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

CHAPTER 893 — SERVING OUR MEMBERS

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VICE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

NARFE held its 33rd Biennial National Convention August 24-28 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, FL. The theme for the Convention was “NARFE Is in Your Future: Embrace the Mission. Share the Vision.”

As your Vice President, I was the only Chapter 893 member to attend from the Springfield, Virginia, area. Accordingly, the Board selected me as the chapter’s Delegate at the Convention, holding 27 votes based on the current number of chapter members. Also attending was David Sullivan, former National Secretary, and longtime member and officer of Chapter 893, who now resides in Georgia.

Kathy R. Arpa, 1st Vice President, NARFE Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116, and 1st Vice President, FY 2015 Virginia Federation of Chapters, has generously allowed me to share with Chapter 893 her excellent and comprehensive Convention Report (taken from Chapter 1116’s September 2014 Newsletter), and is included in this newsletter. Following the report is a picture of your Virginia Federation representatives taken at the Convention.

Of special note to our chapter, Pierce J. Johnson, VFC Area IX Vice President, served as Legislative Committee Chair at the Convention. Committee Chair Johnson explained that his committee had considered member-submitted resolutions, had edited, revised and reorganized the previous legislative program, and had retained the Association’s policy positions on current issues. The Legislative Program for the 114th Congress was adopted including resolutions to: (1) reaffirm support for District of Columbia statehood; (2) oppose legislation contrary to the interests of postal employees; (3) support the option of recalculating annuities to include locality pay for retirees from Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. territories; and (4) include a formal position on campaign finance reform, which will allow NARFE to support legislation that “attempts to address campaign finance inequities.”

Conference attendees were very interested in a membership initiative to be effective during the month of September 2014, giving members $10 for each new member they recruit. In addition, these recruiters would be entered into a drawing for a Kindle Fire tablet. In response to overwhelming interest at the Conference, on September 8, we were notified by National Secretary Elaine Hughes that National will extend this Membership Drive through the end of the year. This will apply to active or retired members.

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who join between September 1 and December 31, 2014. All recruiters of new members from September through December will be entered into a drawing once for each member they have recruited. A Kindle Fire tablet will be awarded to a recruiter randomly selected from this pool. Use the member application form that appears in every issue of the NARFE magazine. NOTE that credit will only be given if the ID number of the recruiting member is provided upon submission.

This Membership Drive is an outstanding and timely opportunity for us to increase the numbers in our chapter and achieve the membership strength we have enjoyed in the past. A large chapter represents influence as we continue to advocate for NARFE legislative initiatives nationwide.

Upcoming events include:
1. The Annual Holiday Party will be held December 10, 2014, at the Waterford in Springfield, Virginia. Further information provided in this newsletter.
2. A NARFE Legislative Training Conference in Alexandria (Crystal City) on March 14-17, 2015.
3. The 2015 VFC Convention will take place at the Fredericksburg Expo Center, April 13-15.

Additional information for these events will be made available in subsequent newsletters.

We look forward to seeing you at chapter meetings with new and prospective members.

Deanna Shepherd, Vice President

♦ THE LUNCH BUNCH ♦

Before the October 8 chapter meeting, the Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 a.m. at El Paso Restaurant, 6804 Commerce Street, Springfield 22150. It is a fun place to go to socialize, and with the chips & salsa they provide while waiting for your order, all we need is room for lunch. We have enjoyed good times there before. Everybody is welcome to join us for a shared meal and conversation to become better acquainted before going to our monthly meeting. So I can make reservations to sit together, call Eleanor Erickson in advance: Tel. No. 703-768-4460, or email 33eleanor@gmail.com

Eleanor Erickson

♦ CHAPTER 893 OCTOBER PROGRAM ♦

Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid will be our guest speaker on Wednesday, October 8. In 2013, Sheriff Kincaid was sworn in as the first woman to lead the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office in the county’s 271 year history. She will speak on the Sheriff Office’s responsibilities for managing the Adult Detention Center, providing security for the county’s courthouse, and serving the civil law process. The Office has jurisdiction in Fairfax County, the city of Fairfax, and the towns of Herndon and Vienna. Please join us for this very informative presentation.

♦ CHAPTER CALENDAR — 2014 ♦

Wed., Oct. 1—Chapter Executive Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m., Braddock Supervisor’s Conference Room, Kings Park Library.

