

**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:** Mar 5  
**PROGRAM:** Congressman Conolly's staff, Fatima Malik, will speak on the legislation affecting Federal active and retired employees. Congressman Connolly will not be able to attend because of schedule conflicts.  
**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](mailto:TedPasek@verizon.net) or Ralph Thompson at [gorat2@aol.com](mailto:gorat2@aol.com)

April 2: Ms. Catey Tansey and Ms. Patricia Coppel will speak on Downsizing: The KDR Method. They represent America's Downsizing and Decluttering Consultants (ADDR).

May 7: Virginia Delegate David Bulova giving an update on the results of the Va General Assembly. (Invited)

June 4: Third annual Chapter 737 annual Picnic at Van Dyck Park in Fairfax City. Bring your own lunch, drinks provided.

Apr 7-10: Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) Conference in Harrisonburg, Va. Go to [vanarfe.org](http://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](http://vanarfe.org) are:

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 March 5, 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 members of Representative Connelly's staff join us for lunch and to take questions. For those who cannot attend the membership meeting in person, it 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 March 5th membership meeting, please inform Ted Pasek at [tedpasek@verizon.net](mailto: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.

I returned to my home in Milwaukee the other day from a two week trip to the Philippines. When I left, it was mid-Winter and snow was knee deep; when I returned, there was no snow. Though technically Spring is right around the corner, practically winters in Wisconsin have noticeably gotten more mild over the decades. Even in Virginia, where I had

once lived during my Federal career, steady rising sea water along the coast has been measured. These empirical observation cannot be ignored and should be cause for concern about man's effect on the climate

In the Philippines, there is no Social Security as we know it; there is no Medicare, and to the best of my knowledge there is no organization of retired government workers like NARFE. These institutions with which we are accustomed did not pop into existence by magic. It took the hardships of the Depression, for example, to motivate voters to make politicians create them. Their continued existence likewise is not guaranteed as everyone must know especially when we hear about organized campaigns in every Congress which try to abolish them in their present public form or to undercut the civil service with something like Schedule F.

Being a member of NARFE implies the recognition that Federal retirement benefits are also not guaranteed. Ponder that idea for awhile and then consider offering your help to run the Fairfax Chapter of NARFE in some way. Please inform Mike Fleming or Ted Pasek of your interest to serve the Fairfax Chapter.

Sincerely yours,

**Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President**

**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 (ideally in cans or plastic instead of glass)
- Dry goods – cereal, pasta, rice, (16 oz packages), dried beans
- Canned vegetables, meat (2oz – 15oz), and fruit (packed in juice 11 oz – 20 oz)
- Spaghetti sauce, 14 oz – 1 lb (ideally in cans or plastic instead of glass)
- Fruit juice (100% juice) 32 oz – 64 oz

Refer to the [www.FoodforOthers.org/give-food](http://www.FoodforOthers.org/give-food) website for a list of most needed items and information on the Power Pack Program (P3) that provides for food insecure children on weekends when they are out of school. This month the chapter collected xxxxx pounds of dry and canned goods for Food for Others.

**Ted Pasek – Vice President**

**TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Finances

Balance as of 1/1/2024	\$7,962.11		
Disbursements	232.00	(Post 177)	
Income	183.89	(Dues fr HQ)	
Balance as of 1/30/2024	\$7,913.99		

Membership

737 Chapter members	247	1/1/2023	269
737 NOM members	<u>314</u>		<u>332</u>
	561		601

Alzheimer's Research

Q4 total for 737 \$169 December  
Area 10 \$4,038.35 for CY 2023

**Donna Shackelford – Treasurer and Membership**

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**NATIONAL LEGISLATION-** On January 18, Congress passed legislation to keep the federal government open into March, approving the third short-term stopgap spending bill in four months to avert a looming partial government shutdown.

The House approved the measure by a vote of 314-108, with opposition coming mostly from the more conservative members of the Republican conference. Shortly before the vote, the House Freedom Caucus announced it "strongly opposes" the measure because it would facilitate more spending than they support.

The measure extends current spending levels and buys time for the two chambers to work out their differences over full-year spending bills for the fiscal year that began in October. The temporary measure will run to March 1 for some federal agencies. Their funds were set to run out on January 19. It extends the remainder of government operations

to March 8.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La. has been under pressure from his right flank to scrap a \$1.66 trillion budget price tag he reached with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer for the spending bills. However, Johnson insisted he will stick with the deal and centrists in the party have stood behind him, saying changing course would be going back on his word and would weaken the speaker in future negotiations. **(Federal News Network)**

The U.S. Senate voted on February 12 to approve a \$95 billion aid package providing funds for Ukraine, Israel and partners in the Indo-Pacific, including Taiwan, along with facilities for humanitarian aid. The bill must still be approved by the Republican-led House of Representatives before becoming law. It faces stringent opposition from many in the GOP, who have pushed for the inclusion of domestic security on the southern border. **(CNBC politics)**

**VIRGINIA LEGISLATION-** A remade Virginia General Assembly convened its 2024 session on January 10 with a Democratic majority newly in charge of both chambers.

