



REACHING OUT

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

NARFE Chapter 7

February 2012

Next meeting:
Wednesday Feb. 8
1:00 p.m.
Refreshments, 12:30

Culpepper Garden
Senior Center
4435 N. Pershing Dr.
Arlington, VA

Topic:
Candidates Forum-
Special County
Board Election

Executive Board meets Thursday, February 16, 10 a.m.

Meetings are cancelled if Arlington Public Schools have unscheduled closing.

Avoid towing! Get a pass from the front desk at Culpepper Garden to park in the lot. Additional parking on Henderson Road.

Alzheimer's Raffle in February features chocolate truffles

By Bonnie Franklin

We will raffle off a box of Harry & David's chocolate truffles at our February meeting. Tickets are \$2 each or \$5 for three. Last month's raffle netted \$45 for Alzheimer's research.

In view of the chapter's fundraising success last year, we have set a goal of \$1,000 for 2012. One way to help is to donate an item that we can raffle off at a chapter meeting. We've had baked goods, wine, candy and a bath products assortment. Any portable item that others might be interested in is a candidate. Let Bonnie Franklin know if you can supply something.

February meeting:

Meet the County Board Candidates

By Bill Braswell

In March 2012 Arlington will hold a special election to fill the vacant County Board seat. Traditionally, a special election is the most competitive of any in Arlington.

Three candidates are vying for the Board seat: Audrey Clement, the Green Party candidate; Libby Garvey, the Democratic Party candidate; and Mark Kelly, the Republican Party candidate.

We have invited these aspiring

County Board members to our February meeting to outline their priorities and answer your questions. We have asked them to join us at the 12:30 social period and to stay after the meeting to talk with you individually. This will be a most opportune time for you to show the candidates that we vote in larger numbers than the general population and that we have meaningful issues upon which we want the candidates to focus.



President's message:

WARNING! BEWARE!

.By Max Scruggs

Congress is in session again, and the majority in the House of Representatives is taking aim at the retirement benefits that you active employees are earning and that you retired folks have earned already.

These Congressional men and women are dangerous: they're discriminating against a whole class of Americans who have served this country for a combined total of trillions of hours. They'll do nothing to make the wealthy pay their fair share (Mitt Romney's 15% is extremely far from a fair share.). However, most, if not all, of us pay 25% of our revenues. Virginia's intrepid Eric Cantor is in the forefront of those leading the assault on us.

January 25, 2012, example: "**Federal workers targeted to pay for two-thirds of payroll tax cut holiday** Late last year, the House of Representatives proposed that federal workers pay \$65 billion of the cost of the payroll tax cut extension. Now this House-passed plan moves to a House and Senate conference committee to be considered again. Asking just 2 percent of America's middle class to pay almost two-thirds of the cost of the payroll tax cut holiday is unfair and discriminatory. It is unac-

ceptable. Tell Congress today that you won't stand for this egregious action. Let your representative know how unfair this is."

Senators Warner and Webb and Congressman Moran need to hear from us to know how much we hate this plan. To take action, take these steps:

Go to <http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/index.cfm>

Log in as a NARFE Member

Click on Legislation

Click on Legislative Action Center

Next page: click on Take Action.

Follow the next steps.

To defeat this and future assaults or to diminish their effects, you need to take action when HQ calls for assistance. Sign up for Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS). https://www.narfe.org/departments/isi/join_gems.asp

Lawmakers sometimes schedule critical votes with little advance notice to handicap efforts to generate a grass-roots response. Fortunately, NARFE can respond with e-mail action alerts which mobilize members

Mary Hynes outlines Arlington initiatives for 2012

By Mary Knox

In 2012, the Arlington County Board will work with citizens and county employees to reinvigorate and update the "Arlington Way" with a new initiative entitled "People, Leadership and Civic Engagement (PLACE)."

As explained by Arlington County Board Chair Mary Hynes at Chapter 7's January 11 meeting, PLACE will take the tradition of the Arlington Way and move it into the "now" by more fully engaging new citizens, new technology and new employees. To increase participation, the County Board will work with a wide array of citizens' groups to map their membership across the County. The goal is to determine who the interested groups might be for any given issue, and, as Ms. Hynes said, "invite them to the dance." The leadership aspect of PLACE will help to clarify the processes and opportunities

available for participating in County decision making. To promote civic engagement, the County will hold joint trainings that bring together citizens, members of Arlington County commissions and County staff. The pilot effort, scheduled for fall 2012, will focus on land use planning processes.

