



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

MAY 2024

Join us on Wednesday, June 5th for our Summer Luncheon at The Italian Café, 7161 Lee Hwy in Falls Church. Reservations are required and must be received by May 21st. See page 2 for details and a Reservation Form. Also, please note that our next Membership Meeting will be on September 4th and at that time we will return to the Mason District Governmental Center (6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale) for our Chapter Meetings.

PREZ SEZ -- Public Service Recognition Week has been celebrated annually the first full week in May since 1985. This year's celebration, May 5-11, not only celebrated contributions of the entire federal workforce but also honored those serving as federal, state, county, and local government employees. Government employees touch the lives of every American with their service. Letter carrier, TSA worker, firefighter, police officer, emergency medical technician, sanitation employee, Social Security worker, those ensuring access to clean drinking water and quality healthcare, and more occupations than most people know about. The range of services these fellow citizens provide boggles the mind. These employees devote their lives to doing good for our communities. I had the pleasure of working with many dedicated federal professionals; my colleagues worked hard and provided excellent service and it was an honor to work alongside them. I also interacted with many dedicated representatives of state and local agencies in my role of providing federal assistance, which was rewarding and resulted in frequent praise for the responsiveness of the federal government. You all have your own personal stories and experiences from careers as Federal employees; I hope you feel as proud as I am to have been part of that workforce.

Kim Rendelson, Chapter President

Time is Running Out to Get Your Reservations In!!

Our Summer Luncheon is on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at The Italian Café!

Everyone, please plan to join us for our Summer Luncheon on June 5th and send your payment as soon as possible to our treasurer. See the reservation form below. Hope to see you there! **And like last time, bring a friend** – do you know a retired Federal employee that isn't a NARFE Member? To encourage membership growth, think about inviting a friend to attend our luncheon; it might be a positive way to introduce them to our chapter and to NARFE. Our **Summer Luncheon** is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 5th at the Italian Café, 7161 Lee Hwy, Falls Church.** Parking is right in front of the restaurant, on the side or in the large parking lot in the back. No steep steps...no steps at all! **Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch starting at noon.** A raffle for special items will be held for the benefit of Alzheimer's research. There are four entrees to choose from: 1) Flounder Françoise with Pasta and mixed vegetables; 2) Eggplant Parmesan with Tomato Sauce; 3) Chicken Piccata with Pasta and Mixed Vegetables; 4) Lasagna with Meat & Tomato Sauce. Meals all come with a house salad, bread, and your choice of one dessert ((1) Cannoli or (2) Tiramisu), soda, coffee and tea. There will be a cash bar for any other beverages you desire. A charge of **\$33 per person** will cover the meal, taxes, and gratuity. We need to let the restaurant know by **May 21st** what your meal selection will be. Please complete the form below and mail it in along with your check as directed below. ***Please mail reservations as soon as possible, but they must be received by May 21, 2024.***

ANNANDALE NARFE JUNE 5th LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

	Entree (circle 1)				Dessert (circle 1)		
Attendee _____	1	2	3	4	1	2	None
Attendee _____	1	2	3	4	1	2	None

Please make checks payable to **NARFE Chapter 1159**, and mail them to: **NARFE 1159 Treasurer, Box 1463, Annandale, VA 22003.** Please mail reservations as soon as possible, but they must be received by **May 21st**.

JUNE 5th LUNCHEON RAFFLE

For those members who enjoy the raffles that benefit Alzheimer’s Research rest assured, we are continuing this tradition. Many great items have been donated so we will have many lovely baskets available at the luncheon. You don’t even have to be onsite at the luncheon; winners will have their baskets delivered to their homes. So, take a chance – or many chances – and buy lots of tickets. Pictures are available on the Chapter’s website (www.narfe.org/chapter1159) and on the “NARFE Annandale 1159” Facebook page. The cost of raffle tickets will remain at the bargain price of \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. You have two options for purchasing raffle tickets. You can purchase them on the day of the luncheon or you can do it through a mail-in order. Tickets will be sold as you come in the door of the restaurant and again at the break time. If you purchase through the mail, **Kim Rendelson** will mail as many raffle tickets back to you as you would like. Just complete the Raffle Form (below) and mail it to Kim at her address below with your check to *NARFE Alzheimer’s Research*, please include *Chapter 1159* on the memo line.

