



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**
FAIRFAX CHAPTER 737



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

March 2025

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

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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 meetings for informative speakers and charitable activities. At the meetings we collect books for exchanging, books for donating for sale for Alzheimer's research, food for local food banks and other charitable activities. The next meeting is:

WHEN: March 4

PROGRAM: Shawn Smith, State Director, Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), will be talking about Medicare Frauds. This will be on the types of attempts that are made to take over your Medicare account. This is an interesting and challenging presentation.

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: \$20.00

CONTACT: If you plan to attend email TedPasek@verizon.net .

April 1: Library Program

April 6-9: 2025 VFN Annual Meeting at Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg, Va. Time to register if you are attending.

May 31 Annual Picnic. At van Dyck Pavillion Park in Fairfax City. 8am-1pm

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

Inclement Weather Policy – If Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) close because of inclement weather on the day of a chapter meeting, the in-person meeting is cancelled. The in-person meeting will still be held if the FCPS opens 2 hours late. If the in-person meeting is cancelled the meeting may still proceed on-line via Zoom.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members of Chapter 737:

Due to inclement weather which occurred during the January 7th program meeting, we asked the speaker, Shawn Smith, State Director, for Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), to postpone his talk to the March 4th luncheon meeting. He will describe clever methods to commit Medicare fraud by taking over your Medicare account.

SMP's are grant-funded projects of the federal U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL). Senior Medicare Patrols (SMPs) assist Medicare beneficiaries to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse. The SMP Program was established in 1997.

For those who cannot attend a membership meeting in person, you may use Zoom to see the presentation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85717402521?pwd=1LuPIIS92bcVvn7iWDV8KdbN3wmQbV.1>

With the arrival of Spring, we intend to lead a field trip when the weather is pleasant. We will welcome suggestions for interesting destinations for a field trip, and I will welcome suggestions for interesting topics for membership program luncheon meetings. Please send them to Ted Pasek at tedpasek@verizon.net or to me at charles.fleming@bhox.com.

Sincerely yours,

Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President

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. The Chapter delivered 148 pounds of food from the February meeting.

Needed Food Items (no more than 3 years expired, unopened, labeled, not homemade):

- Fresh fruits (oranges, apples, bananas, tomatoes, avocados, grapes, berries), juice (100% juice) 32 oz–64 oz
- Fresh vegetables (cucumbers, celery, peppers, lettuce, eggplant)
- Canned vegetables, meat (2 oz–15 oz), and fruit (in juice 11 oz–20 oz)
- Cooking Oil (ideally in cans or plastic instead of glass)
- Dry goods – cereal, pasta, rice, (16 oz packages), dried beans
- Spaghetti sauce, 14 oz – 1 lb (ideally in cans or plastic instead of glass)

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/MAEMBERSHIOP REPORT

Membership as of 2/3/2025

	VFN	737
Chapter members	4157	244
National Only Members	<u>6268</u>	<u>333</u>
Total	10,425	577

Alzheimer’s for CY 2024

VFN	55,287.05
737	7,916.00

No financial report due to some miscues with Hq regarding dues money. That is currently being rectified.

Donna Shackelford – Treasurer/Membership

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(As of February 14, 2025)

NATIONAL LEGISLATION- Barely a month after predicting a new “golden age’ under President Donald Trump, congressional Republicans are struggling to move forward on the president’s tax-cut agenda, despite their control of both the Senate and House of Representatives.

House Republicans on Wednesday, February 12, unveiled a plan that would cut taxes by about \$4.5 trillion over a decade, raise federal government debt ceiling by \$4 trillion – clearing the way for the nation’s liabilities to exceed \$40 trillion – and find \$2 trillion in cost cuts over a decade in mandatory spending programs. While the plan did no specify which programs would be targeted, they could include the Medicaid health program for low- income Americans and Social Security and Medicare for the elderly.

House Republicans hold a narrow 218-215 majority split between lawmakers from Democratic states who want a bigger tax deduction for state and local tax payments, hardliners pushing offsetting spending cuts and centrists worried about the potential ill-effects of those cuts back home.

Those divisions could make it challenging for the caucus to find the near-unanimity it would need to pass a measure that would extend the tax cuts that were the signature legislative accomplishment of Trump’s first presidential term.

House Speaker Mike Johnson, who over the past year has repeatedly needed Democratic support to pass legislation, expressed confidence he would be able to muster the votes.

In recent weeks, some Republicans have backed down from calls for spending cuts to offset the cost of Trump’s full tax-cut menu including eliminating taxes on tips, Social Security benefits and overtime pay, which the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal (CRFB) estimates could add \$5 trillion to \$11 trillion to the nation’s \$36 trillion debt.

