VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2017 – 2018

President
Leslie Ravenell

1st Vice President
Pat Taylor

2nd Vice President
Dr. Constance Bails

Secretary
Richard Shrum

Treasurer
Raphael Wong

Past President
Kathy Arpa
**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFN President’s Report</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary’s Report</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer’s Report</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIELD OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area I Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area II Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area III Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area IV Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area V Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area VI Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area VII Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area VIII Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area IX Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area X Vice President’s Report</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAM AREAS</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Legislation Chair’s Report</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Legislation Chair’s Report</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Chair’s Report</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Co-Chair’s Report</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations Chair’s Report</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alzheimer’s Chair’s Report</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

The NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) continued to be an effective and recognizable representative of the NARFE organization during most of this reporting year. However, as a result of the 2016 National Convention, the organization’s shift away from chapter-based membership, the new one member-one vote policy, and the adoption of revised Federation Bylaws at our 2018 Convention, we will henceforth be known as the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) – VIRGINIA LEADING THE WAY – and continue to serve as an effective and prominent representative of the organization.

The Virginia Federation has a long history of making recommendations and offering guidance to federal employees and retirees. It was founded April 9, 1955 by NARFE members living in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and there are now over 15,000 NARFE members in the Federation, including current and retired federal employees, spouses, and survivor annuitants. At this time, there are ten VFN Areas organized geographically across the state, and each Chapter belongs to one of these Areas. Regarding Chapter membership, you may join and belong even if you are a permanent resident in another state. To find the nearest Chapter, go to the NARFE website at www.narfe.org and enter the five-digit postal zip code for your location.

Through April of this year, the VFC held a Convention annually at various locations in Virginia, the most recent and final one being in Charlottesville. Future “conventions” will be referred to as Annual Meetings, and voting will be under the new one member-one vote system taking place via online or mail-in procedures following the Meeting. Our current theme “Virginia Leading the Way” reflects our mission. NARFE has many priorities, but its top priorities are recruiting and retention and, of course, legislation. If we do not unite and work together, we will soon be losing benefits. That is our purpose - to unite, work and vote on issues concerning our benefits.

Virginia is one of the few states that has a very active State Legislation Program. A State Legislation Plan is developed every year and presented to Virginia Delegates. We support State Legislation that strengthens fair and efficient governance and protects the rights, safety, and assets of Virginia’s seniors. We invite you to look at our Plan and our newsletter at our Federation website www.vanarfe.org.

NARFE has Service Officers who are available to provide NARFE members, their families, and survivors with (1) aid in contacting the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) concerning benefits and programs, such as civil service annuities, survivor benefits, life insurance, income tax-withholding from annuities and health insurance; and (2) information on other important programs, such as Medicare, Social Security, and veterans’ benefits.

The monthly NARFE Magazine offers essential and helpful information from our NARFE leadership, a NARFE Bill Tracker, and changes in health benefits, Medicare, long term care, upcoming conventions and discounts for members. Each magazine also includes questions and answers for employees and retirees and valuable information about benefits and retirement issues that affect the entire federal community, not just NARFE members. As a NARFE member you can also receive information at our NARFE National website www.narfe.org, including on-demand webinars, white papers, and information about the latest legislative issues.

Help us help you by securing our future and joining NARFE if you are not already a member. Join NARFE Now!

Dick Shrum, 2018 Annual Report Editor
VFN President’s Report

This report covers the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as President of the Virginia Federation (formally the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC)) for the past 12 months. At the beginning of this reporting period we had 48 chapters. In August 2017 Chesapeake Chapter 1682 (Area IV) closed. However, the majority of its members transferred to Brentwood Chapter 1687. In September 2017 Imperial Plaza Chapter 1510 (Area III) closed. This brought the number of chapters in Virginia to 46 and this was the same number of chapters on June 30, 2018. In December 2017 we had a total 15,827 VA NARFE members (Chapter: 8,721 and National 7,106). On June 30, 2018 the total number was 15,622 with 7,956 Chapter members and 7,666 National members.

Upon becoming President of the VFC it was my goal to follow in the footsteps of Past President Ann Collins and visit each chapter in the Federation. Here is what I accomplished from July 2017 to June 2018:

Area I: Chapter 1823, Northern Neck
Area III: Chapter 28, Petersburg, Chapter 60, Richmond and Chapter 2265, Midlothian
Area IV: Chapter 1697, Brentwood and Chapter 1741, Suffolk
Area VI: Chapter 111, Roanoke Valley
Area VII: Chapter 180, Winchester and Chapter 2358, Shenandoah County
Area VIII: Chapters 90, Fredericksburg; 595, Colonial Beach; and 1885, Lake of the Woods
Area IX: Chapter 893, Springfield and Chapter 1270, Woodbridge
Area X: Chapters 489, McLean/Great Falls; 737, Fairfax; 1116 Vienna-Oakton; and 1241, Dulles

In addition, I attended the Northern Virginia Caucus meeting composed of eleven chapters and the Area VII Caucus meeting composed of five chapters. So, my schedule for the next year will still be busy as I visit the remaining chapters.

In July 2017 I attended the Federation President’s Meeting in Jacksonville, FL. It was at that meeting with the urging of the Federation Presidents that the NEB defeated the by-laws referendum to allow the NARFE National President to seek a third term. In October 2017 I along with several VFC Board members and VA members attended the Region X Meeting in Martinsville, WV. At this meeting we had our first up close and personal meeting with NARFE Executive Director, Barb Sido. Also, in October I was pleased to represent the VFC at the 2017 Women’s Seminar in Virginia Beach. This event is sponsored annually by Senator Mark Warner.

As the year went along I became more involved in the planning for the VFC 64th Annual Convention as the Convention Coordinator became ill. It was at the annual convention in April 2018 that our biggest accomplishment of the year took place. The convention delegates voted to accept new by-laws for the Federation. These by-laws officially recognized our 7,000 plus National VA members giving them full rights in the Federation to vote and to hold office. The by-laws also implemented the one member one vote (OMOV) concept giving all VA members the right to vote. This replaced the delegate system which had been in place for many years.

Leslie Ravenell, VFN President
1st Vice President’s Report

(NO REPORT AT THIS TIME)
2nd Vice President’s Report

Just last year I was writing my report indicating that it was my pleasure to serve my first year as the 2nd Vice President for the Virginia Federation of Chapters. At the VFC Convention in April I was re-elected to the position of 2nd Vice President. Now I write saying that I am still grateful to serve. However, in April I was also appointed to serve as Acting 1st Vice President for the Virginia Federation due to the illness of the current 1st Vice President, Pat Taylor. As soon as Pat is well enough to resume her duties I will return to 2nd Vice President.

Since April I have contacted each Area Vice President’s to extend my availability to meet any need or assistance that I can provide. I have collected, reviewed and submitted to the treasurer and the President the proposed budgets for all AVP’s. In addition, I have forwarded 9 of the ten AVP’s Annual Reports to the VF President and the Annual Report editor.

I attended 3 area caucus meetings with the intention of visiting all Areas as soon as possible. I accompanied the Co-Service Officers to a Chapter Meeting in Manassas Virginia. I attended the 2018 State Legislative Planning meeting in May, McLean Virginia, coordinated by our State Legislative Chair and hosted by our State Legislative Representative.

I attended several recruitment initiatives on behalf of NARFE and the VF. As a result, I am identified as one of the top recruiters for the State of Virginia and for National NARFE.

I am an active member of the VF Executive Board, I provide input and advice to the VF President in making executive decisions that effects the success of the organization.

I am the chair of the VF Support Enhancement Committee, established by VF President, to outline the significance of the relationship and the benefits of the VF and NARFE Chapters. The VF President presented a letter to the convention body indicating that the VF will begin to implement some of the suggestions that were highlighted in the membership letter.

I worked as Co-Chairperson for the Banquet and Reception Committee, 2018 Convention. I also served on the official program from the dais. I attended the Convention Appreciation Luncheon hosted by Area VII AVP, Convention Chair.

I appreciate the confidence that the VF President has in selecting me! I will give this position, acting 1st VP all knowledges, skills and abilities that I bring as a 37-years Federal, Senior Executive Service Retiree, including the experiences I have acquired during the past ten plus years as an active member of NARFE at my local chapter and the Virginia Federation. I continue to appreciate working with the President, VP, Programs, Appointees, Area VPs and the Executive Officers to make the Virginia Federation of Chapters all that it can be.

