January 28, 2015

SUBJECT: 2015 NARFE VFC CONVENTION BULLETIN # 2

In a few short weeks we will be hosting our 61st Annual NARFE VFC Convention. Our Convention Theme is “NARFE – Embracing Change” and we are making changes starting with the location of the Convention which will be held at the Fredericksburg Expo & Conference Center, 2371 Carl D. Silver Parkway, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401. Tel: 540-548-5555. Information on hotels was provided in Bulletin #1 and it can be found on the VFC website at www.vanrfe.org. The cut-off date for reservations at discounted rates at these hotels is March 22, 2015.

For planning purposes, the following is some important preliminary information:

- **Convention Dates:** April 12-15, 2015
- **Registration at Expo & Conference Center**—Sunday, April 12 - 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.; Monday, April 13, 8 a.m.; and Tuesday, April 14, 8 a.m.
- **Meet and Greet Reception**—Sunday, April 12 – 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. - Homewood Suites Meeting Room
- **Opening Session:** Monday, April 13 at 8:30 a.m. – Expo & Conference Center
- **Welcoming Reception:** April 13, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. – Expo & Conference Center
- **Banquet:** Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m.; **Closing:** Wednesday, April 15 at noon

**HOSTS:** The hosts for this Convention are the six Chapters of VFC Area IX: 232 Alexandria, 1159 Annandale, 401 Falls Church, 356 Manassas, 893 Springfield, and 1270 Woodbridge. They are working hard to bring new and exciting changes to the convention with guest speakers, educational seminars and a variety of exhibitors.

**REGISTRATION & BANQUET:** The registration and banquet information was included in Bulletin #1 and it is available on the VFC website at http://www.vanrfe.org. This year we are offering an “early bird” special if you register by February 14, 2015. Please indicate your choice of entrée on the registration form.

NARFE – “Your Bridge Over Uncertain Roads”
GUEST SPEAKERS AND SEMINARS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States and Head of the Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Tammy Flanagan, Senior Benefits Director, National Institute of Transition Planning, Inc.

Dick Thissen, President of NARFE

Jessica Klement, Legislative Director of NARFE

Dr. David Sahley - Dynamics Physical Therapy – Health & Fitness

Gold’s Gym – Health & Fitness

Larry Rosenthal, Financial Planning Issues- Rosenthal Wealth Management Group

Aaron Byrd - Elder Law & Estate Planning

Cathy Tomkin, George Mason University – Alzheimer’s Update

Additional information on speakers and seminars will be included in the Call to Convention.

CONVENTION LOCATION AND HISTORY:  The 2015 National Cherry Blossom Festival will begin the first day of spring, Friday, March 20, and continue through Sunday, April 12. You can attend the Festival in Washington, D.C. and then drive to Fredericksburg in time for the Convention.

You can experience much Virginia history in the Fredericksburg area. Get ready to be whisked away to another century where the first president roamed free as a boy and the North and South came face to face in battle. The area, standing midway between Washington D.C., capital of the Union, and Richmond, capital of the Confederacy, was the major site of five Civil War battles.

You will enjoy the discovery in the Fredericksburg area’s unique present and entertaining past, in its historical attractions and battlefields, shops, wineries, galleries, and golf courses. Trolley Tours at www.fredericksburg.trolley.com offers tours that include all of the famous attractions, monuments, city dock and more.

The Fredericksburg region boasts more than 600 dining establishments ranging from quick service to fine dining, carnivores, vegetarians, and anybody who EATS can find a palate-pleasing experience here. Within a mile of the convention hotel you will find an impressive array of one-of-a-kind restaurants. From chain restaurants such as Applebee’s, Bonefish Grill, Cracker Barrel, Chick-fil-A, Subway and McDonalds, to local favorites such as Ryan’s Buffet, O’Charley’s, Smokey Bones, and Tito’s Diner, you won’t go hungry. Nearby in downtown Fredericksburg, you will find the Bavarian Chef, Café New Orleans, and Battlefield Family Restaurant. Within walking distance of the hotels, you will find the popular Wegman’s Grocery Store and a short drive away, you will find COSTCO and ALDI’s Grocery Store.

