



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**
FAIRFAX CHAPTER 737
<https://vanarfe.org/Chapter-737/>
October 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 to the 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: Oct 7
PROGRAM: Alzheimer's Research speaker.
WHERE: The American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St in Fairfax City
TIME: 11 am-1 pm
COST: \$20.00
CONTACT: If you plan to attend email charles.fleming@bhox.com .
 Fourth Wednesday of each month: VFN Training at vanarfe.org .

October 7: Alzheimer's Research speaker.
 October 11: Walk to end Alzheimer's at the Harris Pavilion in Manassas. It is the Tri-Counties Va group. You can donate without attending or attend without walking! Join Ted at the Walk, sign up for the Team "NARFE Area X Va" and Theodore Pasek. Donate for Alzheimer's and support NARFE's contribution.
 November 4: Carefirst speaker is Carol Housaman

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is this time of year when nominations for chapter officers are solicited. To recruit candidates for election, a Nominating Committee will ask volunteers to serve on the Board. Please consider serving on the Board of Directors of the Fairfax chapter. You may inform me of your interest to serve the chapter. The election will occur at the November program meeting.

The October chapter program meeting customarily features a speaker on Alzheimer's research. It will take place on Tuesday 7 October at the American Legion Post.

For those who cannot attend the membership meeting in person, you may use Zoom to see the presentation:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86586465017?pwd=2PFXUUPhTGQs5SMTZopY0OKjHqgZua.1>

NARFE maintains a webpage on news related to Federal workers at:
<https://www.narfe.org/blog/category/news/>

If you know of someone who has expertise related to any of these issues and who would like to speak before the chapter at a luncheon/meeting, please inform me.

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

SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

Chat GPT for Seniors" presented by Stacy Huisman who is using it successfully for many options and shared her insights. Stacy provided and easy to understand handout on how to access and use ChatGPT and many practical examples of how she and others use it.

FOOD FOR OTHERS

The chapter has been collecting food at the membership meetings to help those less fortunate in Fairfax County. At the September meeting we collected 42 pounds of food.

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

TREASURE AND MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

Finances

Balance as of June 1	\$7,454.58
Expenses	\$317.77
Income	\$403.60
Balance as of Aug.31	\$7,540.41

Members

Chapter 737	August
Chapter members	271
National Only Members	349
Totals	620

Virginia Federation of NARFE

Chapter members	4,259
National Only Members	6,444
Total	10,703

Alzheimer's

Total donations to date from Chapter 737 Calendar Year 2025: \$636.29

Donna Shackelford - Treasurer and Membership

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(September 12, 2025)

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE NEWS - Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer weathered backlash from Democrats earlier this year when he voted with Republicans to keep the government open. But he's now willing to risk a shutdown at the end of the month if Republicans don't accede to Democratic demands.

Schumer says he and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries are united in opposing any legislation that doesn't include key health care provisions and a commitment not to roll them back. He argues that the country is in a different place than it was in March, when he vigorously argued against a shutdown, and he says he believes Republicans and President Donald Trump will be held responsible if they don't negotiate a bipartisan deal.

"Things have changed" since the March vote, Schumer said in an interview with The Associated Press. He said Republicans have since passed Trump's massive tax breaks and spending cuts legislation, which trimmed Medicaid and other government programs, and Democrats are now unified — unlike in March, when he voted with Republicans.

A shutdown, Schumer said, wouldn't necessarily worsen an environment in which Trump is already challenging the authority of Congress. "It will get worse with or without it, because Trump is lawless," Schumer said.

Schumer's threat comes as Republicans are considering a short-term stopgap spending measure to avoid a Sept. 30 shutdown and as Democrats face what most see as two tough choices if the parties can't negotiate a deal — vote with Republicans to keep the government open or let it close indefinitely with no clear exit plan.

