



# ANNANDALE CHAPTER NEWS

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## National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Chapter 1159 (Annandale)

P.O. Box 1463, Annandale, VA 22003

Serving Current, Former & Retired Federal Employees and Spouses  
and Survivor Annuitants

Like us on Facebook at NARFE-Annandale 1159

Find us on the web at: <https://vanarfe.org/chapter-1159/>

Our meetings are hybrid, with in-person and Zoom attendance  
We meet in-person at the Mason District Governmental Center  
6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia

### December 2024

Join us, either in-person or via Zoom, for our next meeting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, **January 8<sup>th</sup>**, when Gabe Goldberg will do a presentation on “Shopping for and Buying Hearing Aids”. **(Please note that because the first Wednesday in January is New Year’s Day, our January meeting is Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.)** For details regarding the program, as well as information on registering for the Zoom meeting, see page 2.

**PREZ SEZ** – - Since this Newsletter has so much information, I’ll keep my message brief (no sighs of relief, please) 😊 Our holiday luncheon was most enjoyable. The wait staff were very good and pleasant to work with, as was the Italian Café owner, a wonderful, delightful man. The raffle was, as always, very popular. We’ll share new ideas about handling future raffles next year. I wish everyone wonderful holidays, however you celebrate, and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2025. **Kim Rendelson, Chapter President**

**NEW WEB ADDRESS** – Please note our new web address: <https://vanarfe.org/chapter-1159/>. While our old address is still accessible, we no longer are able update or edit it. Also, for the latest chapter information, don't forget our Facebook page at **NARFE -- Annandale 1159**.

**Chapter Budget** – At our January 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter Meeting we will be asking members for their approval of the proposed budget for the Chapter's 2025 operations. The proposed budget is on our website (<https://vanarfe.org/chapter-1159/>) for your review.

**Audit Committee** – At our December 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Luncheon, Chapter members approved the appointment of the Audit Committee to review the Chapter's financial records for 2024. The Committee will consist of **John Bankson (Chair), Joyce Price and Frank Toth**. The Committee is expected to make their report to the Chapter's Executive Board in March 2025.

**Alzheimer's Report** – So far, the donations to the Alzheimer's Research Fund for 2024 from Chapter 1159 members is \$5,580. If you would like to help find a cure for Alzheimer's, you can send a donation by mail to: **Treasurer, NARFE Chapter 1159, P.O. Box 1463, Annandale, VA, 22003**. Please make checks payable to *NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund* and include *Chapter 1159* on the memo line.

**Phil Gilliland, Alzheimer's Chair**

**A Few Details for Our January 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting** – At 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning January 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Mason District Governmental Center (6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale), **Gabe Goldberg** will provide an in-person hybrid presentation on shopping for and buying hearing aids. While in-person attendance is encouraged, to attend on Zoom, let **Doug Jones** know ([doujones500@verizon.net](mailto:doujones500@verizon.net) or **703-425-3361**) no later than **Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**, so he can send you the meeting link and passcode.

**Inclement Weather Policy** --When Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) are closed or virtual only because of inclement weather on the day of a scheduled chapter meeting, the chapter meeting (both in-person and on Zoom) for that month is cancelled. If the FCPS open only 2 hours late on the day of a chapter meeting, the in-person and the Zoom meeting will be held.

**Legislation Report** – *SB 597: Social Security Fairness Act*: As you know, this Bill would end the unfair WEP/GPO reductions of earned Social Security Benefits for certain retired Federal, State and Local retirees. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, NARFE, along with partners from Federal Employee Associations/Unions, State and Local Government entities, rallied (in pouring rain) to encourage Senators to bring this Bill to a Senate floor vote before the end of the term on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Currently, SB 597 has 62 co-sponsors which points to possible passage of the bill – although, as we in Virginia know firsthand from H.R. 82, co-sponsorship doesn't actually translate into a “Yes” vote. Senator Schumer stated that he intends to get this bill to the Senate Floor in time for a vote. The House's companion bill H.R. 82 has already passed in a very bi-partisan way. If SB 597 passes, there is a very good chance the amending legislation would be signed by the current Administration.



*2025 Federal Budget*: The current Continuing Resolution (CR) funding the federal government is set to expire on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Congressional leaders are divided on whether to try and pass full year appropriation bills or pass another CR to fund the government at FY 2024 spending levels until March 13, 2025. Unknown is whether a “Clean” CR (i.e., without other legislative changes or social agendas embedded into the CR) would be proposed or passed. However, many hope that badly needed Disaster Relief Funding will be included in the CR rather than waiting another 3 months to be decided. Congress's only other option would be to shut down the Federal Government on December 20<sup>th</sup>, which is unlikely. My prediction is that Congress will again reach for a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the Federal Government operating through the new transition period and kick the final funding decisions to the new 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

*Federal Pay Raise*: Civilian employees are expected to receive a proposed 2% pay raise, while the Military is expected to receive a 4.5% pay raise. Neither amount is yet finalized. There is a late push for the outgoing administration to reconsider and increase the expected civilian pay raise to the same percentage as the Military, i.e., 4.5%. While rare, it is not without precedent that an administration makes a late decision to approve a different amount. May this be one of those rare moments of action.

*Postal Reform*: I would be remiss not to include commentary on the new Postal Service Health Benefits Program (PSHBP) mandated by the **(continued on page 4)**

(continued from page 3) Postal Reform Act of 2022. While without its challenges, Postal employees and annuitants have now completed transitioning to the new program managed by OPM. For 2025, the plan benefits offered in PSHBP were pretty much the same as in FEHBP, premiums were a little different (some higher, some lower), and the biggest change was the mandate for those Medicare eligible to accept Medicare Part D or lose all prescription coverage through PSHBP. As with any insurance – it is better to have it and hope you don't need it.

