



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

We meet at St. Alban's Episcopal Church Parish Hall
6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia

JANUARY 2024

Join us, either in-person or via Zoom, for our next meeting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 7th, when Jennifer Wilcox from the NSA Crypto Museum will present: "American Secrets". Her presentation will take us through the world of American cryptology, including the history, technology, and people of the secret world of secrets. **REMEMBER**, there is a change of location for our meetings in 2024. We will meet in the Parish Hall at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike in Annandale. For details regarding the program, as well as information on registering for the Zoom meeting, see page 4.

PREZ SEZ – - Our first meeting at St. Alban's Church went fairly well, although we encountered some technology problems with the sound system for the in-person attendees, despite a team having gone to the facility and practicing ahead of time. The Board has discussed the problems we had and have already purchased additional equipment which we will be testing prior to our upcoming meeting. So hang in there with us as we seek solutions. We need to thank **Mort Glassberg, Doug Jones and Gabe Goldberg** for their quick efforts on this and other members who have been part of the process.

I want to thank so many people for filling out the questionnaire about the luncheon. Overall, people reported it was a success, they (***PREZ SEZ continued on next page***)

(PREZ SEZ continued from page 1) had a good time and really enjoyed the extra time to talk to their fellow chapter members. Only one person mentioned entertainment but that was also couched with her enjoying the extra time she had to talk to the people at her table. The raffle, as always, is a big hit. One person asked that we bring back the Mystery Raffle Gift and we will do that. Another suggested we do Secret Santa where gifts can be stolen; there was not much enthusiasm for that. One other issue, many asked that we limit the number of baskets one person can win; the Board will discuss this at the next meeting and make a decision.

Be on the lookout in the Newsletter for information on the conference taking place in Harrisonburg, Virginia in April. They are looking for suggestions for agenda items so please share your ideas with me or anyone on the Executive Board and we will be sure to pass them along. You will find more details about the conference on page 6 in this Newsletter.

Kim Rendelson, Chapter President

January Program: Gary Arlen, a career journalist and President of Arlen Communications, Inc., gave a presentation on “*How to See the Future.*” He addressed ways to determine what lies ahead; how to prepare for it; how new ideas develop; and why it matters to keep up with the new developments even in one’s



**Gary Arlen discussing
How to See the Future**

senior years. Wanting to anticipate the future is not a new concept. For thousands of years, civilizations have had their seers, soothsayers, and Cassandras. Some predictions have been less accurate than others. Mr. Arlen’s personal prognostication experience began in graduate school when his professor graded down his paper on the future of cable TV because “cable TV would never be important.” Mr. Arlen made a living for 20 years in the robust cable industry. That said,

why should retirees care about predicting the future? They are not planning careers. They should care because they still have time to fulfill different goals, and may do so more successfully if armed with better information. Mr. Arlen identified some developing areas with particular impact on seniors: better health and medical care; technological advances that improve *(continued on page 3)*

(*continued from page 2*) quality of life; and political developments that may affect retired citizens. He advised staying alert to signs of change by remaining curious, observant, open-minded, and analytical. Constantly ask, “What’s next? What if? Why?” Check out sources that promote future thinking, such as TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Conferences, the *World Future Society* (an online publication regarding trends in technology, society, and public policy), *The Future of the Future* by John McHale, and *Yesterday’s Tomorrows* by Corn and Horrigan. To avoid getting lost in the abundance of information, stay focused on the specific topics that affect your particular situation. Additional “what’s next” categories Mr. Arlen suggested are: new sources of nutrition; climate modification and its effect on where one lives; deep-space communications (for those fascinated with exploration beyond earth); virtual/augmented reality (new ways to learn); and new types of payment systems that may affect how financial transactions are conducted (not everyone believed credit cards would be successful when they were introduced). He concluded with the reminder that the future is always a work in progress and involves unexpected consequences. The best way to control the effect of those consequences as much as possible is to stay informed about evolving developments. Snacks were provided by: **Mary Ann Munley, Joyce Price, Carol Rubin, Kim Rendelson, Loretta Nester, Fran Walinsky, Ed Reniker and Sharon Sellers.** A total of **37** attended (**25 in-person and 12 on Zoom**).
Fran Walinsky, Secretary

Alzheimer’s Report – Our 2023 Chapter goal of \$4,000 for Alzheimer’s Research was exceeded by a tad over 50%, \$6,000+. We have set the goal for Alzheimer’s Research for Calendar 2024, for this chapter, again at \$4,000. If you would like to start out the new year providing a donation, either bring a check to the February 7th membership meeting, or mail a check 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