The County Board is also making an enhanced effort to reach out to citizens directly. On "Open Door Mondays" one to two Board Members will make themselves available to talk to citizens from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; no appointments are needed. Board members will come to the Thomas Jefferson Community Center on the first Monday of the month; Gunston Community Center on the second Monday; Langston-Brown Community Center on the third Monday; an Arlington County Fire Station on the fourth Monday; and Court House Plaza on the fifth Monday.

Welcome, new members

Carol Arnold
Richard Donlavage
Kim Luoma
Marian Thompson
Sharyn Vanepps
Barbara Chattin
Adrienne Chute
Georga Shaw
Peter Shomer

Welcome, reinstatements

Albert Grinberg
Paul Locke
Peter Fox
Thomas Lloyd
Ellen Thompson

(Continued from page 1)

President's Message

to take action for or against legislation affecting federal workers and annuitants. But without your current e-mail address, you won't know when we need you. Go to http://www.narfe.org/pdf/Rapid_Response_Team.pdf to learn how to sign-on to NARFE's Rapid Response Team.

Do some work for yourself and your fellow active employees, retirees and annuitants.

As a means of keeping you abreast of matters that may well affect you, we are considering posting on our web pages <http://www.vanarfe.org/7/7.htm> the minutes of the Executive Board meetings. You may, of course, attend those meetings.

VFC Convention in Richmond:

April 22-25; We have 42 votes; we're entitled to 42 delegates; we encourage you to sign on as delegates. We can reimburse you for some of the costs.

2011 R. David Smith Memorial

Award This award is given in memory of R. David Smith and as a tribute to his leadership and dedication during his tenure in the Virginia Federation of Chapters. This year Chapter 7 has selected Past President Elsie Cunningham as its candidate. The Award will be presented at the VANARFE Con-

vention in April. More info on the Award at <http://www.vanarfe.org/>.

Budget Committee--FY2012, Bonnie Franklin, member/Chair; Mark McLachlan, member; and Bill Thomson and Max Scruggs, members ex-officio, has drafted and the Executive Board has approved, after some changes, the '12 budget. You may obtain a copy from Bill 703 358 9549/jbwt42j@gmail.com.

Audit Committee--FY2012 members Ed Weiler and Mark McLachlan and ex officio members Treasurer Bill Thomson and Max Scruggs. The Audit Report must be presented to the March Executive Board meeting--March 15.

Contribution to the memory of Gail A. Martin, wife of Bill Martin, NARFE Vice-President for Region X and former President of VANARFE. Ms. Martin died in car accident recently. Bill, was seriously injured but is progressing well. Chapter 7 has made a contribution to a charity in remembrance of Gail.

VANARFE Training for Chapter Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Service Officers and others who are interested in becoming officers will take place Manassas, on March 6. If you are interested let me know ASAP.

Annual Treasurer's Report, 2011

By Bill Thomson

Income	\$12,787.70
Dues	\$ 9,656.89
Alzheimer's Res.	\$ 943.00
Interest	\$ 282.81
Luncheons	\$ 1,905.00
Expenses	\$11,773.20
Newsletter	\$ 3,935.62
Organization Dues	\$ 1,992.00
General Operating	\$ 2,724.28
Alzheimer's Res.	\$ 815.00
Luncheons	\$ 2,306.30

Recruit a new member

By Jeff Shaffer

Tell your friends and acquaintances who are "active" or "retired" federal workers that it's really important for them to join NARFE to protect their earned federal benefits and get all the other membership perks: free advice on personal benefit issues, NARFE magazine, discounts, and interesting chapter meetings. Pick up information packets at a meeting and share them.

Legislative corner

Save the date! National “Call Congress Day” is February 15

By Ed Weiler

Since many (perhaps most?) Chapter 7 members have yet to sign up for legislative alerts via e-mail from NARFE Headquarters, I’m making way for a recapitulation of NARFE President Joe Beaudoin’s January 13 alert concerning the latest Congressional threat to our benefits. Herewith, President Beaudoin’s call for **YOU** to take action.

The latest threat from the Hill. Facing a Feb. 29 deadline, a House-Senate Conference Committee will undertake negotiations on extending the Social Security payroll tax holiday through the end of 2012. The House-passed position would require current and future Federal employees to bear one-third of the cost of the proposed extension, through a further pay freeze and increased retirement contributions, totaling \$64.5 billion.

NARFE’s position. It’s unfair for Congress to single out one (relatively) small group to pay for a widely-enjoyed tax benefit. If there’s any good news here, it’s that we’re not

alone. The entire 28-member Federal-Postal Coalition (of which NARFE is a member) is taking up this fight.

