



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**
FAIRFAX CHAPTER 737
<https://vanarfe.org/Chapter-737/>
January 2026



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: January 6

PROGRAM: (Awaiting confirmation) SCFB (Shepherd Center Fairfax-Burke) Executive Director Beth Kilgore-Robinson to present the latest plans for the organization, what they do, their role in the community and their volunteer needs.

WHERE: The American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St in Fairfax City

TIME: 11:30 am-1 pm

COST: \$20.00

CONTACT: If you plan to attend email Ted Pasek at tedpasek@verizon.net so we can plan for the meal. If you can not make it in person, use Zoom to see the presentation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86586465017?pwd=2PFXUUPhTGQs5SMTZopY0OKjHqgZua.1>

Inclement Weather Policy: If Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) close because of inclement weather on the day of a chapter meeting, the meeting is cancelled. It will still be held if the FCPS open 2 hours late.

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members of Chapter 737:

With this new year, I am pleased to report that the Fairfax Chapter of NARFE is in good financial condition. The chapter has about 250 members. Monthly luncheon meetings are held at the Fairfax American Legion Post on the first Tuesday of the month except in July and August. The chapter sponsors an active campaign to raise money for Alzheimer's research and dry goods are collected at the monthly meetings for the Food for Others food bank.

For those who cannot attend the membership meetings in person, they may use Zoom to see the presentation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86586465017?pwd=2PFXUUPhTGQs5SMTZopY0OKjHqgZua.1>

I will welcome recommendations for speakers who have expertise in topics related to health for seniors like health insurance, prostate and breast cancer, or topics related to finances regarding Federal retirement benefits like IRA's or if you know of a retired Federal employee who had an interesting Federal career and who would like to talk about it or of someone who can talk about transitioning into a non-Federal career or into retirement. Please send recommendations to me or to Ted Pasek at tedpasek@verizon.net of someone who you think would make an interesting speaker at a monthly luncheon/meeting.

Please send inquiries about helping Chapter 737 to Ted Pasek at tedpasek@verizon.net or to me at charles.fleming@bhox.com. Specifically, the chapter's secretary position is currently vacant and it needs to be filled. Your help will be welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Charles "Mike" Fleming – Chapter President

DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

We had 13 attend the Holiday party. Not all were chapter members but guests. Let's increase our attendance! I understand there are conflicts with other appointments, but please try and attend.
Food for Others: At the December meeting we collected 33 pounds for "Food for Others." Thanks.
Toys for Tots: We collected a bag of cute stuffed animals for Toys for tots. Thank you very much!

TREASURE AND MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

Treasurer/Membership: As of Nov 18

Finances

Balance as of November 1 \$8088.41
Expenses 439.00
Income 741.84
Balance as of November 30 \$8391.25

Membership

Chapter 737, Chap members 266
NOMs 349
Totals 615
VFN, Chapter members 4,221
NOMs 6,427
10,703

Alzheimer's

Total 737 donations to date for calendar year 2025: \$8,674.29

Donna Shackelford - Treasurer and Membership

LEGISLATIVE REPORT **(As of December 14, 2025)**

LEGISLATIVE NEWS **(As of December 14, 2025)**

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE NEWS -The Senate has failed to pass dueling bills from Republicans and Democrats to address a looming spike in health insurance costs for people who buy Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans. The result was expected. Now, without a last-ditch bipartisan miracle, enhanced subsidies will expire Jan. 1, exacerbating already high premiums for the 22 million people who currently get a tax credit.

Here's what to watch for next: Republicans in both chambers are divided on what to do about the enhanced subsidies. But those who want to extend the subsidies aren't giving up hope. GOP leaders are being squeezed between centrists, who warn that it would be political suicide not to extend the subsidies, and a broad portion of Republicans who want to see the benefits lapse.

Some lawmakers said they hoped the failure of Senate bills could spark a bipartisan agreement that's eluded them for months. "We're certainly going to keep doing everything we can to address it on a bipartisan basis," Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.) told reporters. "This is an inflection point, but I still think there's an opportunity." "Continue the conversation. Get enough votes. Let's have a real conversation about this," said Ben Lujan (D-N.M.). "Whatever reforms Republicans have to put on the table, put them on the table. Let's work to get things done, and let's move forward." The Senate's failure has upped the pressure on the House to find a fix. House Republicans are putting forward a package of health bills that will not extend the enhanced subsidies. Instead, the package will be comprised of items that have already been vetted by the key health committees, such as cost sharing reductions and reforms to the pharmacy benefit manager industry. At the same time, a group of House centrists have launched a pair of discharge petitions designed to sidestep Speaker Johnson's opposition and force a bill to the floor that would extend the subsidies for a shorter span — one for two years, the other for one — while applying new limits on eligibility to favor lower-income beneficiaries.

