



# National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



## VFC Notes – Summer 2012

*Serving Current, Former and Retired Federal Civilian Employees -  
Spouses and Survivor Annuities*

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### FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At the outset, let me thank all the members who voted me in as VFC President. I shall do my best to keep the Virginia Federation in the forefront of NARFE activities. In collaboration with the VFC Board, my primary focus will be on the core functions of NARFE, assisting chapters with membership recruitment and retention, and influencing national and state legislation as it pertains to federal employees and seniors.

We have added resources to the membership committee in an effort to work closely with chapters when help is needed with recruitment and/or retention. A person with expertise in the area of concern will be available to work with a cadre of chapter members in a hands-on way instead of the traditional meeting lecture. Subjects to be covered are membership reports, ways to reach out to prospective members and various methods to retain members. Again this year, we will have a membership recruitment contest with a starting point of April 1, 2012 and ending March 31, 2013.

It is of significant concern to us that some members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation do not vote to support NARFE issues while others vote to support us 100% of the time. We suspect part of the reason for this lack of support is the dearth of knowledge about our concerns. Accordingly, it is important that our congressional district liaisons and other VFC leaders make a determined effort to educate members of Congress on the interests of federal employees, retirees and spousal annuitants in their respective districts. Redistricting has added challenges for us, first, to find out where the new district lines are and, second, to have the affected chapters make the contact with the new Congressional members.

Similarly, we will work with members of the Virginia General Assembly to improve the plight of senior citizens in the Commonwealth. Our VFC 2013 State Legislative Plan will be available in October for chapters' use in meeting with state legislators.

We are fortunate to have 42 members of the VFC attending the 32nd NARFE National Convention in Sparks, Nevada as delegates August 26–30. The few chapters not represented by voting delegates have assigned their proxies to registered delegates from other chapters. All chapters should have reviewed the By-Laws, Standing Rules & General Resolutions booklet forwarded from the National Office in July and advised their delegates or proxy carriers of their desired wishes.

Chapters are encouraged to report to NARFE Headquarters their meetings and events with members of congress as requested in the "Advocacy in Action Competition" memorandum dated July 15, 2012. This is a great way to track our state-wide activity at the grassroots level which should translate into more representatives becoming aware of our interests. The complete memorandum including the contest criteria is available on the [vanarfe.org](http://vanarfe.org) website. My initial assessment based on past experiences is that the VFC will have a great deal of activity to report.

Lastly, let me express my gratitude to all VFC Board Members who agreed to continue serving in appointive positions. I also welcome the new Board members who have assumed duties since April 25, 2012. I look forward to a productive administration based on collaboration and accountability. **RECRUIT A MEMBER!**

*Luther Santiful – VFC President*

### 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Since being elected at the 2012 VFC Convention, I have been a bit busy.

In June 2012, I attended the meeting of the Manassas Chapter 0356 and presented a check from the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) to Jana Bennett, the first place winner of the VFC Membership Contest. Also in attendance was Ann Collins who presented Jana with the second part of the first place award, a one-week stay at a Time-Share Resort of Jana's choice.

Also in June, I and Bill Schmidt, the VFC Secretary, began tracking attendance and voting coverage by the Virginia Federation of Chapters for the 2012 NARFE National Convention to be held in Sparks, Nevada. In addition to 42 voting delegates, the VFC will assist the North Carolina Federation by carrying proxies for 15 Chapters.

At the 2012 VFC Convention, I presented a preliminary plan for the VFC Strategic Plan. A few members in attendance volunteered to participate on a committee to prepare this plan. Those members were formally appointed to the VFC Strategic Plan Committee at the VFC Board meeting in mid-July. We can now begin the task of preparing this plan.

As VFC 1st Vice President, I am responsible for coordinating the 2013 VFC Convention, which will be hosted by the VFC Area III Chapters. I have participated in a couple of planning meetings and things are moving along quite well under the Chairmanship of Carolyn Wilson, the new VFC Area III Area Vice-President. The first formal announcement of the Convention will be going out in early October 2012. I expect that this Convention will be one of the more interesting and active VFC Conventions. Stay tuned for more information.

An additional responsibility of the VFC 1st Vice-President is to chair the VFC Electronics Committee. In this issue is a report of the Electronics Committee, the first one in a long time. Please read that report very carefully. You will hear quite a bit more in the future.

Another responsibility of the 1st Vice President is to coordinate the activities of the ten Area Vice Presidents. They work very hard to get your issues and concerns addressed. Please you give them your thoughts and support. They are your voice on the VFC Board.

*Richard "Dick" Giangerelli – 1st Vice President*

### 2ND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



My new position gives me the opportunity to work in a more challenging role with the board members who chair the program areas for the VFC. This report includes a few short remarks about each program area. Each committee chair will provide a detailed report on their program.

Connie and John Bails, Co-service Officers, have visited numerous chapters throughout the state and made phone calls to provide information and a listening ear to members who just want someone to talk to. They are looking for a Service Officer in each chapter and would be happy to visit your chapter to help you recruit one.

Donna Shackelford, Alzheimer's Chair, has been busy recording donations as we attempt to reach \$10 million by the 2012 National Convention at the end of August. The Virginia Federation is leading the way in helping the effort. We are so close.

Gaston Gianni, Public Relations Chair, has assisted chapters with several matching fund requests and obtained promotional items including ZAP banners and tablecloths for each area vice president. These items are available for events in your area and chapters. Gaston is looking for a Public Relations Chair in each chapter and would be happy to assist you in finding one. He provides an update on the License Plate Project in his report.

Tom Hall, our new National Legislative Chair, reports that NARFE-PAC contributions were substantial and contributions were given to several congressmen. Tom is working to get Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) realigned as the result of the recent redistricting in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In order to be effective, CDLs should reside in the district they represent. Several chapters have hosted picnics or scheduled meetings with local congressional representatives as part of their grassroots legislative activity.

Gene Brown, State Legislation Chair, had a successful meeting in June with the VFC Board, area vice presidents and legislative representatives to brain storm about the issues we will present for the 2013 State Legislative Plan. In his state legislation report, Gene outlines the four issues endorsed by the VFC board in July. Jim Bradley, Senior State Legislative Representative has been eagerly collecting State-PAC funds and because of his proximity to Richmond is able to visit our lawmakers there on a regular basis. The Committee decided to designate October as "State PAC" month so Jim should be very busy.

Dennis Martin, Membership Chair, continues to monitor recruitment, reinstatements and dues withholding. Dennis, Dick Giangerelli and Ann and Charles Collins visited the Manassas Chapter and presented the award to the winner of the 2011-2012 VFC membership contest. Dennis is working on criteria for another contest which we hope to announce very soon.

Stan Palen, VFC Webmaster, has updated many items on the VFC webpage [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org) and continues to make changes in a timely manner. Several chapters are posting their newsletters on the VFC website. We would love to see more newsletters from around the Federation on the website. You can e-mail your newsletter to Stan at [stan@vanarfe.org](mailto:stan@vanarfe.org) and he will post it for you.

In June, Area X Vice President Vicky Duarte and I visited the NARFE National Office in Alexandria and met with Bridget Boel, the new Director of Membership, Linda Parsons, HR Director, and Elaine Hughes, National Secretary.

*(L-R) – Bridget Boel, Elaine Hughes, Kathy Arpa and Linda Parsons*



I was appointed as a member of the VFC Strategic Plan Committee with Dick Giangerelli, Pierce Johnson, Gaston Gianni, and Bob Brady (all on the VFC board) and Catherine Price from Chapter 1757.

I was appointed as a member of the 2014-2015 convention search team along with Bill Shackelford, Chair, and Dick Giangerelli. We are looking at Areas V and VI to host the 2014 convention and Areas IX and X to host the 2015 convention. The next VFC Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Koger Center in Richmond on April 22-24, 2013 with new Area III Vice President Carolyn Wilson as convention chair.