Dr. Constance Bails Ph.D., 2nd Vice President
Secretary’s Report

During FY-2018, the Board of Directors of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) met five times. The meetings were at a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Virginia on the following dates:

- July 31 – August 1, 2017, Charlottesville
- October 23 – 24, 2017, Richmond
- January 8 – 9, 2018, Charlottesville
- April 8 and April 11, 2018, before and after the Convention in Charlottesville.

The first three meetings of the Board, and part of the fourth, consisted of:

- A presentation of recent activities of the VFC President;
- A review and approval of the minutes of prior VFC Board meeting;
- A VFC financial status report by the Treasurer;
- A NARFE Headquarters report by the Region X Vice President (January and April 8 only);
- A report of Chapter issues, concerns and activities by each VFC Area Vice President; and
- A report of past and planned activities and up-dated information by each VFC Program Chair.

The three meetings were preceded by: afternoon two-hour coordination meetings of the Area Vice Presidents led by the VFC 1st Vice President to discuss chapter activities and of Committee Chairs led by the VFC 2nd Vice President to review program areas; and evening three-hour meetings of the Executive Committee led by VFC President to carry out overall coordination and planning.

In addition, the July 2017 meeting considered: an FY-18 budget proposed by Treasurer and approved; final report of 2017 Convention showed 178 attendees from 38 Chapters; State Legislative Plan reducing focus on seniors to appeal more to younger NARFE members; and VFC President’s report that the current average age of NARFE members is 77.

Additional items discussed at the October 2017 meeting included: Special Bylaws Committee submitted report to delete Constitution and modify Bylaws, approved as amended and submitted to VFC Constitution and Bylaws Committee; Reports Committee proposes 4 quarterly “Newsletters” and an on-line Annual Report; State Legislative PAC funds eleven individuals; and Region X meeting in Martinsburg, WV had excellent and informative Headquarters speakers, training sessions and vendor tables, per the 14 attending VFC members.

The January 2018 meeting also focused on: brainstorming session to identify what VFC does for chapters; VFC Alzheimer’s annual contribution exceeded 9 of 10 current NARFE Areas; VFC approves a Go-To-Meeting license for up to 50 persons for committee meetings and training sessions; and Board agreed to establish a 3-person Audit Committee to conduct an annual financial review.

The April 8th meeting highlighted importance of upcoming national elections and Convention procedures to vote on Bylaws Revision. The April 11th meeting following the 2018 Convention noted the successful vote on the Bylaws Revision with five changes from the floor and the new Federation motto “Virginia Leading the Way!” Finally, NARFE Headquarters formally approved the new Bylaws on May 2nd and the organization’s name changed to the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN). Board meetings are open to the membership and copies of approved minutes are available from the Secretary.

Richard Shrum, VFN Secretary
Treasurer’s Report

The 4th QTR (End-of-Year FY-2018) expenditure to date is 75% of the approved FY18 budget. The total contribution collected to the VFC State Political Fund at end of 2nd QTR/Calendar Year is $50.00.

FY18 TREASURER REPORT SYNOPSIS ENDING June 30, 2018:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
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<td>Approved Budget</td>
<td>$101,449</td>
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<td>Income</td>
<td>$75,715</td>
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<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>$75,664</td>
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<td>Required from Savings</td>
<td>$0 ($51 Surplus Deposited)</td>
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5-Year Comparison of VFC Finances (Income & Expenses):

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<th>FY 2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NARFE 10% Fund</td>
<td>57,917</td>
<td>50,442</td>
<td>52,696</td>
<td>46,693</td>
<td>57,418</td>
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<td>Chapter Dues</td>
<td>25,803</td>
<td>24,297</td>
<td>24,392</td>
<td>20,540</td>
<td>13,522</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
<td>5,440</td>
<td>7,150</td>
<td>8,507</td>
<td>26,801</td>
<td>4,775</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>89,160</td>
<td>81,889</td>
<td>85,595</td>
<td>94,034</td>
<td>75,715</td>
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<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
<td>13,452</td>
<td>11,674</td>
<td>11,835</td>
<td>10,292</td>
<td>11,164</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPP &amp; Appointees</td>
<td>8,197</td>
<td>6,248</td>
<td>5,867</td>
<td>5,215</td>
<td>7,779</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Operations</td>
<td>22,714</td>
<td>17,487</td>
<td>16,877</td>
<td>15,670</td>
<td>18,060</td>
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<td>Program Operations</td>
<td>21,319</td>
<td>13,640</td>
<td>15,417</td>
<td>14,007</td>
<td>14,673</td>
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<td>Administrative</td>
<td>32,247</td>
<td>41,017</td>
<td>32,874</td>
<td>49,844</td>
<td>23,988</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>97,929</td>
<td>90,066</td>
<td>82,870</td>
<td>95,028</td>
<td>75,664</td>
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| Surplus to Savings   | -8,769   | -8,177   | 2,725    | -994     | 51       |

Summary of Operations Accounts ending June 30, 2018:

- Operation Fund (Checking) $54,786
- Share Savings $5
- General Reserve Fund $22,308
- Contingency Fund $10,333
- Escrow Fund (from Closed Chapters) $13,477
- TOTAL ASSETS: $100,909

Raphael Wong, Treasurer

VIRGINIA LEADING THE WAY
FIELD OPERATIONS

Area I Vice President’s Report

In the short time since the Virginia Federation convention in April, the chapters in Area 1 have continued to function and serve their members with interesting programs at monthly meetings. Chapter 1757 in Gloucester remains the smallest group in the area. They met in May but since they take the summer off the next meeting will be in September.

Williamsburg, Chapter 685 had local Virginia State Delegate Monty Mason speak at a luncheon. He discussed some of the state’s legislative issues and answered questions from members. Another luncheon program was a presentation on a solar energy farm which was recently constructed in the area. As a break from the normal business meetings the chapter had an indoor picnic in June at a local Italian restaurant. Members just enjoyed the camaraderie of getting to know one another better.

Congratulations to Newport News Chapter 682 on their 60th anniversary July 14th. They also have a variety of speakers at their monthly meetings. Recently there was a chiropractor who explained some of the ways posture affects your health and a home health care representative who talked about services and choosing a provider. In support of Alzheimer’s research, the chapter continues to contribute to its “miles of pennies” project, completing the 34th mile. This meant a total of $844.60 to Alzheimer’s.

Chapter 1823 in Northern Neck held a memorial luncheon and service to honor members who died during the previous year. Programs have included a presentation on the importance of honey bees and bee keeping in the local area, information on tick borne diseases including Lyme disease and an ice cream social with an historical presentation about the home of Frances Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In June Maggie Keator and I attended a reception in Newport News hosted by Congressman Bobby Scott who has been a long-time supporter of NARFE issues in Washington. I have corresponded with the chapter leaders urging them and their members to vote in the NARFE election. Some had questions about the candidates and proposals. I urged all to read the biographies and try to vote the way that was best for NARFE members and chapters.

Jeanne Garrison, Area I Vice President

Area II Vice President’s Report

Joe Murray will remain President of Chapter 1827 for another year. Other elected officers of Chapter 1827 include Vice President Nancy Mc Williams, Treasurer Richard Bourdon, and Secretary Lynne Pipis. The chapter’s delegate to the 2018 VFC Convention was Joseph Murray.

Margie Mitchell continues to serve as President and Johnny Arthur as Vice President of Tidewater Chapter 66. Mary Asby is the chapter’s Secretary and Bob Tuleya is Treasurer. Committee chairs include Service Officer Arlene
Arthur, Newsletter Editor Tom Van Tiem, and Legislative Chair Rosemary Whitehurst. Johnny and Arlene Arthur and Tom Van Tiem served as the chapter’s delegates to the 2018 VFC Convention. Johnny and Arlene Arthur served on the Facilities committee for the convention and continue to serve as the VFC Service Officers.

Alex Adkins is President and Burnley Rhue is the Vice President of Chapter 974. Fran Sansone is Secretary and Donald Warren is the chapter Treasurer. Committee chairs include Betty Warren (Legislation & Public Relations), Burnley Rhue (Service Officer), PJ Adkins (Hospitality), and Sylvia Butler (Alzheimer’s Research). Chapter 974 was represented at the 2018 VFC convention by Alex & PJ Adkins and Rosemary Stepnowski who also worked on the registration committee.

