



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.

March - April 2024

PRESIDENT'S GREETING:



I think we are all ready for an early spring. The chapter is staying very active. Our February meeting had an outstanding talk about her “On the Bus” experiences presented by Kathy Loftin. Her bus rides to the Pentagon had many interesting stories. We have an outstanding speaker scheduled for

March 25th - Fairfax County Sheriff Stacy Kincaid and in April author Cindy Bennet presenting interesting and fun facts about Wicked Fairfax County.

If you're unsure you will be able to attend our monthly meeting, it is better not to RSVP. We understand that illness and emergencies happen after a reservation is made. Just let Pat Wolfe know ahead of time if at all possible. We are experiencing no shows every month and it's very difficult for the restaurant to make proper food purchases. This doesn't mean that you should wait until the last possible moment to make a reservation as Pat has to call in a count on the Thursday before the meeting. We want to build our membership and increase attendance at our excellent luncheon programs. Please take a moment to complete the short survey attached to this newsletter. We need to hear from you!

If you have not registered for the Virginia Federation Conference, April 7-10 in Harrisonburg, visit www.vanarfe.org. Dulles Chapter will provide registration and lodging for 3 people.

The chapter continues to have a need for volunteers. Can you spare an hour or two per month? It can be easy as sending a couple emails or making a few phone calls per month. Please contact myself or Pat Wolfe with your availability.

Jeff Sargent, President
Jsarg62@aol.com

LUNCHEON PROGRAM – March 25, 2024, 11:30 A.M.

Speaker: Fairfax County Sheriff Stacy Kincaid

Topic: What's happening in Fairfax County?

Luncheon Entrée Choices:

Belgian Waffle Deluxe w/Sausage & Scrambled Eggs

½ Triple Decker Sandwich (Roast Turkey & Bacon Club) with Cup of Soup

Hot Sliced Turkey Sandwich w/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes & Vegetable

Served with Coffee/Tea

The cost of the luncheon is \$22 which includes meeting room, beverage (priced - \$3.50 on menu), tax and a small gratuity. Additional tips are welcome but not required. Please note that this is a price increase from 2023 due to cost of food and labor.

☎ Please contact Patricia Wolfe at wolfepatriciam@aol.com or (703) 449-1582 no later than **Wednesday, March 20, 2024. 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.

Mark Your Calendar: Luncheon, April 22, 2024! Speaker – Author Cindy Bennet; Topic- Wicked Fairfax County; Menu: French Dip w/Fries, Coleslaw, Pickle; Chicken Fajita Salad; and Fish and Chips. A reminder notice will be sent in April

MEMBERSHIP NEWS 1241 DULLES

Membership Report

As of March 1, 2024

At the beginning of March we have 285 Chapter Members and 506 National Only members in our chapter area. This reflects a slow but steady loss of members. Every month we experience a net loss of about 3 members. National only membership also is experiencing attrition. Our chapter appears to be doing better than many in the state, but our long-term prospects are poor.

We need to recruit more new members, reinstate members who recently were dropped for non-renewal or our future is bleak. Everyone needs to look at their friends and associates to find recruits and reach out to others who used to be members and attend luncheons.

Data from the National membership database for last month show that we have one New Chapter Member, Elizabeth Westgate who lives in Broadlands, VA.

Several current Members have been dropped for Non-Renewal. Gary L Klinedinst of Hillsboro, VA; Eugene Sullivan of Reston, VA; Darrell Breed of Sterling, VA; Gary D Martin, of Chantilly, VA; and Shirley Boning of Ashburn, VA.

The delay in processing by National may result in some of these being reinstated, but if you know them contact them and ask if it is an oversight.

Bill Schmidt
Membership Chair
Billschmidt39@yahoo.com

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

At this point it looks like the federal government has avoided another shutdown. The House Oversight Committee, which produces much of the legislation affecting federal employees and retirees, has produced little substantive legislation this session, preferring instead to pursue highly partisan investigations. Gerry Connolly and others have sponsored a number of bills supported by NARFE, but unfortunately they remain stuck in committee.

To overcome some of this gridlock, please consider donating to NARFE-PAC to support some of the legislators, like Gerry Connolly and Tim Kaine, who support NARFE goals.

