



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Virginia Federation of Chapters Newsletter

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FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It seems like it was just a fleeting time ago that I wrote my previous report to you. With the holidays and convention preparations, the time has flown by! This is the VFC Notes or the

VFC Newsletter, which ever name you prefer. This newsletter covers the period of November 2017 to March 1, 2018.

Chapter Visits: During the reporting period I visited eight chapters from Roanoke to Chesapeake to Richmond to Springfield. Of special note was my visit to Roanoke Valley, Chapter 111 where I participated in their 65th Chapter Anniversary party and I met Charlie Fallis, the oldest living past National President of NARFE.

State Legislation: As you know, the Virginia General Assembly started their 2018 session on January 10, 2018. Shortly after, each member of the General Assembly, both Delegates and

Senators, received my letter with a copy of our VFC State Legislative Plan. As you would expect, the letter asked for their support of our issues. I do not have the status on our issues, but we should know how we fared by the time we get to our annual convention.

64th Annual VFC Convention: Since I wrote to you last, we have published three important convention documents: Bulletin #1 in December 2017; Bulletin #2 in January 2018; and the Call to Convention in February 2018. These documents are on the VFC website at www.vanarfe.org.

I certainly hope you have registered for the convention and sent in your supporter donations, your chapter ads, and your commercial ads. We are looking forward to a very successful convention in Charlottesville, VA, April 8-11, 2018. Just in case you haven't heard, our very special guest speaker at the convention is Barb Sido, NARFE National Executive Director. You will also be able to meet several candidates who are running for NARFE National offices. If, by chance you have not registered yet, there is a tiny late fee, but we still want very much for you to attend.

Finally, I need to mention that our 1st Vice President and Convention Coordinator, Pat Taylor, has been unable to work on the convention due to medical problems. Although we miss her expertise, Maureen "Moe" Nolet, Convention Chair, has ably stepped up and has

everything under control. She has a hard-working and dedicated convention committee composed of chapter members in Area VIII, some chapter members outside of Area VIII, and several VFC Board members. Thanks to all for your contributions to the 64th Annual VFC Convention.

National Legislation: I will be publishing the new list of Senate Legislative Liaisons (SLLs) and Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) who are working under the guidance of our National Legislative Chair, Gaston Gianni. To those who have previously served as an SLL or CDL, I thank you for the work you have done for NARFE and the members of the VFC. The new list of appointments is valid until December 31, 2018.

As a final note, at the convention, we will be voting on new by-laws for our Federation. These by-laws incorporate the NARFE changes from the 2016 National NARFE Convention: one member/one vote and optional chapter membership. A copy of the proposed by-laws is on our www.vanarfe.org website. I think that's all for now. See you in Charlottesville in April!

Leslie Ravenell, VFC President

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Left to Right: Kathy Arpa, Immediate Past President; Leslie Ravenell, President; Pat Taylor, 1st Vice President; Constance Bails, 2nd Vice President; Richard Shrum, Secretary; Raphael Wong, Treasurer

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is my pleasure to serve this first year as the 2nd Vice President for the NARFE, Virginia Federation of Chapters!

I closed out 2017 as VFC Co-Service Officer with my husband John Bails. We finalized our responsibilities with a closing Service Officer presentation for VA Chapter Service Officers at the 2017 convention. Noteworthy, we are very excited to pass on the function to the extremely capable and dedicated Arlene & Johnny Arthur from Norfolk VA.

I also ended 2017 and began 2018 as the VFC Chaplain. I delivered the invocation and benediction for all meetings. And, coordinated and implemented the successful, Memorial

Program at the 2017 VFC Annual Convention. The program included a wonderful memorial program book, excellent musical performances by the Junior String Quartet and a heartfelt prayer for the occasion.

As 2nd Vice President, I am the primary contact person with oversight responsible for the six VFC Program Committees; Alzheimer's; Membership, Service Officer; State Legislation, National Legislation; and Public Relations. I meet with the program chairpersons at every quarterly board meeting to assure they meet their program goals and assist with any needs necessary to carry out the function of their duties.

Attend Meetings - During this past year I attended several chapter meetings and area caucus where I addressed the goals and objectives of the VFC. In addition, I collected Chapter organizational concerns from the caucus members and shared with suggested resolutions with the Executive Board. I attended the Louisa County Holiday Party and swore in 2018 Chapter Officers.

In addition to oversight for the programs in the absence of the 1st Vice President and VFC President I assume the duties of the respective positions. I am an active member of the VFC Executive Board where I aid the VFC President in making executive decisions that affects the success of the organization.

I also serve as Chair of committees as designated by the VFC President. To that end, I am the current chair of the VFC Support Enhancement Committee, established by VFC President, to outline the significance of the relationship and the benefits of the VFC and the NARFE Chapters. The committee began by initiating a random survey among members of the VFC leadership team. Realizing we need to do more work, we highlighted and presented to the VFC President the

noteworthy attributes of the VFC and the initiatives that we plan to include in our strategic plan based on NARFE Chapter input for the impending future.

