



# National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

## VFC Notes-Summer 2009

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

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### FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My message this issue will center on **Legislation, Membership, NARFE PAC, and the Referendum on Unified Dues.**

**Legislation** – just this week, Dan Adcock issued a GEMS message titled “*NARFE’S Position on Comprehensive Health Care Reform and a Summary of Provisions Relevant to Federal Workers and Annuitants.*” This article is relevant to ALL Active Employees, Retirees, and Annuitants BUT, unless you have your email address on the NARFE system, you did not get the message! I would have preferred to include the entire article in this quarter’s notes, but it alone is nine pages – the newsletter is limited to 16 pages. The message has been posted on the VFC Web Page [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org) where you can read the entire message. I have two requests of each of you – first, please go to [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org), read the message, and do what you can to get it to all your chapter members. Second, please encourage your chapter members to add their email address to the NARFE system. Their address will not be shared with anyone and they then will receive the important messages from national. Simply go to [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), sign on with the member ID (see address label on NARFE magazine) and then click on update member record where the member’s birth date is required.

**Membership** – The Virginia Federation continues to be strong, but there are still way too many potential members that aren’t yet signed on – we need to continue efforts to help all Active Employees, Retired folks, and Surviving Spouses understand the benefit of belonging to NARFE – the only organization dedicated to protecting their earned benefits. Please refer to pages 13-14 in these notes and read the article titled “*Why Become a NARFE Member*” by Dr. George Hawkins, Membership Chair, Chapter 1134. I encourage you to read it, and use it to help potential members come to the conclusion that it is to their

benefit to join. The one quote in the article that should get everyone’s attention is the one made recently by Sen. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma. If that one doesn’t get your attention, and that of potential members, nothing will.

**NARFE PAC** – Here is an excerpt from the report prepared by Frank Szumilo, VFC National Legislation Chair: “*NARFE-PAC contributions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter improved considerably as compared with the contributions for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congressional Cycle. There was an increase of \$2,591 or 58% in contributions from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters moving the total up from \$4,448 to \$7,039. However, this is still below the amount of NARFE-PAC contributions needed to achieve our goal of \$85,000 for Virginia for 2009-2010.*” I encourage you to closely review the entire article by Frank, and want you to consider participating in the NARFE PAC if you haven’t. The VFC has always been an excellent supporter of the PAC. As I hope you know, we are non partisan, but actively involve ourselves with any politician on any item that has an impact on our actual or potential members – we need funds to get the attention of the politicians, whether they are democrat, republican, or independent. We support those that support us. Please consider donating if you haven’t, and continue to solicit PAC fund donations at your chapter meetings and in your chapter newsletters.

**Referendum on Unified Dues** – Ballots should be made available sometime in September. I’ll not spend a great deal of space speaking to this effort except to say I’ve personally come to the conclusion that I feel it will be beneficial to NARFE in the long run to support this effort and vote for Unified Dues. As I’ve said before, if it passes, I’ll propose that the VFC consider reducing the per capita dues by \$1 since we would then be receiving \$4 rather than the current \$2.90.

*William F. {Bill} Martin, President*

## **VFC FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Summer is here and the work of the VFC continues. I have slowed down a little since I have been busy buying a new home and trying to get settled in.

As the VFC 2010 Convention Coordinator, my work has started on the Convention and Bulletin #1 will be sent out the first of September. The Convention Committee has decided to start a little earlier on furnishing information to the Chapters in hopes that there will be more participation in the convention. The Convention Chairperson, Betty Warren, Area I VP, will provide more information in these Notes. Please read her report.

In June I attended the State Legislative Workshop. There was a large group of officers, committee chairs and interested members in attendance and I think that the 2009-2010 VFC State Legislative Plan is a good one that hopefully will get some results in the Virginia General Assembly.

