



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL  
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
FAIRFAX CHAPTER 737



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

October 2024

**Serving Current and Retired Federal Civilian Employees, Spouses and Survivor Annuitants**

<b>President</b> Charles "Mike" Fleming 703-631-5869 charles.fleming@bhox.com	<b>Vice President</b> Ted Pasek 703-322-9322 tedpasek@verizon.net	<b>Secretary</b> Jim Mays 703-978-0317 mays.jl@verizon.net	<b>Treasurer/ Membership Chair</b> Donna Shackelford 703-830-6590 kamiahan@aol.com	<b>Chaplain</b> Karen Hauck 703-501-1058 k-sign@juno.com	<b>Co-Program Chair</b> Ted Pasek 703-322-9322 tedpasek@verizon.net
<b>Service Officers</b> John & Constance Bails 571-220-2860 jbails@aol.com	<b>Legislation Program</b> Thomas Hart 703-573-4730 thart7@cox.net	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> Jim Mays 703-978-0317 mays.jl@verizon.net	<b>Co-Program Chair</b> Sharon Lenius 703-801-2551 leniussa@gmail.com	<b>Alzheimer's Program</b> Annabelle Linden 571-529-6783 valinden@verizon.net	<b>Public Relations</b> Ruby Harney 703-425-7404 rrharney2@cox.net

The chapter membership normally meets on the first Tuesday of the month September through May with the annual chapter picnic on the first Tuesday in June. Come on out to the next meeting.

**WHEN:** October 1

**PROGRAM:** Speaker from Alzheimer's

**WHERE:** The 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](mailto:TedPasek@verizon.net) .

November 5 Blue Cross and United Health Care updates on Health Benefit Changes

December 3 Annual Holiday Festivities

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

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Dear Members of Chapter 737:

The first Tuesday of the month membership programs will resume in October.

Please inform me of your interest to serve the chapter. New officers of the chapter will be elected in November. There are appointed positions like producing membership programs, managing the chapter's efforts to attract donations for research on Alzheimer's disease, being a congressional liaison, serving on the nomination committee, or simply helping to set-up a luncheon. Your service to the chapter will advance the mission of NARFE. Please inform me of your interest to serve the chapter by 29 October.

Sincerely yours,

**Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President**

**SPECIAL ALHEIMERS EVENT**

Join us for a "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on **October 19th in Manassas at the Harris Pavilion**. Help me and NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737 along with the Manassas Chapter to gather donations for Alzheimer's. I signed up as Team Leader for "NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737" team and encourage you to join me in Manassas for this walk. Be sure and make sure any donations are marked from NARFE. We/NARFE also will have a table at the Pavilion to encourage NARFE membership. Do not worry about walking far or at all. Just show up to encourage other members.

Go to: Alz.org, click on 'register for walk', click on 'find your walk' and type in the zip code 20109 for Manassas. under Register and look for Participant: Ted Pasek or Team: NARFE

October 19, 8:30 registration, 9:30 ceremony, 10:00 Walk

Harris Pavilion, Manassas

You can register and donate.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF COMBINED SEPTEMBER 14TH MEETING**

Over 70 members from Virginia came to participate in an Event sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chapters of NARFE. Of course this was our Fairfax Chapter meeting for September. Ten Fairfax Chapter members attended. Congressman Gerry Connolly led off reviewing all the legislation that is most pertinent to Feds, active and retired. The Congressman always votes for legislation which helps Feds. He spoke of the Fair Act and the Social Security

Fairness Act. Both of which would help raise the cost-of-living payment and equality with other groups pay increases. He spoke on the cost of prescription drugs and efforts to keep the prescription costs lower and a limit for the maximum payout. Schedule F is a return to a spoils system for civil servants that had been eliminated decades ago.

Mr. John Hatton, the NARFE Director of Policy and Programs at HQ, followed the Congressman. John spoke of the extensive legislation that NARFE is pursuing with legislators to convince them of the need to support certain bills. A number of constituents across the country are not always recognized by some congressional representatives. He talked about the efforts to support the many items in our favor and oppose those that are not. John mentioned no benefits have been lost since 1995. (Much thanks to NARFE of course.)

National President Bill Shackelford followed by speaking on the many initiatives being worked by the staff of thirty in HQ to reach members, to support and to increase membership, and to make the NARFE 'brand' as the 'federal benefits experts' recognizable. Technology improvements and better communication remain high on the priority list.

This was a most informative meeting where the risk to Federal worker's pay and benefits were emphasized if we do nothing. NARFE is the source of our fight.

**Ted Pasek**

### **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 June.

**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](http://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**

### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

As of September 12, 2024)

**NATIONAL LEGISLATION**- On September 11, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) abandoned plans to force a vote on a GOP-friendly government spending bill, as his unruly Republican conference and new demands by former president Donald Trump slowed work to prevent a possible government shutdown.