NOTE: Due date for receipt of raffle tickets orders by mail is **May 24th**. For those ticket orders received after that date, you will receive an email with a picture of your tickets. And don’t worry about losing them or the email, Kim tracks the numbers so not matter what, if you can’t find your tickets or your email, all is not lost! She will know winner identities. Last minute tickets will be sold at the luncheon.

-----clip and mail form-----

RAFFLE TICKET FORM

Annandale NARFE Luncheon – June 5th, 2024

\$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

I would like to purchase _____ Raffle Tickets. My check is enclosed for \$_____ made out to *NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund*, including *Chapter 1159* on the memo line and mailed to the address provided at the bottom of this page to be received no later than **May 24th**.

Please include your:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone No. _____ (for basket winner delivery purposes if you are not present)

Please complete this form and mail it, with your check enclosed, to Kim Rendelson, 3401 Silver Maple Place, Falls Church, VA 22042. Donation Only: If skipping the raffle but donating, there is no need to fill out this form; just mail your check in.

All checks will be hand delivered to the NARFE 1159 Treasurer.

Inclement Weather Policy for the Luncheon Only -- If Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) open only 2 hours late on the day of the luncheon, the luncheon will be held. If the FCPS are closed or “virtual only” due to inclement weather on the day of our luncheon, we will decide whether to cancel the luncheon based on conditions in our local area. If we have to cancel, we will attempt to contact everyone who made a reservation. In addition, we will post notice of any cancellation on our website and Facebook page. **You also may contact Kim Rendelson at 703-204-0388 to learn if the luncheon will be held.**

Volunteers Needed -- At our June luncheon members will be asked to approve a Nominating Committee to identify chapter members who are willing to stand for election this November for all elected Board positions (President, 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer). **John Bankson** has agreed to chair the committee. Please consider volunteering to join John and serve on the committee. To volunteer, or if you have any questions, contact John at johnboy1607@outlook.com or **703-256-2295**.

May Program: Virginia State Senator **David Marsden** (35th District) and House Delegate **Vivian Watts** (14th District) addressed our May Chapter meeting with their “Reports from Richmond”. The Commonwealth’s 2-Year Budget still needs resolution between the Governor and the Legislature. The General Assembly will vote on an amended budget on May 13th reflecting the House and Senate budget conferees’ consideration of over 200 budget amendments proposed by the Governor. There is strong support for finding a compromise. Both the Senator and Delegate noted the need to address a recent major study’s findings that Virginia ranked near the bottom nationally in K-12 education funding; and, the source for education funding remains an issue. The Legislature proposed funding through increased taxes, e.g., ensuring businesses pay sales taxes on all digital products just as the Governor originally proposed citizens do - the Governor has countered with the use of trust funds, borrowing, and cuts in proposed funding. Del. Watts noted pressure on real estate taxes to fund schools when the state doesn’t adequately fund school systems.

As a result of the passage of Senator Marsden’s SB 456, the Commonwealth will create, within the Office of the State Inspector General, the Office of the Department of Corrections “Ombudsman” position **(Program Report continued on page 5)**

(continued from page 4) who will be selected by a Corrections Oversight Committee to review complaints made by Prisoners and Corrections Employees; currently, efforts are underway to produce a Memorandum of Agreement delineating responsibilities between the Ombudsman and the Department of Corrections. Sen. Marsden also discussed efforts to determine whether consolidation of existing juvenile detention facilities into Regional Detention Facilities will result in funds being better used and producing more favorable outcomes for the detainees. Currently there are a number of detention facilities which are fully funded and staffed which have unused capacity, and consolidating facilities within a Region could reduce overall costs significantly.

