



# 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](http://www.narfe.org/chapter1159)

We meet at the Mason District Governmental Center  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia

**August 2023**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.**

**Join us, either in-person or via Zoom, for our next meeting at 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, when we will have a program on sorting fact from fiction online. For details, as well as information on registering for the Zoom meeting, see page 3.**

**PREZ SEZ** – Welcome back! I hope everyone had a good summer, despite the heat. It's silly, but, for me writing this almost feels like I'm returning to school after summer vacation. Of course, this may have been brought on by my recent trip to the Allegany Mountains visiting a friend, and then going to New Jersey. Nearing Philadelphia, I saw a sign for Willow Grove. This town used to have a huge amusement park and a Luigi's -- the best hoagies and steak and cheese ever! When my dad was stationed by the Navy in Philadelphia, we lived in Abington, a suburb of Philly, one town over from Willow Grove. Being that close, I just had to stop and see if our house was still there and what it looked like. While not remembering the house number I did remember the house itself. It had changed a bit since I was eight/nine/ten years old and was much smaller than my recollection. While other homes on the street were well kept, my old home was not. The house had been added onto, removing half the lovely, big front porch. The lot was overgrown, as was the driveway. I could see the garage top but not the back yard at all. I then went to my old elementary school, taking the route I walked as a child, when I at times trudged through snow to get there. It was still there but redone and modernized. The big hill behind the school

**(Prez Sez continued on page 2)**

(continued from page 1) where we went sledding was there and as steep as I remember. After returning home, I looked on Zillow and discovered that the house is 100 years old this year! My 3 years living there was just a blip in its history, but I feel there's still plenty of time for it to get new owners that will bring it back to its former glory. So, as they say, you can't go home again -- but I enjoyed my short visit and am glad I "went home again." My visit brought back fond memories and much happiness.

To return from summer break, there are a few chapter business updates. The first is that we lost the board member who arranged for our programs; he chose not to continue; but we have been fortunate to have someone to volunteer to replace him. **Gabe Goldberg** has stepped-up and will take over these duties. Gabe has extensive experience in arranging for speakers and has many interests, so we should see some interesting presentations. And please do not hesitate to share your ideas with him.

Some of you may recall the questionnaires on the June luncheon tables, seeking input on luncheon locations, suggestions for other things the chapter could do, or general recommendations. There were several suggestions for outings, not having entertainment at our luncheons, having movie outings, going for meals afterwards, and more. As a result, **Carol Lutz** has organized a couple of movie outings and they were enjoyed by all.

Some suggested not having luncheon entertainment, instead having more time to talk to people at their table – something meetings don't offer. The Chapter will be implementing this suggestion starting with our holiday luncheon.

Again, welcome back and let's look forward to a cooler fall!

**Kim Rendelson, Chapter President**

**Inclement Weather Policy --When Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) are closed or "virtual only" because of inclement weather on the day of a scheduled chapter meeting, the chapter meeting (both in-person and on Zoom) for that month is canceled. If the FCPS open only 2 hours late on the day of a chapter meeting, the in-person and the Zoom meeting will be held.**

**A Few Details for Our September 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting** – On Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, we will meet in the **Main Community Room** at the Governmental Center (straight back as you enter the Center's lobby). At our meeting we will have a presentation by **Larry Lipman** from AARP on "Sorting Fact from Fiction Online". The program will equip us with valuable tools and resources to help sort fact from fiction and stay safe online. To attend on Zoom, let **Doug Jones** know ([doujones500@verizon.net](mailto:doujones500@verizon.net) or **703-425-3361**) no later than **Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**, so he can send you the meeting link and passcode.

**Congratulations** – We want to extend our congratulations and thanks to Chapter 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President **John Bankson** for assuming the duties of the Area IX Vice President of the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN). Besides the Annandale Chapter, Area IX covers the Springfield, Manassas and Woodbridge chapters. The area vice president is a member of the VFN Board of Directors. Way to go John!

**Adopt-a-Road** – Due to the extreme heat and poor air quality, we cancelled our July Adopt-a-Road litter pick-up. Our next scheduled pick-up is on **Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**. We will meet at the corner of Evergreen Lane and High Place in Annandale at 10:00 a.m. Please join us if you can. If you plan on joining us, let **Doug Jones** know ([doujones500@verizon.net](mailto:doujones500@verizon.net) or **703-425-3361**), so he can contact you if we have to cancel or if there are any other changes.



