I am privileged to be your new President for NARFE Chapter 1757. I hope 2018 brings health, happiness and a safe and sane world for all of us. As our new officers begin their new terms, I want to extend a personal thanks to them for their willingness to step up and serve our Local Chapter 1757. To out-going Treasurer, Hank Furniss, and out-going Vice-President, Don Mitchell, I want to thank them for their unwavering service to Chapter 1757. They have provided outstanding service to our chapter. The Chapter and I owe them a debt of gratitude. Hank has decided to remain as our Alzheimer’s Chair and Don has agreed to be our Program Facilitator and continue to secure speakers for our monthly meetings. I want to extend my appreciation to them for continuing to serve our Chapter 1757.

I also want to thank Mary Sinisi for agreeing to take on two officer positions—Treasurer and Service Officer; to Mike Barnett for agreeing to serve as Vice-President; to Catherine (Kitty) Price for serving as Membership Chair; and to Gloria Wajciechowski for continuing to serve as Public Relations Chair. I also want to thank all of our members for supporting our chapter with their attendance, participation, support, suggestions, and help to make Chapter 1757 stronger.

For those who are not avid readers of the NARFE Magazine, I want to point out that the 2018 candidates for President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Regional Vice Presidents, along with their statements, are available at www.NARFE.org/member/articles.cfm?id=4313. There are five candidates for President, including Jon Dowie (current Secretary and Treasurer); two for Secretary/Treasurer, including Richard Thissen (current NARFE President). Incumbent William Shackelford is the only candidate for Region X V.P. The full list of candidates and their statements are printed in the March issue of the NARFE Magazine.

The year 2017 ended for federal employees and retirees without a government shutdown.
or reduction in retirement and health benefits. When Congress returns from holidays, lawmakers will have to deal with the unresolved issues on immigration, health care, and national security, as well as many other topics. Look for calls for spending cuts to offset additions to the federal deficit from the tax cut and new infrastructure proposals.

NARFE will vigorously oppose cuts in our retirement or health benefits. You can do your part by using NARFE’s website to send messages to our Senators and your Congressman. There’s also power in numbers, so for 2018, I would like to see each of our Chapter 1757 members recruit at least one new NARFE Chapter 1757 member. A good way to recruit new members is to invite them to attend one of our local chapter meetings so they can meet fellow active or retired federal employees. Try to keep a membership application with you when you shop or work. We never know when we will be acquainted with a federal employee or retiree.

I look forward to working and interacting with all of our members during 2018.

Bob Howe
President, Chapter 1757

Due to the resignation of Hank Furniss as our Chapter 1757 Treasurer, I was elected to serve in that position. I will also continue to serve as your Chapter 1757 Service Officer.

As Service Officer, I am available to provide assistance to members on procedures and forms governing delivery of annuity payments; federal life and health insurance; survivor benefits; change of beneficiary, etc. I can also assist in resolving problems involving claims submitted to OPM by chapter members.

I attended the VFC Area 1 Training Session on March 1st presented by VFC Co-Service Chair Officers. If I can be of service to you, please feel free to contact me at marylouwho@cox.net or 804-695-0621.

Treasurer records have been transferred from Hank Furniss to me. Because of the transition, an audit was required and I’m happy to report that all records are in tip-top shape. All required disbursements have been made and as of February, the balance in our Chapter 1757 treasury was $771.50

Mary Sinisi
Service Officer & Treasurer

VICE-PRESIDENT NEWS

I am honored to be your Chapter 1757 Vice-President for the 2018 term year. I will do my utmost to live up to the expectations of this position. I look forward to seeing many more new faces at our upcoming meetings. Our meetings will range from staying healthy to opportunities for interaction between our elected officials.

Mike Barnett
Vice-President

NEWS FROM OUR SECRETARY

I will be serving as the Secretary of Chapter 1757 for another year. We weathered some challenges during 2017, but I believe this has made us a much stronger Middle Peninsula Chapter 1757. Attendance at our meetings is increasing and I hope this trend continues throughout 2018.