What you need to do on February 15. Lean hard into the prevailing winds of inertia and do the NARFE 2-Step:

STEP 1: Call the U.S. Capitol (locally, at 202-224-3121; or via NARFE’s toll-free number at 1-866-220-0044). Ask the operator to connect you (alternately) to your Congressman (Jim Moran, for most of Chapter 7), and Senators Warner and Webb.

STEP 2: Be sure to tell the receptionist or staffer who answers where you live, so it’s clear that you are in fact a constituent. (Otherwise, your call does not get tallied). Then, relay a message along the following lines:

”I am a retired/active Federal employee, and a member of NARFE.” [You might wish to mention your Agency].

Thank the Congressman/Senator for his longstanding support of Federal employees and retirees; but note that the current plan before Congress,

“...which pays for 1/3 of the proposed payroll tax cut by taking money out of the pockets of fewer than 2 % of America’s middle class is unacceptable, unfair, and would meet no one’s definition of ‘shared sacrifice.’”

In closing, your message might be: “Federal workers, retirees and their survivors have **already done their part**, saving the Federal Government \$50 billion over two years. Making \$65 billion in further cuts to salaries and earned health and retirement benefits, or making changes in COLAs, would unfairly single out those who protected our nation, many of whom are on fixed incomes.”

Perhaps you find this type of grassroots gruntwork to be a meaningless exercise. After all, how loudly can a message resonate with a bored staffer who hears it over and over again? But as former Congressman Vic Fazio reminded us (at our March 2008 meeting), the typical legislator’s top priority is to get re-elected. Need I say more?

Contact Your Elected Officials

<p>United States Senate The Honorable James Webb (D) (Dear Senator) 248 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Ph: 202-224-4024 Fax: 202-228-6363 Web: www.webb.senate.gov Email: webb.senate.gov/contact.cfm or On website click “Contact.”</p>	<p>United States House of Representatives (District 8) The Honorable James P. Moran (D) (Dear Representative) 2239 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515-4608 Ph: 202-225-4376 Fax: 202-225-0017 Web: www.moran.house.gov Email: Click “Contact Me” on website</p>
<p>The Honorable Mark R. Warner (D) (Dear Senator) 459A Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Ph: 202-224-2023 Fax: 202-224 6295 Web: http://warner.senate.gov/ Email: “Contact us” on website</p>	<p>Virginia Senate Senator Adam Ebbin (30th) Ph: 571-384-8957 Email: district30@senate.virginia.gov Senator Barbara Favola Ph: 703 835-4845 Email: district31@senate.virginia.gov</p>
<p>Arlington County Board www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CountyBoard/ Ph. 703-228-3130</p>	

Support the 2012 VFC Convention

The convention will be held in Richmond from April 22-25. You can support it by (1) helping Richard Simpson (see page 4) with advertising or (2) making a contribution. **Mail your contribution in to the address shown below by March 1** or bring it to the February chapter meeting.

2012 NARFE/VFC Convention Supporter

Print your name below, as you want it to appear in the VFC Convention Program Book.
(Complete a separate form for each supporter.)

Name: _____

Check applicable category:
 Super Angel (\$25), Angel (\$15)
 Cheerleader (\$10), Booster (\$5), Supporter (\$1)
 Chapter # 0007 Chapter Name: Arlington
 Phone # _____ E-mail _____

Please attach check payable to **2012 NARFE/VFC Convention** for amount indicated (**no cash**). Mail to:
NARFE Arlington Chapter 7, PO Box 100971, Arlington VA 22210, Attn: 2012 VFC Convention Supporter

NARFE
Arlington Chapter 7
P.O. Box 100971
Arlington, VA 22210



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Keep current!

Please give NARFE your latest e-mail address by calling the national headquarters at 703-838-7760. Or, go to <http://www.narfe.org/member/>, sign in, and under "What you can do online," click on "Update Your Record." It's easy!

Recruit a new member in 2012

Please deliver by February 3

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703-838-7760 or 1-800-456-8410

<http://www.narfe.org>

Office of Personnel Management Retirement Benefits

202-606-0500 or 1-888-767-6738

<http://www.opm.gov/retire>

Have you signed up for dues withholding?

Sign up and save \$6 in annual dues. You can get the application form at chapter meetings or download it at www.narfe.org/member. Sign in, and under "What you can do online" click on "Dues - Withholding Form."

Receive Reaching Out by email! Reduce clutter!

Contact Mary Knox:

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