

MINUTES
of the
2010 Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Convention

The 56th Annual Convention was held April 25-28, 2010 Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia with the theme “Building a Strong Alliance Through Membership”. There were 286 registered delegates, delegates at large and guests representing 54 of the 57 chapters in Virginia. The presiding officer was VFC President William “Bill” Martin.

Monday, April 26, 2010

Opening Ceremonies and First Business Session

The opening session began at 9:05 AM by President Martin calling the meeting to order. The invocation was given by VFC Chaplain Margaret Yowell, who introduced the Color Guard, MAG-49, Detachment D, United States Marine Corps, Norfolk Naval Station for presentation of Colors. The beautiful soprano voice of VFC Treasurer Darlene Myer Rhodes lead the delegates in singing the *Star Spangled Banner*, followed by the pledge to the American flag. Welcoming remarks were given by William Shackelford, VFC 1st Vice President and Convention Coordinator.

Welcome to Virginia Beach was given by Al Hutchison, Director of Sales & Marketing, Virginia Beach Visitors Bureau and Honorable William D. Sessoms, Jr., Mayor of Virginia Beach. Mayor Sessoms emphasized the need for alternate modes of transportation, including high speed rail that includes Richmond and Hampton Roads. This area has includes 16 federal agencies and is the largest concentration of Federal activities outside of Washington, D.C.

President Martin introduced those on the Dias, including NARFE President Margaret Baptiste, Region X Field Vice President Paul Carew, and from the audience: VFC Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, VFC Past President Ann Collins, and other Appointees.

Vice President Shackelford introduced Keynote Speaker; Honorable Bobby Scott, Congressman from Virginia Third District, who in his ninth term, serves on the three House Committees: Budget, Education and Labor, Judiciary. Congressman Scott gave his strong support for Premium Conversion, and repeal of GPO/WEP. He stated that those who take another position after or before Federal service shouldn't be punished. Most of his comments were directed to a series of charts about the recently enacted Health Insurance Reform Law. See Attachment 1 for a summary of his remarks.

Parliamentarian Mary Swain gave brief comments. VFC Secretary Robert Miller called the Roll of VFC Officers (Board of Directors). All were present or accounted for. Shirley Driver-Kinchen, Chapter 974 Virginia Beach, Registration Committee Chair, reported 237 attendees. Lynne Pipis, Chapter 5 Metro, Credentials Committee Chair, reported 26 chapters represented with 550 votes.

Lee Barta, Chapter 2065, Louisa, presented the Convention Rules (pages 32-34, VFC Program Book). Delegates unanimously agreed to dispense with a reading of the Convention Rules. VFC 1st Vice President Shackelford presented the 2010 VFC Convention Program (pages 20-27, VFC Program Book). Carlton Andrus, Chapter 232 Alexandria, moved the adoption of the Convention Program. Motion carried. President Martin announced that Barbara Scott, Chapter 1549, Warrenton-Fauquier, and Rachel Hollins, Chapter 2065, Louisa, are appointed to approve the 2010 Convention Minutes.

After introduction by 2nd Vice President Luther Santiful, Region X Field Vice President Paul Carew emphasized that the future of NARFE depends on membership. NARFE's recently released 2009 annual financial report shows that NARFE has experienced significant operating losses over the past three years, in part due to declining membership. New innovative ideas are needed to grow our services.

Robert Miller, VFC Secretary, presented Election Guidelines, pages 35-37, Convention Program Book. There being no objections, President Martin declared Election Guidelines adopted.

Two resolutions from Chapter 1241 Dulles received by the Secretary after the announced deadline were presented to the Convention for consideration in accordance with 2010 Convention Standing Rules, Rule 3b: (1) Membership Benefits Resolution and (2) Membership Recruitment. Summary of actions: Resolution 1: For consideration 72; Opposed 74. (See Attachment 2 for copy of the resolution). Resolution 2: Membership Recruitment: Majority vote For consideration. President Martin referred Resolution 2 to Convention Resolutions Committee.

Nominating Committee Report presented by Janet Payne-Swann, Chair, Chesapeake Chapter 1682: President – William Shackelford; 1st Vice President – Luther Santiful; 2nd Vice President – Richard Giangerelli; Secretary – Virginia Swain; Treasurer – Darlene Myer Rhodes.

VFC President Martin called for nominations from the floor. Robert Boyd, Chapter 2265 Midlothian, nominated Carolyn Wilson, Chapter 1472 Colonial Heights. Patricia Taylor, Chapter 682 Peninsula seconded. There were no other nominations. Don Shiffert, Chapter 2343 Falls-Run Fredericksburg, moved to elect by acclamation the nominees for uncontested offices. John Bails, Chapter 737 Fairfax, seconded. Motion carried. Nominees for President, William Shackelford and Carolyn Wilson, each gave a five-minute speech in support of their candidacy.