In a concession to the moderates, GOP leaders say they'll allow a vote on extending the subsidies but it's little more than a show vote. It's unclear if Democrats will support it, and even if they do, it would be a poison pill for the larger GOP health care plan, eroding support from conservatives. While lawmakers point fingers at each other, the clock is running out.

The politics of Obamacare have barely changed since Democrats shut down the government for more than 40 days to try to force a subsidy extension, and lawmakers are essentially right back to where they started. Open enrollment for people who buy insurance through the Affordable Care Act's federal exchanges runs through Jan. 15. But anyone who wanted their coverage to start on Jan. 1 had to pick a plan and sign up by Dec. 15. So even if there's some kind of

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bipartisan breakthrough in January, implementing it will be complicated, and the damage will have been done. A recent survey from health research organization KFF found that if the enhanced subsidies expire, one in three people worried about the cost of premiums will likely shop for a plan with lower premiums but higher deductibles and out-of-pocket costs.

The same survey found a quarter of enrollees would very likely go uninsured. Insurance experts said they are worried that more people will drop their coverage later once they realize how expensive the plans are. If there's a January breakthrough, open enrollment would likely need to be extended and state and federal exchange employees would need to make sure people know they could re-enroll into better coverage for less money.

Republicans have been stuck in the mud when it comes to health care dating back to their ill-fated attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act in 2017. This go-around hasn't been much different as the party squabbled over which of their numerous health care proposals should receive a vote. These problems are unlikely to go away, especially with Democrats prepared to bludgeon the majority party for much of the next year on the subject. Lawmakers said they are looking for ways to lower the cost of healthcare — it just may not be through Obamacare reforms, or even an extension of the enhanced tax credits.

Smaller bills may now get more attention as Democrats shift to focus on the message of affordability. "We fought like hell to stop these hikes, and we're going to continue to fight like hell to bring costs down to the American people on health care, on housing, on electric rates, on groceries," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said. **(THE HILL)**

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE NEWS- Virginia's legislature is gearing up for the 2026 session, with recent activity focused on special elections due to Democratic turnover, Governor Youngkin's appointments, and early legislative priorities from Democrats on issues like minimum wage, birth control and higher ed funding, alongside ongoing debates about juvenile justice and economic development. Key developments include special elections set for January 2026 for acted House seats and reports on legislative efforts to address juvenile justice concerns.

Key Recent Happenings:

- **Special Elections:** Multiple House seats are open as Democrats join the new administration; special elections are set for January 13 (HD 11, 23) and January 6 (HD 77) with primary contests underway.
- **Session Start:** The 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly begins January 14, 2026, with lawmakers returning to Richmond.
- **Legislative Focus:** Discussions are ongoing around rent stabilization, data center impacts, and federal legislation like Rep. McGuire's Wintergreen egress bill.

Recent & Current News:

- **Appointments:** Governor Youngkin made additional board appointments, and new leadership was named for legislative IT services.

Economic Data: Virginia's unemployment rate decreased in September, showing continued job growth. **(VIRGINIA MERCURY)**

Tom Hart – Legislative Affairs

HELPFUL CONTACTS AND MORE INFORMATION MEDICARE AND YOU 2026

Social Media - Stay up to date and connect with other people with Medicare by following us on Facebook (facebook.com/Medicare) and X, formerly known as Twitter [Medicare & You 2026](https://twitter.com/Medicare&You2026).

Videos - Find official videos about Medicare and other health care topics at YouTube.com/cmsshsgov.

Social Security - Visit SSA.gov to apply for and sign up for Original Medicare, and find out if you qualify for Extra Help with Medicare drug costs. Also, when you open a personal "my Social Security" account, you can review your Social Security Statement, verify your earnings, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, update your address, and more. Visit [SSA & YOU](https://SSA&YOU) to open your personal account.

Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center - Contact the Benefits Coordination & Recovery Center at 1-855-798-2627 to report changes in your insurance information or to let Medicare know if you have other insurance (like an employer group health plan). TTY users can call 1-855-797-2627.

Beneficiary and Family Centered Care-Quality Improvement Organization and State Survey Agency - Contact your Beneficiary and Family Centered Care-Quality Improvement Organization (BFCC-QIO) if you think Medicare coverage for your service is ending too soon (like if your hospital says that you must be discharged and you disagree ask for a safe discharge). You may have the right to a fast appeal. If you have concerns about your or a loved one's quality of care in a health care facility, or if you aren't satisfied with your provider's response to your concern, you may file a formal complaint directly with your state's survey agency or the BFCC-QIO. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to get the phone number of your BFCC-QIO or your state's survey agency. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

John & Constance Bails; Co-Service Officers

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



Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver by **Dec 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 **Jan 15**.

James Mays – Newsletter Editor