



ANNANDALE

December 2025

CHAPTER 1159 NEWS

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Annandale

P.O. Box 1463, Annandale, VA 22003

Advocacy – Education – Community

**Serving Current, Former, & Retired Federal Employees.
Their Spouses & Survivor Annuitants**

We meet at **John Calvin Presbyterian Church, 6531 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia**
Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Snacks & visiting 9A.M, Meeting begins 9:30.



Like us on Facebook at [NARFE-Annandale 1159](https://www.facebook.com/NARFE-Annandale-1159)

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 that month (both in-person and on Zoom) is canceled. If the FCPS is open only 2 hours late on that day, the in-person and the Zoom meeting will be held.

PREZ SEZ

Kim Rendelson, Chapter President

Welcome back everyone as we leave the holidays behind and move into 2026. Our year ended with sadness as we lost long-term chapter members, which should remind us to take care of relationships and friendships we have - to cherish them and to make time for those that are important in our lives. And to do our best to preserve relationships with our chapter members. Sometimes we get too busy keeping up with ourselves and life in general and don't prioritize well. “I wish I had...” is a sad start to a sentence and can't always be changed. So... as you're making New Year's Resolutions, take a few minutes of quiet and consider changes to make in your life this year to enrich your life and relationships.

A reminder, we still need volunteer help but it does not have to be a long-term commitment. We can use short-term help in a couple of areas so if you can help at all, please let me know. The chapter depends on volunteers to keep the wheels moving.

December Program Report

Ed Reniker, Secretary

We had 30 people attending the luncheon this month. A good time was had by all: Good food, good folks, and good fortune for raffle winners! Consider joining us next time, in June.

Officers for 2026 - President: Kim Rendelson; First Vice President: John Bankson; Treasurer: Jack Bagnulo; and Secretary: Ed Reniker. Carol Campbell, the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) Area IX Vice President, will be present to administer the oath of office in January.

Volunteers Needed – We still have some open positions on the Board:

- **Alzheimer's Chair** – We do need a new Alzheimer's Chair; not a huge time commitment but definitely a rewarding one by keeping our membership up-to-date on current developments.
- **Outreach** – This job basically consists of sending out cards for birthdays, and achievements, maintains contact with members who are ill or otherwise confined, and coordinates with the service officer on issues affecting a member or the member's family.
- **Public Relations** – The Board would like to have some help in this area. This is a temporary, short-term effort and would entail researching options for advertising the chapter and its activities and providing recommendations to the Board.

Programs for 2026 – **Gabe Goldberg** has outlined our meeting programs for the new year. Note in your calendar the first Wednesdays of each month for membership meetings.

- **January 7** – Gabe Goldberg will share his search through the many devices, providers, capabilities, and costs available for selection and maintaining hearing aids. Loss of hearing affects about a third of Americans and the rate is higher for those over 65. Hearing impairment has more negative impact for socialization than blindness. Buying hearing aids is a complicated process; take advantage of his experience.
- **February 4** - Alan Jacobson will speak to us on exploring differences between fact and fiction in crime, mystery, and intelligence stories.
- **March 4** - Steve Gurney will provide a new Perspective on Aging.
- **April 1** – We are tentatively scheduled to have Heather Johnson, the Navy Federal Credit Union chief economist, speak to us.
- **May 6** – Mary Ann Munley will invite speakers for the annual Report from Richmond.
- **June 3** – June Luncheon Meeting.

Alzheimer's Report

Phil Gilliland, Chair

As of this writing, we have received \$4,639 in donations for the year to Alzheimer's Research. Thanks to all who have so generously contributed. It surpassed our goal of \$4,000!!

NOTE: The membership thanks Phil for his dedicated service to the Alzheimer's cause and wish him the very best as he and his bride move to a new address. Now we need to find someone who can take on this position for the chapter. Can it be YOU???



Hospitality and ACCA Food Drive

Sharon Sellers, Chair

Thanks to all the lovely snacks everyone contributed this past year to make our meetings a bit more special. Also: 2025 was an amazing year for the Food Drive, breaking the records!

There is another way to support the children in our Annandale community:



Pajama and Slipper Drive until January 26, 2026. Do you remember the warm feeling of putting on new pajamas, cozy slippers, and even comfy socks? If you are able, please consider helping those in need this winter by donating to the Mason District Police Station's Pajama and

Slipper Drive. Every size is needed for both boys and girls, ages infant to teens. For your convenience, your donation can be dropped off at **any ONE** of the following locations:

- Mason District Police Station, Crime Prevention Office, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA.
- Bring them to the NARFE Chapter 1159 membership meeting, January 7, 2026, John Calvin Presbyterian Church, 6531 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA.
- **OR:** Call Sharon Sellers for pickup at mobile: 703-915-8765.