Judy Bosnengo has resigned as President of Chapter 5 and Julie Hobbs is expected to become the chapter president. The chapter is searching for a new Secretary and Treasurer. Bernita Townes is the chapter’s Legislative Chair. Julie Hobbs was the chapter’s delegate to the 2017 VFC Convention.

During the past year Chapter 66 held its holiday luncheon at the Golden Corral on Military Highway. Chapter 974 held its holiday luncheon at the Cypress Point Country Club. This luncheon was also attended by Chapter 5 members. Chapter 1827 held its holiday luncheon at Waterman’s Restaurant on Atlantic Avenue on the Virginia Beach oceanfront.

Alex Adkins, Past Area II Vice President

Following the 2018 Convention, Chapter 1175 held a meeting on June 13 and members present voted to close the chapter. Currently, there are only 17 chapter-members who still live on the Eastern Shore. This Chapter will be combined with other Chapters in Area II.

Thomas Van Tiem, Area II Vice President

Area III Vice President’s Report

There have been several changes in Area III over this past year – long time Area VP (AVP) Jack McMurchy resigned in October 2017. A permanent replacement wasn’t named but Helen Willis from Midlothian Chapter 2265 filled in and in my opinion did a fine job. I was elected at the 2018 Virginia Federation (VFC) convention in April 2018. I’d like to add that the “VFC” is now the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) because of changes made at the 2016 NARFE National Convention and the 2018 VFC Convention. A major change in the Area itself was the actual chapters in Area III at the start of the year compared to the end – while there were five at both points, Imperial Chapter 1510 closed, and Louisa Chapter 2065 was added. Two reasons for adding Chapter 2065 was to even the number of chapters in Areas VIII and III and the fact that most Chapter 2065 members are in Congressional District 7 as are many members in the other Area III chapters.

One problem in Area III is that three of the chapters have no newsletter or other means of communicating with members that don’t attend meetings – Chapters 28, 60 and 1727. Chapters 2065 and 2265 do have newsletters. I hope to help the three without some type periodic electronic or written communication establish something this year. In my opinion, this should help in increasing and retaining members in the chapters.

Petersburg Chapter 28: The chapter was chartered in 1950 and is celebrating its 68th year. This year, they reelected their officers and filled committee chairs. AVP Bill Martin installed the chapter leaders at the spring
meeting. The chapter supports Alzheimer’s research and contributes generously. Funds are raised primarily through an auction of donated items and individual donations. Members also donate generously to both state and national political action committees and are involved in dealing with state and national legislators on issues affecting members’ entitlements and taxes.

Richmond Chapter 60: The chapter was organized under Charter January 14, 1952 with seven Chapter Members. It is one of the 10 Charter Chapters which organized the 10th State Federation of Chapters here in Virginia in 1955. Two of our chapter members held a position of high standing. One was Guy Yannello who was President of the Virginia Federation of Chapters and served as President of Chapter 60. The other was James W. Stone who was National Field Vice-President of Region X. Chapter 60 actively supports Alzheimer’s Disease Research. Four members were transferred in from Chapter 1510 when it closed.

Tuckahoe Chapter 1727: Chapter 1727 continues to remain vibrant. The chapter has maintained 66 members despite deceasing membership, possibly caused by members not being required to be a member of a chapter to maintain NARFE membership. We have excellent meetings and maintain an excellent web page on the Federation website. We have a wide variety of programs not only focusing on NARFE’s mission, but also programs geared to seniors, meeting monthly except July/August at the Welborne United Methodist Church in Richmond’s Westend.

Louisa Chapter 2065: The chapter just transferred from Area V (and previously Area VIII) this year. It had a variety of meeting subjects including talks by federation committee chairs, civic leaders and volunteer organization leaders including local Alzheimer’s officials. The August political meeting was conducted in a member’s home. The chapter has a monthly newsletter distributed mainly by email since over 90% of the members have email. The other 10% are mailed a newsletter each month.

Midlothian Chapter 2265: The Midlothian Chapter of NARFE is very active, currently with 281 members. All the required officer and committee chair positions are filled. To maintain our membership, the chapter sponsors two membership drives annually. In May we participate in the Chesterfield TRIAD maintaining a booth asking attendees if they are federal employees and retirees and if they wish to have more information of our chapter and NARFE. Then in July, the chapter provides a membership drive to encourage members to bring a former work colleague to our informative displays of NARFE legislative, membership, service, travel and all the programs the chapter and NARFE has to offer. The combined membership drives help produce new members in a fun and games atmosphere.

Nearly all officers were able to attend the VFC conference in Charlottesville. At least one member attended the bi-annual Legislative Conference in the Washington DC area last year. This conference provides members with an in-depth knowledge of the positions of our senators and representatives, as well as NARFE’s legislative agenda. The chapter divides its monthly membership meetings twice a year to present political candidates and incumbents to members on relevant legislative state and national issues. The chapter encourages the members to contribute to NARFE-PAC.

The chapter also offers a few entertainment venues, health issue and fire and life safety speakers, and supports the Alzheimer’s Foundation, including two annual fund raisers and channeling funds received from bus tour travel venues to Alzheimer’s research. To keep their members informed they publish a bi-monthly newsletter to inform not only the members, but also state and federal legislators of their activities and support of NARFE’s legislative agenda. The chapter is financially solvent. They audit annually and have few recommendations to meet the standards of excellent fiscal management.

The chapter ends the year with a holiday luncheon and installation of officers for the coming year. All this is possible because of members who are willing to volunteer to lead all the activities we sponsor. Despite our efforts, in 2017 we lost 38 members. There are various reasons for losses. Some have transferred to national membership
— others have returned, and some are deceased. The renewal process where retaining chapter membership rather than being transferred to national membership is the source of confusion to many members. However, we still work very hard to maintain and to increase chapter membership. The Midlothian chapter is a relevant organization.

**Area III Vice President:** As AVP, I plan to attend each of the chapters twice this year and conduct at least one area meeting. Together I hope we can produce and maintain meaningful web pages on www.vanarfe.org. We will be working to maintain our current strength and increase membership by 5%.

William F. {Bill} Martin, Area III Vice President

### Area IV Vice President’s Report

Area IV this year was much less stressful since I didn’t have to close any chapters. The Brentwood/Chesapeake chapter and the Churchland chapter are functioning quite well and continue to have meaningful meetings.

All the chapters in Area IV continue to spread the NARFE message by participating in health fairs and festivals. The Suffolk chapter had a very good Peanut Fest and was able to forward 50 M-2 cards to NARFE national.

This year, the quality of the speakers at all the chapters has been wonderful. The speakers range from city officials, state legislators, health care representatives, VFC representatives, and others. As the Area IV Vice President, I continue to visit chapters and when possible attend any congressional events in my area.

Raymond Orland, Area IV Vice President

### Area V Vice President’s Report

Area V has four chapters: Bedford Chapter 1068, Southside Chapter 2079, Piedmont Chapter 2080, and Lynchburg Chapter 110. During the reporting period, Louisa Chapter 2065 was also in Area V as Past Region X Vice President and Past VFC President Bill Martin was assisting the Area V Chapters and this is his home chapter. At the VFC April 2018 Convention in Charlottesville, VA Bill Martin was elected to the position of Area III Vice President, so Louisa Chapter was then moved to Area III.

Area V has had several challenges in 2017/2018. Two chapters have been unable to meet primarily due to aging of officers and members and one chapter has only had one meeting during the fiscal year, but only thanks to Bill Martin. The Piedmont Chapter continues to meet but again aging of officers and members is a problem there as well. At the end of the fiscal year, the Virginia Federation Board was discussing ideas on what to do with Area V. Possible future plans include moving Piedmont Chapter to Area III and Lynchburg Chapter to Area VI.

Leslie Ravenell, President (for Area V Vice President)
Area VI Vice President’s Report

Chapter 111 on 9/1/2017 had Kelly Johnson, Outreach Representative US Senator Mark Warner at their meeting to express concerns over making Medicare part B mandatory for postal retirees and the various cuts to our COLAs. We followed up on 9/6/2017 with a meeting with Gwen Mason, Regional director for Senator Tim Kaine at the Roanoke district Office; also attending were Ellie Long, Frances Boatman and Wanda Ware. At the October meeting the speaker was Lily Franklin Legislative assistant for Del. Sam Rasoul spoke on VFC state legislative issues only address gerrymandering. Sen John Edwards (awarded $500 state PAC money last year) was to speak but due to a death in the family will speak to the chapter in January. On 26 October 2017 the chapter participate in a Health Fair sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield at the Vinton War Memorial. The chapter was able to have 36 M2 cards completed.