For the 2018 VFC Convention, I am the Co-Chairperson for the Banquet and Reception. I have attended two convention meetings, numerous conference calls and a special session with the Chairperson and Hotel staff to make final decisions for the activity. I have been active and held officer positions in my NARFE Chapter since my retirement in 2006. I soon became active in the VFC and have remained faithful throughout the years. I believe I have an inside and outside view of the VFC organization. As a retired Senior Executive (SES) I am certain that I have a working knowledge of many of the functions of the Federal Government. I have used my influence as a federal retiree and part time training contractor to become one the Nation's "Top Recruiters" several years in a row. On March 17th I received a note of appreciation and a 2017 RECRUITER pin for my recruiting efforts for 2017.

As 2nd Vice President, I appreciate working under the leadership of the VFC President, Leslie Ravenell and working with the Program Chairs, who do an excellent job maintaining and enhancing our six (6) programs. I also have a strong working relations and great respect for the 1st Vice President & all Area Vice Presidents. And of course, it goes without saying how much I appreciate the outstanding professionalism of the Executive Officers that make the Virginia Federation of Chapters all that it can be. Please feel free to share any ideas and thoughts that will help us move forward!

Constance T. Bails, Ph.D., VFC 2nd Vice President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Fall VFC Board meeting held October 22-24, 2017 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. Twenty members of the Board and seven other committee chairs and visitors attended. The Region X Vice President was unable to attend. Main topics of discussion included:

Area Activities - Pat Taylor led discussions. Key points included: chapter closings and consolidations strengthened and improved participation in some Areas; some very large chapters can't find leaders and may close; AVPs urged to become more active in state legislative activities.

Committee Reports – Constance Bails, 2nd VP led discussions. Points raised included: growing transfer rate from chapters to national, due in large part to the unclear member renewal form; public relations very busy in the health fairs with enormous quantities of NARFE items distributed; HQ matching funds more complicated and lower than in past; and adding more structure and Area involvement in the legislation program.

Special Committees and Activities Reports:

VFC Notes – moving to regular quarterly reports, with increased focus on goals and accomplishments rather than meetings and speakers.

State Legislation – Board approved PAC funding of candidates, including several challengers, for eleven individuals in the total amount of \$3750.

By-laws Revision – the special committee recommended deletion of the VFC

Constitution, moving most of its text to the Bylaws, consequential changes to implement National's move to one-member, one-vote (OMOV), and minor changes to improve VFC's structure and operations. The Board approved the report for forwarding to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee for final review and consideration and forwarding to the 2018 Convention for adoption.

Electronic meetings – Starting to use online technologies, e.g., GoToMeeting, to reduce costs and work more efficiently.

2018 Convention – preparations are proceeding, and the Board approved the committee's proposal to maintain the same registration fee as used in 2017 (all fees remain the same).

The Winter Board meeting held January 7-9, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Charlottesville, Virginia, the site of the 2018 Convention. Nineteen members of the Board and eight others attended, including the Region X Vice President. Main topics of discussion included:

Area Activities – Pat Taylor led discussion with eight attending AVPs. Main points included: give more publicity to effective events, e.g., the Peanut Festival; another Area V chapter moving to close, so may decide to merge area with another; growing questions about what the Federation does for the chapter member, leading to a shift to national membership; major question – do we need 10 Areas? Region X Vice President Bill Shackelford reported on successful region conference October 10-12 in Martinsburg, WV, noting that all presentations are on the website. He also reported on a new development, wherein some chapters have become non-affiliated with their state federation due to dissatisfaction with the service received for dues paid.

Committee Reports – Constance Bails led discussions. Issues discussed: PR chairmanship is now vacant; state PAC fund contributions led to some confusion so a clear process and policy will be developed; seven CDLs met after the October Board meeting for an effective exchange and training session; VFC is pressing for greater inclusion in HQ legislative contacts with Virginia officials; and the five current Executive Committee officers have been nominated for reelection at the upcoming Convention.

Special Issues and Activities:

Reports/VFC Notes – some delays led to late Fall VFC Notes; new emphasis and guidelines will improve publication; and Board decided to call it “Newsletter” rather than “VFC Notes.”

Alzheimer’s – Planning to develop a 10-year rolling history of NARFE and VFC contributions for use with legislative contacts and the public.

GoToMeeting – the Board decided to move forward to obtain a license and begin use, initially for learning and familiarization, and then to support Board and all other activities.

National Bylaws - Three recent changes introduced for voting this summer.

2018 Convention – all proceeding well; Bulletin #1 issued December 1 (and Bulletin #2 on January 25)

VFC Vacancies – Three major positions vacant: Public Relations Chair, Area III VP and SLL for Senator Warner. Please contact President Ravenell if you are interested.