Chaplain Margaret Yowell conducted the Memorial Service, which included recognition of 393 NARFE members in Virginia who passed away during the past year. As the roll call of chapters took place the names of the deceased were shown on a projection screen. The ten Area Vice Presidents, in turn, placed a rose in vases at the dais. Christopher Percy, Tidewater Pipes & Drums, piped "Flowers of the Forest". Chaplain Margaret Yowell closed with a prayer.

Lee Barta, Sergeant-at-Arms, announced that 50/50 tickets may be purchased in the Silent Auction/ Hospitality Room (just behind Convention Registration Desk). Newly elected Nominating Committee members meet following Area Caucus Meetings at 8th Floor Executive Board Room.

Thus ended the Opening Ceremonies and First Business Session (11:30 AM).

Monday Evening, April 26, 2010

A reception hosted by the VFC was held in the Sunset Ballroom. Entertainment was provided by Area V Vice President Jessie Barksdale and several VFC Board Members.

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Second Business Session

The second business session was opened at 9:05 AM by President Martin. VFC Chaplain Yowell gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Shirley Driver-Kinchen gave the Registration Committee Report: Total voting Strength – 208; Non-voting – 76; Total Attendance – 284. Lynne Pipis gave the Credentials Committee Report: Chapters represented by delegates – 44 (729 votes); represented by proxy- 10 (72 votes), not represented – 3; Delegates at Large- 22 votes. Total votes – 823.

VFC President Bill Martin introduced NARFE President Margaret Baptiste, who received a standing ovation. She noted that Oct. – Nov.- Dec. membership numbers were favorable with reinstatements and new members gaining. But only six Federations had membership gains last year. The declining membership meant we lost about \$180 thousand in membership dues last year. Many new members drop after one year because chapters fail to maintain contact. We still need to increase membership dues; last year's referendum lost by a narrow margin. NARFE HQS has taken several steps to cut costs, including an electronic meeting of NEB and downloadable forms (F-110). Our Pre-Retirement Seminars numbered 18 last year and we now contract with 10 Federal agencies. What would your annuity be without NARFE? Remind members that COLAs have averaged 3% annually. Alzheimer's Research Fund continues to grow, reaching \$8.6 million by March 31. (Standing ovation at the conclusion of her talk.)

VFC President Martin introduced VFC Treasurer Darlene Myer Rhodes who reported the VFC financial situation is good. Account Balances (March 31, 2010) and Financial Report (July 1, 2009- March 31, 2010) are shown on pages 8-9, 2010 Annual Report. Major expense this year was training at four locations in February and March. About 90 percent of the VFC budget will be expended by yearend June 30. Federation dues have been received from 34 chapters; 13 remaining are expected by the May 31 deadline. Chapters whose fiscal year is a calendar year are reminded to file IRS Form 990N (electronic form) by May 15.

VFC President Bill Martin in his report thanked all the individuals, chapters and Areas that worked so hard to maintain the membership numbers in 2009. (Pages 2 and 3, 2010 Annual Report). We did end up with 120 more members than we had at the start of the year. Five of the ten areas ended the year with more members than they had at the start of the year and 25 chapters did the same. The top seven chapters in percentage gains were named along with all chapters that secured increases. Dennis Martin was commended for his leadership.

Also in his report, President Martin noted that 2009 was banner year for raising funds for Alzheimer's research with VFC adding almost \$221 thousand to the cause. Shirley Keyes is the Program Chair. In the Public Relations area, the VFC has initiated an effort to have a special license plate approved that will identify NARFE. This special license plate is one effort we are doing to help make NARFE a household word, according to Pat Taylor, our energetic Program Chair. Another new effort initiated this year was weekly Virginia General Assembly updates by Bill Schmidt, State Legislation Chair. These reports go to VFC members with email addresses on the NARFE system using GEMS. Training sessions for chapter officers and separate Membership Retention and Recruiting sessions was a major focus this past winter. Thanks to VFC Board. (standing ovation).

Committee Reports:

National Legislation Chair Jim Brewer referred to report (Page 22, 2010 Annual Report). At the Delegate Committee meeting handouts included: NARFE Legislative Accomplishments, What is a PAC; U.S. Representative Informational Spreadsheet; VFC NARFE PAC Data; 111th Congress NARFE-PAC donations; 112th Congress NARFE-PAC goals; Leadership PAC; Candidate questionnaire; Communicating with elected officials; NARFE Q&A's to health care. The committee recommends that Virginia's NARFE-PAC goal for the 112th Congress (2011-2012) be set at \$50,000 to be allocated to areas and chapters.

Service Officer Co-Chairs Connie and John Bails referred to their report (Page 27, 2010 Annual Report). At the Delegate Committee Service meeting they emphasized the responsibility of the Chapter Service Officer. Service Officers should emphasize that members regularly update "Be Prepared For Life's Events", NARFE Form 100 (newly revised).