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 cancelled. 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 February 7th Meeting – At 10:00 on Wednesday morning February 7th, we will meet in the Parish Hall at St. Alban’s Church. Our speaker, **Jennifer Wilcox**, will present “American Secrets.” Her presentation introduces you to the secret of secrets. Beginning with invisible ink and hidden messages of the American Revolution through the first super computers and everything in between, she will take you through the history of American cryptology. This presentation highlights the history, technology, and people bringing the secret world of secrets to you. Ms. Wilcox has been the Director of Education for the National Security Agency’s National Cryptologic Museum since 1999. She has conducted extensive research in cryptologic history particularly pertaining to the World War II German cipher machine Enigma and the Allies’ ability to solve those messages and the women in American cryptologic history. Her research has resulted in brochures, articles, presentations and museum exhibits. To attend on Zoom, let **Doug Jones** know (doujones500@verizon.net or **703-425-3361**) no later than **Monday, February 5th**, so he can send you the meeting link and passcode.

Legislation Report – *H.R. 2670, the “National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024”* (the “Act”):



The Act authorizes fiscal year appropriations principally for the Department of Defense, Department of Energy national security programs, Department of State, and the Intelligence Community. The Act provides the critical authorities we need to build the military required to deter future conflicts, while supporting service members and their spouses and families who carry out that mission every day. Incorporates the average 5.2% pay increase for military and civilian employees. (There were strings attached to NADA, but at least it is signed!)

Federal Employee Pay Raise: The President’s proposed average 5.2% pay raise for Federal employees is now a done deal.

Federal Budget: As anticipated, Senate and House Leadership have negotiated another Continuing Resolution (CR) – which extends the two prior CRs by six weeks, i.e., March 1st and March 8th. So, a government shutdown has been averted for now. The current Speaker of the House has agreed that the 2024 Federal Budget be capped at the amount previously agreed to in a deal the last Speaker of the House made with the White House. But, while there is a new set of CR target dates, there is no solid budget deal – and some House Representatives are still holdouts who will need to be convinced. The clock is also ticking on a prior piece of (*continued on page 5*)

(continued from page 4) legislation: if the House cannot pass full year funding (which doesn't include a CR) by May 1, the agencies will take an automatic 1% cut from their 2023 appropriations – but since half the Fiscal Year will be over, that equates to a hefty cut in the second half of the year. Additional delays will not be good. Meanwhile, the Senate has all 12 Appropriations out of Committee, and 3 have passed in the Senate. All 12 have higher authorizations than those proposed in the House. So, there is still quite a bit of negotiating needed. Stay tuned.

HR 82 Social Security Fairness Act: Still holding at 301 co-sponsors, still no vote scheduled. One of the biggest supporters **Abigail Spanberger** (D-VA) will be leaving at the end of her term to run for Governor.



VA General Assembly commenced January 10th -- This is the 60-day term, and the new 2-year budget is to be decided. Both houses of General Assembly are in Democratic control, but with very small margins.

Virginia Proposed Bills of Interest:

SB 108/HB 88 Virginia taxable income; standard deduction: Removes the sunset on elevated standard deduction amounts for single individuals and married persons that was scheduled to expire for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2026.

HB 88, Income Taxes: Creates a new income tax bracket for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2024, for income in excess of \$600,000, which is to be taxed at seven percent. The bill also creates a family caregiver tax credit. The family caregiver tax credit would apply to expenses incurred by an individual in caring for an eligible family member, defined in the bill, who requires assistance with one or more activities of daily living, also defined in the bill. The family caregiver tax credit equals 50 percent of eligible expenditures incurred by the caregiver up to \$1,000. The family caregiver tax credit shall be available only to taxpayers that have federal adjusted gross income that is no greater than \$100,000 for individuals or \$200,000 for married persons.

HB 886, Certified nursing facilities: Amends the administrative sanctions that may be imposed on certified nursing facilities in relation to compliance with staffing requirements. The bill directs the State Health Commissioner, in determining whether or not to impose sanctions, to make the determination of whether a certified nursing facility was located in a medically underserved area that severely limited the ability of the certified nursing facility to recruit and retain direct care staff.

Mary Ann Munley, Legislation Chair

NARFE-PAC needs the YOUR support. NARFE-PAC is a tool to defend and



advance the earned pay and benefits of America's current and retired Federal civil servants by supporting the campaigns of Fed-friendly congressional candidates across the country.

NARFE-PAC is a separate, segregated fund of NARFE, financed solely by voluntary and direct contributions from NARFE members. No membership dues or other non-dues revenue of the association can fund NARFE-PAC. The PAC creates additional opportunities for NARFE members to support Fed-friendly lawmakers running for Congress and enables NARFE to spread awareness of the issues facing federal workers and retirees with them. The PAC strengthens relationships, connecting NARFE members and staff with lawmakers through one-on-one interactions. Please seriously consider making a voluntary contribution – there has never been a more critical time to reach out and educate Congressional members on federal retiree and employee issues as they will be debating which “cuts” to make. A contribution form can be found on page 9 of the January/February 2024 issue of your *NARFE Magazine*. (Reminder: PAC contributions are not tax deductible.)