**Alzheimer's Report** – Thanks for everyone's support of the Alzheimer's Research Fund. Chapter member donations to the Fund for 2023 so far are \$2,750. 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**

**In Memoriam**

**Chapter 1159 regrets to announce the death of  
Dianne Walsh and Robert Sharperson  
Our Condolences to Their Family and Friends**

**ACCA Food Pantry Drive Starts September 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am until 1:00 pm** -- It's time to restock those shelves where previous supplies have drastically dwindled over



Officer Evan Decker loading donated food during last year's food drive.

the summer months. With our **Fairfax County Mason District Police** partners and **Annandale Giant Foods**, three food drives are planned for **September 7<sup>th</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. **Donations may be dropped off at our new location at the Annandale Giant Foods, located at 7137 Columbia Pike, (rather than Mason District Police Station parking lot), where a police cruiser will be parked at the store exit. Also, a collection box will be available in our meeting room during the September, October and November NARFE Chapter 1159**

**membership meetings.** Items most needed are canned soup, meat stew, canned chicken and tuna, uncooked pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned ravioli, mac & cheese, canned fruit, laundry soap and personal care items. If you would like to make a cash donation, please make your check out to **ACCA**, include on the memo line *Food Pantry* and *NARFE Chapter 1159* on the memo line and drop it off with our collection team or mail it to **Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) Food Pantry, 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003**. Should you have questions or need help getting your donations to us, contact **Sharon Sellers, 703-915-8765**. Thank you all for your generous support. Volunteers are needed to greet shoppers when entering the store to handout suggested shopping list. Items purchased there or from your own pantry can be dropped with the police cruiser upon exiting the Giant Foods. See you there September 7<sup>th</sup>!

**LEGISLATION REPORT** – *Federal Budget Progress*: Congress is still working on finalizing the budget for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) which starts on October 1, 2023. However, both the House and Senate appropriations committees have made progress advancing the appropriation bills, with the Senate advancing all 12 appropriations bills out of committee, and the House advancing 10 of the 12. Most likely, a Continuing Resolution will be needed to get all 12 Appropriation Bill through their respective floor votes and final Budget Reconciliation process.

*(Legislation Report continued on next page)*



*(Legislation Report continued from page 4)*

*S.2226 / H.R. 2670 National Defense Authorization Act FY 2024:* Both the House and the Senate and the House have passed their version of the bill. The House bill authorizes defense programs with spending up to \$866 billion and a 5.2% military pay raise, although the actual budget authority for such spending is subject to final passage of congressional appropriations.

*S.2127/H.R.4366 Military Construction/Department of Veterans Affairs Appropriations:* The bill would provide \$17.5 billion for military construction projects and \$137.8 billion in nondefense discretionary spending for veterans' medical care.

*Financial Services and General Government Funding Appropriations:* Both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations advanced their versions. This legislation funds the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Both the House and Senate version remain silent on a 2024 Federal pay raise, increasing the likelihood the Administration's 5.2% proposed increase will go into effect. The House bill would provide OPM with a total of \$373 million in FY 24 vs the Senate's proposed \$457 million. Both House and Senate versions of their committee reports express concern with OPM Retirement Service customer service levels. The Senate appropriations committee's accompanying report recommends \$35 million for the new Postal Service Health Benefits program rollout; improvements to OPM's Retirement Services; and OPM's IT modernization improvements; and also directs OPM to brief the committee on its plan to monitor, identify and remove ineligible family members from the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program. The House committee approved legislation also keeps language that would effectively force the end of the Thrift Savings Plan new mutual fund window; and, force agencies to return to telework policies in place before the pandemic while the Senate report differs on telework policies, directing OPM, OMB and agencies to analyze how telework affects agency productivity. The report language also called on OPM to work on ways to reduce hiring times and to report to the committee on processing retirement applications. Both the House and Senate versions of their bills await floor votes.

*H.R. 4583/S. 2280 Social Security 2100 Act:* If passed, for the period 2025-2034, these bills would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) *(continued on next page)*



*(Legislation Report continued from page 5)*

and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), and would extend by a few years the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund; provide a 2% across-the-board benefit increase; improve cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) by using CPI-E; and improve survivor benefits for middle-income widows and widowers from two-income households. The bill would make permanent the tax changes necessary to pay for expanded benefits provided by the bill which includes applying social security taxes to earnings above \$400,000 per year (with credit towards future benefits), and applying a 12.4 % net investment tax on those earning more than \$400,000 year. The Bill would also combine the “Old-Age and Survivors Insurance” (OASI) and the “Disability Insurance” (DI) Trust Funds into one fund to ensure seamless benefit payments. This bill has been modified from similar bills passed in the last Congress. Stay tuned.

*H.R. 82/ S. 597 Social Security Fairness Act:* The House Bill currently has 289 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.

*Virginia General Assembly:* Since May, the General Assembly has been called back to a few special sessions to address outstanding concerns and issues with the FY 2024 State budget. Virginia approved a 2-year budget last year, but the State budget can be amended in year 2. At issue is the revenue surplus – one side wants to enact tax cuts (per the Governor’s request) to reduce the surplus, the other wants to retain some of the surplus in case a recession unfolds and spend some of the surplus. No agreement has been reached thus far, so, the surplus is just being held until a decision is reached. All told, not a bad problem to have, but frustrating to not have a decision.