Hotel rooms at the Homewood Suites consist of a full size refrigerator with an ice maker, stove, microwave, pots and pans, dishes, etc. The discount rate is effective three days before and three days after the Convention.
**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The five officers on the VFC Executive Committee (i.e., President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and the ten VFC Area Vice Presidents will be elected at the 2015 VFC Convention. The slate of officers will be announced in the Call to Convention and nominations may be made from the floor. If there is more than one candidate for a position, a ballot vote will be taken.

**CHAPTER BANNERS:** Each Chapter is encouraged to bring their Chapter banner to the Convention for display. On the last day of the Convention, all Chapter banners must be removed.

**CONVENTION SUPPORTERS:** Sources of funding beyond the registration and banquet fees are required to fund the VFC Convention. One of those sources is from the Chapter members who become Convention Supporters. Convention Supporters will be listed in the Convention Program Book. All Chapter members are invited to show their support and their Chapter pride by contributing in one of the following five categories: Super Angel ($25), Angel ($15), Cheerleader ($10), Booster ($5), and Supporter ($1). A supporter form for individual members (Form VFC 61-3-2) and a supporter form for groups of members (Form VFC 61-4) are available on the VFC website under Convention Documents. Chapter Coordinators need to ensure that the names are printed/typed so that proper recognition can be given in the Convention Program Book. The completed forms together with a check for the appropriate payment must be sent, postmarked by March 14, 2015, to:

Kathy Arpa, NARFE VFC Convention Coordinator  
2717 Bowling Green Drive, Vienna, VA 22180

**PROGRAM BOOK ADS:** A second source of funding beyond registration and banquet fees required to fund the VFC Convention is ads in the Convention Program Book. One source of ads is Virginia Federation members, groups of members, Chapters, and groups of Chapters who are not advertising a commercial operation or business. A completed Form VFC 61-1-1 must be sent, postmarked no later than March 14, 2015, together with a copy of the ad and the appropriate payment to:

Doug Jones, VFC Advertising Chair  
4716 Trotting Lane, Annandale, VA 22003-4631

Another source of ads is political incumbents or challengers, and commercial businesses. A completed Form VFC 61-2-1 must be sent, postmarked no later than March 14, 2015, together with a copy of the ad and the appropriate payment to:

Doug Jones, VFC Advertising Chair  
4716 Trotting Lane, Annandale, VA 22003-4631

An electronic copy of these ads must be submitted, not later than March 14, 2015, to: Program Book Chair Mary Heck at: mary_heck@msn.com.

As an incentive to political incumbents or challengers, and to commercial businesses, all ads that cost at least $200 are eligible to be posted on the VFC website through May 2015. As an incentive for Chapter members to sell ads to political incumbents or challengers and to commercial businesses, the VFC will rebate the Chapter 10% of the amount they collect when that amount exceeds $499. If you have any questions, please contact Doug Jones at:Doujones500@verizon.net or call him at 703-425-3361.
EXHIBITORS: A third source of funding, beyond registration and banquet fees, required to fund the VFC Convention is exhibitors at the Convention. Pat Harahan, 2015 VFC Convention Exhibitor Tables Chair, is responsible for accomplishing this task. If you have any suggestions, you can contact him at harahan@verizon.net or 703-569-9684.

SILENT AUCTION & 50/50 DRAWING: A silent auction and a 50/50 drawing will be held to obtain contributions for Alzheimer’s Research. Each Chapter is encouraged to donate one or more items for the Silent Auction. The donated items should be delivered to the Alzheimer’s table in Meeting Room 2 as soon as possible after you arrive at the Expo & Conference Center.

Final convention information will be contained in the Call to Convention. If you have any questions, please contact Pierce Johnson, the VFC 2015 Convention Chair, at radmpierce@gmail.com or call him at 703-680-7936.

The Convention Committee is working hard to make this one of the best VFC Conventions. You don’t want to miss out. I hope you will make your reservation now and plan to join us at the VFC 61st Convention in Fredericksburg in April.

Kathy

Kathy Arpa, VFC 1st VP
VFC Convention Coordinator