Summer always brings the invitations to the Chapter summer luncheons or picnics. In June I attended the Colonial Heights 1472 (my home Chapter) and Imperial Plaza Chapter 1510 luncheons. It is always a good time to visit with the members of the different chapters and hear their concerns. As a member of the Executive Board, I can bring their concerns before the Board. Because of my recent move, I was unable to attend two picnics. I hope next year those chapters will invite me again.

Speaking of the VFC Board, the first meeting of 2009-2010 was held in Gordonsville 12-14 July. As you read these notes, I think that you will find that this meeting was very productive and several new ideas were brought forth; i.e., the R. David Smith Leadership Award. Also, in the next several months, you will be hearing about some training sessions that will be offered to the chapters.

Looking ahead, I will be attending the Region X President's Conference in September. This Conference is going to focus on membership and public relations. Meeting with and sharing ideas and problem areas with officers from the other six states is always meaningful and gives everyone attending a new resolve to work even harder for the VFC and

NARFE. To everyone, have a happy and safe summer 2009 and I will see you in the Fall.

*Carolyn Wilson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

## **VFC Second Vice Presidents REPORT**

With another VFC year in full swing, we must take the time to examine an issue that continues to plague our Federation as well as other Federations across the country which is MEMBER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION. Over and over, we continue to hear the same old refrain - - "New members are recruited but are not retained, the same faces appear at our chapter meetings, and our membership numbers are dropping." Moving forward in 2009 and on into 2010, the Chairs of the Membership, Public Relations and Service Committees will be working together to formulate a solid plan that is creative and innovative for recruiting new members and retaining those individuals whose membership dues are scheduled for renewal. I expect that Public Relations Chair Pat Taylor will continue to be her steady self and be diligent in establishing NARFE as a household name. Our new Membership Chair Dennis Martin and Service Officers John and Connie Bails will be bringing their ideas and suggestions to the plan.

We have heard many times before that NARFE is a "grass-roots organization". Historically, chapters and individuals account for approximately one-third of new recruits. As active members of our various chapters and dedicated to the cause of NARFE, we must endeavor to recruit new members by talking to friends, families, neighbors, and former colleagues to encourage them to join NARFE.

Many of you are probably asking "Why a joint effort of the Membership, Public Relations and Service Committees?" The answer is simple - - The Membership Committee can review the various reports from NARFE HQ and track the trends of membership recruitment/retention by chapter and offer suggestions as to what would be the best avenue for a specific chapter. The Public Relations Committee can assist chapters with announcements, newspaper articles, brochures, etc., and with applying for matching funds. The total cost of a membership recruitment effort does not have to fall solely on

an individual chapter's treasury. Finally, the Service Officers can provide the information on all of the services available to those who need assistance in resolving issues with their annuities and benefits. If a NARFE recruiter is fully aware of all of the information and services available to members, their chances and success of recruiting new members is much greater. Even with the assistance of these three Committee Chairs, each and every one of us must become effective salespersons for NARFE. But then the job is only "half-done."

The next step is to retain our members. Each of us must answer the question - - "Are we doing our job at the chapter level?" Does someone "meet and greet" these new members at the door? Does someone accompany the new members and make introductions? Simple ideas, but very basic for retention of new members.

Hopefully through the efforts of Dennis, Pat, Connie and John, the VFC will develop a Membership Training Program that motivates members to help in the establishment of chapter programs that gain and retain members. **WE ALL MUST SELL NARFE!!!!**

*William "Bill" Shackelford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

**NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT**

NARFE-PAC contributions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter improved considerably as compared with the contributions for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congressional Cycle. There was an increase of \$2,591 or 58% in contributions from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarters moving the total up from \$4,448 to \$7,039. However, this is still below the amount of NARFE-PAC contributions needed to achieve our goal of \$85,000 for Virginia for 2009-2010.