Margaret Baptiste presented the Service Officer of the Year award for Virginia and the award for Region X to Robert Jones, Peninsula Chapter 682. Bill Martin, Bill Shackelford and Paul Carew participated in the presentation.

Public Relations Chair Pat Taylor reviewed her report (Page 26, 2010 Annual Report) at the Delegate Committee meeting and noted the progress toward a Virginia auto license plate bearing the NARFE logo with a U.S. flag waving in the background. The point-of-contact for applications is John Elkins, Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116. After 350 or more applications are collected, we will go to a State Senator to bring authorization before the Virginia General Assembly. Pat thanked Convention Chair Betty Warren for bringing so many together for planning and carrying out the 2010 Convention.

Alzheimer's Chair Shirley Keyes presented award certificates to the four areas and four chapters with the largest contributions and to the four areas and four chapters with the largest donations per capita. Thanks to Dick Giangerelli who developed the Excel program for tabulations.

Lee Barta, Sergeant at Arms, announce that Convention Exhibits would close at 6:30 p.m.

Alex Adkins, Chair, Ballot and Tellers Committee, gave a report to President Martin, who announced that William Shackelford was elected VFC President and Pat Taylor elected as Area I Vice President.

The morning session recessed at 11:30 AM. The afternoon session reconvened at 1:15 PM.

Bill Schmidt, State Legislation Chair was satisfied with Virginia General Assembly (VGA) response to our 2010 State Legislation Plan. The November ballot will include a proposed constitutional amendment to allow local option on certain real estate tax adjustments. However, no prospect exists for a bipartisan redistricting commission to work out a plan before the June 2011 primary elections. His weekly reports of VGA activities went to members on the NARFE GEMS system but e-mail numbers remain confidential. He urged chapters to invite Virginia legislators to attend and speak at chapter meetings. Two new delegates will be elected on June 8. The VFC State Legislation Committee will meet in mid-June. The proposed State Legislation Plan for 2011 will be considered at the July VFC Board meeting. If legislation is required, we need to get the item to legislator(s) attention before December. Seven of the eight candidates we supported for election in 2009 won, but

we need additional VFC Political Fund donations so senators and delegates can become much more aware of our interests and needs before the press of business toward the end of a legislative session.

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Dennis Martin, State Membership Chair, thanked VFC President Bill Martin, VFC 1st Vice President Bill Shackelford, and 2nd Vice President Luther Santiful for their active roles in the VFC training held in February and March. Virginia continues to gain new members; our retention efforts are starting to pay off. We continue to make gains in Dues Withholding. The Convention Membership Committee meeting agreed to support a recruiting contest over the next 18 months with winners selected for the 2012 VFC Convention.

Luther Santiful, Chair, Resolutions Committee, reported Committee action to reject three resolutions. Summary of actions on the 2010 Convention Resolutions: (See Attachments 3,4,5 for copy of the original resolutions)

R-1. Convention Resolutions (Sponsored by Northern Neck Chapter 1823) – Rejected

R-2. End Restriction on Annuity Supplement Payments to FERS Retirees (Sponsored by Seaside-Virginia Beach Chapter 1827) – Rejected

R-3A. Membership Recruitment (Sponsored by Dulles Chapter 1241) - Rejected

Don Shiffert, Chair, Constitution & Bylaws Committee, reported Committee action to reject two resolutions. Summary of actions on the 2010 Resolutions: (See Attachments 6,7 for copy of original resolutions)

R-3. Improve Publicity for VFC Conventions (Sponsored by Dulles Chapter 1241) – Rejected

R-4. Improve Voting Procedures at VFC Convention (Sponsored by Dulles Chapter 1241) – Rejected.

President Martin introduced Candidates for NARFE National Offices who each presented a statement on behalf of his/her candidacy. Speaking order had been determined by a drawing held at the earlier recess: Ray Harrington, Secretary; Martha Leiker, Vice President; Paul Carew, Vice President; David Sullivan, Secretary; Frank Impinna, Treasurer; Charles Saylor, Treasurer, Dick Strombotni, President, Bill Martin, Region 10 Field Vice President.

Lee Barta, Sergeant at Arms announced Lost and Found items available near Registration Desk and gifts may be picked up from exhibitors.

Thus ended the Second Business Session (3:55 PM)

Tuesday Evening, April 27, 2010

VFC Chaplain Margaret Yowell gave an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. VFC President Martin introduced members on the dais and a string orchestra group composed of students from several Norfolk high schools performed while dinner was served. A free will offering of over \$1,000 was received from attendees.

Shirley Keyes, VFC Alzheimer's Chair, assisted by Wilton Ward conducted the 50/50 drawing. A number of winners each received \$50.