In conjunction with the Summer VFC Executive Board meeting, I held my first meeting with all of the committee chairs and appointees on July 15. Here is a picture taken at our meeting.

*(L-R) – Tom Hall, Donna Shackelford, Jim Bradley, John Bails, Gaston Gianni, Connie Bails, Stan Palen, Dennis Martin and Gene Brown*



On July 20, I attended the NOVA Caucus of Chapters (Areas IX and X) and gave a report on the recent VFC Board Meeting. On August 1, I attended a forum hosted by The America Counts on U.S. campaign – a coalition of

leading federal and postal employee and retiree organizations with U.S. Senate candidate and former Virginia Governor Tim Kaine. NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin, Vice President Paul H. Carew and a large contingent of Virginia NARFE members also attended the event. Several NARFE members were selected to ask questions. Governor George Allen was invited but was unable to attend.

I will be attending the 32nd National Convention in Reno/Sparks and will represent Region X and Virginia on the Membership Committee. There are seven resolutions involving membership. During the convention, the Membership Committee will list the recommended actions on each resolution along with the rationale for either adoption or rejection. I will present a verbal report to the convention delegates.

I am looking forward to visiting chapters in Virginia and am available to install officers this fall/winter. Hope to see you in Reno/Sparks!

*Kathy Arpa, VFC Second Vice President*

### SECRETARY'S REPORT



During the July board meeting the VFC board adopted a budget for the July 2012 through June 2013 fiscal year. The VFC board agreed to support those voting board members who attended the NARFE national convention in August at the rate up to \$1,000 for Executive board members and up to \$500 for voting members. for a total cost of \$9,000.

The newly appointed Area III Vice President, Carolyn Wilson was welcomed to the board and immediately placed in charge of the 2013 VFC convention planning which is being hosted by Area III at the Koger Center Midlothian Hotel. Area V and VI will co host the 2014 convention. AVP V, Jessie Barksdale will provide suggested hotels to the site selection committee, Bill Shackelford, Richard Giangerelli, and Kathy Arpa, who were appointed by President Santiful to select sites for the 2014 and 2015 conventions. VFC President Luther Santiful directed that all VFC property be inventoried and that all custodians of the property inform the Secretary of just what they have and its identification and condition so that it can be determined what should be disposed of, and who is responsible for the items. The board adopted a four point state legislation plan for the 2013 session of the Virginia Legislature. President Santiful appointed a committee consisting of Ann Collins, Carolyn Wilson, Carroll Graham, and Jack McMurchy to prepare a presentation for the 2013 convention to adequately recognize the contributions that past President Oscar Honeycutt has made to the success of NARFE and the VFC. The intent is to have the presentation encourage donations to place Oscar's name in the NARFE Silver Circle as a recognition of his contributions.

*William A. Schmidt Secretary*

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



Time flies when you are enjoying what you are doing!!! It seems like yesterday that I was President of Fairfax Chapter 737 and then elected to the position of VFC 2nd Vice President at the 2009 VFC Convention. The journey from that point on has been wonderful. The Virginia Federation has continued to succeed. The challenges of retention and recruitment continue to face us today as much as any time in the past. Nevertheless, the federation is fortunate to have dedicated leaders fulfilling their responsibilities to ensure continued success in the coming years. The three areas we must continue to stress are Retention, Recruitment, and Legislation.

In the area of Membership (Recruitment/Retention), I was very busy immediately following our Convention by joining with VFC Membership Chair Dennis Martin, Dick Thissen, NARFE National Treasurer and Bridget Boel, the new NARFE Membership Marketing Director to conduct a Membership Issues Panel at the Maryland Federation Convention on May 1st.

From a National Legislation standpoint, on July 26 Representative Frank Wolf (Republican-Virginia 10th District) received a plaque from the Coalition for Effective Change for his steadfast support of federal employees. NARFE is a member of this coalition which is comprised of over 30 government associations. The award was presented to Congressman Wolf in his office at the Cannon House Office Building. Joining me to represent NARFE was current VFC Secretary William Schmidt. In addition to being VFC Officers, we are both 10th District constituents of Congressman Wolf.

*(L-R) Bill Shackelford, Congressman Frank Wolf and Bill Schmidt*



Now as the Immediate Past President, I would like to offer my support to help the federation and its 59 chapters in any way I can. I want to express my very best wishes to Luther Santiful and his Board for improvements and successes beyond those that occurred during my tenure. Since this is my first article in the VFC Notes since leaving the position of President, I would like to close by saying the journey was exciting and I could not have completed it to this point without your support, guidance, and help. Thanks.

*William "Bill" Shackelford, VFC Past President*

### REGION X REPORT



First, I would like to congratulate everyone responsible for the 2012 Virginia Federation convention held this year in Richmond – the only thing that could have made it better was if more members had attended. The facility was excellent and the programs very well done. I am sure more will be said about the convention elsewhere in this edition of the Notes but I did want to add my thoughts.

One thing addressed several times during the event was membership. We are still losing more members than we add. All of us must do what we can to help in the Recruitment and Retention efforts. While I feel you will hear some excellent ideas in the Membership Chairs article, I would like to suggest one way all of us might be able to add members.

Right now, for example, not only are all of the active and retired federal employees and spouses earned benefits being scrutinized, some are being "scrutinized" more than others – US Postal Service employees for example. It's hard for me to understand why postal employees are not asking to join. They are under attack from both congress and the postal service itself. As you may know, there is talk of the postal service forming its own health and retirement plan, separating from the current system. So far, it hasn't happened but as the postal service finances continue to suffer pressure will continue for them to take drastic action to correct their financial problems. Several bills have been introduced but so far none have taken hold. As reported in a recent article, "NARFE, in conjunction with most of our postal employee partners, supports preserving high service standards and six-day delivery."

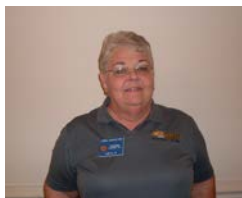
I am very encouraged by action being planned to appoint members to assist the federation Membership Chair. As I understand, a member will be appointed to concentrate on Recruitment and another on Retention. I would like to suggest that this might be copied in larger chapters.

It's my opinion that postal folks still have not heard about NARFE yet – we need to do all we can to educate them and encourage them to join NARFE who, along with their employee associations are doing what can be done to protect their earned benefits. Please give your letter carrier a copy of the NARFE magazine along with a membership form. There are brochures available listing just what NARFE is doing specifically for postal employees. That should be shared with them. More information is available on [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) at the following link: <http://www.narfe.org/legislation/articles.cfm?ID=2798&CFID=226997&CFTOKEN=57127683> The item is NARFE Legislative Hotline – April 27, 2012. This article is easily downloaded and discusses actions taken by NARFE to protect postal service employee and retire earned benefits. Please take action to obtain this article and discuss it with postal employees you come in contact with. Every postal employee and retiree should be contacted and made aware of what we are doing and how it's to their benefit to join NARFE.

In closing, I hope to see many of you in Reno-Sparks at the 2012 NARFE National Convention. Thanks for all you are doing and I hope to see all of you soon.

*William F. "Bill" Martin, Region X Vice President*

#### ALZHEIMER'S REPORT



Congratulations, members of VFC! Thanks to your efforts, our annual Convention activities yielded \$3,039 for Alzheimer's Research. You bought the tickets for 50/50, you brought the items for the silent auction and for the raffle, and you walked for treats to enjoy. It was a successful event from this standpoint. I believe the entire Convention was a successful event and I wish more people could have participated.