The question is, "How can we resolve this shortcoming?" Perhaps it would help to look at the basic per-capita allocation of the contributions needed over the 10 Areas in Virginia. If each Area VP set a goal of \$8,500 for his or her respective Area for the 2009-2010 cycle this would breakdown to about \$1,100 per Quarter per Area. Looking at this allocation of contributions needed at the Chapter level, we would require about \$186.00 per chapter for the 57 chapters, per quarter. This further breaks down to about nine contributors from each

chapter contributing \$20 for each quarter. This means that a chapter would need to obtain contributions from only three members per month. If each Chapter committed to getting nine contributors from their ranks for each quarter, we would be able to achieve our goal of \$85,000 for the 2009-2010 cycles. This year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, there were 201 contributors, up from the 116 contributors in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. However, we need 513 contributors for each quarter to achieve our goal. The good news in comparing the NARFE-PAC contributions by State for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009-2010 shows that Virginia is second only to California in contributions. California contributed \$15,948 vs. that of Virginia of \$7,039.

We encourage Area Vice Presidents and Chapter Presidents to have chapters feature NARFE-PAC at every meeting. NARFE-PAC 2009-2010 pins are available and should be awarded to every member who makes a qualifying contribution of \$20.00. In his final report to the Board, Charles Delaplane, former National Legislation Chair, quoted Judy Park as saying "NARFE-PAC is the federal retirees' defense fund." It helps us by bringing attention about our current issues to our members of congress. It protects us!

111<sup>th</sup> Congress NARFE PAC Dollar Donations:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Change +/-</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<u>#</u>	116	201	85	+ 73.3%
<u>Amount</u>	\$4,448	\$7,039	\$2,591	+ 58.3%

The 2009-2010 NARFE-PAC Disbursements for Virginia as of 6/30/09, Jim Moran (D-8<sup>th</sup>), on 4/20/09, \$5,000 for the Primary.

**GRASS-ROOTS ADVOCACY MONTH:**

The goal of Grass Roots Advocacy Month, (Designated by Margaret Baptiste, NARFE President as the period from August 1 to September 7, 2009), is to arrange face-to-face meetings with members of Congress from our respective congressional districts and our senators. From the beginning of June through the end of July, NARFE members have been busy arranging these meetings.

The NARFE Legislative Department has prepared a three step procedure to enable us to get our message across effectively at these meetings to the members of Congress.

1. Pre-Meeting Activities
2. At the Meeting Getting Your Message Across
3. Post-Meeting wrap up.

The first step identifies the pre meeting actions. It deals with coordination among the Congressional District Liaisons (CDL's), Area VPs, Chapter Officers, and the National Legislative Coordinator. It also encourages cooperation, identification of participants and a spokesperson for the group. The CDL's contacted the office of the member of congress and arrangements were made for a meeting with the Representative or Senator.

The second step is the meeting with the members of Congress. The focus of the meeting is on the preservation of benefits we have worked and paid for, and is always our first priority, particularly as they consider health care reform and the federal budget.

Other points to make include: continued support for Premium Conversion for federal civilian retirees and military personnel, with special emphasis for support from Ways and Means and Finance Committee members; and support for adding the Premium Conversion bill to comprehensive health care reform legislation.

In addition, we need to identify our continued support to repeal or reform the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), with special emphasis for additional support from Ways and Means and Finance Committee members. Other information to take with you when you meet your Representative or Senator include: "Lapsed" co-sponsors of Repeal GPO/WEP. (Urge your Representative or Senator to Co-sponsor H.R. 235/S.484. The three Reps who were co-sponsors of these bills but have lapsed include VA03 Rep. Scott; VA06 Rep. Goodlatte, and VA07 Rep. Cantor.

The third step is the post-meeting wrap up. Follow up your visit with a thank you note. Summarize the main points raised at the meeting. Establish rapport with the staff members as you will be dealing with the staff most of the time and it is beneficial to have a friend to contact at the office of the member of congress.

Letters identifying the check lists for Representatives and Senators were sent to the

Congressional District Liaisons and the Senator Liaisons for Virginia. There are 12 CDL's (Winchester (Frank Wolf) has not been filled). There are two offices for Randy Forbes, the Chesapeake Office and the Colonial Heights Office. There are two SL's, one for Senator Jim Webb and one for Senator Mark Warner.