The Roanoke chapter meeting in January was able to hear State Senator Edwards talk about the VFC state legislative plan. Senator Edwards has received a State PAC donation last election cycle. In February the chapter heard from a representative to the Local Office on Aging and was able to make a sizable donation of soups and crackers for their Soup for Seniors drive.

Members of Chapter 111 recruiting at the letter carrier’s convention at Roanoke in June. Since Chapter 111 does not meet in the months of June and July, social outings were planned to attend the LOA fund raiser, and then tour the Booker T Washington National Monument and have a picnic in July.

To better serve their members, chapters 1134 and 1837 adjusted their meeting dates. To accommodate a social outing to a local dinner theater, Chapter 1134 moved the date from September to late August. Chapter 1837 changed their meeting to have the Blue Cross/Blue Shield speak before the end of Open Season, from the second Tuesday of December which was their original meeting date. The New River Valley chapter at their January meeting made a commitment of raising $1000 for the state Alzheimer’s Research fund. On a personal note I am again participating in the AARP TaxAide program working as a counselor.

Mark Fisher, Area VI Vice President
Area VII Vice President’s Report

This year’s report for the chapters in Area VII, notably Winchester #180, Shenandoah County #2358, Page Valley #1793, Harrisonburg #168, and Charlottesville #135, will center on our efforts to further the principal objectives of NARFE Nationally, specifically Congressional advocacy, grassroots efforts, membership recruiting and retention.

To begin with, Area VII members wrote and received 14 individually authored and collective letters to our Congressional Representatives and Senators on topics that ranged from the endorsement of CPI(E) Bills introduced, COLA in general, TSP G Fund status quo, new IRS rules, to individual needs and experiences. All 14 letters were replied with a universal “we will keep your views in mind” stance that demonstrated to us that all this was lip service from our Representatives. On the other-hand, Senators Warner and Kaine walked the walk with their votes to maintain our pay and benefits.

During this period, all our Representatives (3) were invited to chapter meetings. Representative Barbara Comstock (R-10th) came to speak and lent first-hand support by her votes on NARFE-related issues. The other 2 did not. Some of us became involved with the local primaries, and made headway, at least promises, of support for our causes. With 2 new Congressmen in our Districts, we took the opportunity to personally contact the winning nominees, and made our issues known.

Our Area VII chapter membership, like all other VF Areas, has dwindled. We have lost over 25% to the National-only cadre, and the tide will not turn any time soon. It is a daunting task to keep the members enthused enough to come to meetings, much less stay affiliated with a local chapter, when only 10% of the members normally show up at the monthly meetings. Since the 2016 NARFE National Convention where the vote to make chapter membership optional, there has been a veritable flood to withdraw from chapters.

For recruitment initiatives, many Area VII members attended the Shenandoah County and Page County TRIAD Conferences. It remains to be seen how many of the prospects will become members. The TRIADs are one-day Conferences held for the benefit of ALL Seniors in the area. They are hosted by a County Sheriff’s Department and the Virginia Attorney General’s Office.

In Virginia, at the 2018 VFC Convention, the new By-laws added over 7500 National-only members who live in the State of Virginia to the Federation, but not one person to a chapter. It remains to be seen how this influx will affect Federation business, and how these members will react when made aware they are within the VA fold. Retention will be the immediate focus. Plans will soon be formulated by VF Board members to this end.

At our Area VII Caucus in June in Harrisonburg, Area VII members began the preparation to host the 2019 VF Convention in Charlottesville, where the 2018 Convention was held. This year, all 5 Area VII chapters were represented, notably 5 members from Charlottesville. There, I was re-elected for the 7th time as the Area’s VP. It is fortunate that most of us who hosted the 2012 VFC Convention are still here. Couple that with the Conference being held at the same venue, the Doubletree Hotel, as last year will give everyone a head-start on planning and hosting the next event. Also, at the Caucus, we were briefed by Bill Shackelford (Region X VP), Leslie Ravenell (VF President), and Connie Bails (VF Acting 1st VP and the 2019 VF Conference Chair). They gave Area VII members the current state of NARFE and VF matters.

During the year, the usual yearly chapter events took place: picnics, holiday celebrations, chapter officer elections, many local and State-wide notable speakers, and last, but not least, Alzheimer’s Research support activities. As
has been the case for almost the last decade, Area VII has either led or came in second in per-capita collections for the year.

One final event worth noting was our attendance at the Region X Bi-Annual Conference held last fall in Martinsburg, WV. The closeness allowed members from 3 of our Area VII chapters to attend. There, we were briefed on the state of progress that has occurred at NARFE Headquarters. With the new addition of an Executive Director, the responsibilities of those there have been greatly altered. It is our fervent hope that NARFE’s principal goals will be met with greater membership and stronger influence in Congress and the White House with these changes.

Finally, with the new One Member-One Vote initiative, many Area VII members took this opportunity to directly vote in the new National Election for Officers and other National ballot initiatives. Starting in 2019, all VF members will have the first opportunity to vote directly for VF Officers and State ballot questions. So, this is a whole new ball game for NARFE National and VF, as well as, chapters. We, in Area VII, will be out front in leading the way for NARFE here in Virginia. Godspeed to all.

**Steve Dansker, Area VII Vice President**

### Area VIII Vice President’s Report

This past year I have had opportunities to visit the chapters in my area and attend the VFC State Legislation Planning Meeting. I was also re-elected as the Area VIII VP. Area VIII was responsible for the 2018 VFC Convention in Charlottesville. Almost all the area chapters participated. Other chapters from other areas also stepped up to the plate to help us. Some of the members who volunteered had never been to a VFC Convention or in some cases never had been on a committee or to lead the committee. They did a great job and the convention was successful. Great team work and a lot of new friendships. Lots of lessons learned and the committee members brought some great new ideas for the convention.

The chapters were busy all year trying to recruit members & officers for the upcoming year. As with other areas, the chapters are having a difficult time filling the positions, but they continue to thrive. Some of the chapters are having, or plan to have, chapter meetings once a quarter or are cutting back on the number of meetings a year.

Fredericksburg Chapter 90 presented Distinguished Members with a certificate, card & pin. Also, now have a State Legislative Chair & Service Officer. The chapter continues with their fund raiser of soup sales for Alzheimer’s. Celebrated their 65th anniversary. Colonial Beach Chapter 595 held its annual Harvest Supper fund raiser for Alzheimer’s, went to local nursing home to sing Christmas Carols & present gifts to the residents & celebrated their 60th anniversary.

Fauquier Chapter 1549, celebrated their 40th anniversary & continues collecting food donations at their chapter meetings for the local food bank. Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885 continues to have travel trips as a fund raiser for Alzheimer’s. Falls Run Chapter 2343 raised money from their Night Light for Alzheimer’s, conducted their Trick-or-Treat-where residents leave food donations on the curb for chapter members to collect for SERVE.

**Maureen “Mo” Nolet, Area VIII Vice President**
Area IX Vice President’s Report

Area IX is comprised of five chapters: 232-Alexandria, 356-Manassas, 893-Springfield, 1159-Annandale, and 1270-Woodbridge. Membership stands at approximately 2,050, significantly less than last year’s number of 2,896. This represents a drop of nearly 30% due to deaths, non-renewals, and a significant number of transfers to the NARFE National Division (after last year’s vote to make chapter membership optional). Despite the membership decline, our five chapters recruited 28 members over the course of the last twelve months, some as a result of recruitment efforts supported by matching funds from NARFE and the Virginia Federation.

All chapters host monthly meetings and publish either monthly or bi-monthly newsletters (except during the summer for some chapters). Announcements of the meetings are done in a variety of ways, including announcements in the Washington Post, local community newsletters (both written and online), community blogs, and postcard notifications for current members who have not provided email addresses. Publication of the newsletters has become more problematic; since the cost of mailing out newsletters to members without email addresses has sky-rocketed, most of our chapters have gone electronic. We are evaluating how to consistently communicate with those members who have not provided their email addresses.