I want to publicly say thank you to some people who really went out of their way to assist me with the obligations at the Convention. Felice Pearl of Chapter 1270 – Woodbridge, Jon and Carol Joyce of Chapter 180 – Winchester, Mary Anhold from Chapter 164 – Harrisonburg, and Shirley Boning from Chapter 1241, Dulles were all right there every time I needed something and I am so very grateful to them, and also to numerous others who reached out to me. And all of you who contributed tangible items, thank you, thank you, thank you!!

One item I gave away was the piggy banks. Everyone who came to the Convention got one to take home, put loose change into, and return it to the chapter meeting as a way of "Saving for Alzheimer's." I have had other requests for pigs, and that is great. Chapter Chairs should be mindful of how many piggy banks you have returned successfully—not by dollars and cents, but just an idea whether this is a successful campaign.

I have just received an e-mail from the Foundation Relations Specialist in Chicago to report the total contributions NARFE has made since we joined with the Alzheimer's Association 27 years ago. Our goal has been to reach \$10 million by the 2012 National Convention the end of August. As of June 30, 2012 we have donated \$9,851,349.33. I have observed that the last couple months Federations have given \$64,000-65,000 so you can see we are so "on the doorstep" of attaining our goal. For Chapters who remain active throughout the summer, but sure to talk it up.

Virginia, the latest numbers from our National Chair showing the total collected for this past fiscal year. You have contributed \$85,555.00 this year according to their records. There is always a discrepancy with my records because of when the numbers are submitted and recorded. The same is true with Chapter records compared to my records. As long as the VFC records are equal or greater than the Chapter Chair/Treasurer shows, it's a good thing. It might be that a member has submitted a check or credit card contribution directly to Chicago, and I haven't yet received the reconciliation sheets. Eventually the chapter will get the credit, but it might be a month or even two before that happens, so VFC records and National records are not in agreement, and Chapter records and VFC records are not in agreement. However, if a time comes when a Chapter has submitted more than I have recorded, we must make contact and be sure everything is accounted.

**QUESTION:** At the VFC Board meeting in July, a question was brought forward regarding the relationship between Medicare/Medicaid and Alzheimer's day care centers such as the Dunlop House. I said I would try to find the answer.

**ANSWER:** I spoke with a representative of the Association in Fairfax. She said she didn't think Medicare would pay but she was not sure about that. She had a stronger opinion that Medicaid would probably contribute to a family's need based on a sliding scale of the patient's income. She did indicate because of her slight uncertainty that families should consult with the specific establishment they are interested in to get an exact answer. Sorry to be so vague, but you have the information I received about it.

Awareness regarding Alzheimer's disease is a huge key in finding a cure for it. Country music singer Glen Campbell went public in June, 2011, that he has been diagnosed with it, and he has chosen to make a farewell tour to bring attention to the incurable, brain-wasting illness. Three of his children accompany him on the tour and ensure that he is never alone and that he is cared for. His daughter Ashley says that the tour is therapeutic for him. He's sharper when he's on tour than if he's sitting home or playing golf. As long as he can put the guitar in his hands and use his fingers to pick music, he's much better. The band has played for members of Congress to raise the awareness with that body. Ashley Campbell said after the first tour that she couldn't believe the rowdy standing ovation when he came onstage, but since then it has continued to happen as people all over support him in his efforts.

Research has demonstrated for a while that Alzheimer's patients do very well with music. If you have a loved one who has come down with this hateful condition, be sure to surround them with music of their preference. Somehow it calms them.

My job as VFC Alzheimer's Chair is to help any chapter who needs information, material, speaker, or any assistance. Please feel free to call on me. If you need any help in your Chapter with Alzheimer's business, please feel free to call on me. I have handouts and pamphlets I'd be glad to share, please contact me.

**Donna Shackelford – Alzheimers Chair**  
 Home: (703) 830-6590 Cell: (703) 402-0326  
 E-Mail: [kamiah@comcast.net](mailto:kamiah@comcast.net)

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

At the conclusion of a very successful two-year membership contest, the drawing was held at 2012 VFC Convention in April. For this contest, a "ticket" was awarded to a VFC NARFE member for each new member recruited. The contest resulted in 480 new members being recruited. The winner was Jana Bennett, 2nd place winner was Patricia Taylor and 3rd place winner was Kenneth Gimbert. Jana Bennett is shown being presented a guest certificate for one week's lodging at Sheraton Broadway Plantation Resort, Myrtle Beach, SC, July 2013, 2BR, 2 bath unit by Ann Collins, Past VFC President and her husband, Charles. Ann and Charles are the donors of this generous prize which elicited considerable interest and activity. Jana is a member of Chapter 356, Manassas.

(L-R) – Ann Collins, Jana Bennett, Charles Collins



*Dennis Martin – Membership Chair*

**NATIONAL LEGISLATION**

**November 6, 2012 – Election Day.** A very important day for NARFE and all it strives to achieve. As we all know it is a Presidential election year. The TV advertisements have started with a vengeance. As important as the Presidential election is the Virginia Senatorial and Congressional elections are just as important to all Virginia NARFE members. Just in case you haven't heard, Senator Jim Webb is not seeking reelection. Former Va. Governor and Senator, George Allen is the Republican candidate while former Va. Governor Tim Kaine is the Democratic candidate. On the House side ALL of the Virginia representatives are up for reelection. The interesting twist in the House elections will be the effect of the redrawing of the Congressional Districts due to reapportionment. All redrawn districts have been strengthened with additional Republican and/or Democratic precincts depending on whether the district had a Republican or Democratic congressman at the time of redistricting. That of course gives the incumbents an added advantage.

During the past two years, the large Republican majority in the House of Representatives has passed many funding bills. Many of these bills have used Federal employees and retirees as a source of funding. Luckily for NARFE the small Democratic majority in the Senate has not seen fit to pass many of these bills. Specific information on bills and how your Congressman and Senators voted is available on the NARFE webpage. Please look at this information before you vote in November. Your decision and **VOTE** will determine the makeup of the next Congress. Let's give active Federal employees a chance to serve our country and take care of their family's needs the same as those that have already retired.

Latest news from NARFE-PAC, a \$5,000.00 check is going to former Governor Tim Kaine.

*Tom Hall National Legislation Chair*

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**



The Virginia Federation of Chapters continues to make progress in the public relations arena but we have had a setback in one area. Before going too far though, I want to thank all the Chapters who through their local efforts help build the NARFE name. Building the NARFE name helps build membership which is the key to our survival as an organization. The more members the stronger we are in protecting our earned benefits on Capitol Hill. Remember everything you do at the Chapter level can help build NARFE membership. So keep participating in local events such as health fairs, parades, local festivals, community events, visits to your congressman and senators. Remember – If there is a cost to your participation, you can consider Matching Funds to help lower the cost.

**Chapter PR Chairs:** We continue to make progress in filling Chapter PR positions. There are now 46 Chapters with a PR Chair, a gain of 6! The PR Chair should help their Chapter President plan and coordinate events to get the NARFE name before the public. We want the public to know who we are and what we stand for as an organization. There is also more good news.



NARFE Table Cloth

Thanks to National Office and VFC matching

funds, our ten Area Vice Presidents each have a NARFE table cloth and a " Zap"

NARFE "Zap" Banner

Banner that can be used by the chapters in their area. Contact your Area Vice Presidents and borrow them when you want to draw attention to one of your NARFE events.



**Matching Funds:** Chapters continue to make use of the Matching Funds Program. As reported at our VFC convention in April, last year was one of the biggest for using matching funds. Ten VFC Chapters participated in the program and received almost \$6,000 for their events.



Chapter 2265

Remember this is an excellent way to stretch your limited Chapter funds. The picture, which NARFE table cloth, also shows the Churchland Chapter 1293 (Area IV) table at the Smithfield Olden Days celebration. The table has some of the NARFE goodies that we have to pass out various events. These were purchased by the VFC using matching funds. The following two pictures are of other events where matching funds were used. On the left, is the table set up by Midlothian Chapter 2265 (Area III) at the Chesterfield TRIAD Senior Day event. On the right is the float designed by Woodbridge Chapter 1270 (Area IX) which was in the Dale City's Fourth of July Parade. Over 10,000 people saw the float!



