



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL  
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
FAIRFAX CHAPTER 737



<https://vanarfe.org/Chapter-737/>

SEPTEMBER 2023

**Serving Current and Retired Federal Civilian Employees, Spouses and Survivor Annuitants**

<b>President</b> Charles "Mike" Fleming 703-631-5869 charles.fleming@bhox.com	<b>Vice President</b> Ted Pasek 703-322-9322 tedpasek@verizon.net	<b>Secretary</b> Jim Mays 703-978-0317 mays.jl@verizon.net	<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Membership Chair</b> Donna Shackelford 703-830-6590 kamiahan@aol.com	<b>Chaplain</b> Karen Hauck 703-501-1058 k-sign@juno.com	<b>Past President</b> <b>Co-Program Chair</b> Ted Pasek 703-322-9322 tedpasek@verizon.net
<b>Service Officers</b> John & Constance Bails 703-802-7344 jbails@aol.com	<b>Legislation Program</b> Thomas Hart 703-573-4730 thart7@cox.net	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Jim Mays 703-978-0317 mays.jl@verizon.net	<b>Co-Program Chair</b> Sharon Lenius 703-801-2551 leniussa@gmail.com	<b>Alzheimer's Program</b> Annabelle Linden valinden@verizon.net	<b>Public Relations</b> Ruby Harney 703-425-7404 rrharney2@cox.net

The chapter membership meets on the first Tuesday of the month September through May and we have the annual chapter picnic on the first Tuesday in June.

- PROGRAM:** Jim Radigan, US Navy retired, is speaking about his tenure as Navy Commander of the Antarctica Expedition. He has interesting slides, pictures and stories with Q&A afterwards.
- WHEN:** September 5
- WHERE:** American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St, Fairfax
- TIME:** Social Hour-11:30 AM, Lunch-12:00PM, Program-12:30
- COST:** \$17.00
- CONTACT:** Email [TedPasek@verizon.net](mailto:TedPasek@verizon.net) or [gorat2@aol.com](mailto:gorat2@aol.com) if you plan to attend

- Oct 3: Alzheimer's Research talk with a guest speaker or video explaining the Research.
- Nov 7: Michele Johnson from Blue Cross Blue Shield speaking about updates to the 2024 Health Plans
- Dec 5: Holiday Party
- Jan 2: To be determined

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Dear Members of Chapter 737:

Welcome back from our Summer vacation. The program for the 5 September membership meeting will be an interesting one. I always find lectures on Antarctica like Jim Radigan's talk at the September meeting about his experiences in Antarctica fascinating. If you cannot attend the meeting, you may observe it via Zoom. Details for using Zoom are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84233003770?pwd=SVo2bjBuL1p6OFIvc3B5bGVKUjc5dz09>

The cost of the luncheon will be \$17 per person. Sign-in will begin at 11:30 a.m. Donations of dry goods for Food for Others will be welcome.

Volunteers to help run the local chapter are always welcome. Ask me and I will be glad to tell you how you can contribute. Let me draw your attention to the latest issue of NARFE Grassroots Advocacy for a few important issues facing Federal employees. That these unfavorable proposals have been raised for legislation supports the reason for having NARFE.

Sincerely yours,

**Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President**

**Health Fair**

Congressman Gerry Connolly's annual Health Fair will be on Saturday, November 18th. It will be held in the Government Center. More details will follow, but it usually begins at 10 am. NARFE will also have a table at the fair.

## **PROGRAM**

The Third Annual Chapter Picnic was held in June. State Delegate David Bulova talked about the progress and bill failures from the last state legislature session.



## **CHAPTER WEB SITE**

Members are encouraged people to check out the website for information and program schedules. Information useful for chapter members can be submitted for posting. The website link is <https://vanarfe.org/Chapter-737/>.

**Ruby Harney – Public Relations Chair**

## **NARFE NEWSLINE**

*NARFE NewsLine* delivers breaking and key federal benefits news and information from NARFE and media sources around the country. The e-newsletter also provides useful information on lifestyle topics of interest to the federal community. Compiled in a brief, easy-to-read format with important advocacy updates, Federal Benefits Institute offerings, and carefully curated links to news and feature stories, *NARFE NewsLine* is delivered by email every Tuesday. You can sign up at <https://www.narfe.org/communications/enewsletter/>.

## **FOOD FOR OTHERS**

At the June picnic 151 pounds of food was collected for "Food for Others." For all the meetings from September, 2022 to June, 2023 the Chapter collected an average of 188 pounds per meeting. Certainly a great total. Thanks to everyone who contributed and to Bob Sottile for collecting in the parking lot and delivering the food to FFO.

