



ANNANDALE CHAPTER NEWS

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

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

February 2025

Join us, either in-person or via Zoom, for our next meeting at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 5th, when we will have a presentation by Cheryl Crowe, Virginia State Director of the Humane Society of the United States. For details regarding the program, as well as information on registering for the Zoom meeting, see page 3.

PREZ SEZ – So, the Prez has been home for a month with a fractured sternum. After fainting, I hit just the wrong spot and here I am. After quite wonderful care at Fairfax Hospital, I was told that healing will take time, but all will eventually be well. ER staff was efficient, kind, and caring; I could not have asked for better treatment. With all the snow we've had (yes, we're having a winter this year!) it hasn't been much of a chore staying home, although I missed using our snow tubes this year. I've been fortunate that our Program Chair (AKA my hubby) patiently made me eggs scrambled, over easy, and as an omelet, with toast and coffee for many mornings until I was able. I've read more, hung out with the cat in front of the fireplace, and caught up with myself. In the meantime, the world outside continues to be so chaotic and scary that facing each day is challenging. Be kind to yourself and others and be mindful of people you allow into your life. Of those people, I find our chapter members to be warm, kind, welcoming, and caring and for that I am thankful.

Kim Rendelson, Chapter President

February Program Report – Our speaker was **Detective Sergeant Amanda Paris** of the Fairfax County Police (FCP) Threat Assessment and Management



Sgt. Paris discussing the role of her Threat Assessment and Management Unit.

(TAM) Unit. We received an excellent presentation regarding the goals and operations of the TAM in assessing and managing potential threats to citizens of Fairfax County as well as other local jurisdictions. She discussed the importance of recognizing and addressing potential threats to prevent mass violence. She shared a case study of a potential shooter who was stopped due to a community member's report concerning social media posts. Amanda emphasized the importance of taking all threats seriously, even if they seem like jokes, as they can escalate into violence. She also highlighted the role of the Threat Assessment and Management Unit in mitigating threats and deescalating individuals on the pathway to targeted violence. The unit collaborates with various organizations and agencies (local, state, and federal) in a "Fusion" environment to provide support and services to individuals and their families. The presentation included two video clips to highlight the seriousness of threats that might sound ridiculous or outlandish as well as the consequences of ignoring the signs of upcoming violent attacks. Sergeant Paris discussed the role of her unit in preventing targeted violence and the importance of community involvement. She addressed questions about interactions with the fire department, the process for handling juvenile threats, and the handling of social media threats. She also discussed the role of her unit in directing individuals who make threats to prevent future issues. She also addressed questions about the handling of false reports (for which there are legal consequences), the use of wellness checks, and the frequency of such checks. She concluded by emphasizing the importance of community involvement and the need for a multidisciplinary approach to address the issue of targeted violence.

Total attendance was **41 (34 in-person and seven on Zoom)**. Snacks were provided by **Mary Ann Munley, Fran Walinsky, Frank Toth, John Bankson, Loretta Nester, Ed Reniker, Joyce Price, Carol Rubin, Mark Doehnert, Sue Hoffman, Pat Jack, Jenna Arvanitis and Sharon Sellers.**

Ed Reniker, Secretary

WEB ADDRESS – Please note our web homepage is experiencing difficulties. For the latest information on our Chapter, please use our Facebook page at **NARFE -- Annandale 1159**.

Alzheimer's Report – NARFE entered its partnership with the Alzheimer's Association in 1985 and since then NARFE members have contributed over \$16 million for Alzheimer's research. Each year the NARFE Alzheimer's National Committee determines which research projects will be awarded grants from the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. To date the Fund has granted 95 research grants. All donations we collect from Chapter 1159 members go directly to Alzheimer's research. The Chapter Board has established \$4,000 as our donation goal for 2025 and, so far this year, chapter members have donated **\$1,403** to the Fund. 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**

Audit Committee Report – At the February 11th meeting of the Executive Board, **John Bankson**, Chairman of the Chapter Audit Committee, reported on its review of the Chapter's financial records for 2024. The Committee, comprised of **Frank Toth, Joyce Price** and **John**, “found no errors or problems with any of the financial records.” Copies of their report are available upon request from **John Bankson** (johnboy1607@outlook.com; 703-256-2295).

A Few Details for Our March 5th Meeting – At 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning March 5th, at the Mason District Governmental Center (6507 Columbia Pike in Annandale), we will have an in-person hybrid presentation by **Cheryl Crowe, Virginia State Director of the Humane Society of the United States**. The Society works around the country to help protect animals by tackling the root causes of suffering for animals and striving to end animal cruelty. Ms. Crowe will discuss what the Society does and her legislative efforts before the Virginia General Assembly. While in-person attendance is encouraged, to attend on Zoom, let **Doug Jones** know (doujones500@verizon.net or 703-425-3361) no later than **Monday, March 3rd**, 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 -- This is the most difficult Newsletter Item I have had to write, bear with me please:

“FORK in the Road” – The email to supposedly offer a buyout deal to Federal Employees is being challenged. Active employees considering the offer should be as informed as possible, and possibly consult with their employment attorney and financial advisors. *Terminated Federal Employees* impacted by termination without cause should stay informed on legal remedies available to them. NARFE has resources and webinars, and other employee associations and unions have information to consider as next steps. *Remaining Federal Employees* should continue to do your jobs for the American people as you always do.