It also comes amid worsening partisan tensions in the Senate, where negotiations between the two parties over the confirmation process broke down for a second time Thursday, September 11, and Republicans are changing Senate

rules to get around Democratic objections. Democrats are also fuming over the Trump administration's decision to unilaterally claw back \$4.9 billion in congressionally approved foreign aid just as negotiations over the spending deadline were getting underway in late August.

Republicans have said that Democrats clearly will be to blame if they don't vote to keep the government open, and Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., has repeatedly said that Schumer needs to come to them with a specific proposal on health care, including an extension of expanded government tax credits for many Americans who get their health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. Some Republicans are open to extending those credits before they expire at the end of the year.

Less realistic is Democrats' demand that Republicans roll back Medicaid cuts enacted in their tax breaks and spending cuts legislation this summer, what Trump called his "big, beautiful bill."

Schumer said Democrats also want Republicans to commit that the White House won't take back money they have negotiated and Congress has approved after Republicans pushed through a \$9 billion cut requested by the White House in July and Trump blocked the additional foreign aid money in August. "How do you pass an appropriations bill and let them undo it down the road?" Schumer said.

Schumer's move to support the spending legislation in March put him in the rare position of bucking his party's base. He said then that of two bad options, a partial government shutdown was worse because it would give Trump even more control to shut down agencies and there would be "no off-ramp" to get out of it. "I think people realize it's a tough choice," he said.

He faced massive backlash from within the party after the vote, with some activists calling on him to resign. House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries temporarily distanced himself from his New York colleague, saying in a statement immediately after Schumer's vote that House Democrats "will not be complicit."

This time, though, Schumer is in lockstep with Jeffries and in messaging within his caucus. In Democrats' closed-door lunch Wednesday, he shared polling that he said suggested most Americans would blame Trump, not Democrats, for a shutdown. **(Associated Press)**

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE NEWS- Governor Glenn Youngkin announced on September 10 that Virginia general fund revenues increased 7.0 percent (\$286.9 million) year-over-year through the first two months of Fiscal Year 2026 and that for the month of August, total general revenues increased 6.8 percent (\$132.7 million) versus August last year. Compared to the official assumed forecast and accounting for monthly variations in tax collections, revenues exceeded projections for the month by 6.2 percent (\$122.0 million) and are ahead of forecast by 6.5 percent (\$266.5 million) year-to-date, representing a strong start to the fiscal year.

"Virginia remains in an incredibly strong financial position two months into this fiscal year, driven largely by increased individual income and sales tax revenue," said Governor Youngkin. **(Governor of Virginia website)**

According to a poll conducted between August 18 and August 28 by the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Democrats retained leads in all statewide races for governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general, but their margins have narrowed.

Democrat Abigail Spanberger led Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears 49% to 40% in the gubernatorial race, down from a 12-point July poll advantage; Democrat State Senator Ghazala Hashmi maintained a 4-point lead over Republican John Reid in the lieutenant governor's contest, down from a 10-point July poll lead; and Democrat Jay Jones led incumbent Jason Miyares 47% to 41% in the attorney general's race 47% to 41%, down from a 9-point difference in the previous poll. **(Channel 8 Richmond News)**

Tom Hart – Legislative Affairs

NARFE'S MISSION STATEMENT

- To support legislation and regulations beneficial to federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants under any federal civilian retirement system and to oppose those detrimental to their interests.
- To promote the general welfare of federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants, to advise and assist them with respect to their rights under retirement, health and other employee and retiree benefits laws and regulations, and to represent their interests before appropriate authorities.
- To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives.

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



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver by **Sept 22, 2025**

NEWSLETTER

The Fairfax Chapter 737 newsletter is published September through June to provide information on the Chapter membership meetings in those months.

Physical newsletters are returning as undelivered and digital newsletters are bouncing back because of incorrect or obsolete addresses. Members should log on to their NARFE account and go to the membership database and update their records. It is important to get the national magazine, other NARFE benefits information and chapter newsletters. 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 **Oct 15**.

James Mays – Newsletter Editor