



## NARFE CHAPTER 1116 (VIENNA-OAKTON) NEWSLETTER

2634 Skidmore Circle  
Vienna, VA 22180-7121

SEPTEMBER 2025

**Next Chapter Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 9, 2025**  
**1:00 PM**  
**Vienna Community Center (VCC)**  
**Vienna, VA**

**Next Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 25, 2025**  
**1:00 PM - VCC**

### **2025 Board Chapter Officers**

President  
Kathy Arpa 703-205-9041  
mkarpa@hotmail.com

1st Vice President & Programs  
Ralph Dantine 703-938-9757

2nd Vice President &  
Membership & Hostess  
Jayne Seidman 703-938-2274

Secretary David Graf  
703-938-2962

Treasurer & State Legislation  
Chris Gieseler 703-849-0008

**Board Members**  
Alzheimer's & Photographer  
Mark Arpa 703-205-9041

National Legislation  
Jim Hathaway 703-255-7135

Newsletter Team  
Kathy Arpa, Dave Graf

Public Relations  
Pec Chan 703-930-3596

Service Officer  
Vacant

Sunshine  
Harriet Epstein 703-560-4137

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KATHY ARPA**

As summer winds down, we are looking ahead to a busy and exhilarating fall. See the schedule of events below under 'Coming Up.'

We closed out the spring with a lovely picnic at the home of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jayne Seidman. Our next meeting on September 9 is the popular Candidates Forum for Vienna Mayor and Town Council. Come and hear their plans for the future of Vienna. [Names of the candidates are listed on page 6.]



We have a new VFN President. Deborah Fisk was sworn in at our July VFN Board meeting and she will be visiting our Chapter in October. In other VFN news, I am the new VFN Membership Chair.

<<Frances Boatman (left) passing the gavel to new VFN President Debbie Fisk (right) on July 28, 2025.

*Kathy*

### **COMING UP**

**Tuesday, September 9** – Chapter Meeting – 1:00 PM – Vienna Community Center - Program - Vienna Candidates Forum – Candidates for Town of Vienna Mayor and Town Council

**Tuesday, October 14** – Chapter Meeting – 1:00 PM – Guest speaker VFN President Debbie Fisk

**October 21-23** – Region X Conference – Pigeon Forge, TN

**Friday, October 31** – NOVA Caucus Meeting – 11:30 AM - Fairfax American Legion

**Saturday, November 1** – Congressional District 11 FEHB/PSHB Open Season Health Fair – Fairfax Government Center

**Tuesday, November 11** – Chapter Meeting – 1:00 PM – Vienna Community Center - Guest speaker Michele Johnson – Blue Cross and Blue Shield

**Tuesday, December 9** – Holiday Party – Location? TBD

## REPORT ON JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER MEETING - DAVE GRAF

Fourteen members and guests attended the 'inside' picnic which was held at the home of Chapter 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Jayne Seidman. The Chapter provided double-dipped and baked chicken, iced tea, and lemonade. Attendees brought a variety of sides and desserts. Thanks to everyone for their contributions. A very enjoyable time was had by all. >>

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JAYNE SEIDMAN

As of September 1, 2025, the membership for Chapter 1116 was as follows: total Chapter members are 167, total National Members in the Chapter area are 152 for a grand total of 319 members. We welcome our latest member Ashis Chatterjee. The Board plans to invite new chapter members to a special meeting in September to meet them and hear about their experiences.



On August 18, 2025, an email/letter signed by the NARFE National Secretary/Treasurer informed all Chapter and Federation Presidents, along with the Regional Vice Presidents, that effective October 1, 2025, Headquarters would no longer send Chapter dues renewal notices to LIFE MEMBERS. A spreadsheet listing those members was attached to the email/letter. We are reviewing options to collect the Chapter dues from these members and to report these collections to Headquarters, so that LIFE MEMBERS are not incorrectly changed to National Only members. Our Chapter has nine LIFE MEMBERS.

### TREASURER'S REPORT – CHRIS GIESELER

For the months of May, June, and July 2025, our Chapter received a total of \$275.68 in membership dues from NARFE Headquarters. The Chapter also received \$20.00 from two attendees at the Chapter's June 10th picnic. I also deposited \$10.00 in Chapter dues that a new member had paid in May.

There were no 50/50 drawings since the Chapter's May 13th meeting, and thus no income from such source. On May 22nd, I deposited the Chapter's share of the 50/50 proceeds from the April (\$26) and May (\$20) Chapter meetings. I will remit the \$46 and the September 50/50 proceeds to the Alzheimer's Association after the September 9th Chapter meeting.

In terms of expenses, in August I reimbursed Dave Graf for the \$42.75 in food expenses that he incurred in connection with the Chapter's June 10 Picnic. This was our only expense since the May 13 Chapter meeting.