**VIRGINIA LEGISLATION-- SB108, Income Tax, State, Standard Deduction:** This



Bill, if enacted, removes the “sunset” provision on elevated standard deduction amounts for single individuals and married persons that was scheduled to expire for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2026. Under Virginia’s current tax code, the enhanced State Standard Deduction will revert back to the lower 2005 Standard Deduction levels. You may recall, when temporary changes were made to the Federal Tax Code, the State enacted legislation to temporarily increase the State’s Standard Deduction, and now, without legislation, all of the temporary changes (both Federal and State) will “sunset” after 2025. SB108 would repeal the “sunset” provision in Virginia’s current tax law, and legislate the current enhanced State Standard Deduction levels for 2026 and beyond. Support for this legislative change is part of the NARFE Virginia Federation’s 2025 State Legislation Plan. When the General Assembly commences in January, we will be asking you to contact your state legislators to sign on to SB 108.

**Mary Ann Munley, *Legislation Chair***

**Time is Running Out** – NARFE’s Fall Membership Drive is winding down and ends



December 31, 2024. But there still is time to bring in new members before the end of the year. Remember, during the Drive, current members can earn \$10 for each new member they recruit. Be sure your NARFE member ID number is included with the membership application of those you recruit so that you get credit. (If you do not know your membership number, you can find it on the mailing label of your *NARFE Magazine* or contact **Doug Jones** and he can give it to you.) Details can be found on page 68 of your December *NARFE Magazine*. To make sure our voices are heard by Congress, we need to strive to increase NARFE membership. The more members we have the louder we sound. So please get involved in this important effort and recruit. (A Membership Application can be found on page 49 of your December *NARFE Magazine*.)



**2025 VFN Conference** – The Virginia Federation of National Active and Retired

Federal Employees (VFN) annual conference is being held April 6 – 9, 2025 at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia. This year's

theme is “**Our Future – Stronger Together**”. The 2025 goals are to unite our Virginia Federation of NARFE members with a shared vision of advocacy, education and empowerment. Bridging the gap ensures that our mission will foster collaboration among retirees, current federal employees and their families; ensuring that all voices are heard, and all needs met. Through workshops, discussions, and networking opportunities we will equip attendees with the tools and knowledge necessary to navigate the evolving landscape of federal benefits and retirement. Together, we will continue to strengthen our collective impact, advocate for our rights, and build a resilient community that thrives on support and shared purpose as we look toward a brighter future in 2025 and beyond. Early registration is February 17, 2025 and at a cost of \$95.00; registrations accepted after February 18<sup>th</sup> will cost \$120.00. Forms are available on the VFN website at [www.vanarfe.org/conf2025](http://www.vanarfe.org/conf2025). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact **Kim Rendelson** via email or phone ([krendelson49@gmail.com](mailto:krendelson49@gmail.com) or **703-204-0388**). It looks like it will be a great conference this year so think about attending and seeing what it's all about.



**Chapter members enjoying our December 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Luncheon**

**Community Corner:**

**Upcoming BlueCross Sessions** -- Jennifer Malave, our November speaker from BlueCross, forwarded the following information for various sessions BlueCross will be hosting in 2025:

- **Blue Product Overview – FEHB - Bi-Weekly (Tuesdays)**  
Starting Jan. 14, 10 - 11 a.m.  
Attendee Registration Link:  
[https://carefirst.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_G9\\_Qq2KaQ36o4gmFJe0P2A](https://carefirst.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G9_Qq2KaQ36o4gmFJe0P2A)
- **Blue Product Overview – PSHB - Monthly (Second Tuesday of the month)** Starting January 14, 12 - 1 p.m.  
Attendee Registration Link:  
[https://carefirst.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_eXW9rjv0Q7uK51xa\\_hsslgl](https://carefirst.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eXW9rjv0Q7uK51xa_hsslgl)
- **FEHB and Medicare in Retirement - Monthly (First Monday of the month)** Starting February 3, 12 – 1 p.m.  
Attendee Registration Link:  
[https://carefirst.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HmvRTT60TOKLBUTakVBHTA](https://carefirst.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HmvRTT60TOKLBUTakVBHTA)
- **PSHB and Medicare in Retirement - Monthly (Second Monday of the month)** Starting February 10, 12 – 1 p.m.  
Attendee Registration Link:  
[https://carefirst.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_gpX9nrk2QYel0KD3o8SHkA](https://carefirst.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gpX9nrk2QYel0KD3o8SHkA)

**Alzheimers Study** – The APT Webstudy monitors volunteers who are 50 and older for changes in their memory through a series of quarterly, no-cost memory tests. It takes place online, without any in-person visits required. APT Webstudy researchers use the results to track volunteers’ memory and, based on potential risk level, invite select volunteers to participate in other Alzheimer’s research studies. The APT Webstudy is funded by the National Institutes of Health and led by internationally renowned researchers from the Alzheimer’s Therapeutic Research Institute of the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, and the Cleveland Clinic. For more information go to [www.aptwebstudy.org](http://www.aptwebstudy.org).

**Mark your calendars and join us for our February Chapter Meeting on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, when we will have a presentation on the Fairfax County Police Department's Threat Assessment and Management (TAM) Unit.**

## Executive Board

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**