Our chapters strive to provide informative speakers at their meetings to draw current and prospective members. Over the last couple of months, Area IX has hosted a variety of speakers with a wide-range of topics, including NARFE Executive Director, Barbara Sido and Grassroots Program Manager, Molly Checksfield; Region X Vice President, Bill Shackelford; Virginia NARFE President, Leslie Ravenell; Co-Service Officers, Arlene and Johnny Arthur; Alzheimer’s Program Chair, Donna Shackelford; representatives from Senator Mark Warner’s Office, Ann Phan and Johnathan Goldman; Aide to Representative Gerry Connolly, Alex Robbins; Virginia Delegate, Kaye Kory, and Senator David Marsden; Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Officer, Vee Johnson; renowned columnist, commentator, and NARFE supporter, Mike Causey; WWII Postal History Expert, Bill Fort; African Safari aficionado and Springfield member, Beverly Clemsen; Physical Therapist, Charles Mills; and Doug Burroughs, Floral Designer. All meetings are well attended and sometimes range up to 45 attendees.

All chapters are active in National and the Virginia Federation and were represented at the 2018 VFC Annual Convention, and all but one was represented at the Region X 2017 Biannual Conference. Area IX, along with Area X, is a member of the Northern Virginia Caucus of NARFE Chapters which meets regularly after each Board Meeting and the Annual Convention. This year the caucus has been attempting to collaborate more effectively across Area lines, especially to share ideas about speakers, recruitment, communications, and community and local events. This fiscal year the Caucus cohosted the NARFE information table at the Annual Gerry Connolly Open Season FEHBP Health Fair. All chapters participated in “manning” the NARFE table, providing NARFE information and “goodies” to participants. We generated in over 30 completed M-2 Prospect Information Cards. Those non-NARFE members who completed the cards at the event were entered a drawing for two $25 VISA cards. We attracted literally hundreds of attendees to our table and successfully recruited new members who signed up and paid on the spot. The Caucus is also encouraging participation in the upcoming Walk-To-End Alzheimer’s in the fall.

Area IX prides itself in its community outreach and continued to support multiple organizations through contributions to several local food banks, homeless shelters, senior centers and organizations, Adopt-A-Highway clean-ups, and the Little Theatre of Alexandria. It also prides itself in Leading the Way in Alzheimer’s fundraising. Three Area IX chapters were recognized at the 2018 Convention for their second, third, and fourth place fundraising efforts in the Virginia Federation: Springfield (4th), Annandale (3rd), and Woodbridge (2nd). Total Area
IX funds raised in Calendar Year 2017 were $15,614.78, more than 24% of the total raised in the whole state of Virginia. Congratulations to Area VII’s Winchester Chapter for their first-place recognition!

James R. Little, Area IX Vice President

Area X Vice President’s Report

NARFE Virginia Federation’s Area X comprises 6 independent chapters: Arlington, Dulles, Fairfax, Great Falls/McLean, Northern VA Metro and Vienna-Oakton. All chapters are active and in good standing. Kudos to their current presidents, officers, boards and committee chairs for their work in continuing chapter newsletters to better inform their membership. These missives contain active chapter events and information about meeting participation, plus they deliver up many newsworthy topics with interesting speakers; encouragement of members to participate, not only at the local level, but at Area IX and X Caucus Meetings held locally at the Fairfax American Legion. The Caucus is headed by Pat Jack, Chair, with assistance from Darwin Ransom, Secretary, and Jim Little, Treasurer. Jim Little, Area IX Vice President and Wilma Grant, Area X Vice President provide agenda items for Pat to help her in making these meetings of interest to all area members. Upcoming later this year will be a change of Northern VA Caucus leadership . . . if you have any interest in learning more about Caucus duties please contact a Caucus officer regarding same. All NARFE members are encouraged to build their Caucus attendance, bring a new member, and join in. It is a great way to stay informed about happenings within both Areas IX and X. Please join with us at any of our meetings or at our local chapter luncheons, meet new friends with similar interests, form bonds, help our No. 1 charity: The Alzheimer’s Assn., and help us to grow even stronger in our efforts to legislate Federal Retiree and Active Federal Staff interests in Virginia and throughout the nation. If you ever wanted to learn about state and national legislation, NARFE is also a wonderful place to learn about it. We have Senate Liaison (SLLs), and Congressional Liaison (CDLs) reps., who diligently work with U.S. House/Senate and VA Congressional/Senate representatives to keep all of us informed.

Shy about offering help within your chapter? Want to develop new friendships, offer to help in some small way with a chapter project or area event. That could be you accepting a position on your local NARFE chapter’s board of directors, becoming a chapter officer or perhaps even taking on a new challenge, being a “greeter” at chapter luncheons. NARFE’s VA Federation can become much stronger with members who are actively “involved” . . . not just for a luncheon visit but dedicated to one or more of a NARFE Chapter’s or Area’s goals. Congressman Jerry Connolly’s Annual Health Fair, held in November, at the Fairfax County Government Center is one of those very worthwhile projects. Consider volunteering! You will meet many federal employees and retirees at such events and make new friends.

Having personal concerns following death of your spouse (lots of questions and no quick answers) . . . well NARFE HQ and its connections can be a godsend here. Make contact, specialists are available at HQ and many times within your local chapter, this is one benefit of paying NARFE dues. Chapters also have Service Officers who will answer your call and do their best to obtain an answer for you.

October 2017 brought many members to Martinsburg, WV, for our 5-state Regional Conference hosted by our own Regional VP Bill Shackelford. Lovely drive, “full house” attendance, great speakers, and another opportunity to mix and mingle with regional attendees. Bill represents members from the following 5 Federations: VA, WV, NC, KY, and TN.
November 2017 was a busy month with VA Federation NARFE-PAC fund distributions of 6 checks for local area congressional candidates. Coordination of that involved volunteers from Dulles chapter: Charles McAndrews; Fairfax chapter; Ted Pasek; and me (Dulles), in quickly obtaining info on each of those candidates, to fulfill that assignment. It was no easy task with a week to go prior to the elections; however, it was accomplished with the last check delivery early a.m. on Election Day. I think all 3 of us learned a lot more in this “learning experience process”.

**Wilma M. Grant, Area X – Vice President**

**Arlington Chapter #007:** Despite the best efforts of the Board of Directors and myself over the past 2 ½ years, we have only been able to recruit one new member who is learning the job of social chair. At the end of the calendar year, we will have at least six long time members leaving the board. We will resume our recruiting efforts in August but do not hold out much hope. If our efforts fail, I will be asking the board to vote to either merge with another chapter or to close the chapter at November’s board meeting. We will meet again in August but do not hold out much hope. If our efforts fail, I will be asking the board to vote to either merge with another chapter or to close the chapter at November’s board meeting.

We have had several interesting speakers over the past period. At least two were local people who have written books on various subjects relevant to the DMV. In addition, we had Virginia Delegate Patrick Hope, who gave us a summary of actions before the General Assembly and his perspective on actions by the Special Session of the Legislature. Medicaid has been expanded and a budget was passed.

**William Thompson, President**

**Great Falls/McLean Chapter #489:** Our chapter has recently attained several new members who have willingly taken on new responsibilities as well. Eddie Eitches has offered his services in VA Federation’s Legislative Representative. He hosted the most recent Legislative Meeting at his lovely McLean home on May 9. VA Federation President Leslie Ravenell attended and conducted the meeting for 17 NARFE attendees and a local political speaker was introduced by Eddie. We all missed Maggie Keator, our VA Legislative Chair who did not attend. Lunch was researched, then obtained by Rachel Eitches, another of our new members, and supplemented by dessert and salad, which Wilma Grant brought. Another new McLean member brought a lovely cake. The meeting held the attention of all in attendance as Leslie guided us through our current Legislation and we dealt with new or upcoming matters as well. Currently serving as 1st VP, Connie Bails was there with husband John Bails also in attendance. Many chapters were represented at this meeting.

I attended Rep. Jerry Connolly’s Health Fair at Fairfax Government Center on Nov. 18, 2017 and enjoyed meeting other area NARFE members there for a chat and catchup on area events. In early December, I also hosted a mini Health Fair at my previous place of employment and stopped by Wilma Grant’s home to pick-up Health Fair giveaway goodies, paperwork, etc. Our chapter remains dark throughout the summer months and no activities have been planned unlike the other area chapters.

