques collect between the brain's neurons and disrupt cell functions in the brain. Two amyloid plaque clearing drugs have been shown to slow cognitive and functional decline in people with early Alzheimer's. One drug, *Leqembi*, has received conditional approval by the FDA. The other, *Donanemab*, is still in clinical trials but could allow more people with early-stage Alzheimer's to continue to engage in activities that hold value for them. Thanks for everyone's support of the Alzheimer's Research Fund. So far this year, the chapter has collected **\$1,895** in donations to the Fund. 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

Inclement Weather Policy for the Luncheon Only -- If Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) open only 2 hours late on the day of the luncheon, the luncheon will be held. If the FCPS are closed or "virtual only" due to inclement weather on the day of our luncheon, we will decide whether to cancel the luncheon based on conditions in our local area. If we have to cancel, we will attempt to contact everyone who made a reservation. In addition, we will post notice of any cancellation on our website and Facebook page. You also may contact Kim Rendelson at 703-204-0388 to learn if the luncheon will be held.

Join us for Our Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, June 7th – Our Chapter Spring Luncheon will be **Wednesday, June 7th** at **The Auld Shebeen** (3971 Chainbridge Rd., Fairfax). It will be in the restaurant lower level, accessible on the North Street side to avoid stairs. Use the free public parking garage right across North Street from the restaurant or one of the many free garages on University Drive. Social time will begin at 11:30 am with lunch at about noon. **Jeff Walthall** will entertain the attendees with a medley of Irish songs. A raffle for special items will be held for the benefit of Alzheimer’s research. You will have a choice of soup or salad and one of two desserts included with your meal. There are six entrees to choose from (Shepherd’s Pie, Guinness Beef Stew, Linguini Alfredo Pasta, Corned Beef and Cabbage, Cottage Pie and Fish and Chips). Barry’s Irish Tea and fresh brewed coffee are included. There will be a cash bar for any other beverages you desire. A charge of **\$44** per person will cover the meal, taxes, and gratuity. We need the names of attendees by June 1st, along with your check. See the reservation form below. You do not select your meal choice with your reservation; instead, you will place your specific meal order after arriving at The Auld Shebeen on June 7th. ***Please mail reservations as soon as possible, but they must be received by June 1, 2023.***

Our **Spring Luncheon** will be held on **Wednesday, June 7th**, at The Auld Shebeen (3971 Chainbridge Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030). Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m., and lunch will be served at noon. A raffle for a number of special items will be held for the benefit of Alzheimer’s research. You will have a choice of soup or salad and one of two desserts included with your meal. There are six entrees to choose from. You will make your meal selection when you arrive at the restaurant. Barry’s Irish Tea and fresh brewed coffee are included. There will be a cash bar for any other beverages you desire. A charge of **\$44** per person will cover the meal, taxes, and gratuity.

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|---|-------------|
| | Charge |
| Attendee _____ | _____ |
| Attendee _____ | _____ |
| Attendee _____ | _____ |
| Please make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 1159 , and mail them and this form to NARFE 1159 Treasurer, Box 1463, Annandale, VA 22003. Please mail reservations and checks as soon as possible, but they must be received by June 1st. | Total _____ |

June Luncheon Alzheimer's Raffle -- The Chapter's tradition of having a raffle that benefits Alzheimer's Research continues. An array of lovely baskets will be available at the June luncheon. And you don't need to be present; numbers are tracked so if you are a winner and not present, your basket(s) will be delivered to your home. So, buy a ticket – or many tickets. The price is certainly right, so take a chance – or many chances. Pictures of the baskets are available on the Chapter's website and on the NARFE Annandale 1159 Facebook page. In keeping with the current Raffle's Economic Policy, the price will remain the same bargain of \$1.00 each or six tickets for \$5.00. **Kim Rendelson** will mail as many raffle tickets back to you as you would like; complete the *June 7, 2023 NARFE June Luncheon Raffle Form* (below) and mail it to Kim with your check payable to **NARFE Alzheimer's Research**, please include **Chapter 1159** on the memo line. Tickets will also be for sale at the luncheon. **All mail-in raffle ticket requests must be received no later than May 29th.**

-----clip and mail form-----

June 7, 2023 RAFFLE TICKET FORM

Annandale NARFE Spring Luncheon – June 7, 2023
\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

I would like to purchase _____ Raffle Tickets. My check is enclosed for \$_____ made out to **NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund**, including **Chapter 1159** on the memo line and mailed to the address provided at the bottom of this page to be **received** no later than **May 29th**.

Please include:

Your Name:

Address:

E-mail Address

Phone No. _____ (for basket winner delivery purposes if you are not present)

Donation Only: If skipping the raffle but still want to make a donation, please send your check made out to **NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund** (include *Chapter 1159* on the memo line) and mail it to:

Kim Rendelson, 3401 Silver Maple PL, Falls Church, VA 22042

All checks will be hand delivered to the NARFE 1159 Treasurer

Adopt-a-Road – Please join us for our next litter pick-up on Thursday, July 20th.



If you plan on joining us, let **Doug Jones** know (doujones500@verizon.net or **703-425-3361**), so he can contact you if we need 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.

There is parking on High Place and remember to bring work gloves and wear hard-soled shoes.



VFN Elections -- Elections for the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) officers and on Bylaw amendments will take place electronically until May 31st. As a NARFE member residing in Virginia or as a member of a Virginia Federation chapter you are entitled to vote in these elections. There are two contested offices which must be decided: President and Secretary. Running for President are **Frances Boatman** and **Doris McAdams**. Running for Secretary are **Deborah Fisk** and **Esther Nash**. The biographies of each candidate can be found at <https://www.vanarfe.org/candidates-statements/>.

Also, on the ballot are two amendments proposed by the VFN Board of Directors. The first would change the quorum requirement for VFN meetings from .005% of membership to 10 members; this approach was recommended by the National Secretary/Treasurer. It does not affect chapters. The second amendment proposed by the VFN Board of Directors to change Annual Meeting notification from 60 days prior to 30 days prior to the meeting. This change will help the Federation take advantage of the national magazine publication schedule to provide notice to NARFE members in Virginia. Both Amendments can be reviewed at <https://www.vanarfe.org/proposed-bylaw/>.

For more information and to vote, go to <https://vanarfe.org/2023-elections/> and, after reviewing the biographies and the proposed amendments, fill in the required information (an email address is NOT required, however your NARFE member number, which can be found on your NARFE magazine mailing label, should be included). VFN members without emails on file were mailed a paper postcard mail-in ballot.

SAVE THE DATES -- September 7, October 5 and November 2

Mark your calendar for the **ACCA Fall Food Pantry Drives** scheduled from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at our new location for donation drop-off: Annandale Giant Foods (7137 Columbia Pike, Annandale) rather than the Mason District Police Station. The Giant Food location will streamline the donation process. Not only will shoppers be offered a recommended shopping list when entering Giant Foods, they will also be able to deposit their donations to the waiting Mason District Police cruiser parked at the curb by the store exit. Donations not purchased at Giant Food can be dropped at the police cruiser by the Giant Foods exit. Donations will also be collected at our September 6, October 4 and November 1 Chapter meetings. **Questions: Contact Sharon Sellers, 703-915-8765, or MPO Tawny Wright/PFC Evan Dicker, 703-354-5889.**

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