

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

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|--|---|---|--|--|--|
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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.

WHEN: December 7
PROGRAM: Holiday party with musical accompaniment by Brian Franke
WHERE: American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St, Fairfax
TIME: Social Hour-11:30 AM, Lunch-12:00PM, Program-12:30 followed by Chapter 737 business
COST: \$17.00
CONTACT: If you plan to attend email TedPasek@verizon.net or Ralph Thompson at gorat2@aol.com

Dec 5: Holiday Party with musical accompaniment

Jan 2: Brian Slawski from the Burke Historical Society will speak on "Everything Burke." This includes facts about the past and present Burke and other Burkes across the country.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members of Chapter 737:

The December Seasonal Sing-along will occur on 5 December. If you cannot attend the Sing-along, you may still sing along with everyone else via Zoom. Details for using Zoom are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83853660400?pwd=RFEzNXgrRG53U0pLdG4zZzJMdG5sQT09>

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.

Election for chapter officers will take place at this meeting. The candidates are:

President Mike Fleming
 Vice-president Ted Pasek
 Secretary Jim Mays
 Treasurer Donna Shackelford

If you plan to attend the 5 December membership meeting, please inform Ted Pasek at tedpasek@verizon.net by e-mail or Ralph Thompson at 703-280-2356 by telephone. Making a firm reservation for the luncheon is very important.

Volunteers to help manage the chapter for the new year are welcome. Please tell me and I will be glad to tell you how you can help.

Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President

PROGRAM

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Ms. Tisdale and United Health Care Ms. Duncombe were the speakers at the meeting. BC/BS Has 3 FEHB options. FEP Blue Focus, Basic and Standard. Information on the programs is at <https://www.fepblue.org/>. They provide nationwide and worldwide coverage.

United Health <https://www.uhcfeds.com/> has advantage plans that offer no copays for anything and no deductibles.

Both plans automatically provide Part D prescriptions at not additional insurance premiums. United health provided

a blanket that was won in a drawing by Terry Munson.

Ruby Harney reviewed the current nominations for the 2024 officers. She opened the nominations for additional candidates but there were no new nominations. The candidates for 2024 are the current officers of the chapter.

President - Charles "Mike" Fleming
1st Vice President - Ted Pasek
Treasurer - Donna Shackelford
Secretary - Jim Mays

This month the chapter collected 189 pounds of dry and canned goods for Food for Others.

Inclement Weather Policy

When Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) are closed because of inclement weather on the day of a chapter meeting, the meeting is cancelled. The meeting will still be held if the FCPS open 2 hours late.

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Finances

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 10/1 balance | \$8,370.39 |
| Disbursements | 600.70 |
| Income | <u>432.84</u> |
| 10/31 balance | \$8,202.53 |

The program meeting drawing winners are:

Free lunch: Terry Munson.

~~40-40-20~~ drawing: \$ 10 was won by Ruby Harney

40-40-20 drawing: \$ 5 was won by Ruby Harney

Membership

VA Federation: 4,397 Chapter members
6,128 NOM
10,525 Total members

Chapter 737: 255 Chapter members
316 NOM
571 Total members

4 new members in October

5 dropped for not paying dues

Donna Shackelford – Treasurer and Membership

70th Annual Virginia Federation of NARFE Conference

The 2024 Annual VFN Conference will be held April 7 – 10 at the Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Conference Coordinator Larry McIlwee and Conference Chair Melissa Groppe are working on new and exciting presentations, workshops, and events. In addition to hearing from NARFE leaders, state and national legislators are being invited as well as other inspiring speakers. Mr. McIlwee said, "I would welcome your ideas for workshops that are of special interest. Send to joseph.mcilwee@verizon.net."

The Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, Virginia checks all the boxes for our attendees with lovely meeting and sleeping rooms with refrigerators and microwaves, a restaurant, complimentary parking, and it's reasonably priced at \$107 per night. Ms. Groppe added, "We are excited to welcome NARFE VFN to Harrisonburg and the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. You will not be disappointed in the hotel or the area. Plan to stay an extra day or two."

Harrisonburg was recently featured in an enthusiastic Southern Living's Facebook post: "Known as the Friendly City town of 50,000 in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley with beautiful farmland and rolling hills. Harrisonburg welcomes everyone and makes it hard to leave. There's something for everyone. To name a few: hiking trails, boutique shops, farm-to-table restaurants, and art co-op that exhibits and sells pieces by local artists."

Registration, hotel reservation, exhibitor and advertising materials are being developed and will be published soon.

