

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

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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. **The chapter picnic will be on May 31 this year.** 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: April 1 (No joke)

PROGRAM: Great Resources from Fairfax County Public Libraries! The Fairfax County Public Library has so much to explore. Will Osborne, Adult Services Outreach Coordinator, will lead us on a journey of discovery. With vibrant programs, a diverse collection of materials to read and listen to, and every branch having something special to see or do, the library is the place to be. He will tell us how to get technology assistance with our new devices. After hearing Will Osborne speak it will be up to you to explore the many programs offered at 22 branches. Q & A Follows presentation. Chapter 737 will also have a Book Exchange - bring your used books and share with members. Those "extra" books will earn extra dollars for Alzheimers through sale at Richard McKay's Used Books in Manassas.

You are invited to visit your neighborhood library for special celebrations during National Library April 6-13.

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 6-9: 2025 VFN Annual Meeting at Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg, Va. Time to register if you are attending. See article below for more information.

April 14, 10:30 am -11:30 am: Chapter Tour of the Virginia Room of City of Fairfax Regional Library and optional lunch. See article below for more information.

May 6: Ms. Kristy Kennedy & Ms. Ginger Noce from Silver Bridges Consulting. Their subject is "Understanding the Senior Living Landscape." This is what you need to know and do when considering and planning your future downsizing and living arrangements.

May 31: Fifth Annual Chapter 737 Picnic at Van Dyck Park at the Upper Pavilion in Fairfax City, 8am-1pm. Note this is a Saturday, not the usual so plan ahead and invite your friends and neighbors, especially active workers (or former workers) who are interested in the activities of the Administration. More information later on speakers and plans.

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members of Chapter 737:

I am pleased to report that the finances of Chapter 737 are in good shape as reported by a recent audit of the books and by the treasurer's last report.

I encourage members of NARFE to attend the 2025 VFN Annual Meeting in Harrisonburg, Virginia on April 6-9. Details of this event can be found at: <https://vanarfe.org/conference-2/conf2025/>

The next chapter program meeting and book exchange will take place at 1 April at the American Legion Post. We are pleased that Will Osborne of the City of Fairfax library will be the speaker at the next program meeting. 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>

The Chapter is planning a field trip to the Virginia Room located at the City of Fairfax library in April.

It is not too early to mark your calendar for the Chapter picnic. It will take place on Saturday 31 May 2025 at the pavilion in Van Dyck Park in the City of Fairfax beginning at 8 a.m.

NARFE maintains a webpage on news related to Federal workers and NARFE's response to such matters at:
<https://www.narfe.org/blog/category/news/> .

Please send inquiries about helping Chapter 737 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 for Others" donations to help those not so fortunate in Fairfax County. The Chapter delivered 178 pounds of food from the March 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

VIRGINIA ROOM OF CITY OF FAIRFAX REGIONAL LIBRARY TOUR

WHEN: Monday, April 14, 10:30 am -11:30 am

WHERE: Fairfax Regional Library, 2nd Floor (elevator available from indoor parking garage) 10360 North Street, Fairfax, VA 22030

PROGRAM: During our visit to the Virginia Room where we can learn more about our family tree, find excellent local history resources and interesting special "treasures."

HOW: Sign up at the April Luncheon, Apr 1st or contact Sharon Lenius, leniussa@gmail.com

OPTION: Afterwards, join us for Dutch Treat Lunch - Location TBD

TREASURER/MAEMBERSHIOP REPORT

March 11, 2025

Financial

Balance 3/1/2025	\$7673.10
Income during Mar	\$306.00
Disbursements	\$483.72
Balance 3/11/2025	\$7495.18

Membership

Chapter members 253
National Only members 344
Total membership 597

Alzheimer's

Donations from Feb meeting \$47.00

Donna Shackelford – Treasurer/Membership

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

As of February 25

NATIONAL LEGISLATION- Trump and Republican Leaders could fumble their way into a prolonged and painful shutdown of the federal government as a March 14 deadline looms.

Trump and his advisers, particularly Elon Musk, have devoted the first month in office to trying to rip apart federal agencies that they don't like while also upending traditional foreign policy alliances. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-South Dakota) and House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) have battled over how fast to move all of Trump's agenda, including at least \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts at a time when the national debt is ballooning.

But those issues are likely to take months to fully negotiate and navigate through complex procedures. The most pressing problem — keeping the federal government open past a March 14 deadline — has been virtually ignored by top leaders.

And unlike the most recent shutdown deadlines, the politics of the moment are not aligned to bring the two parties together with an obvious last-minute deal that simply adds more money for each side's favored projects.

Instead, many Democrats have grown so livid about Trump and Musk's dismantling of agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development — ignoring laws approved by Congress and signed by previous presidents — that many Democrats say they will oppose a new round of government funding without guarantees that Trump and Musk will abide by these laws.

Republicans know that without any Democratic votes, the government will shut down. To boot, at least a half dozen anti-government conservatives in the House, sometimes several dozen, refuse to vote for even the most basic bill funding the government.

Johnson's historically narrow majority affords him just one defection to pass something with only Republican votes. He is aiming in the coming weeks to pass the House's budget resolution, trying to wrap all of the GOP's priorities into one massive bill.

