



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FAIRFAX CHAPTER 737



<https://vanarfe.org/Chapter-737/>

May 2024

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. The next meeting is:

- WHEN:** May 7
- PROGRAM:** Virginia Delegate David Bulova's update on the results of the Va General Assembly.
- 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

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: VFN Training at vanarfe.org

We are discussing and planning a September, 2024 meeting on a Saturday, likely September 14th! We plan to have an interesting and exciting speaker and visitors from other chapters. Let Ted Pasek know what you think about this idea. Would you come on Saturday to a different location? Email Ted at tedpasek@verizon.net to pass on your ideas, comments or complaints.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members of Chapter 737:

It is hard to believe that the Spring woodland flowers are already in bloom. We are now planning for the chapter picnic which will take place in Van Dyck park in the City of Fairfax on 4 June. The next membership meeting will occur on Tuesday May 7, 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. 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 May 7th membership meeting, 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.

At the April membership meeting, there was a discussion among the membership about holding some membership meetings occasionally on some Saturday in the early evening, in order to attract active duty Federal employees. Another idea which was raised is to hold a membership meeting in the evening on some day of the week. If you have ideas on how to improve the membership meeting programs or the meetings in general, please send them to Ted Pasek at tedpasek@verizon.net or to me.

The chapter could use some help with managing various functions such as keeping track of the membership, with serving NARFE's efforts to attract donations for research on Alzheimer's disease, or with organizing membership meetings. Please inform me of your interest to serve the chapter in some way.

Sincerely yours,

Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President

APRIL PROGRAM MEETING

For National Library Week April 7-13 we did a book exchange at the meeting. Sharon Lenius took the remaining books to McKays in Manassas. They gave Sharon \$39.63 of in store credit. She is going to write a check for \$39.63 at the next meeting. This could become an annual fund raiser. Many thanks to all who donated.

The speakers were Ms. Catey Tansey and Ms. Patricia Coppel who spoke on downsizing: The KDR Method. They represent America's Downsizing and Decluttering Consultants (ADDR). Their presentation was excellent and led to a spirited discussion of members' personal experiences. Their presentation is at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oDspKhqJw149VNi8Vm4ALfSYnmzPRsWa/view>

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 Chapter meeting we collected 30 pounds in April.

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

Chapter beginning balance on March 1 was, \$7,911.47.

During the month, we received \$445.92 and disbursed \$756.13

Balance at the end of March of \$7,601.26.

Drawing winners:

Free lunch: Patty Hertig

40-40-20 drawing \$20 - Becky Fial donated to Alzheimer's research

40-40-20 drawing of \$10 - Patty Hertig donated to Alzheimer's research

Donna Shackelford – Treasurer and Membership

VFN Conference Highlights

The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) Conference was held on April 7-10, 2024 in Harrisonburg, Va. Approximately 112 members, guests and HQ representatives attended. Not only was VFN business conducted, but speakers included the following subjects: Hearing Loss; Artificial Intelligence; Congressman Ben Cline; Cyber Security for Seniors; and Intelligence, the CIA, Past and Future. Donna Shackelford, from our Fairfax Chapter was presented with an award for her outstanding work supporting Alzheimer's Research in the Region 10, five states area.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(As of April 13, 2024)

NATIONAL LEGISLATION- Last month, lawmakers in Congress finally resolved a funding fight that had stretched on for months, approving two separate bills to keep the government open for the rest of fiscal year 2024, avoiding a partial government shutdown.

After a middle-of-the night session to pass a federal budget for the current fiscal year, the House and Senate left for a 2-week Easter break, putting other major issues on the back burner, including a Senate impeachment trial of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, the ongoing debate over aid to Israel, Ukraine and other allies and the need to start the funding process for the next fiscal year. Amid it all, is a looming threat from Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) to force a vote to oust the sitting speaker of the House, Mike Johnson (R-La.).

House Speaker Johnson is facing the tricky task of deciding how to present President Biden's request for billions of dollars in aid to Ukraine to a House GOP conference that features a portion of members firmly against any additional assistance.

On February 13, the Senate passed a \$95.3 billion foreign aid package, which included \$60 billion for Ukraine amid Russia's on-going invasion – a major priority of President Biden. Despite Biden's direct and public pressure for Johnson to put the Senate-cleared bill on the House floor – where he has insisted it will garner enough support to pass, Johnson had yet to set it up for a vote. He told Fox News that he would put a Ukraine-aid bill on the floor with "

some important innovations.”