Brainstorming Session – the Board held an hour-long discussion period with four groups to debate: “What does the VFC do for chapter members, and What can it do better! “The results were presented, documented, and assigned to the new Chapter Support Enhancement Committee under chair Constance Bails. The group will

develop a document of this subject for distribution at the Convention.

Hope to see you all at the Convention in Charlottesville – stop me and say hello!

Richard Shrum, VFC Secretary

TREASURER’S REPORT

2nd Quarter expenditure to date is 31% of the approved FY18 budget. The total contribution collected to VFC State Political Fund ending in 4th QTR CY 2017 is \$510.00. During the last quarter, CY17, VFC made contributions to ten Delegate Candidates and one Senate Candidate totaling \$3750.00.

TREASURER REPORT SYNOPSIS AS OF

December 31, 2017

Approved Budget	\$101,809
Income	\$32,497
Expenditure	\$31,168
Required from Savings	\$1,329 (not needed; in the black)

Summary of Operations Account ending

December 31, 2017

Operation Fund (Checking)	\$53,916.27
Share Savings	\$5.00
General Reserve Fund	\$22,297.30
Contingency Fund	\$10,327.65
Escrow Fund	
(for Closed Chapters)	\$13,470.46
TOTAL	\$100,016.68

Raphael Wong, VFC Treasurer

STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

This edition covers three areas of importance: Current key legislative initiative that may affect Federal Employees and Retirees; the importance of NARFE's Political Action Committee; and an update on the VFC National Legislative team.

First: The President's recently released fiscal year 2019 budget contains hundreds of billions in cuts that target the earned pay and benefits of the federal community in a time of economic prosperity and rising wage growth. While the budget unapproved, nor changes made to it; NOW IS THE TIME for NARFE members to contact their lawmakers and tell them to reject these cuts. All NARFE members—those in Chapters and our VA National members—should call and or send letters to their Congressional Representatives. NARFE has made it easy to send letters. Visit the NARFE website www.NARFE.org: go to Departments, click on Legislative Department, then click on the NARFE Legislative Action Center box in the center of the page. There are several action letters waiting for you to send. Specifically, the president's budget targets the retirement security of current federal retirees by reducing or eliminating cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), leaving retirees insufficiently protected from rising inflation and increasing health care premiums. Current and future retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) would see their COLAs reduced by 0.5 percent each year; while retirees under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) would see their COLAs eliminated altogether. NARFE members must contact their legislators if we are to be successful in fighting off these proposed cuts.

It's March and that means its NARFE-PAC month! Headquarters is promoting NARFE-PAC through the March NARFE magazine. This includes a cover with an easy-to-return contribution form and a feature article about NARFE-PAC. NARFE leaders and members need to make an extra effort to support NARFE-PAC during this time.

NARFE PAC fights for YOU! The TOP FIVE reasons to give to NARFE-PAC are because it:

- ❖ Helps elect members of Congress who have supported the Federal community;
- ❖ Builds strong relationships with lawmakers, a key component to winning legislative fights;
- ❖ Ensures the Federal community is a powerful political force across the country;
- ❖ Pools individual contributions to maximize impact nationwide; and
- ❖ Empowers our strongest supporters to become leaders in our fight.

Help us reach our goal of \$1.5 million! We will have a NARFE PAC table at our VFC Convention in April. Stop by and give a contribution. Better yet, sign up to be a Sustaining Member by giving every month. We need everyone's support! If you can't make the convention, use the convenient mailer in the March NARFE Magazine. For more information on how NARFE PAC use these funds, go to the NARFE web page, and look for quarterly updates under the Legislative Department page.

We are working hard to fill several Liaison vacancies and hope to have them all filled by the time of our convention in April. Many of the National Legislative Team will be attending the convention. Please seek them out and talk with them about their efforts to build relationship with our Congressional Representative and Senators. Also, I recommend that you consider inviting the VFC Liaison for the Congressional

District(s) where your Chapter is located to speak at one of your Chapter meetings.

Finally, if you have any questions about our VFC National Legislative efforts, or I can be of help to your chapters please contact (703-508-4339) or send me an email at gastongianni@aol.com.

Closing Quote: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue *that counts*."

Winston Churchill

Legislative Chair, Gaston Gianni

STATE LEGISLATION REPORT

The State Legislation Plan for 2018 is on pages 15 and 16.

Margaret Keator, VFC State Legislation Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For the year 2017, overall membership for the Virginia Federation is up by 2.6% from 2016. This includes the new Virginia National Division members (formerly known as the eChapter). The National Division Non-Chapter members now comprise 45% of the VFC's total membership. Chapter membership is down by 27%. This decline does not appear to be due to Non-renewals and Reinstatements, which are holding about steady from 2016.