Chapter 1270

**License Plate Project:** Now the bad news. At the July VFC Board meeting, we decided to terminate the project. The required 450 sign-ups were just too much for us to reach. I want to thank those individuals who signed up for their support on the project. In the near future, we will be returning your money. As we put the project to rest, I would also like to thank Pat Taylor, John Elkins, Carolyn Wilson, Darlene Myers, Sam Harris and Stan Palen for their help on the project. We will look for other opportunities to build the NARFE brand in Virginia. If you have some ideas, please send them to me at [gastongianni@aol.com](mailto:gastongianni@aol.com).

I'll be attending the National convention in late August and hope to pick up a few golden nuggets to bring back to share in my next PR Report. One of the areas that will keep me busy at the convention will be the National Bylaws Committee, of which I'm a member. We will be presenting a new set of By Laws and Standing Rules for consideration and approval. This will bring to a close the Committee's efforts over the past two years. Then it's back home to work of VFC PR issues. If I can be of help to your chapter please contact me at the above e-mail address. **Closing Quote:** "Things do not happen. Things are made to happen." (John F. Kennedy) Hope that you are making good things happen in your chapters.

Gaston Gianni – Public Relations Chair

### SERVICE REPORT



#### Major Accomplishments This Reporting Period

- ✓ Chapter visit Wytheville Wilderness Chapter 1837
- ✓ Chapter visit South Hill Chapter 2079
- ✓ Chapter visit Shenandoah County, Woodstock Chapter 2358
- ✓ Attended VFC Board meeting April 2012

**Raising NARFE Awareness-Service, Public Relations & Membership** – Distributed NARFE Recruitment packages from Headquarters and presented a 15-20 minute discussion at RRECONN training sessions as Private

Contractors for Federal Training, and as Trainers for ICUA – Interdenominational Church Usher's Association of America. The Agencies are numerous (HUD, USDA, FBI, CIA, DOD) and the participants are varied for each training session.

#### Services provided to VFC Chapters

- ✓ Responded to inquiries from various Chapter Presidents
- ✓ Mailed out Survivor Benefit packages to members without emails (Phone Request's)
- ✓ Visited Headquarters to obtain F-100's for distribution at Chapter visits
- ✓ Sent numerous get well/condolence cards

#### Short Range Plan For The Next 12 Months Following 2012 VFC Convention

- ✓ Goal 1 – Establish a VFC Service Committee
  - Objective 1 – Continue to contact Area Vice Presidents (AVP) in order to develop a plan of action to acquire Area Coordinators (AC)
  - Objective 2 – Establish Area Coordinators
  - Objective 3 – Meet with AVPs and ACs to discuss plan of action to establish Chapter Service Officer/Committees
- ✓ Goal 2 – Coordinate and deliver Service Officer Training for all AC's, AVP's and Chapter Service Officers/Committees
  - Objective 1 – Establish Location
  - Objective 2 – Schedule date and duration
  - Objective 3 – Training, Group discussion for input and plan of action as VFC Service Committee

**Misinformation On The Internet About Medicare Part B Premiums** – The following information has been provided by David B. Snell, Director, NARFE Federal Benefits Services Department.

*"Over the last two years we have received many inquiries from members regarding information being forwarded that was originally on the internet. The information claims that Medicare Part B premiums will increase to \$104 in 2012, and rising to over \$200 by 2014. In many of these reports the rise is attributed to hidden provisions in the*

*Affordable Care Act. When members ask us if the information is valid our answer is NO! No one can determine what the premiums will be years ahead of time. Medicare Part B premiums are reset every year based on the costs to the program for the current year and no announcement about the premiums for the new calendar year is made until the fall. As soon as the basic premiums for the coming year are announced by Social Security, NARFE will share that information with members."*

**Obama Health Care** – Obama Health Care Reform Bill is a plan to reform the American Health Care System by providing affordable health care to all Americans. The bill, if it passes, will ensure that all Americans are covered by the health care industry. The bill will reform the way the current system works requiring that all Americans purchase a health care plan from a provider. Americans not wishing to purchase health insurance from a provider covered under the Health Care for America Plan will be able to purchase private insurance.

- ✓ ObamaCare, Obama Care and Health Care for America are all the same thing. (It is an extension of the Patient Protection and the Affordable Care Act and ongoing efforts to reform the health care industry.
- ✓ ObamaCare is a hot button political issue and both sides of the isle will try to persuade you for or against it. You need THE FACTS on ObamaCare and the Health Care for America Plan.
- ✓ Some aspects of Obamacare health care reform are already enacted. The Affordable Care Act was signed 2 years ago, I bet you didn't even notice unless you needed coverage and didn't have it. The Affordable Care Act requires that insurance plans cover preventative service and stops insurance companies from dropping you when you are sick... Why would we need that if the system was working?
- ✓ ObamaCare's goal is to provide affordable health insurance for all US citizens.
- ✓ ObamaCare does not replace private insurance or Medicaid
- ✓ Medicaid will be reformed and expanded in order to help cover more people, especially those below the poverty level.
- ✓ ObamaCare aims to improve community health care centers in an effort improve health care for those who cannot afford private health care.
- ✓ Affordable health coverage means American's and their families pay what they can afford.
- ✓ American Employers need to provide comparable coverage to the Health Care for America Plan or pay a modest and fair Tax to support ObamaCare. (Like the current state run unemployment and workers compensation programs)
- ✓ If an American or their family chooses not to purchase healthcare through the Health Care for America Act they can buy private insurance.
- ✓ The government is by the people and for the people. The health insurance companies are for profit organizations that are for the bottom line and the investors.
- ✓ Those with incomes exceeding 250k will be subject to higher taxes. This will help pay for the ObamaCare. As you can imagine this does not make some people happy. Though it's important to note that those making less will not be losing money, rather they will be gaining the option of healthcare.
- ✓ ObamaCare aims to make it easier for small businesses to provide coverage to workers by offering Tax Credits to employers who enroll their workers in private healthcare plans. One of the main goals of ObamaCare is to ensure that all preventative care will be free on all insurance plans. Private insurance plans that are grandfathered in and are already in place will be exempt until they lose their grandfathered status.

*John & Constance Bails, VFC Co-Service Officers*

#### STATE LEGISLATION



The VFC State Legislation Committee met on June 13, 2012 to review the 2012 State Legislation Plan and to propose issues for the 2013 State Legislation Plan. We were pleased to note that the Virginia Property Rights Amendment, which we listed as an issue in the 2012 State Legislation Plan, will be on the ballot in November.

The 2013 State Legislation Plan was adopted by the VFC Board of Directors at the July Board Meeting. The following issues will be listed in the 2013 Plan:

- **Transfer of Real Estate Assets upon Death**  
Continue to support the administrative transfer of real estate upon death (deed transfers of residence, etc) to family members or other designated entities (ex. trusts).
- **Geriatric Training & Board Certification**  
Support increasing the number of geriatric medical professionals/staff with board certification. Support increased training for geriatric training for medical professionals/staff that are not licensed MDs.
- **Public Transportation Needs of the Handicapped**  
Support meeting the current and future special transportation needs of the elderly and handicapped.
- **Protection of incapacitated adults**  
Support legislation to increase the severity of penalty for those convicted of financial exploitation of mentally incapacitated adults.

One of the duties of the State Legislation Committee is to coordinate with the chapters to recommend to the VFC Executive Committee appropriate contributions to the Virginia State Legislators from the VFC State Political Fund. The purpose of the nonpartisan State Political Account is to provide financial assistance to candidates and members of the General Assembly who are committed to uphold NARFE legislative goals. The Fund is derived from individual NARFE member contributions. No Chapter monies are involved.