Wed., Oct. 8—Chapter 893 Monthly Meeting, Social & Registration at 12:30 p.m., Meeting at 1:00 p.m., American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield.


Thurs., Oct. 16—Congressional Candidates’ Forum, 10:30 a.m., Mason District Governmental Center (details in this newsletter: NARFE Event).

Sat., Nov. 1—ECHO Yard Sale, St. Bernadette’s Church GYM, 7600 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield

♦ LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA ♦

The next performance will be “The Rocky Horror Show” on 23 October 2013 at 8 p.m. This production is a musical comedy of the 1970’s with a huge cult following. It involves a middle class couple who have car trouble in front of a huge mansion and go in to use the phone. There they meet Dr. Frank N. Furter (a transvestite from transsexual Transylvania), his servant Riff Raff along with a ragtag bunch of weird Transylvanians. Dr Furter is working on his own Frankenstein creature, a body-beautiful Rocky Horror soon to be unveiled. This synopsis can’t do justice to the play, so just go see it. For your FREE tickets (courtesy of LTA) call Jesse Hill at 703-569-5118 or email jdrewh@verizon.net
NARFE EVENT
CANDIDATES’ FORUM, OCTOBER 16, 2014
We are happy to report that the principal candidates vying for the 11th Congressional District seat – Congressman Gerry Connolly (D), incumbent, and challenger Ms. Suzanne Scholte (R) – have accepted our invitation to participate in a Candidates’ Forum. The Forum will be held on Thursday, 16 October 2014, in the Large Conference Room at the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. This will be a “joint” forum sponsored by six NARFE chapters with members in the 11th District (Alexandria, Fairfax, Springfield, Annandale, Woodbridge, and Vienna-Oakton). We will also be inviting fellow constituents of the 11th Congressional District who are members of other NARFE chapters. NARFE members will begin to arrive at 10 a.m. for snacks and a social “hour.” Candidates will begin their presentations at about 10:30 a.m. with the program to be concluded by 12:00 noon.

Mary Lou Vroman, NARFE, VFC CDL, 11th District

CHAPTER 893 2014 ANNUAL HOLIDAY – MORE DETAILS
We have new details to share with you about our annual holiday party. We are planning on a festive time with music, possibly other entertainment, and a great chance to meet with each other at a wonderful venue. For the food selection we plan on offering the turkey buffet plus Waterford’s special honey baked ham, preceded by delicious hors d’oeuvres and followed by holiday themed desserts. In addition we plan to add a cash bar for the first hour. The board projects the cost for the event will be $30 per person (exclusive of any bar purchases).

Even though it is September and the weather is still warm it is not too early to start thinking about how busy the holiday season can be. So please save the date of Wednesday, December 10, 2014 for our Chapter’s Annual Holiday Party. The event will run from 12:00 noon to 3:30 p.m. at the Waterford of Springfield – the same location as last year. Please join your fellow NARFE members in a very festive celebration with great food and entertainment. Further information and a reservation form will be provided in the November newsletter and announcements at our monthly meetings.

Joe Bush, Hospitality Chair

ALZHEIMER’S AND DEMENTIA – CONTINUING RESEARCH
Could too little vitamin D increase odds of developing dementia? A recent study analyzed data on 1,658 adults who averaged 74 yrs old, did not have dementia, and had no history of cardiovascular disease or stroke when the study began. In the next 5 1/2 years, 171 participants were diagnosed with dementia, including 102 with Alzheimer’s. Based on blood samples collected and tested at the start of the study, those found to be deficient in vitamin D were two times as likely to have developed dementia as people with normal levels of the vitamin. As those levels dropped, the risk for dementia and Alzheimer’s rose, with severe deficiency tripling the risk. While the study found a link between vitamin D levels and dementia, it did NOT prove that a deficiency directly led to dementia or show whether improving vitamin D levels would lower the risk for dementia. Conclusive evidence about a treatment’s effectiveness is rarely found in a single study. Anyone considering change or beginning treatment of any kind should consult a physician. It is hoped that you will read page 42 of the NARFE Magazine September 2014 issue, "2014 Report Tallies Alzheimer’s Toll".