Transfers- In to-Chapters are UP by 187%. Transfers- Out are also up - by a whopping 947%. Many of the Chapter members who transferred out may have done so by mistake. For example, when they renewed their NARFE membership. Initially, the updated renewal forms reflecting the new National Division option were confusing, which could account for why several of my Chapter members were surprised to learn they had dropped their Chapter membership. The renewal forms have updated to clarify how to renew in a manner that retains membership in a local Chapter. In addition, HQ has converted

to the new National Division the legacy National Only members previously assigned to Chapters. In my Chapter, these conversions account for 25% of the total number of members who Transferred -Out of the chapter.

Chapter Membership Chairs may want to contact persons whose memberships transferred to the National Division to gently inquire as to whether they are aware that they are no longer members of your Chapter. I have written a Step by Step Guide for determining who these members are, and a Sample Letter and Phone Script for contacting them. If they indeed mistakenly transferred their membership, extend an invitation for them to rejoin your Chapter and highlight the benefits of doing so. Interesting programs are some of the benefits of belonging to a Chapter, I have compiled a Program Ideas list from past meetings with various Chapters throughout the VFC. Feel free to contact me if you have more ideas to contribute. Chapter membership is also down because the number of New Members recruited by VFC Chapters is down 45% from 2016. Yet, the number of Prospective Members referred by HQ is up 29%. The average Prospect Conversion Ratio (New Members as a % of Prospects) for the VFC overall is 14.4%. While some Chapters have ratios of 40% or better, 17 Chapters have ratios of 0% to 10%.

Conclusion: We need to do a better job of contacting Prospects - AND recruiting new members by other means. The Guides for Mailing, Phoning, or Emailing Prospects, and the Elevator Speech written by HQ. might be helpful to obtain the goal. All the documents mentioned here are available in the Membership Resources area of www.vanarfe.org. (Click on Membership on the left-hand side of the home page.) The End of Year 2017 (EOY 2017) Member statistics are on the Membership Blog.

B.J. Thomas McMillan, VFC Membership Chair

SERVICE REPORT

Change is in the air. As the cold of winter makes way for the warmth of spring we're reminded of our change as well. Last year this time we had no idea that we would soon be Co-Service Officers for Virginia's Federation of Chapters. Our appointment came at the end of VFC's 2017 convention. Just like our flowers that are starting to open, we're becoming more visible around the state. We're happy to report that we have accepted invitations to speak at chapters through September. We are very receptive to additional engagements, so don't be shy. Contact us.

We've been reviewing chapter records to locate existing service officers. We will be contacting AVPs and/or chapter presidents to complete our list. Our objective is to help recruit, retain, and train service officers for all chapters. We will be setting up a channel for direct communication with the service officers so that we can determine their needs.

Thanks to Jeanne Garrison (Area I VP) for scheduling training for service officers and potential service officers within her area. We also thank Raymond Orland (Chapter 1743 President and Area IV VP) for inviting us to be guest speakers. Ray also invited other chapters in his area, which resulted in our recruiting a new service officer.

We're looking forward to meeting our service officers at the 2018 VFC Convention in Charlottesville. We are aware that we have both very new and very seasoned service officers in our federation. This will be a terrific opportunity to discuss training needs and share our service experiences. Looking forward to meeting you.

Arlene and Johnny Arthur, VFC Co-Service Officers

FROM THE ALZHEIMER'S DESK

Looking to step up your commitment to the cause? Consider joining a Walk Planning committee. From event planning to promotions, there is something for every skill set. As Jenn Pellegrini, DC Walk Sponsorship Chair, said, "Each person brings their own personal and powerful connection. We're all championing this awful disease and will triumph together. I made friends on the committee, drawing support and strength from strangers into friendships." There are currently Walks scheduled for Manassas, Reston, and Warrenton. If you would like to promote a Walk in your area, we will help you find the requirements.

On June 21, 2018, the longest day of the year and summer solstice, thousands of people will join to show their love for those affected by Alzheimer's disease on The Longest Day. You can be one of them. Contact your local Alzheimer's Association to get details regarding activities for your area.

When a friend or family member is living with Alzheimer's disease, kids and teens may feel upset, confused, or scared. The Alzheimer's Association has resources to help them learn about Alzheimer's and understand how it affects them — and to understand that it's important to know they're not alone.

I have some figures which might interest you. During the month of January, NARFE members contributed \$58,216.09 to the Research fund, bringing our total toward our goal to \$12,612,677.59. This means we must collect \$387,323 before the end of the year to reach our goal of \$13 million. Recalling that the Alzheimer's Association operates on a Fiscal Year July 1 through June 30, for this current Fiscal Year, Virginia has contributed \$45,582.77 which is \$1,304.02 less than one year ago at this time.

Our Federation has donated more than any of the other nine Regions.

