



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
CHAPTER 893
SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA**

CHAPTER 893 – SERVING OUR MEMBERS

VOLUME 46 - NUMBER 1

VFC AREA IX

JANUARY 2010

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◆ PRESIDENT'S PAGE ◆

Let me begin by wishing every member a happy and healthy New Year and I hope all of you are having a great Holiday Season. It's always the highlight of our year and there's nothing like spending Christmas with the family.

January is typically when we take time to reflect on what happened in the prior year and look forward to the coming year. Suffice it to say that 2009 was a busy year for NARFE. At the National level we've been working on a number of important issues including protecting the FEHBP and ensuring that CSRS employees aren't hit with unfair hikes in their Medicare Premiums. See Charlie Delaplane's National Legislative report for more on these and other NARFE related issues.

Internally, NARFE's big issue was the recent Dues Referendum, which could have resulted in a major change to our dues structure. Our Chapter voted to approve the change. I've included a summary of our vote on page 2. I just learned that the Dues Referendum was defeated at the national level by a narrow margin. The February issue of NARFE magazine will have the full details.

At the Chapter level we've undergone some significant changes also. As you know, I took over the presidency in March when Rod Bricksin resigned due to health and family considerations. At the same time Jim Delgado agreed to step into the VP post. We've both agreed to stay on for another year and we're honored that you elected us. During the past year we raised more than \$10,000 for Alzheimer's research, held the chapter membership at the 1,800 level, updated the chapter website, and helped host the VFC Convention held in Reston. I would like to thank everyone (especially the Board of Directors) who contributed to these achievements.

Finally, I'm happy to announce that I have appointed Mike Burns to be Chapter Treasurer. He'll be taking over from Darlene Myer Rhodes who has held this office for the past several years. Darlene has done an outstanding job and Mike has a hard act to follow. We all owe Darlene a huge debt of gratitude for her service. I want to extend my personal thanks for all her help and for a job well done.

DICK GALLAGHER

**Happy New
Year**

◆ **CHAPTER CALENDAR – 2010** ◆

Wed, Jan 6 Chapter Executive Board Meeting, 1:30 pm, Braddock Hall, Kings Park Library

Fri, Jan 8 Chapter deadline for the February newsletter

Wed, Jan 13 Chapter Holiday Luncheon, Hilton Springfield, 11:30 am (**Reserve Now!**)

Thu, Jan 14 Preview Performance, SCAPINO at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 8:00 pm

Fri, Jan 22 Fairfax County Senior Citizens Council, 10:00 am, Lincolnia Senior Center; Program: "National Council on Aging: Aging in America."

Apr 25-28 VFC Annual Convention, Virginia Beach, VA (3 nights)

Aug 29-Sep 3 NARFE National Convention, Grand Rapids, MI (5 nights)

READ THIS NEWSLETTER ON LINE!

Go to <http://www.vanarfe.org/893/893.htm> to visit the Chapter 893 web site. Read our web site, and then scroll down to "Newsletters."

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, scheduled Chapter 893 activities are cancelled when the Fairfax County schools are **closed**.

◆ **FX COUNTY SR CITIZENS COUNCIL** ◆

The Council meets at the Lincolnia Senior Center on Friday, January 22, at 10:00 am. The topic is "National Council on Aging: Aging in America." For more information about the Council and this event, contact Diane Hill at (703) 569-5118.

DIANE HILL



◆ **THE LUNCH BUNCH** ◆

It's time for the annual Chapter 893 Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, January 13, at the Hilton Springfield! Go to page 7 for the details, and then make your reservation. See you there!

ELEANOR & AL ERICKSON



◆ **LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA** ◆

The next preview performance at The Little Theatre of Alexandria will be on Thursday, January 14, at 8:00 pm. The LTA presents **SCAPINO**, a comedy set in Naples, Italy. There are wily servants who outsmart their masters; young lovers kept apart by their parents; gypsies, misers, chase scenes and mistaken identities, and as they say, so much more! It's up to Scapino, the cunning trickster, to sort it all out!

Help stamp out no-shows by notifying me by phone before noon on the performance date if you are unable to attend (703-866-9506).