Jim Bradbury
Secretary

REMEMBER, CHAPTER 1757 MEETS
Ø 3rd Tuesday from Sept. through May
Ø Olivia’s Restaurant, Main Street
Gloucester, VA
Ø Time: 11:30 a.m.
Ø Interesting and informative speakers
 Ø Camaraderie with fellow federal employees, retirees, and annuitants
I am very excited and happy to re-acquaint myself in the Membership duties, with our resources at NARFE Headquarters. Our previous Membership Chairpersons Bob Howe and Mary Sinisi have provided me with nine names of prospective members which I will be working on this coming month. I also plan to be calling each and every one of you regarding your membership especially your renewals. I have other thoughts and plans to re-energize our membership. (Remember the pink bunny rabbit?) All members need to keep in mind that membership is not only my duty and responsibility, but it is the duty of every member.

With Bob Howe departing our Membership Chair to become our Chapter 1757 President, I am very excited and happy to re-acquaint myself with the Membership duties. A great applause needs to be given to Bob for his many years of service as our Chapter’s Membership Chair and I know he will be great as our new Chapter President.

After re-acquainting myself with our Membership resources at NARFE Headquarters: our current membership is 49; we had nine members transfer out of our Chapter; three, members dropped for non-renewal; and received nine names of prospective members. I am calling each of those dropped and the prospective members to invite them to join or re-join our Chapter.

I have other thoughts and plans to re-energize our membership. I plan to be calling each and every one of you prior to your membership expiration date; hoping to get your renewal prior to showing up on the reports at NARFE Headquarters as “members sent second request renewals.”

Maybe YOU can help too! Remember Membership is not only my duty and responsibility, but it is the duty of every member.

Catherine (Kitty) Price
Membership Chair
For the 2018 term I will be serving as the Chapter 1757 Program Facilitator. We are planning a varied mix of speakers. So far we have learned about flying model airplanes and how to stay healthy. For our March 20th meeting, Joe Schumacher, District Director for Congressman Rob Wittman will be our guest and will focus on the most effective way to communicate/advocate issues with federal representatives in Congress and will also address budget issues pertaining to current and retired federal employees. We encourage all of our members to attend so we can all communicate effectively with our elected officials.

Don Mitchell
Program Facilitator

I will continue to serve as your Public Relations Chair for the 2018 term. I am very appreciative to the Gloucester-Mathews Gazette-Journal Newspaper that continues to be our primary external newspaper for information about Chapter 1757 activities as well as announcement of our future meetings. I encourage each of you to support this newspaper to obtain information about what is going on in your local Middle Peninsula Chapter 1757.

Over the last few months, the newspaper has published articles and announcements of our meetings, oftentimes with pictures of future and past speakers. I also submit Chapter 1757 information to Glo-Quips and The Daily Press Community Calendar for posting to the Web page. I also submit articles for their printed local Town Square Gloucester page edition which is included in their Friday edition. To access the Community Web page, go to www.dailypress.com, click on the bars at the upper left, (next to sections) and go down to Community and click on Mid Pen to access the Gloucester/Middle Peninsula Web page. Articles and/or pictures are generally posted under Pictures or the Community Spotlight.

I have also updated and reconfigured the NARFE VFC Chapter 1757 Web page which can be accessed at www.vanarfe.org and then go to our Chapter 1757 Web page. The vanarfe Web page also includes many of our newsletters, including current and prior issues. The page generally does not include announcements of our meetings and speakers because members with email addresses are notified via email each month, and those without email addresses receive calls advising them of our next meeting date and the speaker/topic for the current meeting.

Gloria Wajciechowski
Public Relations Chair

If you did not attend our Chapter 1757 meetings you have missed out on a lot of valuable information, along with good times and camaraderie with fellow active or retired federal employees and annuitants.

- October-- The results of the Membership Survey were analyzed and discussed and the survey gave us insight as to the future of Chapter 1757...