Senator Marsden and Delegate Watts discussed the Tysons Corner Casino proposal. The Senator's Casino/Conference Center proposal to give Fairfax County the ability to consider such development in Tysons Corner did not pass in this session of the Legislature. He believes it could generate additional tax revenue for Fairfax County that could support funding for schools and infrastructure, and possibly reduce or slow the need to increase property taxes. He pointed out the trend of decline in commercial real estate leases due to remote work policies – a trend which doesn't show signs of reversing. He highlighted potential benefits of generating tax revenue for Fairfax County by placing the Casino, conference center, hotel, and entertainment district, in the already popular Tysons Corner area which is serviced by the Metro's Silver Line. Delegate Watts warned against over-reliance on casino tax revenue that draws from those with limited income, Northern Virginia not being able to match National Harbor for high-end gamblers, and additional traffic congestion in Tysons.

On the issue of Data Centers, Senator Marsden addressed growing concerns of the negative effect of the large new data centers on Virginia's carbon neutral goal because the centers require vast amounts of electricity. He is working with a growing list of experts on studies to determine whether use of small nuclear reactors over natural gas development makes more sense. He explained that licensing permits from the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission can take several years, so it is important for Virginia to start reviewing its needs now and setting in place the necessary process to move forward to the Federal NRC for authorizations should that be the decision.

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Delegate Watts covered various financial efforts: permanently raising the State's Standard Deduction to give more relief to middle- and lower-income families; the effect on Virginia's tax conformity to federal tax reforms set to sunset in 2025; and attracting businesses to Virginia to increase business tax revenue and job development. Senator Marsden and Delegate Watts support safeguarding reproductive rights for Virginians. The Governor vetoed almost all bills addressing reproductive health; however, our State laws currently retain safeguards like hospital requirements for abortions and three doctors needing to approve late-term cases. There is concern that reproductive rights could change, even to the extent of prohibiting birth control medication. Both favor creating a State constitutional amendment to protect current reproductive rights, thus blocking future laws which could erode those protections.

Snacks were provided by: **Kim Rendelson, Mary Ann Munley, Sue Hoffman, Fran Walinsky, Pat Jack, Clare Balbi, Norene Gerstner, Frank Toth and Sharon Sellers.** A total of **37** attended (**30** in-person and **7** on Zoom). *This article was compiled from the Secretary's notes plus a summary provided by Zoom's Artificial Intelligence tool, and edited by Legislation Chair Mary Ann Munley.*

Fran Walinsky, Secretary

Legislation Report – *Federal: HR 82 – Social Security Fairness Act* (repeals WEP/GPO) currently has 319 co-sponsors, but the bill still has not been scheduled for a floor vote. The committee hearing was held as planned.



Postal Service HEALTH Benefits Program (PSHBP): All Postal Retirees must ensure that their mailing addresses are current with OPM. This fall, OPM will “MAP” each postal retiree into a new PSHBP plan which closely matches their current 2024 FEHBP plan selection. OPM will send each retiree a letter to advise them of the “mapped” PSHBP plan selected for them. It will be incumbent on each postal retiree to determine whether the “mapped” PSHBP plan meets their needs, and if not, review the other available PSHBP plans, and select the best plan for their needs BEFORE the end of the Open Season. As the summer progresses, much more information will be revealed. READ everything received from OPM and the US Postal Service on the new PSHBP.

(Legislation Report continued on page 7)

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Virginia: Virginia Budget – The General Assembly and the Governor have reached a tentative agreement on the Commonwealth’s new 2-year budget! As we heard during our May Chapter meeting, the General Assembly had continued working to reengineer the budget bill to consider (and negotiate) the Governor’s extensive list of recommended budget amendments and come up with a final budget deal. May 13th is the date for the General Assembly to reconvene for a vote on this budget bill.

