

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: Apr 2

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

WHERE: American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St, Fairfax City

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

National Library Week is April 7-13, 2024. NARFE Chapter 737 will be celebrating a bit early at our April 2nd Luncheon Meeting by having a Book Exchange. "Bring Some, Take Some" - books or even take some books if you didn't bring one! Any books remaining after the meeting will be donated to a Fairfax County Public Library for resale by Friends of the Library group to raise funds for special programming including the Summer Reading Club. Bring on the Books, or as they say in Latin, "Tolle Lege" - Take Up and Read!

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 once there look for the registration form, fillable or not.

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.

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

March 27th (pending) the topic will be Artificial Intelligence for Seniors.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members of Chapter 737:

Check out the details on the 70th Virginia Federation of NARFE conference on page 3 in the newsletter.

The next membership meeting will feature Catey Tansey and Patricia Coppel of America's Downsizing and Decluttering Consultants. For those who cannot attend the membership meeting in person, it will be broadcast via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83853660400?pwd=RFEzNXgrRG53UOpLdG4zZzJMdG5sQT09>

Also, since National Library Week for 2024 will be celebrated from Sunday, April 7th through Saturday, April 13th, consider bringing books to giveaway at the April membership meeting. If you plan to attend 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.

Sincerely yours,

Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President

MARCH PROGRAM MEETING

Staff members from the U.S. House of Representatives Honorable Gerald Connolly's office provided a presentation on their efforts for constituents. Mr. Chatmon (Community Engagement Representative) and Ms. Malik (Constituent Services/Field Representative) said many constituents have Social Security Administration issues. They have a priority number with SSA to call and get answers for district residents but they sometimes wait on hold 2 hours before they get an agent to help resolve constituent problems. They fielded a list of complaints from chapter members on the budget process, continuing resolutions, the postal service and Department of Defense support.

FOOD FOR OTHERS

Don't forget to bring your food donation to be taken to "Food for Others" to help those not so fortunate in Fairfax County. At the last two Chapter meetings we collected 130 pounds in February and 145 pounds in March. Lets keep increasing the amount collected.

Needed 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 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.

Ted Pasek – Vice President

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Finances

Chapter beginning balance on February 1 was \$7,913.99. During the month, I received \$695.96 and disbursed \$698.48, leaving a balance at the end of the month on February 29 of \$7,911.47

Drawing Winners:

Free lunch: Becky Fial

40-40-20 drawing: \$12 Donna Shackelford donated to Alzheimer's research.

40-40-20 drawing: \$6 by Sharon Linius donated to Alzheimer's research.

Donna Shackelford – Treasurer and Membership

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

NATIONAL LEGISLATION - The Senate, on Friday, March 8, approved a funding package to set spending levels for some agencies for the rest of fiscal year 2024, sending the measure to the president just hours before a partial government shutdown was set to begin.

The \$460 billion "minibus" – which contains funding for the departments of Agriculture, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, Veterans Affairs, Interior, Commerce and Justice, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency and some other agencies – will now become law after the House of Representatives passed it earlier that week. The measures will force many agencies across government to absorb modest cuts relative to their current funding levels, though overall non-defense discretionary spending will remain flat.

The Senate had to manage its typical high-wire act ahead of the vote, with Republicans demanding action on a series of doomed amendments.

Appropriators next faced a March 22 deadline, turning their attention to a second package featuring six of the 12 annual spending bills Congress must pass each year. House Republicans touted that in the first package they achieved cuts across agencies including EPA, FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, though after accounting for one-off projects in fiscal year 2023 and supplemental funding through previously passed laws, the reductions are not as significant as initially advertised.

Republicans also noted that, despite President Biden authorizing a 5.2% pay bump for federal employee salaries that went into effect Jan.1, the approved "minibus" did not include increased spending for federal employee salaries for the current fiscal year. That will require agencies to absorb those personnel costs elsewhere in the budget, they said.

Democrats boasted that they staved off the larger cuts Republicans had sought and secured funding for key priorities, including hiring air traffic controllers at the Federal Aviation Administration, maintaining pay raises for federal firefighters and adding mental health care professionals at the Veterans Administration.