BARBARA KOHL

RESULTS OF THE DUES REFERENDUM

Votes for Approval	98
Votes against Approval	<u>32</u>
Total	130

Votes for the Chapter to Vote as a Block	62
Votes for a Proportional Vote	65
Not Voting for Either Position	<u>3</u>
Total	130

Final Chapter Vote	For Approval	26
	Against Approval	<u>9</u>
	Total	35

◆ PROGRAM NOTES ◆

JANUARY Plan now to join us at the Annual Holiday Luncheon at 11:30 am, Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at the Hilton Springfield. Our speaker will be Sharon Bulova, Chairperson, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. By popular request, we will again be entertained by the Lee High School Madrigals who charmed us so last year. Reservations are required, so go to page 7 to make your reservations now. Your guests are always welcome.

MARGARET YOWELL

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Time: 11:30 am

Place: The Hilton Springfield
6550 Loisdale Road
Springfield, VA 22150

Program: Holiday Luncheon with Speaker and Entertainment

CLOTHING COLLECTION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Our cold weather clothing collection for homeless veterans received 14 pair of thermal underwear, 7 thermal tops, 1 large package of heavy duty socks, 2 hats, 1 heavy duty sweater, and 8 pair of gloves for distribution through Veterans Administration channels. Many thanks to the donors for their contributions.



◆ ALZHEIMER'S REPORT ◆

WE DID IT!

Thanks to the leadership and the resourcefulness of our Alzheimer's Committee and the generosity of the Chapter 893 membership, we attained our goal of raising \$10,000 for Alzheimer's research during 2009. Congratulations and thank you to all concerned. Now let's do even better during 2010!

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHEILA MINOR HUFF, OUR 50-50 WINNER FOR DECEMBER

(At right, Bidders Browse for Bargains at the recent successful Alzheimer's Silent Auction.)



◆ MEMBERSHIP ◆

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS (25) - NOVEMBER 2009*

Clare M. Anzalone
Sharon Blackwell
David H. Burpee
Allen Duckworth
Jacqueline F. Ferrell
Anastasia V. Fuller
Edwin C. Granley
Joyce Gubbins
Mohammad Haque
Phyllis A. Howard
Bridgetta C. Jenkins

David Johnson
Karen Kirkwood
Georgia Koliopoulos
Dorothy Levin
Lloyd B. Martin
Barbara J. Milton
John Mingee
Patricia M. Nash
Renata F. Price
Henry S. Schields
James M. Shrouds

Margaret C. Weedon
Theodore Whitiak
Leonard A. Wood



*New, Reinstatements, Transfers-in

WHERE WE STAND. Our membership at December 9, 2009, was 1,808, up eight from October.

CONDOLENCES. We offer our condolences to the families of:

Bea Holmes, wife of Chapter 893 member Jay Holmes; **Frank Atwater**, Past NARFE National President, a former member of Chapter 893; **Erna H. Jones**; and **Ann Lynch**.

BOB DRAKE



◆ YOUR SERVICE OFFICER ◆

Chapter 893 active federal employees have the resources of their agency personnel offices to get answers or advice regarding employment issues affecting them. Our retired chapter members are not so fortunate in navigating the various channels to get information regarding post-retirement matters. That's where NARFE comes in! The *NARFE* magazine regularly provides timely and authoritative information for both active and retired NARFE members. Especially useful is the *QUESTION AND ANSWERS* section of the magazine where representative questions are answered by NARFE's Retirement Benefits Service Department.

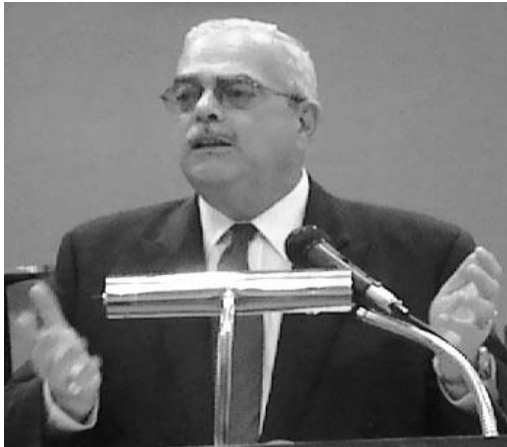
At chapter level, many chapters have a Service Officer charged with providing advice, information, and help regarding federal retirement rules and regulations. Although not providing legal, tax, or financial planning advice, the service officer can be a helpful resource to chapter members in navigating the NARFE and OPM channels to help get you the answers you need. As the Chapter 893 Service Officer, I welcome your inquiries. You may reach me at (703) 978-8271 or thomas_branagan@hotmail.com.