**Raphael Wong, President**

**Fairfax Chapter #737:** Fairfax Chapter 737 celebrated with Ruby Harney who received a Fairfax County Senior Citizen’s Award for her work as our Public Affairs Officer. She works hard behind the scenes to publicize meetings to attract more members to our meetings. She is also a greeter and coordinator to make members and visitors feel welcome. Our Chapter was well represented at the VFC Convention in Charlottesville in April. Connie and John Bails had prominent roles and Ted Pasek assisted as the Exhibit Chair. Donna Shackelford’s efforts as Alzheimer’s Chair earned over $3,000 for Alzheimer’s Research during the Convention.

An Audit Team was appointed to review our chapter’s 2016 funds. They completed a comprehensive report with recommendations. The chapter had no issues but has acted to strengthen procedures, especially in handling and reporting the Alzheimer’s Research contributions.

Our programs included Peter Hause from Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home who spoke on planning for your memorial. “Attacking America” was Randy Sayles’ topic in February describing the 1979 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. Bill Moberly spoke of the “Americans in Wartime Museum” to be built in Prince William County.
William County. He specifically interviews vets to capture their stories on video. The April speaker was unexpectedly unable to attend. This led to impromptu discussions of scams which proved to be quite interesting with everyone getting involved. Virginia Delegate David Bulova addressed a large group on the results of the Virginia General Assembly meetings. Then in June the “Snappy Tappers” entertained us with creative tap dance routines.

**Vienna/Oakton Chapter #1116:** The Chapter remains active currently holding meetings at the recently renovated Vienna Community Center. Programs during the past fiscal year included three NARFE members: VFC President Leslie Ravenell, VFC Alzheimer’s Chair Donna Shackelford, and Mark Arpa, Chapter 1116 Member. Other speakers were: Michelle Lemon of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Margaret Mensch of Arlington Ladies, Lisa Mottesheard, account manager for Caption Call of Eastern, VA, and Timothy Brown, Regional Manager, Virginia Dept. for the Blind and Vision Impaired. State representatives Senator Chap Peterson and Delegate Mark Keam attended the May chapter meeting and annual ice cream social.

Two chapter-members attended the Region X Conference in Martinsburg, West Virginia in October. Five chapter-members attended the 64th VFC Convention in Charlottesville in April. Chapter members joined members from Annandale and Fairfax NARFE Chapters for the 49th Annual Fairfax County Senior Recognition Ceremony for Senior Clubs and Organizations at The Waterford in Springfield, in May, where Anne Shea was our chapter’s honored guest. The Chapter closed out the year with the annual pot luck picnic in June with Area X Vice President Wilma Grant in attendance.

Plans are underway to celebrate our chapter’s 50th Anniversary in 2019.

**Dulles Chapter #1241:** The NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 meets usually the fourth Monday of every month (except July and August), and we have our Christmas holiday party the second Monday of December. Our chapter lunches are held at the Amphora Restaurant in Herndon, VA in the private party room there. Several lunch menu offerings are available at the cost of $18.

We encourage a variety of interesting speakers during the year! For example, in January 2018, we had a tax expert explain the new Federal Tax Changes. In February, we had a master policeman explain Crime Prevention. In March, we had our National President Dick Thissen and our VF President Leslie Ravenell each give us an update on the latest NARFE activities from their own perspective. We were also encouraged by the attendance of other area members at that meeting. In April, we had a state Senator and a Delegate giving us an update on the VA General Assembly. In May, we had a Certified Elder Law Attorney, one of the Nation’s Top 500. In June, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock (R - 10th District) gave us an update on her activities and accomplishments in the House of Representatives and we also invited a new speaker from the 11th District to share his views.

We were represented by member Wilma Grant, at the NARFE Regional meeting in Martinsburg, October 2017. Several of our members attend the quarterly Northern VA Caucus meetings on a regular basis. Charles McAndrew and Wilma Grant also attended the May 2018 Legislative meeting in McLean, hosted by Eddie Eitches at his home. VA President Leslie Ravenell asked Wilma to record the minutes of that meeting. Charles and Wilma will also attend the August 2018 NARFE Conference, in Jacksonville, FL.

Grateful thanks to our three members who regularly report on VA and National legislative activities, they are also dutifully recorded in Dulles chapter newsletter. They are Judy Thorne, Charles McAndrew, and Bill Schmidt. All our members gratefully acknowledge their contributions and the heightening of our own interest and political discourse.

We are proud of our wonderful Dulles newsletter that ex-President Patricia Wolfe produces each month, except July, August, and December. Pat has served Dulles Chapter very well in several capacities for many years and we are extremely grateful for all her initiative and for the dedication she demonstrates to all members. Pat was presented a lovely chapter gift, honoring her presidency, by Richard Thissen, NARFE President at the March 2018 meeting. Pat was also nominated as VF Bylaws Chair for the 2019 VF Convention in Charlottesville. Richard
Giangerelli has now rejoined Dulles chapter board in the role of 1st VP. His wife Mary Ann Giangerelli has now assumed the role of Alzheimer’s Chair. We thank each one of our board members for their guidance and direction; all others who handle meeting arrangements, raffles, etc.; and every chapter member who regularly attends our chapter meetings. Pride in chapter comes from the members who support it . . . our chapter will always be what we make of it!

Charles McAndrews, President

No. VA Metro Chapter #1665: Metro Northern Virginia has stabilized, although with continued loss of members it is not clear how long we remain viable. In August 2017 we had 150 members; on June 2, 2018 we had 116 members. As of May 23, our treasury balance was $2,703.96. Luncheon meeting attendance remains relatively constant at around 20. Since January when we held our annual Silent Auction we have raised $942 for Alzheimer’s.

Our programs remain a bright light in our chapter’s year. In order, we have welcomed: Karen Toth, Arlington Players; Eddie Eitches, VF Legislative; Gayle Nelson, Blue Cross/Blue Shield; Evan Farr, Elder Law Attorney; Jennifer Green, National Park Service (TRI); Dick Holm, retired CIA Operative; and Karl Van Newkirk, Arlington Historical Society. Members Marilyn Mautz and Judy Willis attended the annual 2018 VFC Convention and Judy Willis, Marilyn Mautz, and Bill Armstrong attended the Northern Virginia Caucus.

Judy Willis, President

Wilma Grant, Area X Vice President
PROGRAM AREAS

National Legislation Chair’s Report

The Virginia Federation is one of NARFE’s leaders in the congressional advocacy area. This is accomplished through the Federation’s National Legislative Team consisting of a Chair, 11 Congressional Legislative Liaisons (CDL), one for each of Virginia’s 11 Congressional Districts, and 2 Senator Legislative Leaders (SLL), one for each of our Senators. The Team leads the Federation’s efforts to build relationships with the Virginia Congressional delegation and to advance NARFE’s position on important legislative matters affecting active and retired federal employees. They also inform and interact with Chapters about issues affecting the pay and benefits of Federal employees and retirees.

This was a year of change. At the start, Steve Ledford stepped down as National Legislative Chair after serving as the VFC National Legislative Chair for the past two years and serving as a Senate Legislative Liaison for the past 5 years. The VF President appointed me as the new Chair in June 2017. In addition, we had several other changes in the National Legislative Team. Frances Boatman, Roanoke Valley Chapter 111, became the CDL for the 6th Congressional District and William (Bill) Briscoe, Manassas Chapter 356, became the SLL for Senator Warner. Also Ray Whipple, Peninsula Chapter 685, stepped down as the CDL for the 3rd Congressional District. The CDL position is still vacant at the time of this report. We are looking for a NARFE member (Chapter member or a VA National member) living in the 3rd Congressional District who has an interest to volunteer their services for this important function. Chapters with members in the 3rd District include Peninsula 682, Churchland 1293, Brentwood 1679, Suffolk 1743 and Norfolk 66.

The National Legislative Team has been active individually and collectively. Besides the normal outreach to individual members and their staffs the team met for a coordination meeting in October 2017 and 11 members of the team attended the Virginia Federation’s 64th Annual Convention in April 2018. At the Convention the Team staffed the NARFE Political Action Committee (PAC) table. Thanks to the support of those attending the convention, we raised close to $5,400 for PAC, including 10 new sustaining contributors. OUTSTANDING results!! Thanks to all who supported PAC!