SB 174/HB 692 -- Reporting by Financial Institutions of Suspected Financial Exploitation of Elderly or Vulnerable Adults – this new law permits a financial institution to allow an individual to designate a trusted person (or a list of such persons) whom the institution might contact in the event of account activity suggestive of financial exploitation. This legislation also directs Virginia’s Bureau of Financial Institutions to publish guidelines for the training of financial institution staff to spot suspicious activity. (Many of the larger financial institutions, such as Vanguard, Fidelity, and Schwab, have been offering this for years.) With financial frauds against the elderly on the rise, this new law seeks to protect us against ourselves should cognitive decline make us vulnerable.

Virginia Primaries are June 18th -- In Virginia, the primaries are OPEN primaries, which means you select which political party primary you wish to vote in. Primaries are notoriously low in voter participation, yet most important in giving a voter input into who can be on the ballot in November. Please make your vote heard – and do not assume a candidate (or even an incumbent) will win their party’s primary – Virginia has had notable primary upsets due to voter apathy during the primaries. (And, yes, Early Voting has started.)

In the Republican Primary: Candidates for the Senate race against the incumbent Tim Kaine; Candidates for the House race in the 10th Congressional District.

In the Democratic Primary: Candidates for the House races in the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts; and several local races in Alexandria City and Arlington County.

Mary Ann Munley, Legislation Chair

Alzheimer's Report – So far this year we have collected **\$2,927** in donations for the **NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund**. If you would like to help combat Alzheimer's Disease, you can either make a donation at our June 5th luncheon or mail a check 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

Adopt-a-Road – Please join us for our next litter pick-up on **May 23rd**. We will start at 10:00 a.m. and meet at the corner of Evergreen Lane and High Place in Annandale. If you plan on joining, please let **Doug Jones** know (doujones500@verizon.net or **703-425-3361**) so he can notify you if there are any changes. Also, mark your calendars and plan to join us on **Thursday, July 25th** at 10:00 a.m. With all the summer activities, participation is limited in July, so we need the help. Again, if you plan to join us in July, please let Doug Jones know.



The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) 2024 Annual Meeting & Conference



was held April 7 thru 10, 2024, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. There were over 120 attendees including members from the 37 chapters of NARFE in Virginia, guests and representatives from NARFE National headquarters. There were a wide range of speakers on subjects such as: updates on the status of legislation; hearing loss; Artificial Intelligence; cyber security for seniors; and Intelligence, the CIA, Past and Future. The Keynote Speaker was **Honorable Ben Cline**, U.S. House of Representatives, Virginia 6th District. The **Honorable U.S. Senator Tim Kaine** of Virginia welcomed attendees virtually. **NARFE National President Bill Shackelford** (a member of Fairfax Chapter 737) updated attendees on NARFE matters. Attending from the Annandale Chapter were **John Bankson** (Chapter 1st Vice President and VFN Area 9 Vice President), **Robert Miller** and **Janet Gahagan**.

VFN Elections for the position of First Vice President and changes to VFN Bylaws is coming soon. Watch for information from the VFN on voting procedures, and please VOTE!

SAVE THE DATES -- September 6, October 4 and November 8

Mark your calendar for the fall **ACCA Food Pantry Drives** scheduled from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for donation drop-off at the Annandale Giant Foods, 7137 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Upon entering the Giant Food location, shoppers will be offered a list of items the ACCA pantry needs most. Once purchased, shoppers can deposit their donations directly to the waiting Mason District Police cruiser parked conveniently at the curb by the store exit. Those donations from your home pantry or not purchased at Giant Food can also be dropped at the police cruiser by the Giant Foods exit. Donations will also be collected at our Chapter meetings September 4, October 2 and November 6. **Questions: Contact Sharon Sellers, 703-915-8765, or MPO Stacy Sassano, 571-474-6106**

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At-Large Board Members

Pat Jack
 Mary Lou Vroman

We take the summer off, so our next newsletter will be our August 2024 edition and we will have no chapter meetings in July and August. Mark your calendars and plan to join us on September 4th for our next Membership Meeting when we will return to the Mason District Governmental Center and have a presentation by Rachel Noble on "Resilience: Techniques to Deal with Life's Setbacks".