



## National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Virginia Federation of Chapters

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Dear Virginia NARFE Members,

Welcome to the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Federation Convention. While you are here at the convention you will see firsthand the operation of our Federation. Here is some additional information.

To highlight the relationship between the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) the Area Vice Presidents, Chapter Officers and all members of the Virginia NARFE membership, I have outlined some of the benefits of the VFC and the NARFE Chapters. Realizing there is more work to be done, listed are noteworthy attributes of the Federation's relationship with NARFE Virginia Chapters.

The VFC represents all federal retirees/employees within the state by drafting a State Legislative Plan for consideration by Virginia General Assembly via VANARFE State Liaisons. We also provide a unified voice in Richmond when dealing with the Governor and the General Assembly and on your behalf; we educate State Legislators and local officials about concerns of federal retirees/employees. Our representation helps State Legislators refine proposed bills affecting us all. We promote the aims of NARFE throughout Virginia. We also support State Legislators through our VFC State PAC. The VFC is the logical organization to set specific and attainable goals for the chapters to support within the state and to clarify the goals of National Headquarters. VFC speaks for all Virginia members on National NARFE policy issues.

In addition to the training offered at our Annual State Convention, we coordinate and provide training for local NARFE chapter officers, committee chairs and area coordinators to provide top quality leadership skills for the furtherance of our common goals. We also make sure that we communicate with members and the public-at-large about issues of concern to federal retirees/employees. The VFC makes recommendations to the Headquarters the contributions for NARFE's political fund to support political candidates who champion our issues.

One of our most important relationships is our coordination and counsel for chapters on effective ways of carrying out various functions such as membership, service, and public

relations helping federal retiree/employees. Our VFC program chairs travel to any VA Chapter upon request to speak at chapter meetings on duties and responsibility of a Chapter Service Officers and all other program chapter officers.

The VFC provides support to members through our Senate Legislative Liaison (SLL) and Congressional District Liaison (COL) Program. We have a NARFE member assigned to each of Virginia's two senators and to all 11 Congressional Districts. The job of these individuals is to provide input on NARFE issues to our legislators and to assist chapters and members in communicating with Congress. As I am sure you know, there has never been a more important time for our members to stay in touch with our elected officials. Do you know who your COL is? You can find that information on our VFC website.

That brings me to another important program offered by the VFC, our website: [vanarfe.org](http://vanarfe.org). hope some of you are familiar with the website and I hope some of you found information about this convention there. If not, I recommend that you take the opportunity to look at the information contained there and also let us know when you need something more so that we can serve you.

Finally, based on feedback from Area Vice Presidents and chapters, the VFC plans to include in our strategic plan for the pending future many of the suggestions that have been brought forward from many of you, for example:

- Increase visibility to chapters, by Area VP's & VFC Executive Members.
- Introduce Greeter concept to chapters in a formal manner, i.e. training. Clarify the Organizational structure of NARFE & the VFC
- Provide more training on NARFE reporting systems.
- Provide more structured Officer Training.
- Establish a system to assure that all pertinent information is provided to all levels of membershi in a timely manner.

It is our goal to insure all voices are heard and we are more proactive in addressing issues and concerns that exist in the Virginia Federation of Chapters. Again, have a great convention and please feel free to contact me with any questions or issues.

Sincerely,

*Leslie E. Ravenell*

VFC President