Make sure your voter registrations are up to date – in November, all seats in the Virginia State General Assembly are on the ballot, as well as many important County seats: Board of Supervisors, Sheriff, School Boards, Soil and Conservation, etc.

**Mary Ann Munley, *Legislation Chair***

**NARFE Fall Membership Drive** – From September 1 through December 31, 2023, current members can earn \$10 as well as other prizes for each new NARFE member they recruit (the recruiter's ID number must be provided on the NARFE application or on the online application form when the new member joins –you can find your membership ID on the mailing label for your NARFE Magazine, or contact **Doug Jones** for your ID number). See page 50 of your September *NARFE Magazine* for more details. To make sure our voices are heard by Congress we need to strive to increase membership, and all members should view themselves as recruiters. So please get involved in this important effort and recruit. (A Membership Application can be found on page 53 of your September *NARFE Magazine*, or contact **Doug Jones**, at [doujones500@verizon.net](mailto:doujones500@verizon.net) or **703-425-3361** for applications.)

## **COMMUNITY CORNER**

**FEHBP Open Season Program** – **Congressman Gerry Connolly** is holding his annual FEHBP Open Season program this year on **Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**. Mark your calendars and we will provide more information on the program as it becomes available.

**September Is Fast Approaching** - As you get ready for our face-to-face meetings in the fall and all of the holiday activities throughout the rest of the year, please take the time to keep yourself healthy. As a reminder, we are not just talking about cold and flu season anymore. We also must be aware of COVID-19 variants and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) infections. Talk to your doctor, of course, about which vaccines are right for you, but get your shots when that's the recommendation. Protect yourself and others!

**Beacon+ Expo** -- The Beacon 50+ Expo takes place **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**, from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm on the upper level of the Springfield Town Center in Springfield. There will be dozens of exhibitors, including government agencies, nonprofits, and local businesses who will provide helpful information regarding retirement communities, home remodeling, financial planning, health care, travel, fitness and more. Health screenings, flu shots and other vaccines will be offered. This fair is taking place in conjunction with the Fairfax County Department of Family Services for Older Adults; the theme is "Venture Into Volunteering". They will be located on the lower level of the Town Center. For more information go to: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/volunteer-solutions/volunteer-fair>.

**Join Us at our October Meeting** – Every February, **George Kresslein** meets with us to discuss preparing our taxes for that year. Some chapter members have suggested it would be helpful to hear what we should do before the end of the tax year. So, George has agreed to meet with us at our meeting on **October 4<sup>th</sup>** to discuss items to be considered before the end of the tax year. George has asked what members would like to hear about. Items suggested so far are: energy credits; Roth IRAs; the Secure Act; 529 Plans; and Qualified Annuity Trusts. If you have suggestions of other topics, please let **Kim Rendelson** know at [krendelson49@gmail.com](mailto:krendelson49@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*oOo\*\*\*\*\*

## **Executive Board**

### **President**

Kim Rendelson  
[krendelson49@gmail.com](mailto:krendelson49@gmail.com)  
 703-204-0388

### **1st Vice President**

John Bankson  
[johnboy1607@outlook.com](mailto:johnboy1607@outlook.com)  
 703-256-2295

### **2nd Vice President**

Pat Drobnek  
[drobp@aol.com](mailto:drobp@aol.com)  
 703-967-3935

### **Treasurer**

Jack Bagnulo  
[jbagnulo@cox.net](mailto:jbagnulo@cox.net)

### **Secretary**

Fran Walinsky  
[walin5@aol.com](mailto:walin5@aol.com)

### **Legislation**

Mary Ann Munley  
[mamunley@gmail.com](mailto:mamunley@gmail.com)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Doug Jones  
[doujones500@verizon.net](mailto:doujones500@verizon.net)

### **Alzheimer's**

Phil Gilliland  
[pmgilliland@outlook.com](mailto:pmgilliland@outlook.com)

### **Public Relations**

Lorin Goodrich  
[lorin.goodrich@outlook.com](mailto:lorin.goodrich@outlook.com)

### **Programs**

Gabe Goldberg

### **Outreach**

Rosemary Arnolts  
 703-578-7619

### **Senior Citizens Council**

**Representative**  
 Gabe Goldberg

### **Service Officer**

Carol Lutz  
 703-916-8546

### **Hospitality**

Sharon Sellers  
 703-915-8765

### **Members at-Large**

Pat Jack  
 Mary Lou Vroman

### **Web Coordinator**

John Bankson  
[johnboy1607@outlook.com](mailto:johnboy1607@outlook.com)  
 703-256-2295

### **Membership**

Doug Jones  
[doujones500@verizon.net](mailto:doujones500@verizon.net)  
 703-425-3361

### **Greeter**

Mara Yachnin