Republicans are instead emphasizing that growth from the tax incentives, energy deregulation and reciprocal trade will generate additional government revenues, while the extension of cuts under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will not change the deficit outlook. They made similar arguments in 2017, though the CRFB estimates that round of cuts added about \$2.5 trillion to the nation’s debt.

Congress will face escalating deadline pressures in the coming weeks, as current federal funding runs out after March 14. Lawmakers will also need to act by summer to raise their self-imposed debt ceiling or risk a disastrous default.

Democrats have warned they could withhold support from a stopgap funding measure due to their opposition to the Trump administration’s controversial actions to freeze funding and fire federal employees at government agencies.

Several House Republicans and their conference is considering a partisan continuing resolution, or CR, that would keep funding flat for the remainder of fiscal 2025, which ends September 30, while they look to other legislation including fiscal appropriations to cut spending and eliminate Biden-era policies. **(Reuters)**

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION- The Virginia General Assembly 2025 session reached crossover (halftime) on February 4 – the day that bills introduced and passed in one chamber “cross over’ to be voted on by the other.

The 2025 (super) “short” session was scheduled to last for just 45 days, although the first five days were missed due

to a water crisis in Richmond. Legislators introduced a total of 2,489 bills.

On February 6, the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates passed two sets of budget amendments with relatively small differences between them, creating a counter proposal to spending changes sought by Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

In December, Youngkin proposed that legislators create a car tax credit for Virginians making \$50,000 or less (\$100,000 or less for joint filers); eliminate taxes on tips; fund vouchers and charter schools; and allocate additional money to direct aid for public schools and school construction.

Legislators voted on budgets that had a slightly smaller amount of tax relief, but spread it to taxpayers of all incomes, with additional cuts for those making less.

Among provisions Included in the legislators' budget (and not in the governor's) is a \$200 rebate per filer, to be sent in October (replacing Youngkin's proposal to eliminate the car tax); removing a limit on how many school support staff the state funds and allocating an additional \$222.9 million in direct aid to districts to fill the roles; a provision that makes 20% of the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit fully refundable; more money to implement sealing of criminal records; and higher per-pupil spending (roughly \$350 more over FY 25 and FY26, according to the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis).

Many legislator proposals' provisions are sure to be eliminated, since they fund legislation Youngkin vetoed last year, such as a regulated marijuana market and increased minimum wage, and those Youngkin is unlikely to sign, like those expanding collective bargaining for public employees. **(VPM News)**

Tom Hart – Legislative Program

AFFAIRS IN ORDER: BENEFITS GUIDANCE FOR SURVIVORS OF FEDERAL ANNUITANTS

(A White Paper Published by NARFE - WP-1-0524)

Death can be a complex subject to discuss, but thoughtful end-of-life planning is one of the most meaningful gifts you can give to those you care about. While the changes that come with loss can feel overwhelming, planning ahead allows you to ease the burden on your loved ones. You can help ensure they can manage your affairs with greater peace and clarity by providing the necessary information and preparations. A copy of the white paper is available on our Virginia Federation of NARFE website: https://vanarfe.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/WP-1-0524-Affairs-in-Order_NARFE.pdf . This White Paper does not replace the F-100 Be Prepared document.

John & Constance Bails - Service Officers

ANNUAL VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF NARFE CONFERENCE

As we mark the **70th Anniversary and Conference Celebration**, we celebrate not only a milestone in time but also the incredible dedication, hard work, and advocacy that have defined this organization for seven decades. We hope you will join us and give a "hats off to those who came before us and to the work that is still to be done. The **70th Anniversary and Conference Celebration** will be a time to gather, connect, learn, and honor the contributions of federal employees and retirees throughout Virginia.

The 2025 VFN Annual Meeting and Conference will be held in beautiful Harrisonburg, Virginia, from **April 6 – 9, 2025**. This year's conference promises to be an enriching experience filled with informative sessions, networking opportunities, and engaging speakers. Registration includes tickets for the banquet, reception, two lunches, and 5 a.m./pm snacks.

Registration Deadline: Please register by Monday, **February 17, 2025** to get the "Early Bird Discount" of \$95 – you will save \$25 by acting **TODAY**

Link to Conference Information: <https://vanarfe.org/conference-2/conf2025/>

Link to Online Registration: <https://vanarfe.org/conference-2/conf2025/2025-registration/>

Link to Chapter Forms: <https://vanarfe.org/conference-2/conf2025/online-cforms/>

Link to Hotel Reservations: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4328165>

Expires March 5, 2025

VIRGINIA SENATE ADVANCES BILL TO EXPAND RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN LOCAL ELECTIONS

The bill (SB 1009) grants cities, counties, and towns the ability to implement ranked choice voting for all elections, including mayoral and school board races.

<https://upvoteva.org/>

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



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver by **February 26th, 2025**

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 so 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 benefits.

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

James Mays – Newsletter Editor