In order to increase our donations, the Committee decided to designate October as "VFC State PAC" month. Please use the following form, which can also be found on the VFC website ([www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org)), to make a donation.

*Gene Brown, State Legislation Chair*

VFC STATE POLITICAL ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTION				
AREA	CHAPTER	DATE		
Amount: \$5	\$10	\$25	\$50	Other
Name _____				
Address _____				
City, State, Zip _____				
E-Mail Address _____				
Retired Yes/No _____				
If working show employer (Required by State Board of Elections)				
Employer Name _____				
Employer Address _____				
Make check payable to:				
VFC STATE POLITICAL ACCOUNT and mail to				
James Bradley VFC State Legislative Representative 4150 Round Hill Drive Chesterfield, Virginia 23832-7842				

#### ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE REPORT

Have you viewed the Virginia Federation of Chapters' (VFC) web page lately? Is your Chapter's web page up to date and does it show the information that you want shown? Do you know the various ways to access your Chapter's web page?

The web address for the VFC web page is <http://www.vanarfe.org>. The web page is regularly updated with new information. Check it out and let your Chapter members know about it. If you find any errors or you have any recommendations for any additional items that should be included or of different ways to better present the information, contact me at [stan@vanarfe.org](mailto:stan@vanarfe.org).

If your Chapter prepares a Newsletter and would like that Newsletter posted on the VFC web page, send me an electronic copy. It will be posted for a one-month period and will be listed on the left side of the VFC web page. To access the Newsletter, click on your Chapter number listed under "Chapter Area Newsletters".

Web pages of the Chapters in the Virginia Federation can be accessed in a few different ways. One way is to open the VFC web page, click on "List of Chapters" on the left side of the web page, click on the VFC Area that your Chapter belongs to on the sheet that opens up, and, finally, click on your Chapter name and number on the sheet that opens up. Another way is to open the VFC web page, click on "Chapters by Zip Code" on the left side of the web page, enter your zip code in the sheet that opens up, and, finally, click on "Chapter Website" on the sheet that opens up. A third way and more direct way is to type in the web address for your Chapter's web page. For Dulles Chapter 1241, that web address is <http://www.vanarfe.org/1241/1241.htm>.

Most of the Chapters in the Virginia Federation only list their meeting locations, meeting times, and Chapter contact names on their web page; however you can list more information and use your Chapter's web page. The following Chapters have included additional information on their web pages: Virginia Beach-5, Alexandria-232, Williamsburg-685, Springfield-893, Dulles-1241, Woodbridge-1270, Fauquier-1549, and Seaside-1827. Some examples of how extensive your Chapter's web page could be are the web pages of Springfield-893, Dulles-1241, and Woodbridge-Chapter 1270. Whatever you include on your Chapter's web page, it must be up to date. If you need help, please contact me. You may also have some very knowledgeable members in your Chapter. At this time, space on web pages is not limited.

The web host of the VFC web page is "1 & 1" and their logo is near the bottom left of the front page of the VFC web page and they can be contacted by clicking on the logo. They are based in the USA and rates are reasonable. Additionally, they provide plenty of on-line help in setting up a web page and you do not need to be a NARFE member to contact them.

Remember, I am here to assist you. Email me if you need help.

*Stan Palen, VFC Web Master*

#### AREA I



With great meetings/programs, fundraisers, social events, advocacy efforts, convention attendance, and newsletters being published, Area I is busy and attendance in all four chapters has increased. Now we're working to bring more attention to NARFE by hosting political events where we can get our name out to the public at the same time we're distributing membership applications! Public Relations, Membership Recruitment, and Legislative Advocacy – a winning combination!!!!



Three of the four chapters in Area I continue meeting during the summer months. And they definitely have a variety of activities – from Alzheimer’s fundraisers to breakfasts to “Summer Social” festivities and debates!

Northern Neck (Chapter 1823) conducted a fundraiser by standing in front of a grocery store soliciting donations for Alzheimer’s Research. For fun events they’ve taken a boat trip and made a journey to a winery for a tasting! And, of course, they’ve continued writing, calling, visiting, and sending messages to their elected representatives.

Williamsburg (Chapter 685) slows down a little during the summer months, but they’re still active with their advocacy efforts. They’ve established a new meeting venue, and the attendance at their monthly meetings has increased. In June they held their annual picnic, and in August they’re holding their annual breakfast meeting which is usually one of the best attended meetings during the year.

Middle Peninsula (Chapter 1757) does take the summer “off”, but they will be coming back full speed in September, starting with a “kick off” picnic.

Peninsula (Chapter 682) has experienced increased attendance at their monthly meetings with a wide range of programs and speakers. In August they’re holding their annual “Summer Social” which always has an outstanding speaker. Invitations were extended to the other Area I chapters, and Chapter 685 will have six of their members making the road trip to Newport News to listen to an updated report on the Ft. Monroe transition.

With the redistricting the majority of the members in Chapter 682 are now in the 2nd Congressional District. Since so many of our members are not familiar with Congressman Scott Rigell and his views on our issues nor do they know his opponent Paul Hirschbiel, I’m working on the Chapter hosting a debate between these two so that our members and the other citizens on the Peninsula can be better informed when they vote in November. At the same time I’m working with VFC National Legislation Chair Tom Hall to identify a new Vice CDL for the 2nd District. Advocacy efforts are definitely high on the list of priorities for the summer months and into fall.

I will be attending the National Convention along with Chapter 685 Secretary Jeanne Garrison. Each of us will be carrying our chapter’s ballot plus three proxies for Area I and IV chapters. I’ll also be serving as Vice Chair for the Credentials Committee which will be my first National Convention committee assignment. This should be a great event, and Jeanne and I will be making the rounds of the Area I chapters in September giving detailed reports!

Another project in the near future is to hold an Area wide training for Chapter Service Officers. We have officers in each of the chapters, but the plan is to identify members who may be interested in serving as Co-Service Officers so that we will always be prepared to provide members with complete, up to date information when they have questions or need assistance. Williamsburg (685) has a Co-Service Officer and the value of having such a position is an incentive to get all the chapters in this position.

All in all, we’re off to a good start for 2012-2013, and I’m honored to be serving as Area I VP again this year!!!

*Patricia “Pat” Taylor - Area I Vice President*

## AREA II



New officers for Eastern Shore Chapter 1175 were sworn in by then VFC President Bill Shackelford on April 10, 2012. The new officers include Richard C. Turner, Chapter President; Berran L. Rogers, Chapter Vice President; Katherine B. Kidwell, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer; Helen Benthall, Chapter Membership Chair; and Carl W. Balance, Chapter Editor.

Virginia Beach City Councilman Glenn Davis spoke at the May meeting of Chapter 974. He addressed topics ranging from a increase in real estate taxes to a push by local politicians and businessmen to extend light rail service from Norfolk to Virginia Beach oceanfront. Ridership on the new light rail line has exceeded expectations and has helped alleviate traffic and parking problems in the downtown Norfolk, Norfolk State University and Old Dominion University areas. Norfolk officials would like to extend the line to the Naval Base. The increase in real estate taxes for Virginia Beach was needed to make up for a reduction in state funding for local schools. The General Assembly adopted a new formula for its allocation of funds to support local schools. The impact of the new formula depends on where you live. Funding went up in some areas of Virginia and is down in other areas.

During the summer, members spend time on the beach or fishing on the Chesapeake while others are visiting family members or traveling. When visiting our area during beach season, watch out for red flags warning of dangerous surf. The water may look inviting, but can be very dangerous beneath the surface for even the strongest swimmer. Sandbars, beneath your feet, can be washed away by single wave.

