



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FAIRFAX CHAPTER 737



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

FEBRUARY 2024

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

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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:** February 6 Dr. Kelsey Trinka, AuD, audiologist with Hearing Associates of NOVA will present on the intricacies of good hearing and hearing loss
- 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

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

Apr 7-10: Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) Conference in Harrisonburg, Va. Go to vanarfe.org, then under Conference select conference 2024. Bulletin #1 outlines the conference plans and then there are look for the registration form, fillable or not.

Fourth Wednesday of each month: Scheduled VFN Trainings at vanarfe.org are:

- January 24th will be about the Chapter Treasurer responsibilities and duties.
- March 27th (pending) the topic will be Artificial Intelligence for Seniors.

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 next membership meeting will occur on Tuesday February 6, 2024. 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 Dr. Kelsey Trinka, AuD. Kelsey is an audiologist with Hearing Associates of NOVA. She will talk about the intricacies of good hearing and hearing loss.

For those who cannot attend the membership meeting in person, Dr. Trinka's presentation will be broadcast via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83853660400?pwd=RFEzNXgrRG53U0pLdG4zZzJMdG5sQT09>

The cost of the luncheon will be \$17 per person. Donations for Food for Others will be welcome.

If you plan to attend the February 6th 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 run the Fairfax Chapter of NARFE. Please inform Mike Fleming of your interest to volunteer in some way 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 47 pounds of dry and canned goods for Food for Others.

Ted Pasek – Vice President

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Finances

Balance as of 12/1/2023	\$8,266.38		
Disbursements	-768.99	(Creative Color, Post 177 and Alz)	
Income	<u>464.72</u>	(Mtg Receipts including \$69.00 for	Alzheimer’s
Research and Dues fr HQ)			
Balance as of 12/31/2023	\$7,962.11		

Membership

As of 12/26/2023,			
VA Chapter members:	4,353		
VA NOM members	<u>6,162</u>		
Total for VFN	10,515		
737 Chapter members	252	1/1/2023	269
737 NOM members	<u>313</u>		<u>332</u>
	565		601
1 new member			
3 dropped			
1 passed			
2 prospective			
11 renewed			

Donna Shackelford – Treasurer and Membership

NARFE ADVOCACY

Since NARFE's founding in 1921, the association's mission has been to defend and advance the earned pay and benefits of America's civil servants. Today, NARFE's team of professional lobbyists continues to work tirelessly on behalf of the federal community. Supported by grassroots activists, NARFE is a leading voice in Washington and across the country. NARFE's national legislative program is advanced in Congress by a team of registered lobbyists backed by an informed network of grassroots activists in every state and congressional district, as well as a member-supported Political Action Committee (PAC).

NARFE is gearing up for a year filled with grassroots activities that will shape our advocacy. We're excited to announce our brand-new benchmarks, carefully crafted to empower you, our incredible members, to advocate for the issues that concern the federal community and make strides toward the changes we want to see.

In response to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issuing a proposed rule titled "Upholding Civil Service Protections and Merit System Principles," NARFE National President William "Bill" Shackelford issued the following statement:

"Every administration should—and will—bring along its own cadre of political appointees to set and direct the policy of the duly elected President. But this rule will strengthen the longstanding bipartisan consensus of a nonpartisan civil service, which safeguards the rule of law and professionalism over partisanship or nepotism, while ensuring continuity between administrations.

"This rule reflects the legislative history and intent of Congress to craft a statutorily developed, merit-based civil service system. It precludes the use of statutory loopholes, such as the previous administration's attempt to create a broad exception to merit-based civil service rules via a new excepted service schedule, Schedule F. In so doing, the final rule would add a procedural roadblock in the way of any future administration looking to undermine merit-based protections via a return of Schedule F, or other similar efforts.

"As I applaud OPM for its proactive measures, this rule alone may only delay—and not prevent—a return of Schedule F in the future. It's up to Congress to clarify its statutory intent further, by passing legislation such as the Saving the Civil Service Act, H.R.1002/S.59, to more fully protect the nonpartisanship of the civil service."

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. Our theme is "Together We Will Succeed". Hosts for this Conference are VFN Area VII Chapters: Roanoke Valley 111, Charlottesville 135, Harrisonburg 164, Winchester 180, Page Valley Luray 1793, and Shenandoah County 2358. Conference Coordinator Larry McIlwee and Conference Chair Melissa Groppe are working on new and exciting presentations, workshops, and events. Planned guest speakers include Senator Kaine, Congressman Cline, and NARFE National President Shackelford. 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.

VFN HISTORY

The VFN was founded on April 9, 1955. Eighteen national members representing ten chapters and fewer than 1,000 members in the state established the tenth state federation of NARFE. Currently there are about 13,000 members, Chapter and National Only combined throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VFN serves 38 Chapters which extend from Northern Virginia (close to our Nation's Capital) to the beaches of Southern Virginia and to the Shenandoah Mountains. VFN Chapters are divided into Area's which are created according to geographic location and serviced by our Area Vice President's.

Return Service Requested
NARFE - Fairfax Chapter 737
5340 GAINSBOROUGH DR.
FAIRFAX, VA 22032-2741



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver by **January 23, 2024**

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

James Mays – Newsletter Editor