

June 2024



MANASSAS CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

NARFE Chapter 356, Manassas, VA - Organized September 9, 1953

Chapter email:
narfe356@hotmail.com

Manassas Airport Expansion Plans, Juan Rivera, Airport Director

Next Meeting Date

June 19

New Location

*Logan's Roadhouse
7731 Donegan Drive
Manassas, VA*

**Lunch
11:30 AM**

**Program
12:30 PM**

Logan's is located in the Bull Run Shopping Center by the pond near Sudley Road.

Future Meetings:

Chapter luncheon meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month. Beginning in 2024, we will meet bi-monthly on the even numbered months.

Our Executive Committee will continue meeting virtually on the first Tuesday of each month.

July 2—Executive Committee

August 6—Executive Committee

August 21—Speaker TBD

September 3—Executive Committee

Our luncheon speaker will give a brief overview of the Manassas Regional Airport and discuss the progress in transitioning from a General Aviation Airport to a Commercial Service Airport. Manassas Airport is currently the largest general aviation airport in Virginia and is working to begin offering commercial service in the near future.

Juan Rivera has served as the Airport Director for the Manassas Regional Airport since 2001. Mr. Rivera has more than 30 years of General Aviation airport management experience. He has served on numerous committees with both the FAA and Virginia Department of Aviation. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aviation Administration at Indiana State University.

From The Chapter President

Well, as you can see, Chapter 356 is on the road again. We are changing venues for our June meeting. We hope that Logan's Roadhouse in the Bull Run Shopping Center will better fit our needs by affording us a private room, while still providing a viable lunch option. For many years we met at the Hibachi Buffet, but when we returned after our Covid hiatus, we found the private meeting room had been closed and the management had changed hands. After several months of meetings, we concluded that they no longer met our needs and they subsequently closed

shortly after our departure. While I think we enjoyed the food at Bob Evans, the lack of a private meeting space made it difficult for our speakers to talk over some of the restaurant noise that filtered into the separate section available to us. We have queried our regular luncheon attendees about their preferences and they seem to prefer having a lunch option rather than just a business meeting. And so, we are going to try Logan's.

If you are new to Chapter 356 or just never became an active participant, we encourage you to join us for our June meeting. I think we will find our speaker to be particularly interesting this month and I personally look forward to hearing more about the prospects and process for having commercial air flights out of Manassas Airport. If any of our members have other suggestions, on meeting locations or speakers, we always welcome suggestions. And, if those of our members who are still working and thus cannot join us during the week would be interested in a Saturday lunch or business meeting, let us know. You can reach us at: Narfe356@hotmail.com.

Just a reminder that on **June 18**, Virginia will be holding **statewide Primary Elections**. More information is available on page 3 of this newsletter. We always encourage you to exercise your right to vote!

Mary M. Brandt
President

Legislation Update and News of Note

FY 2025 Budget Negotiations

House Republicans are proposing an average of 6% discretionary spending cuts to non-defense agencies for fiscal 2025, putting it on a collision course with the Democratic-led Senate that is seeking to avoid such reductions. The Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee recently released their top-line spending levels for each of the 12 annual funding bills Congress must pass each year, which included cuts for some agencies as high as 11%. The proposal sets aside the two-year budget deal President Joe Biden reached with House Republicans last year in exchange for raising the debt ceiling that provided for both defense and non-defense discretionary spending to increase by 1% in FY 2025. Under the proposed spending plan, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Treasury, State and related agencies would all receive cuts between 10% and 11%. The Pentagon would receive a 1% increase, while the Homeland Security Department would receive more than President Biden's budget request and the Veterans Affairs Department would meet the President's request. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, responded that Democrats will not accept any spending bills that do not provide parity in the funding boosts to defense and non-defense accounts.

Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 21 warned of significant risks of on-going budget cuts to the Department, which is already seriously understaffed both at home and abroad. Secretary Blinken warned that he would have to make "fundamental tradeoffs" if forced to deal with reduced funding, noting that shortening the processing of passports and improvements to consular services could be unwound if the department is forced to absorb further cuts, while opening new passport centers would stall, harming American's capacity to travel around the world. The State Department suffered more than a 10% loss of civil service personnel under the previous administration, the second largest losses to any department, and the department is still working to rebuild its workforce. The department suffered a 5% cut to its fiscal 2024 budget compared to the previous

year and the FY 2025 budget projections call for similar cuts, despite President Joe Biden's budget request for \$64.4 billion in fiscal 2025, which would represent a 10% increase.

