



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

December 2023

Join us, either in-person or via Zoom, for our next meeting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 3rd, when Gary Arlen will present *How To See the Future*. "What's next?" is always a favorite question. Mr. Arlen will take a peek at how ideas develop, emerge, evolve... and why/if it matters to keep up at our age. For details regarding the program, as well as information on registering for the Zoom meeting, see page 3.

REMEMBER, there is a change of location for our meetings starting in January 2024. We will meet in the **Parish Hall at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike in Annandale**. The church is on Columbia Pike only one mile west from the Governmental Center. **THE ENTRANCE TO THE PARISH HALL IS INDICATED BY THE ARROW IN THE PHOTO BELOW**



PREZ SEZ – - Our holiday luncheon was wonderful; I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. This is the first one without entertainment (a suggestion we received after the previous luncheon) and participants seemed to enjoy extra time to talk with one another. I saw much laughter with everyone in conversation, leaning in, and being engaged. But that’s just my opinion; the Board would like feedback so you’ll find comment forms on tables at our January meeting -- or convey your thoughts to a Board member. Please let us know what you thought – did you miss entertainment, or did you enjoy having extra time to talk? We’d also like suggestions on what to do better or differently next time.

I’d be remiss if I didn’t extend huge thanks to **Sharon Sellers** who managed the Food Drive again for us, for forging relationships with the police and Giant Foods, and getting donations of PJs and toys, and wrapping gifts - it was a huge success. As always, Sharon had a major role in arranging the beautiful raffle baskets, taking pictures for the website and Facebook, and transporting baskets. And during the year, as hospitality chair, she and husband **Mort Glassberg** arrive early to set up room furniture, get coffee going, and organize for the goodies people bring, providing plates, napkins, cups, etc. I always appreciate chapter stalwarts Sharon and Mort. And, remember, in 2024 we’ll meet at St. Alban’s Church, 6800 Columbia Pike in Annandale, due to Mason District Governmental Center construction; enter on the right as you face the building. There’s a large parking lot and no steps. Chapter members visited the facility, tested electronics, and scoped out space for refreshments and seating. It’s a nice facility and I believe it will suit our needs. I look forward to seeing everyone in 2024 and wish you much happiness and joy throughout the holiday season.

Kim Rendelson, Chapter President

Chapter Budget – At our January 3rd Chapter Meeting we will be asking members for their approval of the proposed budget for the Chapter’s 2024 operations. The proposed budget is on our website (www.narfe.org/chapter1159) for your review.

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 January 3rd Meeting – At 10:00 on Wednesday morning January 3rd, we will meet in the Parish Hall at St. Alban's Church. Our speaker is Gary Arlen. Mr. Arlen's company publishes insightful reports on the fast-emerging communications and financial services, including the Internet, home banking and shopping and digital entertainment plus their political ramifications. He will lead us in taking a peek at how ideas develop, emerge, evolve... and why/if it matters to keep up at our age. To attend on Zoom, let **Doug Jones** know (doujones500@verizon.net or **703-425-3361**) no later than **noon Tuesday, January 2nd**, so he can send you the meeting link and passcode.

December Program: We held our Holiday Luncheon at a new location this year --



Chapter members enjoying lunch at the Italian Inn.

The Italian Cafe in Falls Church. Everyone had a good time socializing and having a wonderful meal to usher in the holidays. After lunch and during the business portion of the meeting, members elected the Chapter's 2023 Audit Committee. The Committee will be comprised of **John Bankson (Chair), Joyce Price, and Frank Toth**. At the conclusion of the meeting a raffle was

held for the benefit of the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. A total of **\$1,001** was raised at the luncheon for the Fund from the raffle and membership donations. **Thirty-six members and guests attended the luncheon.**

Alzheimer's Report – The donations to the Alzheimer's Research Fund for 2023 from Chapter 1159 is \$5,261. You continue to provide heartfelt donations to the Fund. You are amazing. I will propose to the Executive Board that we keep the same goal, \$4,000, for 2024. As you know from your *NARFE Magazine*, the National level for the Research Fund is approaching \$16,000,000. The research projects cover the gamut and are aiming toward making Alzheimer's Disease a thing of the past. If you would like to help find a cure for Alzheimer's, you can send a donation by mail 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

Legislation Report – *Federal Budget*: The Federal Government is still operating through a set of Continuing Resolutions (CR) which have early 2024 expiration dates: January 19, 2024 pertains to the programs in the Agriculture, Energy-Water, Military Construction-VA, and Transportation-HUD bills; February 2, 2024 pertains to the programs in the Commerce-Justice-Science, Defense, Financial Services-General Government, Homeland Security, Interior-Environment, Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative Branch and State-Foreign Operations bills. The new Speaker of the House has indicated that he won't put another "clean" funding bill or CR on the floor, which increases the chance of a full or partial government shutdown shortly after the House returns from the Holiday recess. Stay tuned.