- November-- Presentation by G.U.E.S.T. (Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team) about the coalition of local churches that work together to provide emergency shelter for homeless men, women and children in our area. Chapter 1757 members filled our table to overflowing with donations of items such as toiletries, socks, mittens, and monetary donations.

- December-- Annual Christmas/Holiday Party. Members and guests enjoyed various holiday games and won some...
really nice prizes. Members had a great time laughing at themselves and each other as they passed gifts left, right, left, left, etc. and you’d be surprised where Rudolph’s nose ended up!

- January: Presentation by Bob Howe about flying model airplanes. There were many types of model airplanes on display and the presentation probably inspired some attendees to take up the hobby.
- February: Topic was Staying Healthy. Dr. Terry White, ND, MH, CPT discussed staying healthy through proper nutrition and health management.

We encourage all members to be active and attend your local chapter meetings. You’ll not only have a good time, but will probably learn something new and useful too.

GLOUCESTER SELECTED SITE FOR VFC SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING

Gloucester was selected as the site for NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Area One Service Officer Training. Area 1 is comprised of more than 1,350 members in four chapters from the Peninsula to the Northern Neck. Arlene and Johnny Arthur, NARFE VFC Co-Service Officers, presented training on what Chapter Service Officers can do to help NARFE members. Five members from our local Chapter 1757 attended the training.

L to R: Jim Bradbury, Donna Hull, Deb Thompson, Mary Sinisi, Bob Howe

NARFE VFC Area 1 Vice-President, Jeanne Garrison, is flanked by VFC Co-Service Officers Arlene and Johnny Arthur

2018 PHOTO CONTEST NOW OPEN

The theme for 2018 is “The Glory of America.” Submissions will be accepted through April 15 and is open to all NARFE members in good standing, whether or not they’ve already had a photo appear in past calendars. Members who work as professional photographers are not eligible.

What does glory mean to you? Capture your vision of America for the 2019 NARFE Calendar, where the winning photos will be used. Photos must be horizontal (8”x 10” or 8 ½”x 11”)

- Each member limited to five photo entries
- Photos may not be sent via email
- Photos will not be returned
- Winners will be notified by the end of June 2018

Additional information and guidelines are located at www.NARFE.org/photocontest

ONLY 10 MINUTES . . . WHAT WOULD YOU TAKE?

What would you take if you had only 10 minutes to evacuate your home? With the bitter cold and stormy weather we often encounter in our area, this is a subject we should all be addressing for our families. Before a disaster happens is the time to prepare. Perhaps you may want to have a special bag ready to go and stocked with
your most valuable papers. Suggestions include: birth certificates, land deeds, passports, medical prescriptions, insurance and tax papers, inventory of your possessions, financial accounts and any wills/Trust/Power of Attorney documents.

Many of these documents and non-replaceable family photos can be copied onto a flash drive and kept with your keys. Make sure to have your safe deposit key and contact list (doctor, family members, lawyer, etc.). These documents should be kept in a fireproof box that can easily be carried.

In addition to official records, you will want to take your pet and its food and water along with at least one gallon of water per person per day, medicines and a portable battery powered radio.

Now is the time to act. Disasters can happen suddenly and if they do, you need to be prepared and ready to go.

GLOUCESTER CHRISTMAS PARADE

In December your local Chapter 1757 participated in the Gloucester Christmas Parade. The purpose of our participation was to recruit new members for our local NARFE Chapter 1757.

Chapter 1757 members walked next to our mobile unit to hand out candy canes with a NARFE recruitment message attached to it. Our mobile unit was adorned with recruitment posters and messages; American flags; and Christmas decorations.

From Left: Participants in Parade: Jim Bradbury, Jennie Howe, Mary Sinisi, Edie Bradbury, and Al Wajciechowski (not pictured: Bob Howe and Gloria Wajciechowski.

Comments and information contained in this NARFE Newsletter are correct and true to the best of our knowledge.
Gloria Wajciechowski, Editor