Separately, I received a letter of acknowledgement dated May 19, 2025, from the Alzheimer's Association, which maintains the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Program, for the \$61 that I sent to the Association in early April, from the January thru March 2025 Chapter meetings.

## LEGISLATION REPORTS

### NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT– JIM HATHAWAY

#### Regarding Federal Benefits

##### **H.R. 1. Officially titled the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”**

The amended version (without the objectionable federal workforce provisions) passed the Senate on July 1, 2025, the House on July 3, 2025, and was signed by the President on July 4, 2025.

##### **H.Con.Res.14**

The concurrent resolution established the congressional budget for fiscal year 2025 and set budgetary levels through 2034: (H.Con.Res.14 sets the framework for budget reconciliation, while H.R.1 is the actual bill that implements that framework.)

##### **Legislative Status**

- **Introduced:** February 18, 2025 by Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX-19)
- **Final Agreement:** April 10, 2025 — House concurred with Senate amendment (216–214 vote)

##### **Key Budget Provisions**

- Budgetary levels for **FY2025–FY2034**
- Reserve funds for:
  - Reconciliation legislation
  - Deficit-neutral reforms (e.g., deregulation, Medicare/Medicaid protection)
- Spending reduction targets exceeding **\$2 trillion**
- Adjustments for baseline changes and enforcement mechanisms

#### **Federal Annuities – the Equal COLA Act**

Bill	Chamber	Sponsor	Status
<b>H.R. 491</b>	House	Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)	Referred to House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on January 16, 2025
<b>S. 624</b>	Senate	Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Referred to Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on February 18, 2025

Both bills aim to:

- **Eliminate the COLA cap** for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuitants.
- Align FERS COLA increases with the full Consumer Price Index (CPI) change, just like Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuitants.

**Current law** limits FERS COLA increases:

- If CPI increase  $\leq 2\%$  → full COLA
- If CPI increase 2–3% → capped at 2%
- If CPI increase  $> 3\%$  → capped at CPI minus 1%

**Proposed change:** FERS annuitants would receive the full CPI-based COLA, regardless of the percentage.

Cosponsor Momentum

- **H.R. 491:** 53 cosponsors (52 Democrats, 1 Republican)
- **S. 624:** 13 cosponsors (mostly Democrats, plus Independents Sanders and King)

Prognosis & Next Steps

- Both bills are in initial stages, pending committee action.
- No markup or floor votes scheduled yet.

- GovTrack estimates a **low chance of enactment** unless momentum builds.

### Federal Personnel Policy

Bill	Chamber	Sponsor	Latest Action
<b>H.R. 492</b>	House	Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)	Referred to House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on January 16, 2025
<b>S. 134</b>	Senate	Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)	Referred to Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on January 16, 2025

Both bills aim to:

- Block any future re-establishment of Schedule F**, a classification created by executive order in 2020 that would have stripped civil service protections from thousands of federal employees.
- Protect competitive service positions** from being reclassified into the excepted service without proper oversight or employee consent.
- Prevent agencies** from transferring employees between service schedules without approval from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) or the employees themselves.

Cosponsor Momentum

- H.R. 492:** 75 cosponsors (73 Democrats, 2 Republicans)
- S. 134:** 22 cosponsors (20 Democrats, 2 Independents)

Outlook

- Both bills are in initial stages, with no committee markup or floor votes scheduled.
- Prognosis **for enactment remains low** unless bipartisan support increases or executive branch actions revive interest in Schedule F-style reforms.

### Federal Compensation – the FAIR Act

Bill	Chamber	Sponsor	Latest Action
<b>H.R. 493</b>	House	Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-VA)	Referred to House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on January 16, 2025
<b>S. 126</b>	Senate	Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)	Referred to Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on January 16, 2025

Both bills aim to:

**Increase federal employee pay** in 2026 by:

- 4.3% across-the-board** for statutory pay systems and prevailing rate employees
- 1% boost in locality pay**

This is part of an ongoing effort to ensure federal compensation keeps pace with inflation and private sector benchmarks.

Cosponsor Momentum

- H.R. 493:** 32 cosponsors (31 Democrats, 1 Republican)
- S. 126:** 14 cosponsors (13 Democrats, 1 Independent)

Outlook

- No committee markup or floor votes scheduled as of September 2025.
- Prognosis for **enactment remains modest** unless tied to broader budget negotiations or workforce reform packages.

### President proposes 1% Raise; Higher Rate for Certain Law Enforcement and Military

Summary of Federal Pay Update

- Trump's Proposed Raise:
  - A 1% across-the-board pay raise for federal civilian employees.