Did you know that you can make an "In Memory Of" donation to NARFE/Alzheimer’s Research? Please send along a letter with your donation stating for whom the memorial is made, and the name & address of someone in the family to be notified of the donation. The contributor will receive a thank you as well. As in all contributions, make your check payable to NARFE/Alzheimer’s Research. Please note Chapter 893 in the memo line, and mail to our VFC Alzheimer’s Chair, Donna Shackelford at 14429 Round Lick Lane, Centreville, VA 20120

To exercise the brain and enjoy some fun, check out 'Name That Thing' on your computer, at http://www.merriam-webster.com

Margaret Yowell, Alzheimer’s Committee Chair

WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Norma Hughes, editor of our chapter’s newsletter for several years, will retire from that position effective January 1, 2015. As of now, we do not have a replacement but are certain that at least one chapter member would consider that very important position. The co-editor Charlie Delaplane is unable to take over, but will continue the essential job of reviewing and editing the draft copy. Any and all who may be interested in the position and would like more information, contact Norma by phone (703-569-0232), e-mail normahughes119@gmail.com, or the chapter president or vice president.
NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The August recess is over, Congress is back in session, and so it must be crunch time on appropriations, mustn’t it? Recently I looked at what the Library of Congress’ “Thomas” web site had to show for appropriations action this year, and the picture apparently reflects accurately the impression we all have of total dysfunction on Capitol Hill. Thomas reports that House and Senate concurring resolutions on the budget are at the “Resolving Differences” stage, but so far as I can tell no actual FY 2015 appropriations bills have been passed. (The new beta Thomas site isn’t as easy to get legislative information from as the old one.) Actually, it would be unlikely if not impossible to find any FY ‘15 appropriations bill passed and sent to the President in the absence of agreement on the budget.

So we are back in the familiar position of seeing the costs of government carried forward on the basis of a continuing resolution. All of the hot button issues facing the country today – immigration reform; foreign policy toward China, Afghanistan, the Mid-East and elsewhere; the growing burden of the baby boomers on Social Security and Medicare; health care reform; the growing inequality of income levels combined with a stagnant economy; etc., etc. – will have to be addressed by the Executive Branch on the basis of outdated funding, or the temporary route of Executive Order, or be ignored until after we find out whether the upcoming elections give us a Congress and Congressional leadership that can actually participate in governing.

It seems to me that for some time to come we are going to have a government that will have to be reactive rather than proactive. It also seems that the old issues that federal retirees used to worry about – e.g., health insurance premium conversion, the unfairness of Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision – have fallen completely off the table. But the Republic has survived worse governance than we now experience, and so for the time being we retirees need to exercise both the long view and patience. One of these years it will get better.

Charles Delaplane

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) State Legislation Board of Directors met and approved the NARFE 2015 Legislative Plan. Although it did not contain the 6 ethical reforms I proposed, I think it is an improvement over last year’s program. It consists of 4 major legislative initiatives, some of which are new and some which have been revised and brought forward:

1. Enhanced protection of seniors from financial exploitation
2. Income tax subtraction for retiree health insurance premiums
3. Transparent redistricting (AKA – gerrymandering)
4. No-excuse senior absentee voting

Mr. A. Benton Chafin Jr. (R) won a state Senate seat in the August 19 special election to fill the seat vacated by Phillip P. Puckett (D) who resigned in June. This was possibly the most expensive state Senate race in Virginia history (appears to be in excess of $1.5 million, but still tallying). This victory puts the composition of the State Senate as 21 Republicans, 18 Democrats, and 0 Independents. One Senate seat occupied by Henry Marsh III (D) is vacant due to his July retirement. This seat will be filled in the November 2014 elections.

Two House of Delegates seats were won in the special elections by Joseph Lindsay (D) and Richard Sullivan (D) respectively. The Virginia House and Senate will reconvene the week of September 22 to debate Medicaid expansion.

Very Important Note: A new law effective 1 July 2014 will require all voters in subsequent elections to provide photo identification. Acceptable forms of identification include valid DMV-issued drivers license or photo ID card; valid US passport or other government issued photo ID; valid employee photo ID card; or valid Virginia college student photo ID. If you do not possess one of the aforementioned, contact the Fairfax County office of elections [703-222-0776]. This new law applied to the August 2014 Farmville, Va. town council election and seemed to work well.

Paul McIlvaine, State Legislative Committee Chair

NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

The 33rd National NARFE Convention was held August 24-28 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando. Total attendance was 933 which included delegates, alternates, members and guests, Regional Vice Presidents, Federation Presidents, and National Officers. Approximately 45 members from Virginia were in attendance.