Congress must pass new funding by September 30 or crucial agencies and services will shutter. Johnson had been trying to pass a financing bill backed only by his narrow GOP majority in the House to gain leverage in negotiations with the Democratic-led Senate and White House.

The GOP spending bill would have extended government funding to March 28 and add unrelated new requirements that voters show proof of citizenship before registering for federal elections.

Infighting within the Republican conference – more of the same conflicts that have brewed for more than a year – sank Johnson's plan. On Sept. 10, Trump urged Republicans to force a shutdown if they can't secure new registration requirements, which Democrats oppose and which election officials say are unnecessary.

Johnson told reporters that House leadership would "do the hard work and build consensus" over the weekend and ideally reemerge for vote in the next week. We're having thoughtful conversations, family conversations, within the Republican conference, and I believe we'll get there. People have concerns about all sorts of things. That's how the process works, and sometimes it takes a little more time," he said.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (Conn.) the top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, called for Johnson to abandon his GOP-only funding plan and begin negotiations with spending leaders from both parties and both chambers of Congress in the end-of-year, "lame duck" session. Other Republicans almost religiously refuse to vote for continuing resolutions of any kind. And others were swayed by or felt pressure from Trump over his shutdown demand.

The speaker said earlier in the week that he had "no fallback position" if Republicans rejected his approach.

The appropriations process has dogged the House Republican majority throughout this Congress. Fighting over how to fund the current fiscal year led the GOP to oust Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) from the speakership last fall. Both he and

Johnson have had to rely on Democratic votes to pass government spending legislation. And previous strategies to attach conservative immigration and border security policies to funding bills have failed. (Washington Post) After years of advocating, a bill to repeal two benefit-reducing provisions of Social Security, the Windfall Elimination provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing and sometimes eliminating Social Security benefits for certain federal retirees and other public servants, appears closer than ever to the finish line. Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) and Garret Graves (R-La.) officially filed a discharge petition on September 10, aiming to push their Social Security Fairness Act to a House floor vote.

While members have been pushing for months for a vote on the House bill, the Senate companion bill to the Social Security Fairness Act has similarly received growing attention. In August, Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), the original cosponsors of the bill, urged Senate leaders to move the legislation to a floor vote as well. (Federal News Network)

**VIRGINIA LEGISLATION-** With state revenues rising \$1.2 billion over forecast in the last fiscal year and no recession in sight, Gov. Glenn Youngkin promised on August 14 to stick to “the Virginia playbook” of tax cuts and investments in priorities such as economic development, education and behavioral health. In a 25-minute speech to the General Assembly’s tax and budget committees, he made clear that in his final year in office he will push for more tax relief for individuals and businesses.

Youngkin will face a political challenge from Democratic budget leaders in the General Assembly. They made clear on August 14 that their priority will be modernizing the tax code to ensure long-term state funding of core government services such as public education and health care, which they say are underfunded.

“Until we resolve the backlog of issues caused by this chronic underfunding, additional tax rebates are simply off the table,” said the Democratic Caucus. (Richmond Times- Dispatch)

**Tom Hart – Legislative Program**

### **LOCAL GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY NEWS**

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is soliciting input for the evolving plan for bike and walking trail development. The Active Fairfax Transportation Plan survey is an opportunity for citizens to make suggestions for the expansion and integration of transportation, biking, and hiking trails. Whether for Alzheimer's, fun, or health; get out and exercise.

## **Your Voice Matters!**



### **Learn more about the project**

Visit the ActiveFairfax project website to for more information on background, findings, and next steps.



### **Take the survey**

Share your ideas on the future of active transportation in Fairfax County and provide feedback on the draft active transportation and trail network.



### **Review the proposed Active Transportation and Trails Network**

View and comment on the Active Transportation and Trail Network, using the interactive web map.



### **Stay connected**

Be sure to check the project website (link below) for more information, outreach events and project updates. You can send an email to [activefairfax@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:activefairfax@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call the Active Transportation Team at **703-877-5600, TTY 711**, to share your ideas or to ask questions.

# **Public comments are open until December 20, 2024**



[FairfaxCounty.gov/Transportation/Bike-Walk/ActiveFairfax](https://FairfaxCounty.gov/Transportation/Bike-Walk/ActiveFairfax)



**Return Service Requested**  
**NARFE - Fairfax Chapter 737**  
**5340 GAINSBOROUGH DR.**  
**FAIRFAX, VA 22032-2741**



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver by **Sept 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 **November** issue of the NARFE Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter are due to the editor by e-mail at Mays.JL@verizon.net by **October 15**.

**James Mays – Newsletter Editor**