Happy New Year and thank you for your support!!

Legislation Report

Mary Ann Munley, Chair



Federal Budget: For the most part, the Federal Government is operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) which expires in just a few weeks at the end of January 2026. A major sticking point from the earlier funding debate remains – the resolution of the expiring Affordable Care Act (ACA) Tax credits.

As set forth in the Senate passage of the bill creating the current CR (which ended the longest ever Federal Government shutdown), the Senate was required to hold a separate vote on a plan for funding Health Care beyond 2025. Both Senate Majority and the Minority parties put forth their respective bills to find a solution to the expiring ACA Tax credits (mandated by passage of HR1, One Big Beautiful Bill). Neither of the bills gained the necessary 60 votes to pass. One plan sought to extend the ACA credits and the other plan was to overhaul health care funding

to: (1) offer subsidized participants a catastrophic health plan only, and (2) open a small Health Savings Account for those participants.

The House is preparing to introduce a new proposal possibly next week to expand the availability of association health plans and what are known as "CHOICE arrangements"; impose new transparency requirements on pharmacy benefit managers to lower drug costs; and appropriate money for cost-sharing reductions to reduce premiums in the individual market. The Open Season for those securing health care through the ACA is almost over so some form of compromise needs to come soon or millions of USA citizens will be unable to afford even basic health care.

The current CR funding for the Federal Government expires at the end of January 2026. Can we afford to go through another government shutdown? Or will there be another CR passed?



Other Legislation Being Followed by NARFE:

H.R. 2550: Protect America's Workforce Act (PAWA), the House passed this bill via a "Discharge Petition" vote. This bill would restore the collective bargaining rights for federal workers that were curtailed by a past executive order. Now the bill moves to the Senate for a vote there.

H.R. 492/S.134: Saving the Civil Service Act, would prohibit the implementation of Schedule P/C, formerly known as Schedule F. Creation of an "At-Will" federal employee Schedule places the independence and integrity of a large portion of the federal workforce at risk.

H.R. 491/S. 624: Equal COLA Act – this bill would ensure FERS retirees receive the same COLA as CSRS retirees. Under current law, when the CPI-W increase falls between 2% and 3%, the FERS COLA is capped at 2%. This year's 2026 COLA points out an unfairness to FERS annuitants who will only receive a 2% COLA on their FERS annuity versus the 2.8% COLA for a CSRS annuity.

Audit Committee

John Bankson, Chair

As required by our Bylaws and the national office, an audit committee was confirmed by the membership in the December, 2025 meeting. John Bankson will chair and Frank Toth and Joyce Price have graciously agreed to join him.



The 71st Annual Virginia Federation of NARFE Conference will be held April 13 – 15, 2026 in Harrisonburg, VA. Join federal employees, retirees, advocates, and leaders from across the Commonwealth as we unite under the theme

“Your Voice, Your Future, Our Mission.” The Conference will be held at the Hotel Madison, 710 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. The hotel booking link is:

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/110365?groupID=4711158>

The room block will be active until March 11th, 2026 (3/11/2026). The 2026 Registration is \$125 and includes full conference, welcome reception, conference banquet, lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday, and several generous AM/PM snack breaks, access to all sessions, workshops, and presentations. There will be a karaoke night for fun and fellowship and a hospitality room, open at designated times for relaxed conversation, refreshments, and networking.

Registration Form VFN26-01 can be sent together with a check for \$125 must be postmarked by March 9, 2026, to Treasurer, Jim Little; 11759 Buckley Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192-5725, jlittle@vanarfe.org. or ONLINE transaction at:

<https://www.narfe.org/va/conference>

Please consider attending the conference.



IN MEMORIAM



We have lost several members in 2026. Each of them represented individuals who served our nation well as Federal employees and some also as Armed Service members. It was an honor to have them as chapter members. They included: **Mara Yachnin, Margaret Breinholt, and Billy Ingram**. Most recently:

Doug Jones passed away on November 20th – from the time of diagnosis until the end was very fast and was a shock to us all. Doug was very active in our chapter for so many years, serving as Second Vice President, First Vice President and then President. Membership Chair, Adopt-A-Road Representative, for many years writing the newsletter, arranging for printing and mailing and later preparing the digital version and distribution. He managed Zoom and volunteered at food drives. Doug was legal counsel at the FDIC. Doug was also a boy scout leader and a volunteer river guide in Virginia.

Paul Fermoile passed away October 20th, which we just heard about recently. Paul loved attending our luncheons and some of our meetings. He ran hiking groups and was always cheerful and welcoming. He had an extensive Federal career with the Customs Service, the Internal Revenue Service, as an active-duty Naval Officer, and the U.S. Foreign Service.