Needed items include: (no more than 3 years expired, unopened, labeled, not homemade):

- Fresh fruits (oranges, apples, bananas, tomatoes, avocados, grapes, berries)
- Fresh vegetables (cucumbers, celery, peppers, lettuce, eggplant)
- Cooking Oil
- Dry goods – cereal, pasta, rice, (16oz packages), dried beans
- Canned vegetables tomatoes (crushed, peeled, diced, etc.), beans, corn, etc.)
- Canned meat (chicken, turkey, or seafood), 2oz – 15oz
- Canned fruit (packed in fruit juice instead of syrup) 11oz – 20oz
- Fruit juice (100% juice) 32oz – 64oz

**Perishable Food** (Meat and Dairy unexpired, sealed, in original packaging):

**Non-Food Items** (New or Clean Reusable Grocery Bags 8 ½ x 14 x 15 and can openers)

**Ted Pasek – Vice President**

## **TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

As of July 1, 2023, the Chapter account balance was \$7,994.14. Our income was \$226.02 in July and in August \$149.84 from dues money dispensed from Headquarters. There have been no other transactions during either month. Our balance as of August 31, 2023, was \$8,144.58. Please remember that the cost of our luncheon has gone up due to new management at the Legion. You will now have to pay \$17.00 for your meal. It is still a bargain because we get a yummy dessert with the meal and your tea/coffee is also included.

**Donna Shackelford – Treasurer and Membership**

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**NATIONAL LEGISLATION**- In recessing until after Labor Day Congress has left behind much unfinished business for federal employees.

On its return, one first issue demanding attention will be the need to prevent a funding lapse with the end of the current fiscal year September 30. On one level, that process is more advanced than in most recent years, with the Senate Appropriations Committee having approved all 12 of the regular funding bills and the counterpart House committee 10. However, only one of those measures has reached a floor vote, with the House passing a bill covering the VA and military construction spending.

While it's been expected all along that those bills won't be enacted as soon as September 30 and that a temporary measure will be needed, House Republicans have added a number of social policy riders to them and could try to do the same with a stopgap bill. That could result in another round of budgetary brinksmanship, given the opposition of the White House and congressional Democrats to those provisions.

Among the bills awaiting floor voting is the general government measure, to which the House has attached several policy riders, including defunding diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives (DEI) in federal agencies and banning "gender-affirming care" coverage in the FEHB. That bill meanwhile is silent regarding a January 2024 federal employee pay raise, in effect clearing the way for President Biden to put into effect by default the average 5.2 percent increase he proposed earlier in the year.

Another major annual bill, the defense authorization, now has passed both chambers but the House version of that bill also contains similar social policy riders, making for difficult negotiations ahead on that bill, as well.

Before recessing, the Senate did not take up a proposed amendment to head off a potential future "Schedule F" for converting possibly 50,000 or more competitive service federal employees involved with making or carrying out policy into the excepted service, where they would lose appeal rights, union rights and many other civil service protections.

Several pay-related topics will also await Congress attention. The additional funding for higher pay rates for most federal wildland firefighters that took effect a year ago will lapse September 30, threatening reversion to the prior rates unless additional funding is provided. Similarly, additional funding will be needed to maintain higher pay rates that recently took effect for most TSA employees. **(Fedweek)**

**VIRGINIA LEGISLATION**- The Virginia General Assembly approved a two.-year budget in 2022, but legislators have struggled this year to reach a compromise on a series of budget amendments. The negotiations are headed by House Appropriations Committee Chair Barry Knight, R-Virginia Beach, and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Chair Janet Howell, D-Reston, and Sen. George Barker, D-Fairfax.

The General Assembly was unable to reach an agreement on budget amendments during the legislative session due to disagreements over Gov. Glenn Youngkin's proposed tax cut package. He is pushing for \$1 billion in cuts, including lowering the corporate income tax rate from 6% to 5%, increasing the standard income tax deductions for individuals and joint filers, and expanding tax exemptions on veteran's pensions by eliminating age requirements.

House Republicans backed the governor's plan, while the Democratic-held Senate wanted to nix the tax cuts and give about \$1 billion to school divisions. The negotiations subsequently went into overtime after a consensus wasn't reached during the session.

If the disagreements drag on much longer, Knight said that it might be time to shelve negotiations until the next fiscal cycle as the governor's next proposed budget will come out in December. **(The Virginian-Pilot)**

**Tom Hart – Legislative Program**

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



**Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver By August 28, 2023**

**NEWSLETTER**

The Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter is published September through June to provide information on the Chapter membership meetings in those months.

Thanks to everyone who is getting the newsletter electronically. It is saving the chapter money on postage. If you would like to receive your newsletter electronically, contact the Newsletter Editor at [mays.jl@verizon.net](mailto:mays.jl@verizon.net) to request the change. By receiving the E-Newsletter, it saves the chapter money and you get the newsletter in color. The newsletter is also on the Virginia Federation of NARFE website at [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org) as well as the FEDHub platform at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) .

Articles for the October issue of NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter are due to the editor by e-mail at [Mays.JL@verizon.net](mailto:Mays.JL@verizon.net) by **September 15**.

**James Mays – Newsletter Editor**