House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., said she was hopeful appropriators would meet the March 22 deadline for the second minibus, potentially including thornier parts of the government such as the

Homeland Security Department.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., was similarly optimistic, though he cautioned partisan differences could still derail progress. **(Government Executive)**

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION - The Democratic-controlled General Assembly wrapped up its 60-day session on March 9 with a snub to Gov. Glenn Youngkin's plans for a \$2 billion sports arena, one day after the Republican signed legislation to ensure same-sex couples cannot be denied marriage licenses, but vetoed eight of the first 84 bills sent to his desk.

Youngkin announced the vetoes, plus amendments to 12 other bills, hours before a midnight deadline and two days after leading Democrats agreed to a state budget compromise without provisions for Gov. Youngkin's top priority, a publicly financed arena for the Washington Wizards and Capitals in Alexandria.

Lawmakers agreed to a two-year spending plan that includes more money for schools, teachers, state and mental health, but not a tax overhaul that had been proposed by Gov. Youngkin, which would have raised the sales tax across the board while simultaneously cutting personal income taxes by 12 percent. They also approved a separate "caboose" budget to cover the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Gov. Youngkin vetoed bills related to firearms, book banning, marijuana, voting rolls, surrogacy, railroad safety and cybersecurity, stating he did so "to prevent the enactment of laws that would redundantly mirror existing statutes, potentially reverse our advancements in safeguarding elections data, and impose excessive regulatory constraints on our Commonwealth."

The governor thanked legislators for their efforts in a statement that also made clear he plans to make changes to what he called "backward budgets that need a lot of work."

The General Assembly will have a chance to override the vetoes and amendments when it reconvenes for its one-day "veto session" on April 17. **(Washington Post)**

Tom Hart – Legislative Program

70TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF NARFE CONFERENCE

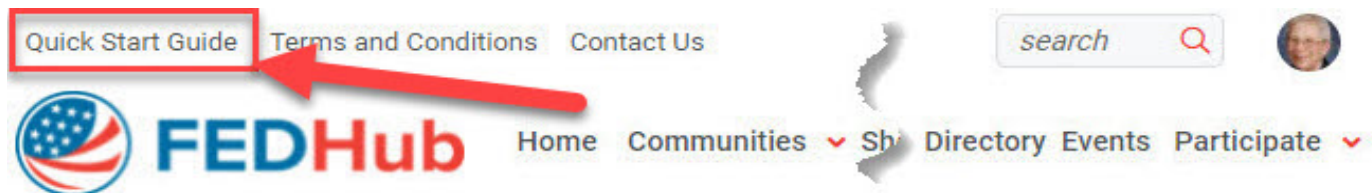


The 2024 Annual VFN Conference will be held April 7 – 10 at the Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Our theme is "Together We Will Succeed". One hundred people have signed up so far. <https://vanarfe.org/conference-2024/> Some very exciting speakers and workshops are lined up - JMU Professor Dr. 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. The Hotel Booking Link for the 2024 VFN Conference in Harrisonburg, Va is: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4109021>

FEDHUB – LET'S CONNECT!

FEDHub is an online community designed for all. Like social media sites it has a selection of communities, each focused on a topic or interest area. For example, some are specific to where you work or did work like the "U. S. Postal Service Community." The "Open Forum" has discussions on topics such as advocacy, Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) plan choices, and many more.



To get started with FEDHub, go to the NARFE website at www.narfe.org and from the "For Members" menu select "FEDHub: NARFE Member Community." Log in using the same credentials you use to log into NARFE's Member Portal. (If you haven't logged in before, click the "Contact Us" link near the top of the screen.) Once logged in, start at the top left by selecting the link to the Quick Start Guide at the top left. Next fill in your profile. You can add a picture or leave it for later.

Now, join the conversation! In the middle of the top menu is the "Communities" drop-down menu. You automatically belong to the "Open Forum", but if you select "Suggested Communities" you can see other choices.

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



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver by **April 22, 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 for incorrect or obsolete addresses. It is 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 **May** issue of the NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter are due to the editor by e-mail at Mays.JL@verizon.net by **April 15**.

James Mays – Newsletter Editor