Source: Government Executive, May 17 and 21, 2024

Civil Service Reform

Political scientist Francis Fukuyama, University of Maryland professor emeritus, former School of Public Policy Dean Don Kettl and administrative law scholar Paul Verkuil have formed The Working Group to Protect and Reform U.S. Civil Service to oppose conservative-led efforts to create a new Schedule F, which would strip federal workers of their due process protections. The group also aims to develop a new middle ground "consensus" for reforming federal personnel policy. Although President Joe Biden rescinded former President Donald Trump's Executive Order creating a new Schedule F for "policy-related positions," in the intervening years, work has continued to revive the policy upon the return of a Republican Administration, and a list has been prepared of 50,000 federal employees to convert to Schedule F and a database created of thousands of political appointees who could be quickly hired under the plan's laxer hiring regulations. Trump himself has endorsed Schedule F and made it a part of his presidential campaign platform. "We believe that the proposed revival of Schedule F will not assist an administration to lawfully and effectively execute its policies, or help meet the forward-looking goals enumerated above, and in fact would dangerously undermine them," the group wrote in a statement accompanying its formation. But to be successful, Kettl said the group decided it must not simply oppose Schedule F and other civil service reform plans gaining traction on the right. Instead, they intend to outline a competing vision for the future of public service. "We wanted, from the beginning, to put some real teeth into this. So, this is not just to combat Schedule F, because it's far more important to talk about the government we need for the future. It turns out that while there is obviously a wide range of opinions in the group, but there's remarkable consensus on two things: One is that Schedule F is a bad way to run a government; and secondly is the need to focus much more on questions of improving government performance." Accordingly, the group's statement outlines five pillars for designing the future federal bureaucracy: agility, or the government's ability to adapt to chal-

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allenges and crises; accountability, i.e., federal workers' responsiveness—rather than fealty—to political leaders' policy decisions; collaboration; outcomes over “simple compliance” with regulations; and capacity, or the idea that agencies should have the resources to fully staff their workforces and successfully attract employees with mission-critical skills.

Source: Government Executive, May 21, 2024

FY 2005 Budget Update

The House Appropriations Committee approved funding for military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for FY 2025 on June 3. Democrats on the committee opposed the measure and President Joe Biden threatened to veto the bill, primarily due to policy riders attached to the legislation. The bill would keep VA funding roughly in line with the President's budget request, but slash about \$700 million from military construction. It rejects climate change and resiliency initiatives, while banning the VA from performing abortions even in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life is at risk and prohibits providing gender-affirming care. Republicans on the appropriations panel also released a measure to fund the State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development and related agencies for fiscal 2025, which would institute an overall cut of 12% compared to current spending. It would slash USAID by 29%, prohibit spending on several initiatives related to climate change and severely cut funding for the United Nations. Fourteen accounts would see their allotments cut back to fiscal 2019 levels, including the U.S. Agency for Global Media and Peace Corps. On June 3, House Republicans also unveiled a proposal to fund the Homeland Security Department, which would provide a 5% spending increase, while decreasing funding for Customs and Border Protection by 7%. Immigration and Customs Enforcement would see a 10% boost, while the Transportation Security Administration would receive a 9% increase and U.S. Citizens and Immigration Services would see a 60% decrease, likely forcing the agency to furlough staff or lay them off. The full Appropriations Committee is expected to vote on the Departments of Homeland Security and State funding bills during the first week of June, as well as a measure to set funding levels for the Treasury Department, the Office of Personnel

Management, the General Services Administration and others. That bill is expected to contain an overall cut of 10%-11%, including significant reductions to the Internal Revenue Service.

Source: Government Executive, June 3, 2024

Bipartisan Amendment to NDAA Would Prevent Return of Schedule F

Congressmen Gerry Connolly, D-VA, and Brian Fitzpatrick, R-PA, submitted an amendment (#140) to H.R. 8070, The Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, to incorporate the language of the Saving the Civil Service Act, H.R. 1002. NARFE wrote to the House Rules Committee urging them to make the amendment to permit a floor vote. Read the [full letter](#).

Source: NARFE NewsLine, June 4, 2024

2024 Congressional Primary Elections

on **June 18**, Virginia will be holding **statewide Primary Elections**. Voters can choose either a Republican or Democratic ballot, but not both. On the Republican ballot will be five candidates running to challenge incumbent Democratic Senator Tim Kaine (who is not facing a primary challenge). The 7th and 10th US Congressional Districts, where most of our Chapter members reside, will be holding both a Republican and a Democratic Primary for US House of Representatives.

Early voting began Friday, May 3 and ends on Saturday, June 15. Weekend voting takes place on Sunday, June 2, Saturday, June 8 and June 15. Polling locations for Prince William County residents are: the Office of Elections (9250 Lee Ave, Suite 1, Manassas, 20110); the A. J. Ferlazzo Building (15941 Donald Curtis Dr, Woodbridge, 22191); and the Haymarket Gainesville Library (14870 Lightner Rd, Haymarket, 20169). Additional information can be found at: www.pwcvotes.org.

Alzheimer's Corner

Marilyn Markman, RN

So, what is happening in the world of Alzheimer's research? A lot actually; between new drugs, tweaking existing drugs, new trials etc., it can get confusing. I will try not to confuse you with some exciting news. Here goes!

AriBio will be recruiting in the UK for the Phase 3 trial of AR1001 (Mirodenafil) an investigational oral therapy for early Alzheimer's.