Virginia Legislation- The 2024 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly convenes January 10, 2024 and is scheduled to finish (or adjourn *sine die*) on March 9, 2024. During this session, our Governor will be submitting his 2-year Budget Request. Hopefully, there will be enough common ground in that request for meaningful progress on Virginia's Budget.



VFN 2024 State Legislative Plan -- The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) has published its 2024 State Legislative Plan on the VFN website (<https://www.vanarfe.org>). Two items in the plan pertain to State taxation of CSRS Annuities. First, the VFN is asking that the State exempt a portion of CSRS Annuities from State Taxation: The current Virginia Tax Policy disadvantages CSRS annuitants by taxing all of their CSRS annuity while the State does not tax Social Security payments, and we believe that a portion of the CSRS Annuity equates to Social Security. And, second, the VFN is asking that the income restriction be lifted on the Age 65+ Deduction, recognizing the current calculation of "income" unfairly disadvantages CSRS annuitants who must include all of their annuity as income in the computation, while Social Security recipients exclude (again) Social Security from their income. We are hoping to see some form of legislation proposed in the General Assembly for one of both of these issues.

Mary Ann Munley, *Legislation Chair*



Get to Know Your Board – We are resuming our series highlighting our Annandale Chapter Board Members. This month we feature **Phil Gilliland**, our Chapter Alzheimer’s Chair:

I was born in Kansas and my parents farmed in Northwest Kansas before and during the Dust Bowl days and the Great Depression. Due to those two events, we moved to Texas in 1936 in a Model T Ford Touring car. My dad found work as a route man for a bread company and worked for them until he died in 1939. We moved back to Northwest Kansas where Dad’s and Mom’s parents both lived. We lived there until 1943 when we moved to Central Kansas for Mom’s job with the U.S. Army. Mom never re-married and lived in Kansas until her death in 1998.

I have a sister and two brothers; older brother and sister, younger brother. They are all still alive and living in Colorado, Oregon, and California, respectively. My older brother was a nuclear engineer, working for General Electric; after her kids went to college, my sister worked for the State of Oregon; my younger brother was an M.D., in family practice. I have been married just over 63 years. We have a son, who lives in Clifton and has three children. He works as a Civil Engineer in his own company.

I have a B.S. in Math Education and an M.S. in Statistics, both from Kansas State University. I worked for the U.S. Government in three separate agencies as a Mathematical Statistician for a total of 30 years. After retirement, I sought standing from the Christian Church Capital Area Commission for Ministry to be a Lay Minister, later Commissioned Minister. In 2012, I began my studies at Wesley Theological Seminary, and received an M.A. in May, 2014. I was ordained into the ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on February 3, 2019. I have been a member of the First Christian Church, Falls Church, since November, 1966.

Mark your calendars and join us for our February Chapter Meeting on 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.

Community Corner – As the Washington Post recently reported, there is a much greater need for volunteers than there are volunteers. A few hours of volunteering per month can make a difference for the volunteer as well as the recipient. Below are two, among many, opportunities to volunteer.

Volunteers Needed to Teach Basic Computer Skills – Computer C.O.R.E needs volunteers to teach basic computer skills to adults via Zoom or serve as a “Zoom Administrator.” They provide the necessary tools and training. This is an all-virtual volunteer role. The time commitment is one hour per week, 6 to 7 p.m. or 7:15 to 8 p.m. for ten-week terms – January-March, April-June, and September-November. They will accommodate vacation schedules using substitute teachers (another volunteer role). Other roles are available. For more information, go to www.computer.org/volunteer.

Volunteers Needed for Income Tax Assistance Program – The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program provides free tax preparation to qualified people in Northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Department of Family Services needs volunteers to act as greeters, interpreters (including ASL), screeners, tax preparers, online tax coaches, social media outreach and IT support. Free training (classroom and on-line) is available for screeners and tax preparers. Opportunities are available throughout Fairfax County, with flexible schedules, including evenings and weekends. Volunteers are needed through mid-April. For more information go to www.nvacash.org.



Mary Lou Vroman, Annandale Chapter Board Member at-Large (front left), and other Northern Virginia chapter members, staffing the NARFE recruitment table at Congressman Connolly’s November 18th Open Season Health Fair.

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