Even if he succeeds, Johnson's plan would then instruct committees to spend a few months pulling together all the legislation before returning to the House floor to consider the massive package. None of those actions would do anything to avert the shutdown iceberg that is dead ahead.

All of this could have been handled in December, at the end of Biden's presidency, as the appropriators had a rough spending outline ready to divide up more than \$1.7 trillion in agency budgets. But Johnson, fearing a revolt from the far-right flank, ordered up a punt on the funding bills until March 14 so that he could secure enough votes for another term as speaker.

Some congressional insiders fear that a prolonged shutdown is something that Musk and the director of the Office of Management and Budget, Russell Vought — whose roots come from working for the most far-right House Republicans — would cheer on. Musk, an unelected adviser with vast power, has so far not worried about the consequences of mass firings of workers in charge of air safety and those administering crucial foreign aid abroad.

And this shutdown could be much more painful than the nearly five-week version during Trump's first term that started in late 2018. That shutdown partially shuttered some federal agencies, although critical entities, such as the Pentagon, already had their annual budgets approved and remained open.

This year, a mid-March shutdown would leave every agency without funding, keeping only those employees deemed essential at their posts. Even those key federal workers still at their jobs, such as Border Patrol agents and military troops stationed abroad, would be working without pay. (The Washington Post)

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION- The Virginia legislature ended its 45-day session on Saturday February 22 with a slew of amendments ranging from tax cuts to child care, but some lawmakers said they would likely return to the Capitol later this year to address a mounting threat: massive government layoffs planned by the Trump administration. A federal judge paved the way for the layoffs to go forward, leaving officials in the state, which according to the Metropolitan Council of Governments, is home to roughly 315,000 federal workers, to begin assessing the impacts of the job cuts, including an expected rise in unemployment insurance claims.

"This affects real families who have been put into a situation that they didn't think they'd be put in," said Democratic Del. David Bulova, who chairs a newly formed bipartisan committee studying the impact of the cuts.

Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin said that he was putting together a package for those who lose their jobs, though he did not give details.

Before adjourning the legislative session, the House of Delegates voted on a resolution expanding a previously established special session, which is still active. Democrats said the maneuver would allow lawmakers to reconvene later the year. Senate Democrats did not pass the same resolution but pledged to do so in the coming weeks.

Lawmakers also passed legislation amending the two-year budget, including dedicating funds to give each taxpayer a \$200 rebate along with bonuses for state employees and teachers. The rebates are expected to arrive in mid-October, weeks before an election in which the top statewide offices are on the ballot.

There was no budget amendment addressing what would happen if the federal match rate changes for Medicaid, as Congress weighs billions of dollars in the program. Virginia is one of nine states with a trigger law for swiftly ending Medicaid expansion if federal funding fails.

The bill also ignored Gov. Youngkin's topline amendments, including language on making a permanent, refundable car tax credit of up to \$150 for people earning under \$50,000 a year and up to \$300 for joint filers making less than \$100,000. Also nixed was his proposal to cut taxes on tips.

Youngkin said in a statement that he would review legislation over the next 30 days and there would be "much to address at the reconvene session."

Many of the bills from the Democratic-led legislature are second attempts at measures Youngkin vetoed last spring, including eliminating a tax exemption for Daughters of the Confederacy.

Lawmakers also passed legislation tackling maternal health disparities among people of color, such as covering postpartum doula visits for those with Medicaid and legislation prohibiting the use of campaign funds for personal expenses. (Associated Press)

Tom Hart – Legislative Program

AFFAIRS IN ORDER: BENEFITS GUIDANCE FOR SURVIVORS OF FEDERAL ANNUITANTS

Beware of new scams related to the Social Security Fairness Act. Social Security impersonation scams impact all age groups and remain among the most common government imposter scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission. Social Security continues concerted efforts to address this issue through extensive outreach and investigative initiatives.

Lee Dudek, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, strongly urges citizens to be vigilant and protect themselves from criminal threats," said. "Scammers use fear and pressure to steal money or personal information, and I implore Americans to hang up, ignore the messages, and report any scam attempts to oig.ssa.gov."

Social Security will never tell you that your Social Security number is suspended, contact you to demand immediate payment, threaten you with arrest, ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone, request gift cards, wire transfers, gold, cash, or cryptocurrency, or promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase in exchange for information or money.

For information, please visit [Social Security Announces Expedited Retroactive Payments and Higher Monthly Benefits for Millions](#) and [Social Security Fairness Act: Windfall Elimination Provision \(WEP\) and Government Pension Offset \(GPO\) update](#). To report a scam attempt, go to oig.ssa.gov. For more information, please visit www.ssa.gov/scam and www.ssa.gov/fraud.

John & Constance Bails - CoService Officers

ANNUAL VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF NARFE CONFERENCE

The 2025 VFN Annual Meeting and Conference will be held in 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.

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

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

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

Return Service Requested
NARFE - Fairfax Chapter 737
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FAIRFAX, VA 22032-2741



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver by **March 22nd, 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 information on federal 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 **April 15**.

James Mays – Newsletter Editor