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene threatened for months to seek Johnson’s ouster if he gave Ukraine aid a floor vote. Upset about the government spending package lawmakers passed before the break, Greene introduced her motion to remove Johnson just before members left for the Easter break.

On their second try after a failed attempt to shore up enough support to impeach Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas over his handling of the U.S.-Mexico border, House Republicans voted in February to impeach Mayorkas – marking the first time a Cabinet secretary has been impeached in nearly 150 years.

The office of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said in a statement that senators would be sworn in as trial jurors the day after the articles of impeachment are presented in the upper chamber. Washington Sen. Patty Murray, the Senate President Pro Tempore, will preside. The Democratic-led Senate could move to quickly dismiss the trial, which only requires a majority to pass. It would require a two-thirds of senators to actually convict the secretary and remove him from office.

The House was also expected to take up a bill on reauthorizing FISA- the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which deals with the nation’s warrantless surveillance powers. Section 702 of the law was set to expire on April 19.

The Senate was staring down a decision on how to proceed on legislation regarding the ultra-popular social media app TikTok. **(Npr.org, CBS News, Spectrum News)**

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION- Virginia lawmakers wrapped up their 60-day session on March 9 by approving a two-year budget that includes pay raises for teachers and state employees, increases education funding and extends the state sales tax to cover digital services.

Notably missing was language that would have helped Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin achieve one of his top priorities: a \$2 billion development district with a new arena to lure the NBA’s Washington Wizards and the NHL’s Washington Capitals to Alexandria and give Virginia its first major pro sports teams. The Democratic-led General Assembly rejected the Alexandria arena proposal through two standalone bills, then refused to approve language in the state budget that would have paved the way for the project.

This year’s legislative session is the third since Youngkin took office, but it’s the first time he has had to work with both a Senate and House of Delegates controlled by Democrats. The approved budget excludes many of the priorities Youngkin included in a proposal he submitted in December. Lawmakers stripped out his proposal to lower income tax rates and raise the sales tax but did include his proposal to expand the sales tax to cover digital services, including purchases of streaming subscriptions, cloud storage and online downloads.

Gov. Youngkin vetoed bills to raise Virginia’s minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2026 and open a recreational cannabis retail market, two Democratic priorities, the day after the Alexandria deal crumbled.

Legislation to increase Virginia hourly minimum wage to \$13.50 by 2025 and \$15 by 2026 passed along party line and the bill to allow legal recreational weed sales by 2025 had one Republican support it.

Gov. Youngkin also vetoed bills related to firearms, book banning, voting rolls, surrogacy, railroad safety and cybersecurity, claiming he did so “to prevent 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.”

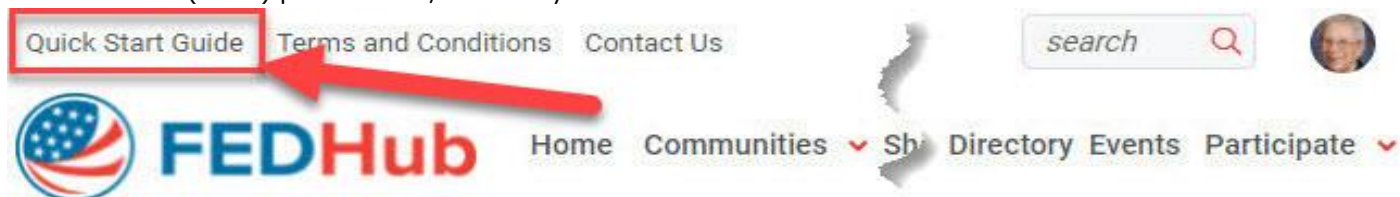
The governor thanked legislators for their efforts in a statement that also made clear he plans to make changes to what he called “backward budgets that need a lot of work.”

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. **(Associated Press Washington Post)**

Tom Hart – Legislative Program

FEDHUB – LET’S CONNECT!

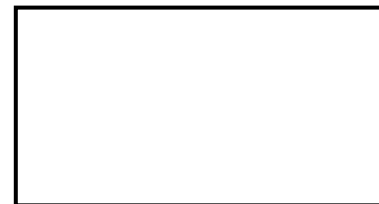
FEDHub is an online community designed for all. Like social media sites it has a selection of communities, each focused on a topic or interest area. For example, some are specific to where you work or did work like the “U. S. Postal Service Community.” The “Open Forum” has discussions on topics such 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 **May 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 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 **June** issue of the NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter are due to the editor by e-mail at Mays.JL@verizon.net by **May 15**.

James Mays – Newsletter Editor