Eisai started a "rolling application"- seeking US approval of a subcutaneous (under the skin - the way insulin is administered) version of Leqembi (Lecanemab), which at present is administered by IV. Receiving the maintenance doses of this medication subcutaneously would be so much easier for patients! So, what is a rolling application? Any drug manufacture can submit individual sections of the application to FDA when they are ready, rather than wait for the entire application to be finished. Bottom line is this can speed up drug approval.

Remember last year when there was much controversy over Aduhelm - an anti-amyloid drug? Although this drug was approved, in March 2024 it was removed from "the market" due to concern about side effects. Aduhelm had become the milestone for all Alzheimer's research, and researchers and patients were awaiting phase 3 results of the next 3 anti-amyloid drugs. Well, in December 2022 Gantenerumab was not approved, in March 2024 Donanemab was not approved. But on July 6, 2023 Lecanemab was approved!

Eli Lilly (maker of Donanemab) has started phase 3 trials for another drug, Remternetug – lauded as the "next generation" of anti-amyloids. Why are the anti-amyloid drugs so important? Many researchers believe clearing amyloid plaque from the brain could prevent further cognitive decline and even halt the progression of the disease!

Last year the antipsychotic drug Rexulti

(Brexpoprazole) became the first and only medication approved by the US to treat agitation associated with related dementias.

So, researchers have been busy and I will continue to update you as they continue their research for the treatment and eventually the cure of this awful disease.

The "Longest Day" is celebrated worldwide and this year it is June 24, 2024. To Alzheimer's and dementia patients and their families it is the day to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's and dementia through fundraising to show support for research and caregiving. The fundraising sometimes starts weeks in advance and some people have found some very unique ways of raising money.

If you decide to start a fundraiser - be it a bake sale, yard sale, bike ride etc. - and wonder where to donate the money raised, look no further. As you probably know NARFE supports Alzheimer's research and the best news is every dollar (penny, nickel, dime and quarter) goes to research! Since 1985 NARFE has been donating to Alzheimer's research and this year it reached its goal of - drum roll please - \$15 million! Congratulations to NARFE and to you! Does that mean we stop absolutely not! - the goal now is \$16 million! Let the Longest Day be a part of that goal!

You can help to support our chapter's Alzheimer's fundraising goal with your donations. Checks should be written out to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research" and in memo write "NARFE Chapter 356". Send checks to:

NARFE Chapter 356

8818 Cather Ave.

Manassas, VA 20110-6104

Your checks will be forwarded to the Alzheimer's Association through NARFE. You will receive confirmation from us as well as the Alzheimer's Association.

NARFE WEBINARS

Upcoming NARFE Webinars:

Retirement Preparations: Measure Twice, Cut Once

June 20 | 2 p.m. ET

Retirement should be a time for relaxation and enjoyment after a long career, but entering retirement without proper planning can lead to an unpleasant experience. To help you set yourself up for success, retirement expert Mercedes Johnson will guide you through the steps of carefully preparing for retirement, including how much time to spend on your application, what key decisions you need to make and when to make them, what documents to keep handy, and what to do if you have errors in processing and need to fix them later.

Register Now.

Recent NARFE Webinars:

Key Questions You Need to Answer As You Approach Retirement: a 2-Part webinar on April 25 and May 2, 2024

There are some critical questions that federal employees, nearing retirement, must face that can have lasting effects on your financial security and the needs of your family. It is important to understand what happens when you follow the map that you've laid out for your future before you begin the journey. To help make the best decisions for your upcoming retirement, Tammy Flanagan and Herb Casey will walk you through the important decisions you must make as you near retirement.

[Click here](#) to find links to dozens of valuable, expert-led presentations that you can watch on demand, anytime, anywhere. And remember, this is just one of many exclusive NARFE resources available to help you get the most out of your federal benefits, and one of the many reasons it pays to be a NARFE member.

Chapter Membership Report

- 1 reinstatement
- 1 passed away
- 1 dropped for nonrenewal

In Memoriam Recent Passing

Corrine Degrazia

Chapter 356 membership as of May 31 is 122 members.

CHAPTER 356 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President	Mary Brandt	703-753-3954
Vice President	Priscilla Saboe	703-361-1150
Secretary	Carol Campbell	703-389-4702
Treasurer	Richard Horte	703-368-8767
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National Legislation	Vacant	
Program Comm.	Vacant	
Service Officer	Priscilla Saboe	703-361-1150
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Chapter Chaplain	Vacant	
Newsletter Editor	Richard Horte	703-368-8767

Chapter Email Address: narfe356@hotmail.com
Use this address to contact officers and committee chairs by email

Email Address Changes

Notify NARFE or our chapter whenever you change your email address to continue to receive this newsletter.

Manassas Chapter Newsletter Online

We distribute our newsletter to Chapter members using email addresses on file at NARFE. If you are not receiving NARFE email, please contact us or NARFE Headquarters at Member Services (703-838-7760). Our newsletters are also available at the Virginia Federation website at www.vanarfe.org/newsletters/. Scroll down to Current Chapter Newsletters, Area IX, Chapter 356.