I am encouraging all members of Virginia Federation of Chapters to come to the Convention in Charlottesville, April 8-10, and be sure to visit the Alzheimer's Room. We will have 50/50 tickets with the prizes being cash; we will also have a silent auction and raffle items. You can purchase tickets for the raffle items and put your name on the back of each ticket you buy; so, remember to bring those address labels with you. I'll have giveaways in that room, including the piglets for saving for Alzheimer's and some of the 3-in-1 key chains that so many of you liked last year.

I am here to help you and your chapter any way I can. Please feel free to contact me.

kamiah@com

Donna Shackelford, VFC Alzheimer's Chair



AREA VICE PRESIDENT NEWS

Jeanne Garrison

AREA I

Despite the loss of many chapter members to national membership status all four chapters of Area I remain functional, thanks to their enthusiasm and the willingness of some to serve as officers. Chapters installed officers in December, and Northern Neck 1823 was able to have their installation performed by the National President, Dick Thissen, at their Christmas meeting.

Two chapters have done especially well in raising funds for Alzheimer's research with special projects. At their December luncheon, Chapter 1823 held a silent auction of items donated by

members. Chapter 682 ended the year at 33 total miles in their ongoing miles of pennies project. This effort has averaged about 2 miles of pennies per year.

Each chapter has monthly meetings with a variety of programs. In December, Williamsburg Chapter 685 had a harpist playing Christmas music at the annual dinner party. In February there was a presentation on income tax regulations by a member of the AARP volunteer tax preparation program, which is a free service for electronic tax return filing. Recruiting efforts have expanded to include a notice of NARFE meetings in the homeowners' newsletter of one of the largest residential developments in the area.

Like many chapters, Middle Peninsula chapter 1757 has lost members and unfortunately the area has little opportunity for recruitment. However, the majority have chosen to continue as a chapter and those who are able, display an incredible willingness to participate and help as much as possible. They have a variety of programs and get publicity in the local newspaper. They had a well-attended Christmas luncheon which included door prizes for all. The February program consisted of 26 people including members and guests, a remarkable number for a chapter with only 51 members.

In recognition of February as Black History month, Northern Neck Chapter member Carol Brown, gave a brief history of property in Northumberland County her family has owned for generations. It includes 40 acres occupied solely by homes belonging to members of the family. The guest speaker preservationist advocate, Sue Lindsay, discussed erosion and preserving the river shore line. This was of interest because part of the shoreline involved includes the Historic Brown family cemetery which they are trying to preserve.

Peninsula chapter 682 has been staffing recruiting tables with NARFE information at health fairs held at various government agencies during FEHB open season. As a result, they signed up 13 new members for NARFE. Their speakers have covered a variety of subjects ranging from diseases of the eye to local political candidates discussing their thoughts on the NARFE state legislative plan.

An area training meeting in Gloucester March 1 conducted by VFC Service Officers Arlene and John Arthur, provided training for Service Officers, and gave other members an opportunity to learn more about how service officers can be a resource for information. They shared things they can do for members that are not be related to illness or death of a member. They also provided an interesting video on the history of the establishment of the civil service system and how NARFE began.

Alex Adkins

AREA II

The Honorable Glenn Davis, Virginia Beach Delegate to the General Assembly, invited NARFE Chapter 974 to visit his office in Richmond on January 25, 2018.



Rosemary Stepnowski, Fran Sansone, Pat Hughes, Tom Biggs, Alex & PJ Adkins, and Virginia Beach Delegate Glenn Davis.

The General Assembly was in session at the time of the visit. Glenn Davis met with chapter members in his office in the Pocahontas Building across the street from the Virginia General Assembly. He explained bills that he had sponsored and others he supported. All of them were beneficial to his constituents in Virginia Beach. The chapter members went to the gallery in the House of Delegates and received recognition from the floor of the assembly as NARFE Chapter 974. Chapter members watched the House of Delegates vote on a series of pending bills and then took a guided tour of the state capital building. The meeting concluded with a delicious meal at a restaurant in downtown Richmond.

During February, Chapter 1827 had a luncheon at the Surf Rider on Oceana Boulevard in Virginia Beach and Chapter 66 had an attorney and certified financial planner, Ginny Brown, who spoke about estate planning and elder care. Chapter 974 had an Alzheimer speaker. Events planned for March include Chapter 1827's annual spaghetti dinner and a presentation by a Community Outreach Specialist from the FBI for Chapter 974. All the elected officers for Chapters 66, 974 and 1827 from last year will continue to serve in the same positions for 2018.

AREA III

Area III has four chapters: Midlothian, Petersburg, Richmond, and Tuckahoe. All chapters are active and in good standing. Jack McMurchy, Area III Vice President, resigned in January, and Helen Willis, Midlothian Chapter 2265, serves as the Area III VP filling out the term until the Area Caucus elects a new Area VP at the next annual convention.

