



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.

May - June 2024

PRESIDENT'S GREETING:



If you haven't attended a chapter luncheon program lately you've missed some great speakers. Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid spoke to almost 30 attendees in March and we had a different but very interesting speaker in April – Author Cindy Bennett talked to us about “Wicked Fairfax County.” We have some outstanding speakers lined up for the rest of the year. Please see the details about our Saturday, May 18th State Legislative Brunch at 10:00 a.m. in this newsletter. We hope that this will allow some who cannot attend during the week to attend. Delegate Karrie Delaney (D-9th District) and VFN State Legislative Chair Deborah Brown will be our featured speakers. Senator Stella Pekarsky has been invited but not confirmed. You won't want to miss the October meeting as we have the very popular Kathy Bass from BCBS confirmed. See the newsletter for additional information. I also urge you to take advantage of the VFN training offered via Zoom twice a month. The Electronics & Communications Committee provides technology type training on the first Wednesday and the Training Committee provides training on the last Wednesday. Look for FedHub announcements and keep an eye on the VFN website www.vanarfe.org for the latest information on Virginia and the national website www.narfe.org for overall information.

Congratulations to the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) on a very successful annual meeting and conference in Harrisonburg. Everyone enjoyed it so much that they voted to hold it at the Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg again next year. See brief report in this newsletter.

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. Pat especially needs assistance with getting speakers. Please contact me or Pat Wolfe with your availability.

Jeff Sargent, President
Jsarg62@aol.com

STATE LEGISLATIVE BRUNCH PROGRAM – Saturday, May 18, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

Speakers: Delegate Karrie Delaney (D-9th District) and

VFN State Legislative Chair Deborah Brown

Topic: Update on 2024 General Assembly & NARFE State Legislative Program

Invited/Not Confirmed: VA Senator Stella Pekarsky

Brunch Entrée Choices:


Pancakes Deluxe w/Bacon & Scrambled Eggs

Ham & 4-Cheese Omelet w/Home fries & Toast

Brunch Quesadilla w/Eggs, Roasted Tomatoes, Bacon, Scallions & Cheddar Cheese

Served with Coffee/Tea

The cost of the brunch is \$22 which includes meeting room, beverage (priced - \$3.75 on menu), tax and a small gratuity. Additional tips are welcome but not required.

 Please contact Patricia Wolfe at wolfepatriciam@aol.com or (703) 449-1582 no later than **Tuesday, May 14, 2024**. **Reservations are very important so that the appropriate number of meals can be ordered and prepared.**

OUR BRUNCH WILL BE HELD AT AMPHORA DINER, 1151 ELDEN STREET, HERNDON, VIRGINIA AND BEGINS AT 10:00 AM!

Remember!

If Fairfax Co. schools are closed because of inclement weather, Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon Meetings are also cancelled.

Mark Your Calendar: Luncheon, June 24, 2024! Speaker – Author Patrick O’Neill; Topic- Virginia’s Presidential Homes; Menu: Amphora Burger w/Fries, Coleslaw, Pickle; Amphora’s Chophouse Salad; and ½ Triple Decker Sandwich (Ham, Turkey, Swiss) w/cup of soup. NOTE: The cost will increase to \$23 due to higher cost of food, labor, deliveries, etc. A reminder notice will be sent in April.

ENJOY BRUNCH AND LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

NOTES FROM MARCH AND APRIL LUNCHEON PROGRAMS:



Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid

Sheriff Kincaid provided an interesting and informative presentation with emphasis on scams affecting all of us on a daily basis. One attendee actually received a scam call during the meeting and Sheriff Kincaid asked to answer. When she asked questions the caller hung up. Another received 3 email scams during the meeting. She suggested having a code word or some code with family members to protect against the “grandson in trouble or accident type calls.



Author Cindy Bennett & “Wicked Fairfax County”

Author Cindy Bennett kept the attention of attendees with tales of “Wicked Fairfax County” starting in the 1800’s and going through the capture of 3 Cold War Spies. It included the imprisonment and beating of women suffragists protesting for women’s right to vote near Lorton. However, the one drawing the most questions was the nudist camp in Reston area from 1933 to about 1949. It ended after a man murdered his wife and baby on the then isolated property. Several of us purchased her book on this subject.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS 1241 DULLES

Membership Report

As of April 29, 2024

Total Current Chapter Members 275

Total National Members in Chapter Area 506

Total Chapter plus National Members 781

We continue to lose members at the rate of about 1 per month. This month we have received notice of one member who passed away but two new members. Please welcome our new members and if you live in the neighborhood connect with the prospective member and encourage them to join NARFE and our chapter.