The opening ceremonies featured an invocation delivered in Hawaiian and English by John Priolo of the Hawaii Federation, a flag presentation by a high school color guard, the pledge of allegiance led by a uniformed Army officer, and the singing of the national anthem by NARFE member Rebecca Silverstein. Convention Host Committee Chair Ken Thomas, immediate past president of the Florida Federation, presided over what was labeled as a “Memorial Service” but that Thomas instead called a “Celebration of Life,” during which NARFE’s 10 regional vice presidents read the number of members who had died in the two years since the last NARFE convention.

The amendment to reduce the number of National Officers to two, a President and a Treasurer, effective November 1, 2014 received 82.16 percent of the votes (3,923 in favor, 852 opposed. (continued on page 5)
In a runoff election, Richard G. Thissen was elected NARFE National President. Thissen, the current National Treasurer, received 61.47 percent of the vote to 38.53 percent for Ken Thomas, immediate past president of the Florida Federation. The runoff was necessitated when none of the three candidates vying for the position garnered a majority of the vote on the first ballot. In the initial voting, Thissen received 1,881 votes, or 38.67 percent of those cast; Thomas of Spring Hill, FL, received 1,503 votes, or 30.90; and Elaine C. Hughes of Asheville, NC, current National Secretary, received 1,480, or 30.43 percent. The top two vote-getters then squared off in the second round. Thissen, of Lake Ozark, MO, previously served as Region V vice president and president of the Missouri Federation.

Jon Dowie of Chapter 33 in St. Augustine, FL, the sole candidate for National Secretary-Treasurer, was elected to that office by acclamation. Bill Shackelford, Past President of the VFC, was elected Region X Vice President at the Region X Caucus Meeting.

The National Officers and the 10 Regional Directors were installed by NARFE President Joe Beaudoin.

In electronic voting, delegates overwhelmingly approved a resolution authorizing the National Executive Board (NEB) to continue developing the model for Future NARFE, using the Future of NARFE Committee Report as the foundation. Resolution 14-01, proposed by the NEB, passed with 85.89 percent of the votes. The resolution directs the NEB to provide implementing resolutions and bylaw amendments for consideration at the 2016 National Convention. “This will be done through strategic planning, with stakeholder participation, to decide the best organization for the future of the Association,” the resolution stated. The delegates addressed the issue of strategic planning for the Association when they passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a standing Strategic Planning Committee. The resolution was offered by the Resolutions Committee. The resolution says the Strategic Planning Committee is to be established no later than February 1, 2015. See final committee reports on the NARFE website www.narfe.org under Convention Material under daily bulletins. In addition to the general sessions there were workshops on branding, marketing and membership as well as a NARFE-PAC breakfast.

NARFE is so close to its goal of raising $11 million for Alzheimer’s research by 2014 that it “surely” will reach it in September, the chairman of the NARFE-Alzheimer’s National Committee, reported to the convention. With the current goal in sight, the committee recommended that the Association adopt a new goal of raising $12 million by 2016. Top fundraising federations for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 were: Virginia Federation $75,349; California, $28,911; North Carolina, $23,253, Florida $22,090; and Kansas, $21,975. Top per-capita fundraising federations were: Delaware, $11.65; South Dakota, $7.86; West Virginia, $7.80; Mississippi, $7.68; and Iowa $6.48. The top fundraising chapter was Chapter 1270 in Virginia (Woodbridge), $15,831. The Alzheimer’s convention raffle took in a total of $11,440 and awarded cash to three lucky winners.

Another top award went to Virginia when Marie Collins received NARFE’s Platinum Award for membership recruitment. In the two years since the last NARFE National Convention, Marie signed up 100 new members. NARFE also gave awards to 19 other members who had recruited 25 or more members.


Additional information on the recent Convention can be found at the www.narfe.org website under Convention under daily bulletins. The next National Convention will be in Reno, NV, August 28-September 1, 2016! The 2018 Convention will be in Jacksonville, FL.

Kathy R. Arpa  
Chapter 1116

Delegates from Virginia Federation
Chapter 893 Meeting, Oct. 8, 2014
The American Legion Post 176, Springfield, VA

Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, October 8, 2014

“Responsibilities of the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office”
presented by Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid

NOTE MEETING TIME
Registration and Social at 12:30 pm, Meeting at 1:00 pm

American Legion Post 176
6520 Amherst Avenue, Springfield VA 22150
(Parking available in rear of the building)