TOM BRANAGAN

◆ NATIONAL LEGISLATION ◆

I don't think I've seen a busier Congress in the 10 years I've been following legislation affecting employees and retirees. Here are some measures and where they stand.

1. A House-passed bill, H.R. 3631, would protect all Medicare beneficiaries, including government retirees, from paying an increase in the 2010 Medicare B premium. It now resides in the Senate Finance Committee, and we need the Senate to pass it this month, or we retirees not on Social Security will see a big jump in our Medicare B premiums next year.
2. Health care reform is anybody's guess. The House has passed a bill (with all 435 members voting) and the Senate hasn't – I'll be surprised if the Senate passes a bill before they break for the holidays. There are two main worries in amendments proposed by Senators Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR). Respectively, they proposed killing the FEHBP, and throwing all federal employees and retirees into the new insurance exchanges, and opening the FEHBP to all uninsured Americans, without establishing separate risk pools. Those measures currently aren't in the Senate bill, and NARFE is trying to keep it that way.
3. Bills in the House and Senate would make payments to Social Security beneficiaries (\$150 or \$250, respectively) absent a COLA in 2010. NARFE is working to ensure that federal retirees are included in such a measure, if passed.
4. Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP repeal appear dead for the time being. Both Senate and House tax committees have rejected arguments for Premium Conversion, and neither committee will address GPO/WEP repeal outside of comprehensive Social Security reform.



(Photo: Rep. Gerald E. Connolly addresses Chapter 893 on NARFE legislative issues at our November meeting.)

Other items of interest include: **a.** It looks more and more like the civilian pay raise will be 2 percent next year. **b.** OPM has announced deadline changes for decisions on the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program – it's now February 15 for all policy holders and to March 1 for policy holders who had opted for Automatic Compound Inflation coverage. **c.** OPM has declined to change the previous Administration's position on the Medicare employer payment feature regarding

employer-sponsored insurance plans' drug coverage. NARFE National reports that Congress is showing little enthusiasm to pursue the issue further. **d.** Congressman Gerry Connolly has agreed to introduce legislation which would allow retiring feds with the option of electing, and paying the actuarial cost of additional survivor annuity amounts in 5-percent increments up to 75 percent of the unreduced employee annuity. Prospects for this appear good, since the benefit essentially would be cost-free.

Finally, a new threat is emerging. Deficit spending requires that the debt ceiling again be raised. The House has passed a debt limit increase, but in the Senate some Senators are withholding support until the leadership agrees to include a proposal to create a commission that would force changes to entitlement and other program spending and tax policy, using a Congressional fast-track procedure. We need to contact Senators Webb and Warner and let them know that NARFE opposes this fast-track commission proposal. Senator Webb's office is at 202-224-4024; Senator Warner's is 202-224-2023. They may be e-mailed through their web sites, webb.senate.gov, and warner.senate.gov. Act now to contact them!

CHARLES DELAPLANE

◆ 2010 NARFE VFC Convention ◆

General: The Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) holds its 2010 convention during April 25 – 28 (Sunday – Wednesday) at the Virginia Beach Hotel and Conference Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia. The opening session begins on Monday, April 26, and the convention ends on Wednesday, April 28. A Welcoming Reception is planned for Monday evening and the traditional banquet will be on Tuesday evening. As usual, there will be the popular Alzheimer's Silent Auction and 50/50 Drawing, as well as a Memorial Service for NARFE VFC members who passed away during 2009.

