



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FAIRFAX CHAPTER 737



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

JANUARY 2024

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

President Charles "Mike" Fleming 703-631-5869 charles.fleming@bhox.com	Vice President Ted Pasek 703-322-9322 tedpasek@verizon.net	Secretary Jim Mays 703-978-0317 mays.jl@verizon.net	Treasurer Membership Chair Donna Shackelford 703-830-6590 kamiahan@aol.com	Chaplain Karen Hauck 703-501-1058 k-sign@juno.com	Co-Program Chair Ted Pasek 703-322-9322 tedpasek@verizon.net
Service Officers John & Constance Bails 571-220-2860 jbails@aol.com	Legislation Program Thomas Hart 703-573-4730 thart7@cox.net	Newsletter Editor Jim Mays 703-978-0317 mays.jl@verizon.net	Co-Program Chair Sharon Lenius 703-801-2551 leniussa@gmail.com	Alzheimer's Program Annabelle Linden 571-529-6783 valinden@verizon.net	Public Relations 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.

WHEN: January 2

PROGRAM: 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.

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

Feb 6: (Pending) Dr. Kelsey Trinkka, AuD, audiologist with Hearing Associates of NOVA will present on the intricacies of good hearing and hearing loss.

Mar 5 Congressman Connolly or his staff members to discuss legislative issues.

Inclement Weather Policy – If Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) close because of inclement weather on the day of a chapter meeting, the meeting is cancelled. It will still be held if the FCPS opens 2 hours late.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members of Chapter 737:

The January membership meeting will occur on Tuesday 2 January. Sign-in will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon will begin at 12:00 p.m. at the Fairfax American Legion Post 177 located at 3939 Oak St in Fairfax City.

We are pleased to have Brian Slawski who works at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office to talk about "All Things Burke". His talk will be broadcast by means of using Zoom:

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

The cost of the luncheon will be \$17 per person. Donations of dry goods for Food for Others will be welcome. If you plan to attend the January 2nd 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.

Help manage the chapter for the new year. Please inform Mike Fleming of your interest to volunteer to serve the Fairfax Chapter.

Sincerely yours,

Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President

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.

FOOD FOR OTHERS

In December we collected 336 pounds of food and \$100 in donations for "Food for Others". Needed items include:

Food Items (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
- Spaghetti sauce, 14oz – 1 lb (ideally in cans or plastic instead of glass)
- 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)

This month the chapter collected 336 pounds of dry and canned goods and \$100 in donations for Food for Others.

Ted Pasek – Vice President

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Finances

Balance as of 11/1/2023	\$8,202.53	
Disbursements	409.99	(Creative Color, Post 177)
Income	473.84	(Mtg Receipts, Dues fr HQ)
Balance as of 11/30/2023	\$8,266.38	

Membership

As of 11/27/2023,

VA Chapter members:	4,370
VA NOM members	<u>6,157</u>
Total for VFN	10,527

737 Chapter members	255	1/1/2023	269
737 NOM members	<u>314</u>		<u>332</u>
	569		601

The program meeting drawing winners are:

Free lunch: Lee Sottile

40-~~40~~-20 drawing: \$14 was won by Donna Shackelford

40-40-~~20~~ drawing: \$7 was won by Donna Shackelford but in the spirit of the holiday

Donna said to give someone else a chance and Jim Mays won on the second drawing.

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 December 14, 2023)

NATIONAL LEGISLATION- For the first time in ages, Congress isn't facing a Christmastime shutdown threat. But the 2024 fight is going to be even worse than usual.

House Speaker Mike Johnson may have saved Christmas on Capital Hill, but Congress will be paying for it in the new year.

For the first time in roughly a decade, Washington faces no government shutdown in December. After Congress narrowly averted a government shutdown at the end of September by passing a stopgap continuing resolution extending the budget deadline to November 17, President Biden signed a second stopgap continuing resolution authored by Speaker Johnson on November 16 that is "laddered," consisting of two separate expiration dates for two expiration dates for two separate sets of appropriation bills, extending funding into 2024.

The first expiration date in the new continuing resolution, January 19, applies to the programs covered by the Agriculture, Energy-Water, Military Construction-VA, and Transportation-HUD bills. The second expiration date, February 2, applies to the programs covered by the Commerce-Justice-Science, Defense, Financial Services-General Government, Homeland Security, Interior-Environment, Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative Branch and State-Foreign Operations bills. Besides extending appropriations, the measure also includes several policy extensions through January 19 for certain health care programs and a farm bill extension through FY 2024.

The House and Senate are far from off the hook. Johnson has promised he won't put another "clean" funding bill on the floor, increasing the chances of a shutdown after the next spending deadlines on Jan. 19 and Feb. 2. The House GOP is so bitterly divided that some lawmakers worry they'll engage in the same last-minute self-sabotage that plagued them this fall.

Congress already punted on spending twice this year. Many lawmakers see no reason it'll be any different in January. Johnson has ruled out another so-called clean stopgap spending bill, or continuing resolution that doesn't include any blanket cuts to government funding. That means Congress has only a few weeks of session to reconcile divergent spending levels on 12 different bills- the House GOP wants lower spending than most senators- and then steer identical legislation through both chambers.

And without a cross-Capitol agreement on top lines- the overall amount of spending- the House and Senate can't even negotiate the less controversial areas, like money for veterans and military construction. **(POLITICO)**

Republicans and Democrats are still negotiating a massive foreign aid and security bill, reauthorizing the annual defense authorization bill and reauthorizing the national security surveillance measure.

Bipartisan negotiators were at loggerheads over a sprawling plan to send security assistance to Ukraine, Israel and the Indo-Pacific while also shoring up law enforcement at the southern border. Republicans were largely supportive of sending aid to America's allies, but looked to extract steep concessions from the White House and Democrats on border security.

Republicans also planned to vote on formalizing an impeachment inquiry into Biden over still-unproven claims that he improperly benefited from his family members' business ventures overseas. **(ABC News)**

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION- The 2024 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly convenes at 12 noon on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 and is scheduled to finish (or adjourn sine die) on Saturday, March 9, 2024.

On November 20, lawmakers dropped the first bills that will be up for consideration. Much more is yet to come as Democrats and Republicans jockey for ways to realize their key priorities. on everything from hot-button issues like abortion access to the more bread-and butter legislation. Democrats will have control of both the House and Senate, but the slimness of their majorities means they aren't guaranteed to get everything they want.

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

James Mays – Newsletter Editor