2024 VFN Annual Conference -- Please mark your calendars for the 2024 Virginia



Federation of NARFE (VFN) Conference which will be held from Sunday, April 7th through Wednesday, April 10th at the Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center in

Harrisonburg. The 2024 Conference theme is “Together We Will Succeed.” The NARFE lodging rate will be \$107.00 plus tax per night (cut-off date to receive the special NARFE rate is March 7th). If you submit your registration form and fee postmarked by February 15th, the early-bird cost for both the Conference and the Banquet will be \$75. Regular registration will be between February 16th and March 15th. During this period, the costs for the Conference & Banquet is \$90. (Note: for the first 3 Chapter members who register, we will reimburse up to \$75 for registration and banquet fees – for more information on reimbursement contact **Chapter Treasurer Jack Bagnulo** at jbagnulo@cox.net.) There will be copies of the registration form at our February 7th Chapter Meeting. The registration form is also available on the VFN website (www.vanarfe.org).

The VFN has no budget for the Conference. Funding comes through the registration and banquet fees, the sale of ads in the Program Book, exhibitors, and supporters in the various chapters. You might start thinking (*continued on page 7*)

(continued from page 6) about approaching a store or restaurant or “you name it” with whom you do business regarding taking out a commercial ad in the Conference Program Book. The cost of the various size ads is \$215 for a Full-Page ad (7” horizontal x 10” vertical), \$125 for a Half-Page ad (7” horizontal x 5” vertical or 3 ½ horizontal x 10” vertical) and \$85 for a Quarter-Page ad (3 7/8” horizontal x 5” vertical). The deadline for Program Book ads is March 1, 2024. Also, Full-Page ads for \$215 are eligible to be posted to the VFN website until May 31, 2024. Advertisement contracts can be found at www.vanarfe.org.

Are you an Angel? – As mentioned above, the VFN has no budget for its annual conference, instead it relies on a number of sources for funding. One is the opportunity for an individual VFN member (any NARFE member in the Commonwealth of Virginia) to contribute directly to defray general conference expenses and have their name published along with other member contributors in the 2024 Conference Program Book. Contributor categories are: Supporter (\$5), Booster (\$10), Cheerleader (\$15), Angel (\$20), Super Angel (\$25), Silver (\$50), Gold (\$75) and Platinum (\$100). We will circulate an envelope at the February 7th meeting. You also can use the form below to make a contribution directly to the VFN. Contributions must be postmarked by March 4, 2024 to guarantee that your name will be included in the Conference Program Book. (Please note that contributions to the VFN are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes.)

2024 VFN Conference Supporter

(To be listed by Chapter in Conference Program Book)

Print your name as you would like it to appear in the Conference Program Book. This form is to be used for only one Conference Supporter. Please duplicate as needed.

Individual Supporter’s Name: _____

Check applicable category:

___ Platinum (\$100.00) ___ Gold (\$75.00) ___ Silver (\$50.00) ___ Super Angel (\$25) ___ Angel (\$20) ___ Cheerleader (\$15) ___ Booster (\$10) ___ Supporter (\$5)

NARFE ID No: _____ Phone No: _____ Chapter No: _____

Email Address: _____

Attach check, made payable to "2024 VFN Conference" for total amount indicated above. On the Memo Line, please write "VFN 24 Conference Supporter." Mail to: Kathy Arpa, Supporter Chair, 2717 Bowling Green Drive, Vienna VA 22180-7034, 703-205-9041, mkarpa@hotmail.com.

COMMUNITY CORNER –

Meet new friends and enrich your life! -- Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern VA at NOVA Annandale Campus (LLI/NOVA) is a non-profit, member-run organization offering virtual and in-person activities for adults 50+. You can attend interesting classes, participate in regional excursions and travel, and join special interest groups (SIGs), such as Bridge, Book Club, Tabletop Games, Finance, Foodies, and Photography. Go to <https://llinova.org> to see everything LLI/NOVA has to offer, including 130+ single-session courses. Register for as many as you wish for an annual membership fee of \$110. Join them for FREE at a SIG event or at a monthly Forum. Have questions? Contact them via email at admin@llinova.org, the web at <https://llinova.org>, or phone at (703) 323-3746.

Mark your calendars and join us on March 6th when we will have a presentation by a representative of the Fairfax Solid Waste Management Program on what's done with material sent to recycle.

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