Current Chapter Members Breakdown

1 Year 113; 2 Year 26; 3 Year 70

Dues Withholding 60: Life Members 6

New Chapter Members

Hampton, Sheila, Leesburg, VA; srhampton200@icloud.com

Molina, Jaime, Ashburn, VA; Jaime.omar.molina@gmail.com

Members Passed Away

Mehan, James, Reston, VA

We also learned that Past Dulles Chapter 1VP Barry Walsh passed away.

New Prospective Members

Simpson, Lisa, lisars1964@comcast.net

Bill Schmidt

Membership Chair

Billschmidt39@yahoo.com

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Congressional primary elections for the 10th and 11th Districts will be held on June 18. Early voting starts on May 3.

Karrie Delaney, one of our scheduled speakers for May, was one of the sponsors for a bill preventing elder abuse, which was signed by the governor. Her bill on prescription drug affordability, which passed the General Assembly by a bipartisan vote, was vetoed by the governor.

New state Senator Russet Perry (D-Loudoun) had several bills passed into law.

The General Assembly will go into special session on May 13 to reconsider the state budget.

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

Important Dates:

- May 14 – 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 Luncheon Program (BCBS Kathy Bass confirmed)
- November 5 – Election Day
- November 12- Dulles Chapter Board Meeting (to be confirmed)
- November 25 - Dulles Luncheon
- 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.

NOTES FROM VFN ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE:

The 2024 VFN Annual Meeting and Conference was held April 7-10 at the Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg and was a resounding success with 124 registered (114 actually attended due to illness, etc.), an excellent variety of outstanding speakers, 15 vendors (the most since before the pandemic), excellent location, convenient meeting rooms, great lodging rate, etc. The VFN Board heard NO complaints and voted to hold the 2025 conference at the same location. Dulles Chapter Secretary and VFN 2VP Pat Wolfe represented Dulles Chapter and reports a few things that stood out to her in addition to above:

- Best Alzheimer's Presentation ever by Brooke Gill, Alzheimer's Association
- Guitar Solo of Ave Maria by Mark Arpa during Memorial Service
- Solo by Conference Coordinator Larry McIlwee in honor of his late wife
- U.S. Representative Ben Cline announcing his becoming a co-sponsor of Repeal of WEP-GPO during his presentation and receiving a standing ovation
- Many great baskets and other donations for the Alzheimer's Silent Auction which brought in \$2,600 – twice what was made in 2023.
- Convenient restaurant in hotel
- Directions to hotel from I-81 were “right on” in the hotel reservation confirmation.
- Excellent Customer Service at Hotel
- Screening for hearing loss
- Outstanding Workshops – great variety



WHAT TO KEEP/HOW LONG/WHAT TO TOSS:

Most of us have a lot of paper documents and “kind of know” what we should keep for how long, etc. However, recommendations vary and can change and a reminder is always helpful. It was particularly helpful to me as I (like many of you) am trying to purge. This is taken from Michelle Singletary's column in April 21, 2024 Washington Post Business:

Forever: birth and adoption records, death certificates, marriage and divorce records, social security cards, military service records, loan payoff statements, year-end pay stubs, retirement or pension records, and funeral programs as they often have valuable information such as maiden names, family history, etc.

It Depends: Loan Documents except for final loan pay-off, vehicle title as long as you own vehicle, home improvement records (useful when selling), investment statements.

3-7 Years: Tax Records (IRS will accept scanned copies), Medical Bills (consider tax record)

1 Year: Credit Card Statements – suggests getting e-statements

Less than 1 Year: ATM or retail receipts (still important if you need to return an item)

EDITOR'S NOTE:

If you have announcements or items of interest, please contact Newsletter Editor Patricia Wolfe at wolfepatriciam@aol.com. It's not too late to complete the survey as we are always looking for your input. Send to e-mail wolfepatriciam@aol.com or regular mail: 5916 Baron Kent Lane, Centreville, VA 20120.

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