Registration and Banquet Fees: Full registration fee, including the banquet, is \$45. Registration without the banquet is \$15 (\$20 after March 2). The banquet alone is \$35. If you plan to attend the 2010 VFC Convention, complete a Convention Registration and Banquet Form and submit it with your check directly to the address provided on the form. Your banquet menu selection is also on the form. The form is available at www.vanarfe.org. It will also be available at our chapter meetings. You are responsible to make your own convention and banquet reservations. **Your registration form must be postmarked no later than March 2, 2010, in order for your name to appear in the Convention Program Book.**

Hotel Reservations: The Virginia Beach Hotel and Conference Center is located at 2800 Shore Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23451-1327. For room reservations, phone 1-800-468-2722 (toll free) and ask for the NARFE/VFC Convention room rate of \$109 (Single or Double) plus tax. **Free parking and all rooms are suites.** Make your hotel registration by March 28, 2010, to ensure getting the convention rate. A credit card will hold your reservation.

Chapter 893 Coordinator: Jim Delgado is our point of contact for tracking Chapter 893 attendance at the VFC Convention. Please inform him at jkadelg@yahoo.com or (703) 313-9387 when you have made your reservation or if you need additional information.

◆ SHOW YOUR CHAPTER 893 SPIRIT – SUPPORT THE 2010 VFC CONVENTION ◆

You can show your support for the 2010 VFC Convention without even attending! Be a booster and have your name published in the Convention Program Book with other Chapter 893 members. Just complete and clip the coupon below.

There are five categories of Convention Supporters: Super Angel, Angel, Cheerleader, Booster, and Supporter. Make your check payable to 2010 NARFE/VFC Convention and mail the coupon and check to the address provided on the coupon. Contributions must be received by February 20, 2010, to guarantee publication in the Convention Program Book.

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2010 NARFE/VFC CONVENTION SUPPORTER

CHECK THE SELECTED CATEGORY; MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO 2010 NARFE/VFC CONVENTION; PRINT YOUR NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR IN THE PROGRAM BOOK, AND MAIL TO:

ELIZABETH OSBORN AT 8619 CLYDESDALE ROAD, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151

YOUR CONTRIBUTION MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 20, 2010, TO GUARANTEE PUBLICATION IN THE PROGRAM BOOK.

___SUPER ANGEL (\$25) ___ANGEL (\$15) ___CHEERLEADER (\$10) ___BOOSTER (\$5) ___SUPPORTER (\$1)

PRINT NAME CLEARLY: _____ AMOUNT: \$ _____



NARFE CHAPTER 893 ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

DATE: Wednesday, January 13, 2010

TIME: 11:30 am to 2:30 pm



WHERE: The Hilton Springfield
6550 Loisdale Road
Springfield, VA

PROGRAM: Speaker: Sharon Bulova, Chairperson, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Entertainment, door prizes, and Alzheimer's 50/50 drawing

MENU: This is a plated luncheon with two entrée choices. Choice One: Tuscan Chicken - sautéed chicken breast with Marsala wine, plum tomatoes, artichokes and olives; Choice Two: London broil with sherry mushroom sauce. A Vegan entrée is also available. Accompaniments include: salad, vegetable, rolls and butter, and dessert. Beverages include: Starbucks coffee, iced tea, and selected hot teas. The price for each entrée is \$32.00 including tax and gratuity.

RESERVATIONS: Complete and mail the Reservation Form below with your check payable to NARFE Chapter 893. Reservations close on January 6.

(The event will be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather on January 13)

NO REFUNDS AFTER JANUARY 6, 2010

General Information – Contact Dick Gallagher at (703) 455-4373 or rmgallagher@verizon.net

Reservations – Contact Liz Osborn at (703) 978-6936 or osbornre@cox.net

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MAIL TO THE OSBORNS, 8619 CLYDESDALE ROAD, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151

Amount of Check: \$ _____ Tel Number: (703) _____ - _____ Email: _____@_____

Name: _____ () Chicken () London Broil

_____ () Chicken () London Broil

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Chapter 893 Holiday Luncheon, January 13, 2010
Hilton Springfield, Springfield, VA

POSTMASTER
Please deliver by December 22, 2009

WELCOME



2010

◆ COMING EVENTS ◆

THE CHAPTER 893 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, January 13, 2010
Hilton Springfield
(See page 7 for details)



VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
CONVENTION – 2010

April 25 – 28, 2010
Virginia Beach Hotel and Convention Center
Virginia Beach, VA
(See page 6 for details)