



**FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS**  
**National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association**

## **DULLES CHAPTER 1241**

**Serving Current, Former & Retired Federal Employees,  
Spouses and Survivor Annuitants  
In the Dulles Area of Northern Virginia.**

**March-April 2023**

**PRESIDENT'S GREETING:** Hope you and your families are doing well. The chapter is doing



well, we've had two outstanding speakers at our meetings this year. (See highlights in this newsletter.) Check the schedule in the newsletter for future speakers planned until our summer break. Friendly Reminder: If you plan to attend and eat at the meeting, please RSVP in a timely manner. You can attend our chapter meetings whether you eat or not. However, let us know so

that we can make arrangements with the Amphora as they "count heads" in the room. They do not charge the chapter for use of the private room (common in most cases) so we need to be mindful of this.

Thanks to Kathy Loftin for agreeing to serve as our Sunshine Chair. See list below for vacancies that we need to fill

I encourage you to visit <http://www.narfe.org> & <http://www.vanarfe.org> for the most up-to-date information concerning NARFE national & state issues.

If you have an interest participating in the Legislative Conference on June 22-24 let me know. Some funding is available. It's all virtual, see the schedule on [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

Please consider serving or assisting in one of these positions:

Vice President

Service Officer(s)

Chaplain

Assistant Luncheon Coordinator & Luncheon Greeters

Program Committee Co-Chair

Alzheimer's Research Chair

Membership Assistant (write prospective members, members expiring, etc.)

**Jeff Sargent, President**

[Jsarg62@aol.com](mailto:Jsarg62@aol.com)

**LUNCHEON PROGRAM – March 27, 2023, 11:30 A.M.**

**Speaker:** Moriah Kitaeff, Community Engagement Specialist  
Department of Emergency Management & Security, Fairfax County

**Topic:** Emergency Preparedness

**Luncheon Entrée Choices:**

**Shepherd’s Pie with Vegetable**

**Eggs Benedict with Home Fries**

**Shrimp Salad Sandwich with Coleslaw & Kettle Chips**

Served with coffee/tea

**The cost of the luncheon is \$21** which includes meeting room, beverage (priced - \$3.50 on menu), tax and a small gratuity. Additional tips are welcome but not required.

**Please contact Patricia Wolfe at [wolfepatricam@aol.com](mailto:wolfepatricam@aol.com) or (703) 449-1582 no later than Thursday, March 23, 2023. Reservations are very important so that the appropriate number of meals can be ordered and prepared.**

**OUR LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD AT AMPHORA DINER, 1151 ELDEN STREET, HERNDON, VIRGINIA AND BEGINS AT 11:30 AM!**

**Remember!**

**If Fairfax Co. schools are closed because of inclement weather, Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon Meetings are also cancelled.**

**April 24, 2023 – Speaker:** Seth Ickes, NARFE PAC; **Menu:** Cobb Salad, French Dip, Grilled Roasted Vegetable Plate. Look for reminder and call for reservations via e-mail in April.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS 1241 DULLES**

March 2023 Membership report

As of 3-2-2023

Total Current Chapter Members 306

Total National Members in Chapter Area 518

Total Chapter plus National Members 824

1 Year 125

2 Year 32

3 Year 80

Dues Withhold 66

Life Members 3

**We should welcome our new members listed below, and we might want to alert members who live near or know the prospective members listed to contact them about making their membership official. Last month Shirley was listed as dropped, now she is listed as reinstated. I suspect that this is a case of the paperwork catching up with reality.**

### **New Chapter Members**

Costello, Shaun: shcostello2@gmail.com

Handley, Gary: gary.handley.contact@gmail.com

### **Members Dropped For Non-Renewal**

Fortunato, Michael A.: MAFX@VERIZON.NET

Walker, Yuri Nicholas: YNWALKERJD@YAHOO.COM

Greenhill, Barry: [BARRYGREENHILL@COMCAST.NET](mailto:BARRYGREENHILL@COMCAST.NET)

**New Prospective Members (If willing to assist Membership Chair, please contact Bill Schmidt at [billschmidt39@yahoo.com](mailto:billschmidt39@yahoo.com)) for contact information.**

MacGregor, Dan, Ashburn, VA

Narayanan, Prashanth, Ashburn, VA

Cattaneo, Michelle, Chantilly, VA

Quarles, Rojan, Chantilly, VA

Mendoza, Christopher, Sterling, VA

Hunt, Kevin, Sterling, VA

Garner, Michael, Sterling, VA

Rose, Casey, Herndon, VA

Stiles, David, Herndon, VA

Johns, Kelli, Herndon, VA

Yung, Nicole, Reston, VA

Ahmed, Hameed, Reston, VA

Kassinger, Frances, LEESBURG, VA

Murphy, Matthew, Lovettsville, VA

### **Members Reinstated**

Latyak, John, Herndon, VA

Boning, Shirley, Ashburn, VA

**Bill Schmidt**

[billschmidt39@yahoo.com](mailto:billschmidt39@yahoo.com)



## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

While the debt ceiling has occupied a good deal of the new Congress' time, Gerry Connolly has re-introduced his FAIR ACT, which would give federal employees an 8.7% raise next year. Connolly has been appointed to the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government. He has stated that he would be "relentless" in standing up to those who "cast aspersions on our dedicated federal workforce." Gerry continues as a member of the Government Operations Subcommittee, and is now the ranking member of the Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation Subcommittee of the Oversight Committee.