NARFE collects PAC funds through member voluntary contributions for the two-year congressional election cycle. These funds are maintained separately from the Association’s operations funds which are funded by membership dues and other fund-raising events. We are in the 2017-2018 cycle and NARFE’s goal is to give $1 million to congressional candidates who are supportive of the Federal community. Through March 2018, 883 Virginia Chapter members have given $56,814 to PAC, including 38 sustaining contributions. Through the same period, 536 NARFE Virginia National members also contributed $21,873 to PAC, including 13 sustaining contributions. So, through March 2018, Virginia’s total PAC contributions were $78,687, including 51 sustaining contributors. During the same period NARFE PAC paid out $34,000 to 7 different individuals in the Virginia congressional delegation. More activity in both collections and payouts can be expected in the next 6 months as we go into the November 2018 elections. Please continue your support of PAC as we complete this election cycle and go into the 2019-2020 cycle. If you haven’t contributed to NARFE PAC, please consider making this important contribution. It will help NARFE to continue to support those individual congressional members who are friends of NARFE and its agenda.
In 2019, we will make any adjustments that may be necessitated by the 2018 elections. In addition, we will seek VF funds to support the National Legislative team attending NARFE’s Legislative Conference in March 2019. We are always available to provide information and assistance to the Chapters. Just let us know.

In closing, I want to thank the following members of the National Legislative Team for volunteering their time and efforts in advancing NARFE’s issues with the Virginia Congressional Delegation: SLL’s Bill Briscoe (Manassas-356), and Eddie Eitches (McLean-Great Falls-489) and CDL’s William Ketron (Williamsburg-685), Dillard Horton, Jr. (Suffolk-1743), Ray Brandenburg (Fauquier-1549), Frances Boatman (Roanoke Valley-111), Robert Zombron (Midlothian-2265), John Tolleris (Alexandria-232), Mary Kelley (Wilderness Trail-1837), Charles McAndrew (Dulles-1241) and Judy Thorne (Dulles1241).

Closing Quotes:  (This is a Two-for-One special!!) (1) “Leadership is ACTION, not position” Donald McGannon, and (2) “Aim for SERVICE and SUCCESS will follow” Albert Schweitzer.

Gaston Gianni, National Legislation Chair

State Legislation Chair’s Report

The Virginia General Assembly convened on January 10, 2018, for an even-year 60-day session with weak Republican majorities in both the House of Delegates (51-49) and Senate (21-19).

Democrats gained 15 House seats in the November 2017 election. HD 94 was finally decided by a contested review of ballots overseen by 3 state circuit court judges. Robert Yancey was declared the winner by the drawing of a film canister from a pottery bowl. If the democratic candidate’s name had been drawn, the House would have been tied 50-50, requiring serious collaboration between the two parties. M. Kirkland Cox (R-Colonial Heights) was elected House Speaker.

House members filed 2,778 bills, Senators filed 2,326 bills. Fewer than 1000 bills passed (919); 545 were unanimous, fewer than 75 passed with a vote of less than 60%. Five of our six issues were introduced:

- **Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Premiums** was not introduced. Only one long term care item was introduced – creation of a long-term care ombudsman.
- **Income Tax Age Deduction** (HB 972) was introduced by Delegate Guzman. PBI in House Finance (5-3). Delegate Guzman asked for our support/background before she testified. Other related bills:
  - SB 335 (Dunnavent), increases personal exemption
  - HB1444 (Pogge), allows individuals to itemize regardless of federal return
  - SB 745 (Sturtevant), increased Virginia’s standard deduction

Many income tax related bills were held over for further study this year because of the passage of the federal income tax reforms. The General Assembly is reviewing the impact of that legislation on Virginian tax burden.

- **Minimum Nursing Home Standards** (HB309) was introduced by Delegate Watts. Left in House, Health, Welfare and Institutions Subcommittee (4-2).

- **Absentee Voting** – 28 bills, 14 House bills, 14 Senate bills. Only bill that passed to governor was HB 397 (Keam) – which allows a person completing an application in person to not give the last 4 digits of the SSN.
**Transparency** – 2 bills relating to court records transparency - HB 781 (Keam) Virginia Open Data Initiative Act – died in committee and HB1310 (Lindsey) Retention of case records, electronic format – district court records – signed by governor. Regarding transparency in the General Assembly, the Senate has required recorded votes in committees; House did change rule to require recorded votes in sub committees and committees. This year 28% of house votes died on unrecorded votes versus 54% last year.

**Non-Partisan Redistricting** – 31 bills, 16 House, 15 Senate; 1 bill passed – HB158 (Cole, Landes) to governor. Bill allows the General Assembly to make technical adjustments in House and Senate Districts. Basically, the House Privileges and Elections Committee kills redistricting bills. January 2019 will be our last chance to get a constitutional amendment in place to affect the redrawing of both General Assembly and Congressional District boundaries for the next 10 years.

Brian Cannon, Executive Director, OneVirginia2021, spoke to our state convention in April 2018. His organization is circulating a redistricting petition across the state. They are seeking 1,000 voter signatures in each house district that will be presented to the appropriate delegates before the January session begins. They need volunteers to work Election Day – June 12 (primaries) and November 6 (general election – all state House and Senate seats are on the ballot) and to attend candidate town halls/debates to get them on the record on redistricting. Contact his office for information – 804-240-9933 or director@onevirginia2021.org.

Fourteen chapters were represented in our Convention State Legislative Meeting. We discussed the status of our legislation and the need to increase our VFC-PAC funding for the 2019 General Assembly Session and to re-assess our procedure to allocate our PAC funds. The VFC-PAC account had $3,882.44 in assets as of January 2018. We had previously disbursed $3,750.00 to 11 candidates in the fall of 2017, as follows:

- Delegate John Bell, (D), 87th District - $500
- Delegate Mark Levine, (D), 45th District - $250
- Delegate Kaye Kory, (D), 38th District - $500
- Delegate Timothy Hugo, (R), 40th District - $250
- Delegate David Bulova, (D), 37th District - $250
- Delegate James LeMunyon, (R), 67th District - $250
- Delegate Michael Mullin (D), 93rd District - $500
- Delegate Betsy Carr (D), 69th District - $500
- Challenger David Rose Carmack (D) HD 83 - $250
- Challenger Al Durante (D) HD 54 - $250
- Senator Amanda Chase (R), District - $250.

In summary, Northern VA delegates received $2,000 of the PAC funds, another $1,750.00 of PAC funds was distributed in other parts of VA. Seven of our endorsed candidates won (Levine, Carr, Mullin, Bell, Bulova, Kory and Hugo), one endorsed incumbent (LeMunyon) lost, and both challengers lost.

2019 will be a critical year in Virginia elections. All 100 House of Delegates seats and all 40 Senate seats will be up for election. We should work this year to build our V-PAC fund so that we can be able to fund important races in the Fall.

**Margaret W. Keator, State Legislation Chair**
Membership Chair’s Report

Membership Awards at VFC Convention
Congratulations to those who received Membership awards at the April VFC Convention for their 2017 efforts:

Top Recruiter
- Connie Bails, Chapter 737 Fairfax 28 new members
- Marie Collins, Chapter 682 Peninsula 18 new members

Best Membership Record (least decline in Chapter membership)
- Area VI (-20.4%)
- Chapter 2112 Caroline (-3.2%)

Best Prospect Conversion Ratio (# of new members as a % of Prospects identified by HQ)
- Area I 42%
- Chapter 1885 Lake of the Woods 400%

Best Reinstatement Ratio (% of non-renewed members who reinstated their membership)
- Tie: Areas VI and VII 46.7%
- Chapter 2112 Caroline 100%

Current Trends:
For the first five months of 2018, while Virginia Chapter total membership has DECLINED by almost 8%, this was somewhat offset by an INCREASE of 7.4% in National Division members in Virginia. As a result, overall NARFE membership in Virginia is down by only 1%. National Division members now comprise 49% of total Virginia NARFE members. Two Chapters were closed this year – 1510 Imperial Plaza and 1682 Chesapeake.

Transfers-out of Chapters are down substantially from last year. HQ has completed its conversion to the “National Division” of the legacy “National Only” members who were previously assigned to individual Chapters. So, the National Life column in the M110 Report should show 0’s.

Other good news is that Non-renewals are down significantly, which means that fewer Reinstatements need to occur. The VFC Reinstatement Ratio is holding steady at around 37%, and 14 Chapters have Reinstatement Ratios of 50% or more. Deaths are also down strongly from last year. Chapter 1757 Middle Peninsula is even showing a 10% INCREASE in membership, and 2112 Caroline had a 0% decline.