Most of our chapters do not meet in June, July, and August except for luncheons and picnics. I attended two luncheon meetings in June. The first was held by Seaside Chapter 1827 at Croakers Restaurant and the second by Virginia Beach Chapter 974 at a Golden Coral. Our next big event will be a luncheon for any interested NARFE members at the Red Lobster on Independence Boulevard in Virginia Beach on the 23rd of August. Members of other chapters who have attended our Red Lobster luncheon have come from as far away as Suffolk.

Virginia Beach Chapter 974 will host a “Meet The Candidates” session in September. All Area II chapters will be invited to attend. Candidates for the Second Congressional seat currently held by Scott Rigell (R) have been invited as well as candidates for various local offices.

During November, volunteers from Area II will set up NARFE tables for Health Fairs at federal agencies in the Tidewater area. This is one of our best opportunities to educate active employees about NARFE and the benefits of joining our organization. For our own Chapter members, we will have representatives from Blue Cross Blue Shield at October and/or November meetings to explain upcoming changes in federal employee health benefits.

Former VFC Parliamentarian John Eaton, of Virginia Beach Chapter 974, had a stroke in April and was in a rehabilitation center during June and July. Chapter Service Officer Betty Warren and VFC Co-Service



*John and Barbara Eaton celebrating his 97th Birthday at our October 2011 chapter meeting*

Officer Connie Bails helped Barbara Eaton make

arrangements to modify their home to accommodate John after he returned home on August 1st. John Skirven of Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia also helped with many of the arrangements for his home care.

*Alex H. Adkins - Area II Vice President*

### AREA III



First, let me say that it is good to be back as a VFC Officer. I have only been Area III Vice President since July 1st but have already had a 2013 Convention Meeting and attended one Chapter's July meeting so I have hit the floor running.

Membership has continued to decline in six of our seven chapters. This is an area where I intend to put much emphasis in the coming year. One of the smallest of Chapters in Area III, Imperial Plaza – Chapter 1510, recruited three new members this quarter. Congratulations to them.

Midlothian – Chapter 2265, had a booth at the Chesterfield TRIAD Senior Days in May. They recruited three new members and gave out information to a lot of people. This Senior Days program usually has an attendance of at least 1,000 so it is an excellent way to get the NARFE message out. The other Chapters will continue to look for places where they can set up booths.

Area III had a good attendance at the 2012 VFC Convention. I have heard many comments about the Convention and some of the thoughts will be incorporated in the 2013 Convention. Midlothian Chapter has furnished two pictures of their attendees. Six of the seven chapters do not have meetings in July and August but all have program

The economy has struck the Area III Newsletter. The Midlothian Chapter decided to print their own newsletter since they have a very active travel program and wanted to publicize their trips. The 81 year-old travel coordinator plans a trip for each month. One chapter did not have the funds to participate in the last issue of the newsletter. The other five chapters published the bi-monthly newsletter in May. There will be a meeting with the six chapters and the Newsletter Coordinator held shortly to decide if the Area III Newsletter will go quarterly or continue to publish bi-monthly.

Eight members will represent Area III Chapters at the 2012 National Convention. There will be 42 delegates from VFC.

On July 26th, the first 2013 Convention meeting was held. Six of the seven chapters were represented. All but two of the committees now have Chairs so work can begin.

*Carolyn Wilson – Area III Vice President*

### AREA IV



Area IV consists of 5 chapters – Portsmouth (Chapter 63), Churchland (Chapter 1293), Chesapeake (Chapter 1682), Brentwood (Chapter 1697) and Suffolk (Chapter 1743). For further information, check the chapter websites on [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org) or contact me at [b\\_whitt33@cox.net](mailto:b_whitt33@cox.net) or (757) 393-7504.

Our Churchland chapter held a recruiting initiative at the Smithfield Olden Days on June 30. We rented a table and space on Main Street for the event. We handed out NARFE bags which contained a NARFE magazine, brochures, literature regarding the organization's mission and goals, an application to join and a small NARFE gift.

These bags were made possible through matching funds from NARFE Headquarters and the VFC. Three members of the chapter (President Bobby Whittington, Vice President Thomas Hall and Alzheimer's Chair Barbara Whittington) tended the table and talked with federal employees, retirees and other interested attendees of the Olden Days. While Smithfield is not a "hot bed" of federal employees, many attendees stopped to talk with us about NARFE. Some visitors did work at federal installations in the Portsmouth/Norfolk areas; while

others had family and/or friends who work for – or are retired from – federal civil service. All in all, we were



*Left – Barbara Whittington, Chapter Alzheimer's Chair and Thomas Hall, Chapter Vice President*

able to pass out a number of bags and explain the advantages of federal employees and retirees belonging to NARFE. While no one completed an application 'on the spot,' they did show interest and promised to read the literature to learn more about NARFE, and how it protects federal employees' benefits, salaries and annuities.

Area IV's

*Right – A Lady from the Olden Days event and Churchland Chapter 1293 President Bobby Whittington*



next recruitment effort will be at the Annual Suffolk Peanut Festival which is held in October. Our Suffolk chapter rents a booth at this event each year and gives out small cups of peanuts along with NARFE bags of materials. This chapter will be forwarding its request for matching funds to VFC and NARFE Headquarters.

Majority of Area IV chapters completed proxy voting documents pertinent to the NARFE National Convention, August 2012, in Reno/Sparks, NV. These proxy documents will be carried and acted upon by other VFC delegates attending the convention.

Area IV chapters do not hold monthly meetings during July and August. During the other months of the year, most chapters hold meetings – the majority in conjunction with breakfast or lunch – to discuss NARFE operations and events; and, also invite guest speakers to participate in those meetings. Such speakers include state and local political representatives, spokespersons for federal health plans, retirement financial counselors, retirement home spokespersons, and entertainers. Churchland Chapter has already scheduled speakers for the remainder of 2012 – A Heartland Hospice Care Center volunteer in September, Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative for October, VFC President Luther Santiful in November, and our annual Christmas Party – with an entertainer – for December.

I will be hosting a Chapter President's Breakfast in late August and Area IV chapter presidents will be invited. All attended at the 2011 breakfast, where the status of each chapter, problem areas (and possible solutions) and our mutual support for each other was discussed.

Please contact me for any further information regarding Area IV and its chapters.

*Bobby Whittington - Area IV Vice President*



### AREA V

Chapters - Area V includes Chapter 110 (Lynchburg), Chapter 1011 (Danville), Chapter 1068 (Bedford), Chapter 1882 (Martinsville/Henry), Chapter 2079 (Southside), and Chapter 2080 (Piedmont).

Summer 2012 - - No Article Submitted From Area V.

*Jessie Barksdale - Area V Vice President*

### AREA VI

I said, "Yes," to the nomination of becoming Area VI Vice President at the last VFC convention. My friend, Del Dyer, said it is easy. All I have to do is visit each chapter twice a year and attend the VFC board meetings. I was installed and then he handed me a list of about twenty-five things I need to know and to do. (He is still my friend!) I knew that Del always had good information to share, but where did he get that wealth of knowledge? I am sure from "tons" of e-mails and the websites. Who likes to do that?

In May, I visited Southwest Highland Chapter 2330. The Chapter is trying to find a permanent place to meet. The August meeting will be at Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abington and this could become their permanent location. In June, I visited Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837. Membership in this Chapter stays about the same. They did not have anyone to attend the VFC Convention. On June 14, the Chapter had a display table at the local, "Seniors in the Park" day in Wytheville. The Roanoke Valley (Chapter 111) had four members to attend the VFC Convention. The Chapter has experienced some changes in officers. The 1st Vice President Ellen Tudisco, and Secretary Claudine Ratcliffe have resigned. Claudine will be moving to South Carolina and Ellen will be spending most of the year in Florida. The membership has dropped since January. The Chapter will be seeking more ways to contact potential members. As of now, the newsletter is being sent to approximately twenty-five potential members. The next step is to follow up with a letter and an application for membership. It seems our federal workers would rather keep the price of NARFE membership in their pockets, rather than protect their benefits. New River Valley Chapter 1134 had several members to attend the VFC Convention. I plan to visit the New River Valley Chapter 1134 in September.