Midlothian Chapter 2265 celebrated the holidays at the local American Legion with a scrumptious buffet and several drawings. Region X Vice President, Bill Shackelford installed

the new officers for 2018. The attendance was great, and it was an enjoyable time. In January a speaker from the Fire and Safety office of Chesterfield County gave a presentation on home safety. In February the Chesterfield Community Coordinator spoke to the chapter about a program on school activities that seniors can attend free of charge.

Petersburg Chapter 28 invited the VFC President to speak at their November meeting. The President explained the renewal process for members and gave a brief presentation on voting procedures for the National officers. In December, Past Region X Vice President and Past VFC President, Bill Martin installed the 2018 officers.

Richmond Chapter 60 invited the VFC President to their February meeting. The President gave the chapter members a full explanation of the upcoming voting procedures for National Officers and National By-Laws and Resolutions. The Vice President of the chapter noted that this was the first time a member of the VFC Executive Board had ever attended their chapter meeting.

Tuckahoe Chapter 1727 has experienced some decrease in membership but continues to meet regularly with about 15 to 20 members in attendance. They are currently working on a long-term plan to increase membership. Although the current chapter president has been in place for several years, he has stepped up again to help the chapter stay on track.

Raymond Orland **AREA IV**

As with most chapters, December's meetings were of the party nature with no business conducted. The Churchland chapter (1293) really had the party of all parties. They had a guest singer, Frank Cubillo, who dresses like and sings like Frank Sinatra. When he sang his finale

"New York, New York" some of the lady members danced like the Rockettes.

The Suffolk chapter (1743) had 23 members attend the January meeting to hear a representative from the Dismal Swamp National Refuge. The speaker was excellent and talked about the history and everything about this wonderful treasure in our area.

Leslie Ravenell and I attended the February meeting of Brentwood chapter (1697). I talked about the importance of chapter membership and the BCBS re-imburement benefit for people with basic option and Medicare part B. I helped several members with the paperwork. Leslie talked about everything NARFE. The Brentwood Chapter published monthly newsletters that focused on issues important to NARFE active and retired members.

VFC Guest Speakers on the Job!

Our first 2018 meeting (February 13th) featured, not one guest speaker, but two distinguished VFC Officers. Both, volunteered their service as speakers: VFC President Leslie Ravenell and VFC Region IV Vice President Ray Orland. They shared up-to-date information on a variety of topics: NARFE membership; NARFE dues; VFC 2018 Convention; one-member-one-vote; Trump 2019 Budget Proposal; BCBS Medicare Reimbursement Account. What an honor and educational event! **Thank You – Brentwood Chapter 1697**

For February, the Suffolk chapter had our state Service Officer and Co-Service Officer, (Arlene and Johnny Arthur) as guest speakers. Five members of the Brentwood chapter and one member of the Churchland chapter attended. There were 32 people to hear a wonderful presentation. This meeting went about 30 minutes longer than planned; however, the member participation was so good I just couldn't

stop it. At this meeting, a member of the Brentwood chapter, Jeff Rau, volunteered to become their Service Officer.

Mark Fisher **AREA VI**

The Roanoke chapter meeting in January had State Senator Edwards speak about the VFC State Legislative Plan. Senator Edwards received a State PAC donation last election cycle. In February, a representative from the Local Office on Aging provided a presentation and made a sizable donation of soups and crackers for the Soup for Seniors drive. In January, the New River Valley chapter made a commitment of raising \$1000 for the State's Alzheimer's Research fund. On a personal note, I am again participating in the AARP Tax Aide program as a counselor.

Steve L. Dansker **Area VII**

During the period December 2017 through February 2018, the five chapters of Area VII: Winchester #180; Charlottesville #135; Shenandoah County #2358; Harrisonburg #164; and Page Valley #1793 held several monthly chapter meetings centered around chapter elections of officers and Holiday festivities. All chapters held variations of Holiday Parties that included live music. Also, during this period, all chapters swore in current existing Chapter officers, except one. The Shenandoah County Chapter #2358 installed a new vice-president, Charles Kaweck, a retiree from OPM. In February, the Harrisonburg Chapter #164 hosted an Alzheimer's Research Fund Raising Auction at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg.

I visited all five chapters in the Area and participated in the swearing in of new chapter officers. As the Shenandoah County Chapter #2358 President, our Region X VP, Bill

Shackelford performed my installation. During our annual Holiday celebration in December at the Mt. Jackson Denny's. Dave Lewis provided guitar music, and the Delano's, Jeff & Linda, led us in song.

To our delight, membership remains constant in the Area, with few changes. Departures due to transfers of members to National-only, caused a decline in membership; however, we still had a few additions to chapter rolls.