As CDL, I attended a fundraiser for state Senator Jennifer McClellan, now Congresswoman for the 4<sup>th</sup> District, where Connolly was the keynote speaker, in McLean in late January. I attended another fundraiser in mid-February for unopposed Supervisor Walter Alcorn, where Gerry was again the keynote speaker.

NARFE-PAC has recently given Representatives Connolly and Wexton the highest marks in the Virginia delegation. Both had 100% ratings from NARFE in the last Congress. Wexton continues to sit on the House Appropriations Committee and has recently been appointed to the Budget Committee. She hopes to also work on legislation on veterans' issues and cancer research, which she feels has bipartisan support.

In Richmond the General Assembly has adjourned, and appropriators are currently negotiating on possible amendments to the state budget passed last year. The Governor's veto session is scheduled for mid-April. The VFN supported Bobby Orrock/Vivian Watts' bill to improve nursing home standards appears to have passed both houses though the Governor does not seem to have taken a position.

Primaries in June and the general election in November will be held for seats in the General Assembly and for local offices in the newly drawn districts. Locally among the many General Assembly retirements are Delegate Ken Plum and Senator Janet Howell in the Reston area and Senator John Bell and Delegate Wendy Gooditis in Loudoun County.

**Judy Thorne, Chapter Legislative Chair**  
CDL for 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
[thornemusick@aol.com](mailto:thornemusick@aol.com)



### **Important Dates:**

March 27 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon

April 2-5 – Virginia Federation NARFE (VFN) Conference, Hampton, VA

April 24 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon

April 28 – NOVA Caucus Meeting (to be confirmed)

May 22 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon

June 20-22 NARFE National Conference (LEGCON23) (virtual)

June 23 – Lobby Day (virtual)

June 26 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon

**ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH:** Don’t forget to bring your loose change (or dollars) for the Alzheimer’s 50/50 drawing at the Luncheon. If you are unable to attend luncheon programs but would like to donate to this important research and help reach the next goal, you may send a check made payable to NARFE Alzheimer’s Research to me at 5916 Baron Kent Lane, Centreville, VA 20120 or directly to Virginia Alzheimer’s Chair Donna Shackelford at 14429 Round Lick Lane, Centreville, VA 20120. Just be sure to mark 1241 Dulles Chapter in memo line.

**HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY PROGRAM:** Our February speaker, Maria Ventouris, is an expert on the subject of de-cluttering, donating, and organizing. Contact: (703) 717-2693; website: [www.restonconciierge.com](http://www.restonconciierge.com); email: help@restonconciierge.com. She shared a lot of helpful hints if you are moving, downsizing, or just needing to declutter. Interestingly, she recommended starting to organize backwards – start by putting blue painter’s tape on what you definitely want to keep. She likes to use a color coded system, for example: red for selling; green for donate or trash; yellow for family members or friends to view or if undecided; another color perhaps for using their “off-site gallery” for collectibles where you may be able to get money for them. She recommends selling fine china on consignment such as their gallery. They partner with real estate agent on sales and recommends that you get most of this process taken care of before listing. The cost varies depending on “how much stuff” as a “hoarder’s” home would be more but their typical rate is \$55-\$65 per hour per each “conciierge.” Before seeking professional help, she recommends that you do all that you can and start with 10 items and those items should not be letters or photos as you may get bogged down in memories.

**HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY PROGRAM:** Emily Braley, Northern Virginia Rides, was our speaker and provided extremely helpful information as many of us may need assistance with rides at some point in our lives or know someone who does. Contact: [Emily.raley@thej.org](mailto:Emily.raley@thej.org); (703) 537-3070; website: [www.nvrides.org](http://www.nvrides.org). In order to get assistance, you must “join” to become a client, an easy process that can usually be taken care of via phone or e-mail. There is no charge to join or for the rides. They partner with many organizations in Northern Virginia and point you to the one in your area. They are always looking for volunteer drivers and they run a background check. The volunteer drivers are not medically trained and cannot “treat” anyone. They do not offer rides to individuals in wheel chairs. Program Partners include:

Agudas Achim Congregation

At Home in Alexandria

Dar Al-Hirah

Herndon Village Network

J Rides at the Pozez Jewish Community Center

Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers

Mt. Vernon at Home

RCC Rides at the Reston Community Center

Shepherd’s Center of Annandale-Springfield

Shepherd’s Center of Arlington, McLean and Falls Church

Shepherd’s Center of Great Falls

Shepherd’s Center of Western Fairfax

Temple Rodef Shalom

V.E.T.S. Program at Volunteer Prince William