A "Zap" banner and a display board are available for the Area VI Chapters to use in promoting NARFE at special meetings.

*Wanda Ware Area VI Vice President*

### AREA VII



This report will cover the period May – July 2012. Area VII consists of 6 chapters: Winchester – Chapter 180 (President Madeline Blare), Shenandoah County – Chapter 2358 (President Steve Dansker), Page Valley – Chapter 1793 (President Sharon Booker), Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro – Chapter 178 (President Ralph Dieckmann), Charlottesville – Chapter 135 (President Carl Howe), and Harrisonburg – Chapter 164 (President, Bob Brady).

Since the 2012 VFC Convention, Area VII has been busy with post-convention activities and the annual Area VII meeting in Harrisonburg.

Just after the VFC Convention, the Convention Committee gathered all the convention materials, as well as the convention evaluations, and passed them on to the hosts of the 2013 VFC Convention, Area III. The 2013 VFC Convention will be held in April at the same venue, the Holiday Inn Koger Center, Midlothian. The 2012 VFC Convention was highly successful, and profitable for the 6 Area VII chapters. It was attended by over 250 VFC members and guests, with a varied program of special speakers and activities.

In June, Area VII held its Annual Meeting in Harrisonburg attended by officers from all 6 chapters. Our guest speaker was Gaston Gianni, the VFC Public Relations Chairman. He outlined his plan for furthering the presence of NARFE in Virginia for the next 12 months as well as gave us a glimpse of what was to be presented at the NARFE National Convention later in August 2012. Other topics discussed at the meeting included the change in the NARFE By-laws and resolutions. At the end of the meeting, all 6 chapters were presented the 2012 VFC Convention proceeds checks by VFC President, Luther Santiful.

In addition to the above, individual chapter activities occurred:

- The Shenandoah County Chapter had a NARFE booth at the Shenandoah County Triad Conference, where Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli spoke.
- All chapters held or planned picnics during the summer.
- The Staunton Chapter had, as guest speakers, Delegate Steve Landes, 25th House District, who described the last session of the Virginia General Assembly, and Charles Welch, author of "Treasures From The Attic", a personal memoir of his father.
- At their July meeting, Dick Murphy was awarded the VFC Distinguished Service Award for his work on the 2012 VFC Convention as well as his service as the chapter's State Legislative Committee Chairman.
- In May, the Shenandoah County Chapter hosted one of the US Congressional (Virginia – 6th District) candidates as speaker, Andy Schmookler. In July, their speaker was Linda Ash, Editor of the Northern Virginia Daily.
- The Winchester Chapter celebrated in June their 45th Anniversary of Chapter 180. The program that month featured the Dixie Rhythm Band.
- The Charlottesville Chapter speaker in May was Mary Pat Hanson who spoke about Alzheimer's - current treatment modalities, available social services, and care giver issues.

*Steve Dansker Area VII Vice President*

## AREA VIII



**On The Political Front:** Each year in June, Colonial Beach (Chapter 595) hosts the Potomac River Festival and most every year Chapter 595 participates in the Grand Parade. This year has several members including myself say waiting in the line-up in our 1963 yellow Plymouth convertible, we were delighted to have a good ten minute visit with 1st Congressional District Congressman Rob Wittman. As always, he speaks positively about the work that NARFE is doing and is proud to be a NARFE member.

**On The Community Front:** At my first VFC Board meeting as a brand new Area Vice President in July 2009, I listened intently as others discussed activities with TRIAD. Finally I whispered to my neighbor: "What's TRIAD?" Of course I was subsequently enlightened about this very important program. On July 31, 2012 Westmoreland County had its initial meeting to set up a TRIAD Chapter for the county and I was excited to attend. Juanita Ballenger, our 2011 VFC Convention Speaker and 2012 Convention Exhibitor was there to provide the guidance on setting up a new chapter. I will keep you posted on our future success.

**Chapter to Chapter:** I think I have said this before but the Chapters in Area VIII do not close for the summer. We have a myriad of activities and I have listed a summary below:

- Fredericksburg Chapter 90 will hold its annual Summer Picnic on August 15 with co-authors Doug Williams and MLB catcher Hank Foles in attendance. They will introduce a new book "A Pirate's Journey" about Foles' baseball career.
- Colonial Beach will have its annual Boat Trip to Cobb Island in August 15. Once on the island they have an all you can eat seafood buffet at a local restaurant. Let's hope they have good weather!
- I had the opportunity to visit Warrenton Fauquier Chapter 1549 at their July meeting at Vint Hill Farm. We discussed some of the generational issues as they impact NARFE membership. I was able to catch up with Reggie Sykes, 1st Congressional District Liaison (CDL). Unfortunately due to redistricting, Reggie no longer lives in the 1st Congressional District. So the call is out. We need someone to step up and continue the work that Reggie has started.
- Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885 held their annual Ice Cream Social in July and started the 30th anniversary celebration of the start of their chapter. But one meeting was not enough as they will continue the celebration at their September picnic.
- Louisa Chapter 2065 is in the midst of their summer political picnics where they invite candidates running for federal office as well as state office to come and speak to their membership. The first picnic was held on July 19 and the second one will be on August 16 at President Ray Siewert's home.
- Caroline County Chapter 2112 just held their annual picnic at Pitt's Pond, a private recreation area in Caroline County. The highlight of this affair is the variety of home cooked food. Just ask Bill Martin, region X Vice President, if you don't believe me.
- Falls Run Chapter 2343 continues to lead the pack in raising money for Alzheimer's. For the third year in a row I have presented them with the top award for per capita contributions. At their June meeting they hosted a speaker from Elder Care Connections.

*Leslie E. Ravenell - Area VIII Vice President*

## AREA IX



Much has happened in Area IX since our last VFC Notes. Gaston Gianni has been active as the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters Chair, calling the group together a couple of times, once before the VFC Convention (March 16) and once since (July 20). At the first, proposed revisions of the National By-Laws and standing rules were discussed. The changes are aimed at putting the 'what items' into the by-laws and the 'how to' things in the rules. A committee was also set up for improving communication using technology involving websites. They continue to work on this issue.

The Virginia Federation of Chapters held their Annual Convention in Richmond from April 22-25. All but one of the Area IX chapters were represented, and I carried its proxy. Business sessions were good and special break-out sessions were well attended. Again, Jesse Barksdale and his entertainment group highlighted the evening. The banquet was very successful with the Strolling Strings joining us from Norfolk. Luther Santiful became our VFC President, while Kathy Arpa, former Area X Vice President, was elected 2nd Vice President of the VFC.

Many of the Area IX chapters closed out their year with a celebration at a local restaurant. These continue to be popular events, with attendance exceeding normal monthly meetings. All chapters, except Manassas (Chapter 356) and Woodbridge (Chapter 1270), have "gone dark" for the summer months.

Woodbridge (Chapter 1270) again marched in the Dale City Fourth of July Parade, bringing notice and recognition to the NARFE brand. In preparation for their annual Fashion Show (October 13, 2012), they also held a successful "Dining for Dollars" event at their local Uno's. In addition they team with Manassas (Chapter 356) for a night of fun at a Potomac Nationals' game on August 11.

Several chapters are taking advantage of the Congressional Recess in August and meeting with their local Congressmen. This is particularly critical during this election year, with so many financial issues affecting federal employees and retirees.

Finally, many of our Area IX chapters will be represented at the National Convention in Reno-Sparks, Nevada. I shall carry the proxy for those chapters that are not able to send delegates.