Our local representatives, including Jennifer Wexton and Gerry Connolly, have brought notable infrastructure monies to Loudoun and Fairfax Counties, including substantial improvements to Dulles Airport.

Meanwhile in Virginia the House of Delegates and the State Senate are expected to go into special session to reconcile their respective budgets. Senator Jennifer Boysko, now a member of the Finance Committee, will be among the budget negotiators.

The Alexandria Arena is of many parts and has been the elephant in the room this session. Last I heard, there were many unresolved issues between the House, Senate, and the Governor. On this issue and many others, it is still unclear whether the governor will amend or veto significant bills coming to his desk from the General Assembly.

Judy Thorne, Chapter Legislative Chair
CDL for 11th Congressional District
thornemusick@aol.com

Important Dates:

- March 12 – Dulles Chapter Board Meeting
- March 15 – Cut Off for Registration for VFN Conference
- March 25 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon (Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid)
- March 27 – VFN Zoom Program w/ABC 7 Lindsey Mastis – Artificial Intelligence
- April 2 - Dulles Chapter Board Meeting (To Be Confirmed as regular day falls during VFN Conference)
- April 22 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon (Cindy Bennet – Wicked Fairfax County)
- April 26 – NOVA Caucus Meeting, Fairfax, VA
- May 7 – Dulles Chapter Board Meeting
- May 18 (Saturday) Brunch- State Legislative Chair Deborah Brown & Local Legislator)
- June 11 – Dulles Chapter Board Meeting
- June 24 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon (Patrick O’Neill – Virginia’s Presidential Homes)
- July 26 – NOVA Caucus Meeting, Fairfax, VA
- August 18-20 – NARFE FedCon24 – St. Louis, MO
- September 10 – Dulles Chapter Board Meeting
- September 23 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon (suggest 2 candidates – TBD)
- October 15 – Dulles Chapter Board Meeting
- October 28 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon (suggest BCBS)
- November 5 – Election Day
- November 12- Dulles Chapter Board Meeting (to be confirmed)
- November 16 (Saturday) or November 25 (Thanksgiving Week) – Dulles Luncheon/Brunch – To be Decided
- December 9 – Holiday Party

ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH:

Ann Webster, Alzheimer’s Research Chair, is continuing the 50/50 drawings at our luncheon programs. Our collection 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: Ann Webster, 21022 Rocky Knoll Square, Apt. 205, Ashburn, VA 20147. For additional information or fundraising ideas, contact Ann at angelw3@verizon.net.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:

Kathy Loftin is serving as Sunshine Committee Chair and enjoys sending cards to members who are ill, suffering a loss, or just needs a little cheering up. We don’t always know of these needs, so please let Kathy know if you learn of someone we should remember. Email: 425tree@gmail.com.

EDITOR’S NOTE:

If you have announcements or items of interest, please contact Newsletter Editor Patricia Wolfe at wolfepatricia@aol.com. Don’t forget to complete the attached survey. We need your input to make Dulles Chapter even better and stronger.

DULLES CHAPTER 2024 SURVEY

1. I attend Luncheons ___ Monthly; _____ 3-4 Times a Year; ___ Not at All
2. Meeting Location Amphora Diner is _____ Convenient; ___ Not Convenient
3. Meeting Day/Time 4th Monday is ___ Good; _____ Not Good; ___ Varies
4. I would attend if more meetings were held _____ on Saturday; ___ Evenings
5. If you rarely or never attend, ___ health issues; _____ transportation issues; _____ programs not interesting; ___ working; _____ too costly; ___ Other
6. I would attend more often if _____.
7. I attend regularly because ___ networking; ___ important information on legislative and benefits issues; ___ lunch w/friends; ___ speakers; ___ Other
8. Suggest Improvement: _____ speakers; ___ chapter business; ___ Other
9. Suggestions: _____

10. I find the newsletter and announcements helpful _____ Yes; ___ No
11. I am willing to consider serving in a leadership position as ___ elected officer; ___ committee chair; ___ co-chair of committee; ___ special project

PLEASE COMPLETE SURVEY AND RETURN TO PAT WOLFE AT wolfepatriciam@aol.com or mail to 5916 Baron Kent Lane, Centreville, VA 20120