- No locality pay adjustment included.
- **Announced via an “alternative pay plan” letter sent late August 2025.**
- Law Enforcement Exception:
  - Certain law enforcement personnel may receive a 3.8% raise, matching the military raise.
  - OPM is tasked with identifying eligible categories in coordination with agencies.
  - This is treated as a separate process from the general civilian raise.
- Budget Context:
  - No raise was proposed in the January 2025 “skinny” budget.
  - Instead, it included a phased retirement contribution hike for pre-2013 hires:
    - +1.8 percentage points in 2026 and again in 2027.
- Recent Pay History:
  - Trump’s First Term Raises:
    - 2017: 2.1%
    - 2018: 1.9% (after congressional intervention)
    - 2019: 1.9%
    - 2020: 3.1% (after Congress overrode Trump’s proposed 1%)
  - Biden Administration Raises:
    - 2022: 2.7%
    - 2023: 4.6%
    - 2024: 5.2% (largest since 1980)
    - 2025: 2% average (smallest under Biden), with locality adjustments from 1.88% to 2.35%

**Congressional Override Possible** - Congress can still set a different raise in the upcoming appropriations bill. If passed and signed by year-end, it would supersede Trump’s proposal.

### **VIRGINIA STATE LEGISLATION REPORT – CHRIS GIESELER**

The Virginia General Assembly has not met since the Reconvened Session on April 2. The 2024 Special Session and the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly are indicated as “Active” on the legislature’s tracking system. Thus, they can be reconvened upon notice to the legislators. Also, earlier this year, the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate set up (sub)committees to study the effect of federal cutbacks in federal employment and spending. I could not locate any updates on the activities or conclusions of the subcommittee/committee but updates are expected later this year.

The Virginia Federal of NARFE Legislative Team has not met yet in anticipation of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly. This is an election year for the House of Delegates and the 3 statewide offices. For this election year, the prefiling of legislation by members of the General Assembly will begin on November 17, 2025. That date gives the Legislative Team some wiggle room to develop the legislative priorities for the VFN Board’s approval. (In nonelection years, the beginning prefiling date begins earlier—for example, the prefiling date in 2024 was July 15, in anticipation of the 2025 Regular Session.) And the Team will need to know the results of the November 4, 2025 general elections so that the Team can assess the legislative lay of the land for 2026.

I am not sure who will be leading the Team this time, but VFN’s new President will make that appointment. Ms. Fisk is scheduled to be the speaker at our Chapter meeting in October 2025 and may have more information in this regard. Lastly, Governor Youngkin is required to submit a two-year budget bill to the legislature by December 20, 2025, for consideration by the new General Assembly. The 2026 Regular session, which begins January 14, 2026, will be a 60-day session, according to Virginia law.

## **SUNSHINE REPORT – HARRIET EPSTEIN**

Sympathy is extended to the family of Donald Weisnet, a lifetime member of our chapter, who passed away on August 14 at Sunrise Assisted Living Home in Oakton, Virginia. He was 98 years old and had lived there for 12 years. Years ago, Don was very active in our chapter serving as Vice President and wrote a Chapter Newsletter column each month called “Weisnet’s Musings,” which was extremely popular. Don was an author who worked at the U.S. Geological Survey and the Environmental Sciences group at NOAA/NESS on the Snow ASVT Support Study.

Shirley Martin celebrated her 100th birthday on July 12 with family and friends at American Legion Post 180 in Vienna, Virginia. Chapter President Kathy Arpa presented her with a letter (pictured on the right) signed by NARFE National President Bill Shackelford congratulating her on her 100th birthday.



## **VFN BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT – CHRIS GIESELER**

VFN President Debbie Fisk has the ball rolling regarding the VFN Bylaws Committee. The Committee members have been named, although a Chair has not yet been chosen. Debbie used AI to compare the VFN Bylaws to see how closely they comply with Roberts Rules of Order, which have been adopted by VFN for conducting its activities. This comparison found that many sections in the Bylaws fully comply with Roberts Rules, while several sections need strengthening.

VFN Bylaws Committee members Jim Little and I, in separate emails, commented to Debbie and the other members of the Committee that the Committee should be ensuring that the VFN Bylaws are consistent with NARFE’s Bylaws. By doing so, the VFN Bylaws Committee will be performing its duty under the VFN Bylaws to ensure that VFN Bylaws are consistent with NARFE’s Bylaws.

## **MAYOR AND VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL RACES**

The following candidate names will be on the November General Election ballot for voters who live in the Town of Vienna:

### **Mayor**

- Linda Colbert \*

### **Council**

- Sandra Allen\*
- Charles “Chuck” Anderson\*
- Roy Baldwin\*
- Doug Francis
- Dann Nash
- Jessica Ramakis\*
- Howard Springsteen \*

\*Incumbent