



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.

November-December 2023

PRESIDENT'S GREETING: Greetings,



This is our last newsletter for 2023. The chapter had some excellent speakers this year at our lunches. Our November 27th meeting will be NARFE National President William Shackelford. This is a real treat where most chapters don't get the opportunity. I plan on keeping chapter business brief and we will elect our 2024 chapter officers. Please see the ballot included in this newsletter and mail in your ballot if you cannot attend. I hope this provides extra time for President Shackelford speaking & answering questions.

Monday December 11th meeting will be our Christmas Celebration with Capitol Carrollers. Everyone enjoyed them so much that this is their third year with us. Area 10 Vice President Ted Pasek will install the 2024 Chapter Officers. As a token of our appreciation for your support this year, your lunch will be complimentary. See more information and reservation deadline in this newsletter. Reservations are absolutely critical so that we can work with The Amphora on numbers for seating and preparation of meals.

Many thanks to our Secretary Pat Wolfe for putting together our lunch programs this year; attendance was very good. Speakers can be difficult to find at times. Pat could use some help with contacting future speakers; it requires an hour or two per month. Can you help!!

The chapter is in need of a Service Officer. VFN provides the training via zoom, no experience in HR required. Can you help!!!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and Holiday season.

Jeff Sargent, President

Jsarg62@aol.com

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

Speaker: NARFE President William (Bill) Shackelford

Topic: Update on NARFE

Luncheon Entrée Choices:

Pancakes Deluxe w/Sausage & Scrambled Eggs

½ Triple Decker Sandwich (Ham, Turkey, Swiss) w/Cup Chicken Noodle Soup

Fish & Chips w/Coleslaw and Pickle

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 wolfepatriciam@aol.com or (703) 449-1582 no later than **Tuesday, November 21, 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.

December 11, 2023 – Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu; Meatloaf; Fish (chef/market decision) w/Mashed Potatoes & Vegetables. E-mail reminder/announcement will be sent in early December. The Capitol Carrollers will provide one hour of entertainment and Chapter's 2024 officers will be installed. The chapter is providing a complimentary lunch to you as a token of appreciation for your support. As is our custom, we are asking you to bring an item or two of non-perishable food for a local food pantry. Wear your Christmas sweater for fun!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS 1241 DULLES

Membership Report

As of October 29, 2023

Total Current Chapter Members 299

Total National Members in Chapter Area 505

Total Chapter plus National Members 804

Current Chapter Members Breakdown

1-Year 123; 2-Year 29; 3-Year 76
Dues Withhold 65; Life Members 6

Four New Chapter Members in October

Dulik, Joseph, Ashburn, VA; andidulik@gmail.com
De Cola, Felix Reston, VA; Ldecola@comcast.et
Hillard, Robin, Herndon, VA; robingsh7@gmail.com
Hunt, Laura, Broadlands, VA
Lanzano, Rosemary, Sterling, VA; roselanzano@yahoo.com

One Member Passed Away

Leroy, David H. Sterling, VA, Past Dulles Chapter 2VP and long-time Membership Chair passed away on October 14, 2023. Condolences to Dave's family and all of his friends.

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DRIVE: NARFE is now offering members \$10 for every new member that you recruit during the period September 1 to December 31. You will also be eligible for other prizes. As NARFE continues to lose members, recruiting is more important than ever. Please consider inviting a current or former employee to join. It has never been more important to protect our earned benefits.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

While awaiting the results of the important November elections and as to whether we'll avoid another government shutdown, we can report that Congressman Connolly's annual health fair will proceed as usual on November 18. These health fairs are always highly professional and a good way to get needed information.

The House of Representatives is functioning better now that it has a Speaker. For federal employees and retirees, not so much. For those of you who read Ross Apter's article in the recent NARFE magazine, it is distressing that the Republican Study Group, led by the new Speaker, has come out with a report that recommends cuts in federal benefits across the board.

Congressman Connolly has come out with several good bills that would help the federal workforce, as well as improving OPM's overall functioning. The present situation in the House Oversight Committee, however, makes it unlikely that most will come to fruition. Connolly's constituent service continues to be top notch, and we enjoyed the presentation and affability of his District Director, Marlon Dubuisson, at our last luncheon.

More to come on the Virginia elections, and check the Virginia Federation's FEDHub online for information about possible tax benefits for CSRS retirees who may have military service credited to their CSRS pension.

Judy Thorne, Chapter Legislative Chair

CDL for 11th Congressional District
thornemusick@aol.com

Important Dates:

November 7, 2023 – Election Day (Don't forget to vote.)
November 13-December 11 – FEHB Open Season
November 18, 2023 – Congressman Connolly's Health Fair, Fairfax Co. Government Center)
November 27, 2023 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon
December 11, 2023 – Dulles Chapter Holiday Party
January 21-23, 2024 – Virginia Federation Board Meeting
January 22, 2024 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon
February 2, 2024 – NOVA Caucus (to be confirmed)
February 26, 2024 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon
March 25, 2024 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon
April 7-10, 2024 – Virginia Federation Conference, Harrisonburg, VA
April 22, 2024 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon
May 2024 – TBD; Meeting Day falls on Memorial Day
June 24, 2024 – Dulles Chapter Meeting
August 2024 – FEDCON24 (NARFE National Conference, St. Louis, MO)

ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH:

Ann Webster is serving as Alzheimer's Research Chair. She is looking forward to continuing the 50/50 drawings at our luncheon and putting those "little piggy banks" on the table for your loose change. We collected \$33.50 in October. This goes into the Virginia Federation's contribution to NARFE's Alzheimer's Research Fund. Virginia is leading the nation in donations. If you would like to contribute but are unable to attend, you can send a check payable to NARFE Alzheimer's Research and mail to: 21022 Rocky Knoll Square, Apt. 205, Ashburn, VA 20147. For additional information or fundraising ideas, contact Ann at angelw3@verizon.net.

FEDHUB – LET'S CONNECT!

FEDHub is an online community designed for all. Like social media sites it has a selection of communities, each focused on a topic or interest area. Many evolved from growing discussions in the Open Forum that every member belongs to automatically. One of the more popular communities on NARFE's new FEDHub online resource is "The Retirement Zone" where active and retired federal employees get their questions answered in real time. The answers may come from other members, from NARFE Federal Benefits Institute (NFBI) staff members, or even a popular presenter of webinars for NARFE like Tammy Flanagan. Specific examples are for where you work or worked like the "U. S. Postal Service Community." The "Open Forum" has discussions on topics such as advocacy, Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) plan choices, and many more. In preparation for Public Service Recognition Week in May, NARFE invites members to contribute their stories via FEDHub. There are also communities to meet and get to know the 2022 candidates for NARFE national and regional office, and proposed bylaws amendments. "Hail a CAB!" lets officers interact with the ten volunteers of NARFE's Configuration Advisory Board. The CAB serves as an interface for NARFE's Information

Technology online systems. Here you can ask questions, get help, and find out about helpful resources. To get started with FEDHub, go to the NARFE website at www.narfe.org and from the “For Members” menu select “FEDHub: NARFE Member Community.” Log in using the same credentials you use to log into NARFE’s Member Portal. (If you haven’t logged in before, click the “Contact Us” link near the top of the screen.) Once logged in, start at the top left by selecting the link to the Quick Start Guide at the top left.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

If you have announcements or items of interest, please contact Newsletter Editor Patricia Wolfe at wolfepatriciam@aol.com. See the mail-in Ballot attached to this newsletter.



