

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:** June 4
PROGRAM: Annual Chapter 737 annual Picnic at Van Dyck Park in Fairfax City. Bring your own lunch, drinks provided. Va Delegate David Bulova may stop by. Not absolute yet because his son is graduating from HS that morning.
WHERE: The Van Dyck Park address is 3720 Blenheim Blvd (formerly Old Lee Hwy), Fairfax. It is between the Police Station and St. Leo's Catholic church.
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

Fourth Wednesday of each month: VFN Training at vanarfe.org

September 14 Saturday: Meeting will be at the Vienna Community Center. We plan to join other chapters at this meeting. This is a good time to meet other NARFE chapter members. We are trying to attract some active employees and new retirees who are not aware of NARFE to join our meeting at the Vienna Community Center. Keep alert for more information and possible changes. Watch the Newsletter for more information in early September.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members of Chapter 737:

In lieu of an indoor meeting for June, the chapter annual picnic will take place in Van Dyck park in the City of Fairfax on 4 June. Members and their friends will start assembling at 11:30 a.m. for a noon start time.

The September membership meeting will be held on Saturday 14, 2024 at the Vienna Community Center. This time we will meet on a Saturday instead of a Tuesday. We are hoping that the number of attendees will increase by making the meeting available for actively employed Federal employees.

The process of recruiting nominees for election to the Board of Directors will soon begin. The chapter could use some help with managing various functions. Please accept an invitation to serve the chapter.

Sincerely yours,

Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President

MAY PROGRAM MEETING

Program: Rick Ackerman, retired Federal employee and member of the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia (LLI/NOVA), provided insights on classes, activities and social events offered by the organization for retirees and others. LLI/NOVA, affiliated with the Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), is a non-profit, member-run organization offering stimulating educational and cultural pursuits to adults age 50 and over. For \$110.00 annual membership fee, LLI/NOVA provides members with more than 100 classes (virtual and in-person) year-round, informal special interest groups, monthly speaker forums, social events, and

the opportunity for new friendships. Members also enjoy access to discounted visual and performing arts tickets as well as reasonably priced regional day and overnight trips along with U.S. and overseas study-travel programs. Membership is for a period of 12 months beginning with the month that dues are received. The \$110 current annual membership fee will increase to \$125 in July 2024.

Mr. Ackerman refers to LLI/NOVA as "The Best Deal in Town" given its modest membership cost and its 3-pillars of opportunity: education, socialization, and travel. To learn more about the LLI/NOVA program, visit the website at www.Llinova.org.

FOOD FOR OTHERS

Food for Others received 116 pounds of food that was collected for the May meeting.

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

As of 4/30/2024

Finances

Balance as of 4/1/2024	\$7,601.26
Disbursements	1,100.92*
Income	<u>434.84</u>
Balance as of 4/30/2024	\$7,106.31

*Per capita dues to VFN \$442.75

Membership

As of 4/30/2024

VA Chapter members:	4,236
VA NOM members	<u>6,142</u>
Total for VFN	10,378
737 Chapter members	248
737 NOM members	<u>315</u>
	563

- 3 new members
- 1 dropped
- 1 prospective
- 6 renewed

Alzheimer's Research

Q1 total for 737	\$129	(January, February, March)
Q2	<u>56</u>	(April)
	\$185	(YTD)

Donna Shackelford – Treasurer and Membership

VFN Conference Highlights

The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) Conference was held on April 7-10 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.

The VFN will have a zoom training session on May 22 at 2 pm. The Legislative Director for VA Senator Mark Obershain will talk about the results of the 2024 General Assembly and VFN State Legislative Chair will address what affects NARFE members.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

NATIONAL LEGISLATION- On April 24, President Biden signed into law an aid package providing crucial military assistance to Ukraine, capping months of negotiations and debate.

The aid package, passed by the Senate, worth \$95 billion in total, includes nearly \$61 billion in aid to Ukraine, \$26 billion for the Israel-Hamas conflict – including \$15 billion in Israeli military aid, \$9 billion in humanitarian aid for Gaza and \$2.4 billion for regional US operations -- and \$8 billion for the Indo-Pacific. The package also includes a bill that could eventually lead to the banning of Tic Tok in the United States – giving Chinese parent company ByteDance roughly nine months to sell it or else it will be banned from app stores in the United States.

Lawmakers also agreed to extend section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, set the expire after April 19, and approved a \$105 billion deal to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration, authority of which was set to expire May 10, which will lead to the hiring of thousands of new air traffic controllers.

The signing of the aid package was the culmination of months of tense negotiations, personal lobbying from Ukrainian President Zelensky and a split in the House Republican conference threatening the leadership position of House Speaker Mike Johnson. Hardline House conservatives opposed further U.S. funding to Kyiv and threatened to oust Johnson over his handling of the negotiations. (CNN)

On May 9, President Biden said that the U.S. would not supply offensive weapons that Israel could use to launch an all-out assault on Rafan—the last major Hamas stronghold in Gaza – over concern for the well-being of the more than 1 million civilians sheltered there.(Associated Press)

House Speaker Johnson said in October that it's well past time to establish a bipartisan commission to tackle the federal government's growing \$34.6 trillion in debt. More than six months later, the proposal appears all but dead, extinguished by vocal opposition from both the right and left.

The collapse underscores an unyielding dynamic in Washington, with lawmakers in both parties loath to consider the unpopular tradeoffs that would be necessary to stem the nation's swelling tide of red ink – particularly in an election year. Facing the reality that any fiscal commission would almost certainly suggest that Americans pay more or get less from their government, lawmakers have time and again punt the problem to the next Congress. (ABCNews)

Legislation to repeal the windfall elimination provision (WEP) and government pension offset reductions (GPO) to Social Security benefits received by retirees under the federal CSRS system have received another hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee, but prospects for action remain uncertain.

The hearing focused on a House Bill (HR-82) to fully repeal both reductions, a measure that has more than 300 cosponsors, well more than a majority. A Senate counterpart (S-597) has 53 cosponsors there, also a majority although short of the 60 needed for most votes there. However, even with that level of support in prior Congresses, no bills have been brought to floor votes. (Federal News Network)

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION- On May 13, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed a compromise budget deal.

Public schools will get more fundings, teachers and other government workers will see a pay bump and Virginia's tax policy will remain as is under compromise budget legislation Democratic lawmakers sent to Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who swiftly signed it.

The prior week, Youngkin and General Assembly leaders negotiated an end to their long-running standoff over the state's next two-year spending plan, agreeing to use higher-than-expected revenues to help fund key priorities without implementing a hotly debated new sales tax on digital goods like streaming services and computer software.

The plan includes what lawmakers have said is record funding for K-12 public schools and 3% raises in each year for teachers and state employees.

Whether or not to include a proposed tax on digital goods had been the biggest sticking point between lawmakers and the governor, who have spent months at odds over the budget. (WTOP, Associated Press)

Tom Hart – Legislative Program

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

Summer is a great time to take a vacation, to learn something new, or to go on a relaxing hike. Sometimes we find ourselves sitting around the house doing nothing. Make a plan for your summer to ensure you experience a summer to remember. Attend the annual Chapter picnic, plan a trip, engage in fun athletic activities, host a party, explore local points of interest, and of course relax. The newsletter will be back in September.

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 because of incorrect or obsolete addresses. It is important to get the national magazine, other NARFE benefits information and chapter newsletters. If you are not getting some of this information, go to <https://www.narfe.org/> to ensure your data is current so you get your full range of information.

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

James Mays – Newsletter Editor