Negative trends include lower recruitment of new members, AND fewer Prospects being referred to Chapters. In addition, the VFC Prospect Conversion Ratio is less than 10%. This suggests that we need to not only spend more time contacting the Prospects that ARE being identified, but also concentrate more on word-of-mouth recruiting. For help in what to say, see the Elevator Speech and the Guides to Phoning/Emailing/Mailing potential recruits, all of which are posted on the Membership page of the www.vanarfe.org website. The Recruitment Ideas file has ideas for programs, local activities, marketing of your Chapter, etc. (Also, all statistics documents are posted on the Membership Blog.)

I hope to meet with the Chapter Officers of several VF Areas, to develop tactics for identifying and reaching out to potential members – and especially ideas for the use of social media.

Beverly Thomas-McMillan, Membership Chair
Service Co-Chair’s Report

As Virginia Federation Co-Service Officers, we strive to provide chapter Service Officers and members with access to needed resources regarding their benefits. To assist our members, we have provided Service Officer training, been speakers at chapter meetings and strategized during our breakout session at our federation’s convention in Charlottesville in April.

To date we have had only one Service Officer training session. Area I VP, Jeanne Garrison, scheduled Service Officer training for her area. The one-day training session was attended by Service Officers and other members from chapters within her area. We’re still working on scheduling more Service Officer training sessions around the state.

In May and June, we visited Chapters 356/Manassas (photo), 489/McLean-Great Falls and 1293/Churchland (photo). During chapter visits we’ve found that members are reluctant to step into a Service Officer position because they don’t think they have enough knowledge about benefits. With potential and new Service Officers, we stress that they will not be alone and that they will have the support needed to fulfill their duties. After talking with them we show them that most answers are just a click or phone call away. And that we, as VF Co-Service Officers, can provide them with pathways to needed resources. With approval of chapter presidents, we welcome Rachel Eitches and Shereen Bricker, Co-Service Officers for Chapter 489 and Mark Reed, Service Officer for Chapter 1293. We are still available to speak at your chapter meetings and can gear our discussion around your needs.

The VFC Convention in Charlottesville in April gave us the opportunity to put faces to names and to get acquainted with Service Officers from around the state. We worked on a strategy of transparency and inclusion that was implemented following the convention. We have started sending monthly emails to Service Officers with a topic for the month. It includes beneficial information that Service Officers can share with their members via chapter newsletters or provide them talking points for their monthly meetings. We have also asked Service Officers to share their experiences because it could be beneficial to other members at some point.

We still need help from the chapters. Unless we have had direct contact with a chapter, we are gathering Service Officer Information from our VF website. In some cases, contact information is no longer valid, and some have no contact information. We want to be able to communicate with every chapter through your Service Officer. And,
for chapters with no Service Officer, we want to make sure that you have access to the benefits information that is being shared.

Knowledge is power, and we want to help empower every member of our federation.

Arlene and Johnny Arthur, VF Co-Service Officers

Public Relations Chair’s Report

In January 2011, I took over as VFC Public Relations Chair. My first responsibility was to prepare the 2010-2011 VFC Annual report. Now almost 8 years later, I’m preparing my last Public Relations Annual Report for 2017-2018. At the end of this past year’s VFC Annual Convention, I passed on my PR Chair responsibilities to Deanna Sheppard of the Springfield Chapter 893 who has volunteered to be the new PR Chair. I will now be devoting my time to assisting the Virginia Federation as its National Legislative Chair.

I want to thank all the VFC Board members over the years for their support of the VFC PR activities. I also want to thank the NARFE Chapters and members who took advantage of the NARFE Matching Funds program and the VFC PR “Goodies” program to help advance NARFE Membership in their chapters. Also, thanks to all who invited me to attend their Chapter and Area VP meetings. I thoroughly enjoyed serving the VFC in this position and the many Chapter friendships I made. I ask that you give your full support to Deanna as she begins to lead the Federation’s public relations activities.

Now for the PR Report: During this past year we processed 8 matching funds projects for an estimated cost of $ 5,724. NARFE shared 50% and the VFC 25% of the costs for the following chapter events: Harrisonburg Chapter 164, Rockingham Fair; Woodbridge Chapter 1270, 2017 4th of July Float; Suffolk Chapter 1743, 2017 & 2018 Suffolk Peanut Fest; and Woodbridge Chapter 1270, Shredding and membership drive (see attached picture of the Command Center). The VFC also received 50% NARFE matching funds to replenish its PR Goodies.

During the period we also handed out 12,500 PR Goodies to NARFE Area VPs, Chapters, Matching Funds projects and Health Fairs events. Finally, I attended 3 VFC Board meetings and attended the VFC’s 64 Annual Convention in Charlottesville, VA. And again, I ask that everyone support Deanna Sheppard as our new Virginia Federation Public Relations Chair.

In closing, I want to use the Closing Quote that ended my first Annual Report in 2011: Thanks to Christopher Novak “By concentrating on the positive, we create a sense of optimism and energy!”

Gaston Gianni, Past Public Relations Chair
Alzheimer’s Chair’s Report

Congratulations to all the Virginia Federation members. Once again, you all have given your best for this past year and I am proud to tell you that for the Calendar Year 2017, our total was $63,946.62 toward the Alzheimer’s goal of $13 million. And you should know that since 1999, your total contribution is $1,133,956.72 or 9% of the national goal. You work very hard all year with various fundraisers and accomplish so much for Alzheimer’s Research. You make me so proud of all of you, and of your chapters. Let me reiterate and assure you that every penny you contribute is directed to Research with nothing going to overhead or other expenses.

To give you a summary of the proceeds from the 2018 Convention, our grand total was $3,185.02. The silent auction is always a main attraction, and this year it yielded $1,525. The 50/50 tickets netted $360 for Research, and the challenge issued by Marilyn Riddle from Chapter 685 (Williamsburg) added $500. The tickets for the general raffle (purple bags) brought $202 and in addition the single raffle for the basket from Chapter 1270 (Woodbridge) brought $293.

There’s a new blood test useful to detect people at risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease. The condition is thought to begin long before patients show typical symptoms like memory loss. Scientists have now developed a blood test for Alzheimer’s disease and found that it can detect early indicators of the disease long before the first symptoms appear in patients. The blood test would thus offer an opportunity to identify those at risk and may thereby open the door to new avenues in drug discovery. If you are concerned about developing a dementia, please discuss it with your doctor, and suggest this blood test. Unfortunately, the information I have at hand fails to identify the specific test, but your doctor will be well versed in the most up to date material.

Remember that the Alzheimer’s Association is always available if you have a loved one with dementia. For advice or mentoring, call 1-800-272-3900 for 24-hour assistance. Sometimes it helps to simply talk to someone about the behavior of the patient or the needs of a caretaker. I have many pamphlets published by the Association if you have a need personally or if you need a supply for your chapter. Please let me know and I’ll get them in the mail to you.

Donna Shackelford, Alzheimer’s Chair
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN)

2018 ANNUAL REPORT
(July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)
Serving Current, Former and Retired Federal Civilians, Spouses and Survivor Annuitant
NARFE Members in Virginia

VFN Chapters (as of June 30):

**Area I**
Peninsula 682
Colonial Williamsburg 685
Middle Peninsula 1757
Northern Neck 1823

**Area II**
Metro 5
Tidewater 66
Virginia Beach 974
Eastern Shore 1175
Seaside 1827

**Area III**
Petersburg 28
Richmond 60
Tuckahoe 1727
Louisa 2065
Midlothian 2265

**Area IV**
Churchland 1293
Brentwood 1697
Suffolk 1741

**Area V**
Lynchburg 110
Bedford 1068
Southside 2079
Piedmont 2080

**Area VI**
Roanoke Valley 111
New River Valley 1134
Wilderness Trail 1837

**Area VII**
Charlottesville 135
Harrisonburg 164
Winchester 180
Page Valley 1793
Shenandoah County 2358

**Area VIII**
Fredericksburg 90
Colonial Beach 595
Warrenton/Fauquier 1549
Lake of the Woods 1885
Caroline 2112
Falls Run 2343

**Area IX**
Alexandria 232
Manassas 356
Springfield 893
Annandale 1159
Woodbridge 1270

**Area X**
Arlington 7
McLean/Great Falls 489
Fairfax 737
Vienna-Oakton 1116
Dulles 1241
Metro Northern VA 1665

VFN Website:  www.vanarfe.org

VIRGINIA LEADING THE WAY