*Pierce J Johnson Area IX Vice President*

*"If You Don't Read The Newspaper You Are Uninformed, If You Do Read The Newspaper You Are Misinformed." -- Mark Twain*

## AREA X



The VFC convention held April 22-25th in Richmond elected Luther Santiful as President, Richard Giangarelli to serve as 1st Vice President, and Kathy Arpa to serve as 2nd Vice President. Congratulations and appreciation to Kathy Arpa for her fine service while serving as the VFC Area X Vice President. Kathy, we wish you the best of luck in your new position. I now replace Kathy Arpa as the VFC Area X Vice President. The R. David Smith Award this year was presented at the VFC Convention to Shirley Martin from Chapter 1116 (Vienna). Shirley was recognized for her volunteer contribution to the community programs she has assisted over many years.

On May 4th, I attended the Fairfax County Annual 43rd Senior Recognition Ceremony which was celebrated with a luncheon at the Fair Oaks Marriott. Community Service awards were presented to NARFE Area X members Connie & John Bails, Chapter 737 (Fairfax), Sue Righter Chapter 1241 (Dulles), and Kitty Dvorscak from Chapter 1116 (Vienna). Area IX NARFE awardees were Joanne Lee, Chapter 401 (Falls Church), Margaret Yowell, Chapter 893 (Springfield), and Mary Lou Vroman, Chapter 1159 (Annandale). Also attending the ceremony was Kathy Arpa, VFC 2nd Vice President as well as other NARFE members.

Many of the Chapters had informative speakers these past few months.

- Chapter 1116 (Vienna) chapter's May 8th meeting had speaker Ms. Buckley Fricker, attorney and certified Geriatric Care Manager who wrote the book "Elder Care". She explained and provided handouts on some of the various rules of Medicare and Medicaid regarding payment and coverage of elder services. The meeting was well received and followed with a fun ice cream social.
- In June Chapter 1133 (Loudoun) had a local historian and author speak on the aspects of the Civil War in Leesburg.
- Later in June Chapter 7 (Arlington) had the Washington Post "Dr. Gridlock" who was informative about the highway transportation changes coming to the Northern Virginia area. He also spoke of the Metro's Silver Line, which will carry passengers to Dulles Airport and then a few days after Dr. Gridlock spoke it was announced that Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted to have the Silver Line end in Ashburn, VA.

On June 25th Chapter 1241 celebrated their 40th Anniversary at the Amphora Restaurant with a luncheon followed by a delicious decorated Amphora cake. Guests included: NARFE President Joe Beaudoin, Region X VP Bill Martin, VFC President Luther Santiful, Area IX & X Vice Presidents Pierce Johnson and Vicky Duarte, with special guests Congressman Gerry Connolly (District 11), State Delegate Tom Rust, and Ann

Rust, Deputy State Director for U.S. Senator Mark Warner. The party was an enormous success with attendance of approximately 60 persons.



*Left-Top: Congressman Gerry Connolly (Virginia - 11th District) and Chapter 1241 President Bill Schmidt.*

*Left - Bottom: Bill Schmidt with the anniversary organizers Sue Righter and Shirley Vaughn.*

The upcoming NARFE National Convention will be in Reno-Sparks, NV during the week of August 26th. All seven chapters in Area X will be represented by voting delegates or have designated that their proxies to another Area X chapter at the convention, and some will also be carrying proxies for a few North Carolina chapters.



*Above (L-R) - NARFE Region X Vice President Bill Martin, NARFE National President Joe Beaudoin, and Virginia State Delegate Tom Rust*



On August 1st, the "*America Counts on Us*" campaign – a coalition of leading federal, and postal employee and retiree organizations – hosted a forum with U.S. Senate candidate and former Virginia Governor Tim Kaine to discuss federal employee and retiree issues. This meeting proved successful and the majority of the questions posed to the former governor were from NARFE members. Attendees included NARFE President Joe Beaudoin, Legislative Director Julie Tagen, VFC 2nd Vice President Kathy Arpa, three Chapter Presidents Max Scruggs (Chapter 7 – Arlington), Matthew Prisutti (Chapter 1133 – Loudoun), and Judy Willis (Chapter 1665 – Metro Northern Virginia), and also the Area X Vice President Victoria Duarte.

The Chapters in Area X are currently in summer recess during July and August.

*Victoria Duarte - Area X Vice President*

*"A Government Big Enough To Give You Everything You Want, Is Strong Enough To Take Everything You Have." -- Thomas Jefferson*

## Contact Information – Virginia Members of Congress – As of January 1, 2011

UNITED STATES SENATORS			
S.O.B. = Senate Office Building			
Member of Congress	Washington Office*	Local Office 1	Local Office 2
Honorable Mark Warner United States Senate (Plus offices in Richmond, Abingdon, and Roanoke)	459A Russell S.O.B. Ph. 202-224-2023 Fax 202-224-6295	8000 Towers Crescent Drive Suite 200 Vienna VA 22182 Ph . 703-442-0670 Fax 703-442-0408	101 W. Main Street Suite 4900 Norfolk, VA 23510 Ph. 757-441-3079 Fax 757-441-6250
E-mail at web form: <a href="http://warner.senate.gov">warner.senate.gov</a> , then click on "E-mail Senator Warner."			
Honorable Jim Webb United States Senate (Plus offices in Arlington, Norton, & Danville)	248 Russell S.O.B. Ph. 202-224-4024 Fax 202-228-6363	507 E. Franklin Street Richmond, VA 23219 Ph. 804-771-2221 Fax 804-771-8313	222 Central Park Avenue Suite 120 Virginia Beach, VA 23462 Ph. 757-518-1674 Fax 757-518-1679
E-mail at web form: <a href="http://webb.senate.gov">webb.senate.gov</a> , then click on "Contact Senator Webb on line"			
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E-mail at <a href="http://wittman.house.gov">wittman.house.gov</a> , then click on "Contact"			
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E-mail at <a href="http://www.house.gov/goodlatte/">www.house.gov/goodlatte/</a> , then click on "Contact", then click on "E-Mail Bob"			
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E-mail at <a href="http://cantor.house.gov">cantor.house.gov</a> , click on "Contact Us", then click on "Write your Representative Service"			
<b>8th DISTRICT</b>			
Honorable James P. Moran	2239 Rayburn H.O.B. Ph. 202-225-4376 Fax 202-225-0017	333 N. Fairfax Street Alexandria, VA 22314 Ph. 703-971-4700 Fax 703-922-9436	None as of report date
E-mail at <a href="http://moran.house.gov">moran.house.gov</a> , then click on "Contact", then on "Email Contact"			
<b>9th DISTRICT</b>			
Honorable Morgan Griffith  (Plus an office in Big Stone Gap)	1108 Longworth H.O.B. Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3861 Fax: (202) 225-0076	323 West Main Street Abingdon, VA 24210 Phone: (276) 525-1405 Fax: (276) 525-1444	None as of report date
<b>10th DISTRICT</b>			
Honorable Frank Wolf	241 Cannon H.O.B. Ph. 202-225-5136 Fax 202-225-0437	13873 Park Center Road Suite 130 Herndon, VA 20171 Ph. 703-709-5800, or 800-945-9653 in State Fax 703-709-5802	110 N. Cameron Street Winchester, VA 22601 Ph. 540-667-0990, or 800-850-3463 in State Fax 540-678-0402
E-mail at <a href="http://wolf.house.gov">wolf.house.gov</a> , then click on "E-mail Me."			
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E-mail at <a href="http://connolly.house.gov">connolly.house.gov</a> , then click on "Contact Me"			

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*"Long Ago When Men Cursed And Beat The Ground With Sticks, It Was Called Witchcraft. Today, It Is Called Golf"*

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