Personally, my prayers are with you all that this will all get settled quickly.

The Federal Government has several monumental issues:



FY 2025 Federal Budget: On March 14th, the Continuing Resolution (CR) currently providing FY 2025 funds for operation of the government expires. Congress must act to either extend the CR for a third time, or, make the decision to shut the Federal Government down. While no one wants to see a shutdown, it may well have to happen. Also be aware, when discussions on Budget Reconciliation occur, “riders” can slip into the Reconciliation agreement which can impact your earned benefits – so please stay informed and respond to NARFE calls to action. Congress is divided. We should all be prepared for the implications of a shutdown – plan for the worst but hope for the best.

Federal Debt Ceiling: Congress must make a decision on whether to raise the Debt Ceiling and if so by how much, or eliminate the Debt Ceiling altogether as the current Administration is demanding. Congress is divided on the issue.

Federal Tax Law 2026: Current federal tax law sunsets at the close of 2025. Absent Congressional legislation, many provisions in the TCJA current tax law will expire (sunset) on December 31, 2025. This "sunset" **(continued on page 5)**

(continued from page 4) means the tax code will revert to its pre-2017 state, bringing back old rules and higher rates for many taxpayers. Congress is divided.

Good News, HR 82, Social Security Fairness Act was signed into law in December 2024. Many who had their Social Security entitlements negatively impacted by the WEP/GPO are now filing and receiving their Spousal and/or Survivor Benefits which were previously denied. Those who were “WEPped” are awaiting information from Social Security as to when their 2024 SS benefits and current year adjustments will be made.

Virginia General Assembly: The General Assembly is still in Session, and is also considering the implications of the “Sunset” Federal Tax Law. The current elevated State Standard Deduction will sunset in 2026 without State Legislation.



HB 2575: This bill did not move forward. If enacted, it contained a possible State “subtraction” from VA taxable Income of 20% of a CSRS Annuity.

Understandably, the State and General Assembly are evaluating the possible impacts of the Federal Cuts on Virginia, especially impact to collection of reduced income tax from federal employees and federal contractors, reductions in federal funding for State education and healthcare, etc. There are a lot of unknowns at this time.

Mary Ann Munley, Legislation Chair

NARFE-PAC – **PLEASE DONATE AND UP YOUR PREVIOUS CONTRIBUTION!** Now more than ever, NARFE needs PAC funding, and an increase in PAC funding to help educate Congress in a non-partisan way on our earned federal benefits. NARFE and NARFE PAC make an impact by providing factual information about our earned benefits to Congress. And NARFE by its representation of all Federal employees and annuitants does grab the attention of members of Congress. Only members of NARFE can contribute to the NARFE PAC – so please recruit those you know sitting on the sidelines to join NARFE as paid members and also make a NARFE PAC Contribution. If you have never made a contribution to the NARFE PAC – now is the time to consider doing so, and if you have been a regular contributor to NARFE PAC, please consider a larger donation. NARFE PAC donations can be made (continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5) online at www.NARFE.org, or you can send a check using the form always found in your *NARFE Magazine* (see your *January/February 2025* edition at page 11). *(Please remember that NARFE PAC contributions are not tax deductible.)*

Adopt-A-Road Litter Pick-up – Please join us at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 20th**, when we will have our first Adopt-A-Road litter pick-up for 2025. We will meet at the corner of Evergreen Lane and High Place in Annandale. Let **Doug Jones** (doujones500@verizon.net) know if you plan to attend, so he can notify you if any changes occur. Also, please mark your calendars for the other pick-ups scheduled for this year: **May 15th, July 24th, September 25th and November 13th**.



Community Corner:

Job Opportunities – There has been an increase in the number of federal employees seeking job opportunities with Fairfax County. Fairfax County currently has openings across various departments. If you or someone you know is looking for employment, you are encouraged to explore available positions. You can explore current openings at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/fairfaxcounty>.

Blood Drive -- The **Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department** will host a blood drive with INOVA on **Thursday, February 27, from 1:00 - 5:30 p.m.** at the Burke Volunteer Fire Station (9501 Old Burke Lake Road, Burke). Donors will receive a stainless-steel tumbler, while supplies last. Sign up today at https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/34849 or call **1 (866) 256-6372** and use code **8509**. For more information, email **John Ronan** at john.ronan@inova.org.



Stuff the Bus -- Fairfax County's Stuff the Bus initiative helps address a critical need to help restock the shelves of local food pantries after the holidays. This collaborative program is a partnership between the Fairfax County Government and local nonprofits. Stuff the Bus has collected more than 220 tons of food to feed people experiencing food insecurity in Fairfax County since its inception in 2011. There is a Stuff the Bus food collection on **Saturday, March 1st, 10 am to 3 pm, at the Annandale Giant Food (7137 Columbia Pike in Annandale)** which will benefit the **ACCA Food Pantry**. Join the Stuff the Bus campaign by donating non-perishable food items. Together, we can feed hope and make a difference in our community!



Mark your calendars and join us for our April Chapter Meeting on Wednesday, April 2nd, when we will have a presentation from an NBC meteorologist from Channel 4.

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