During the Charlottesville Chapter #135 January chapter meeting, Cassandra Rigg, a representative from the University of Virginia Community Credit Union (UVACCU) presented retirement savings directives. After the meeting, we recruited UVACCU as an exhibitor for the 2018 VFC Convention and they purchased a full-page ad in the Convention's Program Book. Also, the Wood Grill in Charlottesville, where the chapter meets, purchased a half-page ad for the Program Book.

Finally, as the 2018 VFC Convention Ad Chair, I solicited ads from both Commercial and NARFE-related entities. And as of March 1st, we have exceeded both the number of Commercial Ads and income received for the 2017 VFC Convention.

Maureen Nolet **AREA VIII**

Area VIII is comprised of the following Chapters: 90; 595; 1549; 1885; 2112; and 2343. All chapters installed new officers. Chapter 595, 1885, and Chapter 2343 held Alzheimer's fund raisers that were very successful. Chapter 1549 celebrated their 40th anniversary. If members don't step forward to lead Chapter 1885, then we will consider closing the chapter.

Jim Little **AREA IX**

Area IX has been very active promoting NARFE's goals within its ranks and in the community over the winter months. Although chapter membership continues to decline due to non-renewals, transfers to the National Division, and, unfortunately, deaths; each Area IX chapter recruited new members. All chapters have either a full slate of officers or the requisite President and Treasurer; and officers were all administered the Oath of Office by either NARFE Chief Executive Officer Barbara Sido or me. 20 of our members will be attending the VFC Convention in April.

Each chapter held monthly meetings and published informative monthly or bi-monthly newsletters. The newsletters and monthly meetings were vehicles to inform membership about other issues important to NARFE, for example, the recently announced Virginia License Plate commemorating Alzheimer's awareness and the NARFE's scholarship program.

VFC President Leslie Ravenell provided Springfield and Woodbridge Chapters an update on important NARFE and VFC issues; and a Springfield chapter member provided a personal photographic presentation about her own African Safari. A highlight for Springfield's party was the attendance of NARFE CEO Barbara Sido and Past President Kathy Arpa.



NARFE Chief Executive Officer Barbara Sido with Springfield Chapter President Joe Bush and Vice President Beth Lynch following their Swearing-In.

Area IX reaches out to the community throughout the year, but especially during the holidays. This year our chapters collected several hundred pounds of food and sundries for local food pantries, including Prince William County's SERVE and Action in Community Through Service; Fairfax County's Stuff-the-Buss program that partner with many non-profits throughout the region; and the Annandale Christian Community for Action program. Chapters are active in the community through participation with other organizations, including AARP and volunteering to help seniors and people with disabilities prepare their 2017 tax returns as well as promoting the Little Theatre of Alexandria, which provides chapter members free entry to many of its plays before they are ready for "primetime."

Area IX is proud of its success in raising funds for Alzheimer's Research, having raised \$15,614.78 in 2017, about 25% of the entire VFC's \$63,946.62. Congratulations to our chapters! Speaking of congratulations, this year marks several milestones: Alexandria and Manassas Chapters celebrate their 65th Anniversaries; Springfield celebrates its 55th; Annandale celebrates its 48th; Woodbridge celebrates its 45th; and the Northern Virginia Caucus celebrates its 25th.

All chapters search for ways to trim budgets, especially as revenues decline due to reduced chapter membership income. All Area IX chapters have now eliminated mailings of printed newsletters to members with email addresses to minimize costs, and some have reduced reimbursements to members attending conventions and other events. Kudos go to Annandale Chapter for taking advantage of the AmazonSmile program which provides non-profit organizations a .5% contribution for all eligible purchases made on the Amazon.com website via the Smile program. In 2017, the chapter earned \$475 through this program! I encourage other chapters to do the same!

Wilma Grant **AREA X**

Area X has six chapters: Arlington, Dulles, Fairfax, Great Falls/McLean, Northern VA Metro and Vienna-Oakton. All chapters are active and in good standing. Northern Virginia VA Metro Chapter 1665 continues to lead an active life, with a reduced membership due to member transfers to the National Members chapter, normal non-renewals, and deaths. Congratulations to active member, Mary Nash, who turned 100 on Feb. 22.

All chapters hosted monthly informative quest speakers, held holiday luncheons, attended NARFE events and participated in and supported NARFE activities. Each chapter held varied and interesting programs; very informative providing the members much information on services available to them. A few highlights from each:

Northern Virginia VA Metro Chapter 1665 - January Annual Silent Auction for Alzheimer's (proceeds totaled \$717), and in February guest speaker Evan Farr, Elder Law Attorney. Several members attended the NOVA Caucus meeting.

Vienna/Oakton Chapter 1116 - The group had a speaker from the Arlington ladies who attend funerals at Arlington National Cemetery providing an incalculable service of care and comfort to the fallen soldiers and to their grieving families. In February, guest speaker was Donna Shackelford, VFC Alzheimer's Chair.

