



**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.

**November-December 2024**

**PRESIDENT'S GREETING:** Greetings,



It's been a pleasure serving in 2024 as your President. There have been some outstanding speakers at our lunches this year. Many thanks to Pat Wolfe who has been coordinating our speakers. You will not want to miss our November 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon with Kathy Bass, BCBS/Anthem as speaker. We will install our 2025

Officers & have our annual holiday party on December 9. The lunches will be complimentary to attendees as a token of our appreciation for your support. We will not conduct any business in December as this is a celebration.

We will be electing our 2025 Officers at the November meeting. We have many positions to fill (Vice President and Service Officer at the top of the list). Others need assistance – programs, newsletter, and membership. Please reach out to me or Pat Wolfe if you're interested. Some positions require less than an hour per month. Please consider stepping up as this is your chapter, five of us can't do it all. If you cannot attend the November Luncheon, please complete the attached ballot and mail to us.

U.S. Representative Gerry Connolly (D-11) provided information impacting federal employees and annuitants at our September meeting. NARFE President Bill Shackelford and Donna Shackelford were special guests. VFN National Legislative Chair Gaston Gianni gave an excellent presentation on advocacy. You can send a letter to our senators & congressmen supporting NARFE positions by going to <http://www.narfe.com>; log in as member, click advocacy link top of the page, click take action. The letters are prepared, enter your information and send. It's so simple and takes 2 minutes. We sent Gaston's presentation via email but I can re-send if necessary.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and Holiday season.

**Jeff Sargent, President**  
[Jsarg62@aol.com](mailto:Jsarg62@aol.com)

**LUNCHEON PROGRAM – November 25, 2024, 11:30 A.M.**

**Speaker:** Kathy Bass, BCBS/Anthem

**Topic:** Update on Upcoming Changes

Open Season November 11-December 9, 2024

**Luncheon Entrée Choices:**

**Small Cobb Salad**

**½ Triple Decker Sandwich (chicken salad) w/Cup Tomato Florentine Soup**

**Beef Cheeseburger w/Fries, Coleslaw and Pickle**

**Served with Coffee/Tea**

**The cost of the luncheon is \$23** which includes meeting room, beverage (priced - \$3.50 on menu), tax and a small gratuity. Additional tips are welcome but not required.

Please consider a donation of non-perishable food item as we recognize Thanksgiving Day. List of always needed items is included in this newsletter.

**☎ Please contact Patricia Wolfe at [wolfepatriciam@aol.com](mailto:wolfepatriciam@aol.com) or (703) 449-1582 no later than **Tuesday, November 20, 2024.** Reservations are very important so that the appropriate number of meals can be ordered and prepared.**

**OUR LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD AT AMPHORA DINER, 1151 ELDEN STREET, HERNDON, VIRGINIA AND BEGINS AT 11:30 AM!**

**Remember!**

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

**December 9, 2024 – Menu: Chicken Cordon Bleu; Salmon, or Country Fried Steak w/Mashed Potatoes & Green Beans. E-mail reminder/announcement will be sent in early December. The Capitol Carrollers will provide one hour of entertainment and Chapter's 2025 officers will be installed. The chapter is providing a complimentary lunch to you as a token of appreciation for your support. As is our custom, we are asking you to bring an item or two of non-perishable food for a local food pantry. Wear your Christmas sweater for fun!**

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS 1241 DULLES**

**Membership Report**

**As of October 31, 2024**

Total Current Chapter Members 261

Total National Members in Chapter Area 519

Total Chapter plus National Members 780

Current Chapter Members Breakdown

1 Year 106; 2 Year 25; 3 Year 64; Dues Withholding 60

Life Members 6

NARFE has been changing (updating) the database since October 6. I have not been able to gain access to the membership data for the last month. When I try to look at the reports needed to provide you with current information, I get told that I do not have access to the changes being made.

**MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE DRIVE:** NARFE is now offering members \$10 for every new member that you recruit during the period September 1 to December 31. You will also be eligible for other prizes. As NARFE continues to lose members, recruiting is more important than ever. Please consider inviting a current or former employee to join. It has never been more important to protect our earned benefits.

Why Belong to NARFE? Here is a comment from our Membership Chair. We would like to hear from you for future columns.

**Bill Schmidt, Membership Chair:** I joined NARFE in about 1995. I was interested in my future because I had been attending retirement seminars and that was at the time when local residents in the DC area were used to reading the Mike Causey columns in the Washington Post concerning the retirement benefits for Federal workers. I first joined the Vienna Chapter, but the meeting format did not attract me. After retirement in 1996 I worked with a local Delegate in the General Assembly as his aide. During the 3 years working for him, I sorted all of the official mail and was his spokesman at his office in Richmond. Never once did I meet a lobbyist or have any visitors in the General Assembly from NARFE. When I had the opportunity to be a legislative officer for the chapter, I felt that I could do better and was subsequently appointed The VFC (now VFN) state legislative officer.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Despite substantial Republican gains, Gerry Connolly won his race for the 11th District and state Senator Suhas Subramanyam, endorsed by outgoing Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, was elected in the 10th District. Eugene Vindman (D) has replaced Abigail Spanberger, who is running for governor, in the 7th District (Prince William and Stafford Counties). Meanwhile the ratio of Democrats and Republican representatives in the state remains the same.

The sitting congress will return from recess to consider a disaster relief bill and the omnibus spending bill. During a pro forma session, Bob Good (VA-5) through a parliamentary maneuver managed to table the WEP/GPO bill. This does not sound like good news for the NARFE endorsed bill.

The new congress brings with it probable attacks on the civil service including the reemergence of the Schedule F issue and other harmful policies, and NARFE should be busy defending the rights of civil servants and retirees.

On the state side, the Tysons casino is not dead, and continues to be opposed by representatives of the Tysons/Dulles area.

Congressman Connolly's health fair is scheduled for November 16.

**Judy Thorne, Chapter Legislative Chair**  
CDL for 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
[thornemusick@aol.com](mailto:thornemusick@aol.com)

### **Important Dates:**

November 11-December 9 – FEHB Open Season

November 16 – Congressman Connolly's Health Fair, Fairfax Co. Government Center)

November 25 – Dulles Chapter Luncheon

December 9 – Dulles Chapter Holiday Party

### **ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH:**

Ann Webster is serving as Alzheimer's Research Chair. She is looking forward to continuing the 50/50 drawings at our luncheons. It goes into the Virginia Federation's donation. 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: 21022 Rocky Knoll Square, Apt. 205, Ashburn, VA 20147. For additional information or fundraising ideas, contact Ann at [angelw3@verizon.net](mailto:angelw3@verizon.net).

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR ALWAYS NEEDED FOOD ITEMS FOR FOOD PANTRY:**

Flour, Sugar, Vegetable Oil, Pasta Sauce, Pasta, Cereal (low sugar), pancake mix, family size snacks, canned chicken, toiletries

**HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS:** (1) Secure your devices (2) Verify e-mail links and check for "https" on websites (3) Use trusted sources (4) Use credit cards instead of debit.

**COOKING SAFETY:** (1) Clean cooking equipment after each use (2) "Stand by your Pan" (3) Watch what you're cooking (4) Turn pot handles toward back of stove (5) Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby in case pan catches on fire.

### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

If you have announcements or items of interest, please contact Newsletter Editor Patricia Wolfe at [wolfepatriciam@aol.com](mailto:wolfepatriciam@aol.com). See the mail-in Ballot attached to this newsletter.