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President Martin presented certificates and plaques to VFC Board members. Nineteen Chapter nominees for the R. David Smith Memorial Award were each recognized and presented with a certificate. The 2010 award went to Jackie Richards, Falls Run Chapter 2343. This award recognizes significant citizenship and community service contributions of a VFC-NARFE member that emulates the commendable example set by R. David Smith, VFC President 2007-2008.

Paul Carew, Region X Vice President administered the Oath of Office for the Officers elected at the convention. These Officers are:

VFC President – Bill Shackelford
VFC 1st Vice President – Luther Santiful
VFC 2nd Vice President- Richard Giangerelli
VFC Secretary – Virginia Swain
VFC Treasurer – Darlene Myer Rhodes
Area I VP – Pat Taylor
Area II VP- Betty Warren
Area III VP – Jack W. McMurchy
Area IV VP – Joseph D. Lee
Area V VP – James Nobles
Area VI VP – Delwyn A. (Del) Dyer
Area VII VP – Alfred (Steve) Dansker
Area VIII VP – Leslie E. Ravenell
Area IX VP – Pierce J. Johnson
Area X VP – Kathy R. Arpa

Musical Entertainment was provided by “The Rhondels”.

Thus ended the festivities of the 2010 Convention Banquet.

Wednesday Morning, April 28, 2010

Third Business Session

The Third Business Session was opened by VFC President Bill Martin; followed by the invocation given by VFC Chaplain Margaret Yowell who also led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. President Martin gave recognition to VFC Convention Committee Chair Betty Warren and all who served with her.

Shirley Driver-Kinchen gave the third and last Registration Committee Report: 286 total attendance. Lynne Pipis gave the third and last Credentials Committee Report: 54 chapters, 823 votes. See Attachment 8.

President Martin introduced guest speakers: Noreen Morgan, President , Kentucky Federation of Chapters, and Marlene Bunten, Immediate Past President, Kentucky Federation of Chapters who spoke about NARFE Chapters in Federal office buildings. E-mail advertisements promote “Lunch

and Learn” sessions with current employees over their lunch periods. Door prizes, gift cards, and a five dollars rebate to those who join are some of the incentives. For each meeting, the NARFE member takes materials for 100 persons and has “ASK ME ABOUT NARFE” pins.

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Carolyn Wilson, Convention Search Committee, Colonial Heights Chapter 1472, reported on the 2011, 2012, and 2013 VFC Conventions. She had visited Hospitality House, Fredericksburg; Sheraton, Richmond; and Holiday Inn Koger Center, Richmond. The latter facility (237 rooms and seven junior suites) offered free meeting rooms for conventions as well as quarterly board meetings.

The 2011 VFC Convention will be held April 26-29, 2011 at Holiday Inn, Koger Center, \$89 daily room rate. Area VIII Vice President Leslie Ravenell has agreed to serve as Convention Chair, assisted by Maureen Nolet, Fredericksburg Chapter 90, and Jean Stith, Warrenton – Fauquier Chapter 1549.

The 2012 and 2013 Conventions are also set for the Holiday Inn, Koger Center, with daily room rates at \$90 and \$91, respectively.

President Martin noted that no unfinished business existed and discharged Committee Chairs and Special Committee Chairs. He passed the gavel to Incoming President William “Bill” Shackelford.

VFC President Shackelford thanked delegates and asked for their support in the year ahead.

Nominating Committee Chair Joyce Pieritz, Woodbridge Chapter 1270 was introduced. NARFE President Margaret Baptiste was invited to give closing remarks. She thanked the VFC for their hospitality and fine convention and invited VFC members to attend the 33rd National Convention, Grand Rapids, MI, August 28- September 2.

Thus ended the Third Business Session (10:30 AM)

Adjournment Sine Die

Robert H. Miller
Secretary

Attachment 1: Remarks of Congressman Bobby Scott concerning the 2010 Health Insurance Reform Law before VFC Annual Convention, Virginia Beach, VA, April 26, 2010

United States spends the highest percentage of Gross Personal Income on health care (17%) of any “first world” country. Americans lack health security. In 1987, we spent seven percent of income on health care. Sixty-two percent of U.S. citizens are presently covered by some insurance program, but that percentage has been going down. Each family pays an average of \$1,017 additional on their insurance policy to cover cost for the uninsured. Medicare and Medicaid face long term budget problems and the new law addresses these issues by bringing together features of several plans. Also, new funds are available for additional education for medical professionals. Benefits will accrue to senior citizens, including those who already have insurance. Insurance regulation will be

strengthened. Medical malpractice (mistakes) may occur quite often (up to 100 thousand times annually) but actual claims paid are only a fraction (15,000). Malpractice insurance premiums are considered to be a negligible part of medical care costs.