In December, Gov. Glenn Youngkin proposed his two-year budget, which called for lowering the income tax while raising the state's sales tax. The proposal would've amounted to a roughly \$1 billion tax cut. On February 2, a Senate Finance and Appropriations subcommittee voted unfavorably on the tax proposal, recommending carrying it over to next year, which is a polite way of killing the measure. **(WCVB News)**

Previously, on January 29, the Virginia Senate passed a bill that authorizes local governments to increase their local sales tax to fund school construction projects if voters approve the bill in a referendum. **(Virginia Mercury)**

Out of 1,000-plus bills being debated in this General Assembly session, around 100 concern transportation, with a few dedicated to speed reduction. A bill (HB 1071) allowing localities to reduce speed limits below 25 mph but not less than 15 mph is pending approval by the Senate Committee on Transportation after passage by the House. **(VPM.org, fastdemocracy.com)**

A bill that cleared an early hurdle would broaden the state's revenge porn law by adding a new category of "sexual" images that would be unlawful to disseminate.

The Virginia House and Senate overwhelmingly passed a bill that ends preference admissions of children of alumni at its public universities. **(Richmond Times-Dispatch)**

As the session reached midpoint, the Democratic-controlled assembly advanced bills to safeguard abortion access and increase the minimum wage, just a few of the partisan priorities that ensure a showdown with Gov. Youngkin.

Senate Democrats declined to advance a bill setting up a Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority to oversee the creation of a \$2 billion arena for the Wizards and Capitals at Potomac Yard in Alexandria, citing financial concerns. However, the House approved a bill on the matter by a vote of 59-40, keeping the matter moving forward for a final decision later. **(Washington Post)**

**Tom Hart – Legislative Program**

### **70<sup>TH</sup> 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". Early Bird registration of \$75 ends February 15th. <https://vanarfe.org/conference-2024/>

Some very exciting speakers and workshops are lined up - JMU Professor Dr. Edna Reid, Ph.D. is speaking on "Cyber Security for Seniors", Dr. Philip L. Frana, Ph.D. on "Artificial Intelligence for Sustainability and Prosperity", and retired CIA agent Dr. Timothy Walton, Ph.D. on "A Perspective on Intelligence: The CIA, Past and Future" Our own National President Bill Shackelford and our Region X Vice President Robert Allen will speak. Nora MacDonald, Director of Member Engagement at NARFE and an Alzheimer's Rep have been invited to make presentations. Other invited guest speakers include Senator Kaine, Congressman Cline, Congresswoman Spanberger, and Virginia Governor Youngkin. The Hotel Booking Link for the 2024 VFN Conference in Harrisonburg, Va is: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4109021>

### **2024 NARFE-FEEA FUND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The 2024 NARFE-FEEA Fund Scholarship Awards Program is now accepting applications. Recipients will receive a one-time award of \$1,000 to put toward the 2024-25 school year. Applicants must be seniors in high school; children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren of NARFE members are eligible. The deadline to apply is 3 p.m. ET Thursday, March 14, 2024. For more information and to access the application, visit [www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/](http://www.feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/).

The scholarship program is funded by the NARFE-FEEA Fund, supported by NARFE members and administered by FEEA. In 1987, the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) established a scholarship program for children and grandchildren of federal employees. Ten years later, NARFE joined FEEA's Board of Directors and soon after that authorized the creation of a scholarship program open to relatives of NARFE members. To support the program, donations to the NARFE-FEEA Fund can be made online at [www.feea.org/givenarfe](http://www.feea.org/givenarfe) or by check payable to NARFE-FEEA Fund mailed to: NARFE-FEEA Fund c/o FEEA, 1641 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver by **February 25, 2024**

#### **NEWSLETTER**

The Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter is published September through June to provide information on the Chapter membership meetings in those months.

Members should log on to their NARFE account and go to the membership database and update their records. Physical newsletters are coming back as undelivered and digital newsletters are bouncing back. It is also important to get the magazine and other NARFE benefits information. Go to <https://www.narfe.org/> to ensure your data is current and accurate.

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

**James Mays – Newsletter Editor**