Arlington Chapter 007 - The December luncheon featured a 60-year history of TV station WETA, with about 50 members and guests attending. In February Molly Checksfield, Grassroots Program Manager at NARFE HQ, shared "Tips on Effective Advocacy."

Dulles Chapter 1241 - In January, Richard Eimas, Tax Adviser at Block Advisors, discussed the timely new Federal Tax Law. In February, Officer Richard Twombly, Crime Prevention Officer from Fairfax County Police Department was guest speaker.

Great Falls/McLean Chapter 489 - Chapter member and 2nd Vice President, Eddie Eitches, attended the NEB meeting in Alexandria as a guest to obtain a better insight into the NARFE organization. In February, Bonnie O'Leary, Outreach Manager, Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons, spoke to us about hearing loss from the consumer's perspective.

Fairfax Chapter 737 - Under Alzheimer's Chair, Linda Meyers,' leadership they hosted a BBQ fundraiser at "The 29 Diner" in October; owner John Wood contributed \$500. Several Chapter members attended the Region X Conference in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Several chapter members attended Congressman Gerry Connolly's Annual Health Fair which resulted in the enlistment of several new members. Recent program speakers were VFC President, Leslie Ravenell (Oct); and NARFE Executive Director, Barbara Sido (Nov), who shared her plans to support both federal staff and chapter members.

2018 State Legislation Plan

Virginia Federation of Chapters' (VFC) Executive Leadership

**President
Leslie Ravenell**

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**First Vice President
Pat Taylor**

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**Immediate Past President
Kathy Arpa**

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*Protecting America's
Heartbeat for over 90 Years!*

Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC)

15,500 Members Strong

🌿 46 Chapters

🌿 10 Area Vice Presidents



VFC Legislative Contact:

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National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)



Virginia Federation of Chapters

2018

State Legislative Plan

Protecting Earned Benefits of Active & Retired Federal Employees and the Interests of Virginia's Senior Citizens



2018 State Legislative Plan - Virginia

Indexing Income Tax Age Deduction

1. To Inflation

When taxpayers reach age 65, they are eligible for a state income tax deduction of \$12,000 if their single-filer income is less than \$50,000 or joint-filer income is less than \$75,000. If their income exceeds these fixed limits, there is a deduction for every \$1 over the limit. There has been no adjustment for inflation since this means testing was passed in 2004. We support an inflation-indexed age deduction to alleviate the long-term cost of living increase.

Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long – Term Care Premiums

Health Care costs continue to rise and most retirees are on fixed incomes. Therefore, we support legislation that would amend VA58.1-322(C) to allow retirees to subtract health insurance and long-term care premiums from federal adjusted gross income on VA state tax returns with no income restrictions.

Minimum Nursing Home Standards

Nursing home residents need adequate certified staff to improve their physical and emotional quality of life. Current federal regulations require “sufficient” staffing to meet the needs of residents. While many states have adopted minimum staffing levels, Virginia has yet to do so. We urge the General Assembly to expand the study in SJ266 (2017) on staffing ratio requirements to also include certified nursing home staffing standards and staffing levels.

Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform

Gerrymandering reduces political competition and fosters a climate of partisan gridlock. We urge the General Assembly to pass legislation ensuring that future redistricting is undertaken in a nonpartisan and transparent manner, conducted through impartial means, such as by an independent commission.

Absentee Voting

Most states now permit some form of no-excuse absentee voting for their citizens. We recommend that the Virginia General Assembly pass legislation that would allow no-excuse absentee voting.

Transparency

As a member of the all-volunteer Transparency Virginia Coalition, we ask the General Assembly and its committees and subcommittees to use the Coalition’s best practices for accountability and public participation by ensuring that:

- Hearing notices give the public the adequate time to attend;
- Every bill is given due consideration;
- All final votes are recorded.

For more information on these issues or to schedule a meeting, please contact:

Maggie Keator

VFC State Legislative Chair

maggiekeator@gmail.com

757-812-01267



Important VFC Dates



February 2018

- Feb 1* *Deadline for submissions for VFC Management Award to 2nd VFC Vice President*
Feb 23 *VFC President issues 2018 VFC Call to Convention*

March 2018

- Mar 1* *Convention Deadlines: See Bulletin #1 and Bulletin #2*
Mar 12 *Cutoff Date for Convention Hotel Reservations*

April 2018

- Apr 7* *Deadline for submission of FY-2018 3rd quarter VFC Expense Vouchers to VFC President (should cover the period Jan 1 thru Mar 31)*
Apr 8 *Spring Board Meeting*
April 8-11 *64th VFC Annual Convention*
Doubletree by Hilton
990 Hilton Heights Rd
Charlottesville, VA 22901
April 11 *Full VFC Board Meeting (new board)*

65th VFC Annual Convention/Conference

Doubletree by Hilton

Charlottesville, Virginia

April 7-10, 2019

VFC website: www.vanarfe.org