Watch for e-mail announcements and additional information at our VFN website www.vanarfe.org.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT (As of November 14, 2023)

NATIONAL LEGISLATION- On Tuesday, November 14, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a stopgap measure to avert a partial government shutdown, as wide swaths of lawmakers from both parties showed support for the bill. The short-term legislation then headed to the Senate, where Democratic and Republican leaders have voiced support.

To prevent a shutdown, the Senate and Republican-controlled House had to enact legislation that President Joe Biden can sign into law before current funding for federal agencies was to expire at midnight on Friday, November 17.

The 336-95 vote was a victory for House Speaker Mike Johnson, who faced down opposition from some of his fellow Republicans, in the first consequential vote of his tenure. Republican leadership brought the bill to the House floor under a procedure known as suspension of the rules, which required a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

The strategy was risky, as backlash from some conservatives forced House Republicans to turn to Democrats for votes to pass it as the GOP holds only a narrow majority in the chamber. A number of conservatives opposed the stopgap bill because it does not implement the deep spending cuts that they have demanded.

The stopgap spending bill extends government funding at current levels into 2024. It extends funding for military construction, veterans' affairs, transportation, housing, urban development, agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration and energy and water programs through Jan. 19. Funding for all other federal operations – including defense – will expire on Feb. 2. The proposal does not include additional aid for Israel or Ukraine.

The plan gives lawmakers more time to attempt to negotiate and pass full-year spending bills, though major partisan divisions make that effort fraught and complicated. Johnson argued that his plan would prevent Congress from passing a massive spending bill in December- a scenario that has played out many times before when lawmakers have faced a deadline right before the winter holidays. (Reuters)

House Democratic leadership released a statement ahead of the vote saying they would support the stopgap bill. "House Democrats have repeatedly articulated that any continuing resolution must be set at the fiscal year 2023 spending level, be devoid of harmful cuts and free of extreme right-wing policy riders. The continuing resolution before the House today meets that criteria and we will support it," the joint statement from House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries and other top House Democratic leaders said. (CNN)

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION- The two-year period before the arrival of Gov. Glenn Youngkin was the first time in decades that Democrats controlled both chambers of the Virginia General Assembly. Come January, they'll be back in charge.

That sets up a policymaking dynamic that hasn't been seen in Virginia since the 1990s: A Republican governor working with a fully Democratic legislature.

Because Youngkin will still be able to veto anything the slim Democratic majorities send to his desk, it won't be anything like the burst of legislative breakthroughs on big topics that Democrats pushed through in 2020 and 2021. With a 21-19 majority in the state Senate and a 51-49 majority in the House of Delegates, Democrats lack the supermajorities needed to override vetoes and enact new laws over Youngkin's opposition.

It's unclear what might top the state's legislative agenda once the new legislature is seated, but the November elections results could mean for a few big policy issues.

Winning both chambers gives Democrats the chance to play offense on abortion rights. At a post-election news conference, abortion rights advocates said they want the new Democratic majorities to begin the multi-year process of amending Virginia's constitution to protect abortion access. Under Virginia's system, constitutional amendments have to pass the General Assembly two years in a row, with an election in between.

Youngkin has portrayed himself as being the vanguard of a parents' rights movement by restoring a preeminent role for parents in K-12 schools that he says have been derailed by left-wing leaders. Democrats have attacked him as an enemy of public education and accused him of stoking culture war fights over critical race theory, sexual content in books and accommodations for transgender students. These fights could very well continue.

Bipartisan efforts to legalize sales of marijuana failed in the last two sessions largely because of the Youngkin administration's quite opposition. Democrats and some Republicans have argued that moving forward with regulated dispensaries is the best way to rein in the booming unregulated market for cannabis products.

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 November 23, 2023

NEWSLETTER

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

Requesting the newsletter electronically 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 to request the change. Besides saving the chapter money, you get the newsletter in color and the embedded links can be accessed. The newsletter is also on the Virginia Federation of NARFE website at www.vanarfe.org and at the FEDHub platform at www.narfe.org.

A few people who did not ask to receive the newsletter via email are getting it digitally because the hard copies are being returned in the mail as undeliverable. These member's mailing address in the NARFE database is not current and needs updating. **The only way for a member's physical or email address can be updated is for the member to log into the NARFE website on their account and change it.**

Articles for the January issue of the NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter are due to the editor by e-mail at Mays.JL@verizon.net by December 15.

James Mays – Newsletter Editor