The CDL's and SL's have been busy arranging for meetings with members of Congress during Grass-Roots Advocacy Month.

### **BILLS IN CONGRESS**

Otherwise, new bills have expanded the measures now in Congress which relate to NARFE's Legislative Program. Bills to repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision have been introduced in both houses, although we have yet to see reform bills for either of those measures. Given the expense of repeal, currently estimated at about \$80 billion over 10 years, less-expensive reform measures would seem to have the better chance.

Premium Conversion bills have also been introduced in both houses, but neither Premium Conversion nor GPO/WEP repeal has co-sponsorship by Virginia's full Congressional delegation. Senators support Premium Conversion – Senator Webb introduced it, and Senator Warner was an original co-sponsor - but neither Senator has signed on to GPO/WEP repeal. In the House, GPO/WEP repeal still lacks sponsorship from Reps. Scott, Perriello, Goodlatte, and Cantor, and Premium Conversion still needs sponsorship from Reps. Nye, Scott, Perriello, Cantor, and Boucher. Reps. Nye and Perriello are new to the delegation, but Scott (D-3<sup>rd</sup>), Goodlatte (R-6<sup>th</sup>), Boucher (D-9<sup>th</sup>), and Cantor (R-6<sup>th</sup>) all co-sponsored both measures in the last Congress. I hope NARFE members in those districts will e-mail or write them to ask that they co-sponsor our bills once again. The GPO/WEP repeal bills are H.R. 235 and S. 484, sponsored by Rep. Howard L. Berman (D-CA) and Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) respectively; the House Premium Conversion bill is H.R. 1203, sponsored by Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

The Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 2647) was passed by the House. There are a number of items that would be of benefit to federal workers, retirees and those who return to

the federal government for employment. (1) Allow FERS the same incentive to save sick leave. (2) Permit retired feds to return to government service. The Senate versions of the Defense Bill (S. 1390) had similar attachments but were dropped through the effort of Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla). His comment was "...if you are a federal employee and unhappy with me trying to defeat this amendment, you should pay attention to something. There is no guarantee to your federal pension based on the economics we face today in this country. If you think it is guaranteed you have another thought coming because the world economic system is going to determine whether we can honor that pension. That is what is coming. We are very close."

The success story is the passage of H.R. 1256. It has passed the House and the Senate and was signed into law by the President and became public law no. 111-31. The bill adds a Roth IRA component to the TSP and makes enrollment in the TSP the default option on employment. That is, new employees would have to opt out if they don't want TSP enrollment, rather than opt in, as current rules require.

*Frank Szumilo, [fszumilo@yahoo.com](mailto:fszumilo@yahoo.com)*

### **STATE LEGISLATION REPORT**

The Board of Directors has adopted the 2010 State Legislative plan. The five points which we wish to address are:

- 1. Reenact the Uniform Power of Attorney Act that was passed during the 2009 session**
- 2. Encourage VDOT to alter transportation policies to accommodate the needs of the rapidly increasing senior population**
- 3. Create a Bipartisan Redistricting Commission to redraw the district lines for the State Senate, the House of Delegates, and the Virginia Congressional Districts based on the census of 2010**
- 4. Support the passage of a Constitutional Amendment as featured in HJ688 passed during the 2009 session**
- 5. Aging issues in the State are still a concern. Many issues identified in the JLARC10 study still need addressing.**

The plan as well as talking points will be on the VFC Web site. Copies of the plan will be mailed to every member of the General

Assembly. I encourage you to contact your local representatives this summer and in the fall during the election to let them know of your concerns about these issues. The board also recommended to the executive committee that they consider supporting the following members of the House of Delegates with funds from the VFC Political fund:

Philip Hamilton.	92 <sup>nd</sup> district
Harry Purkey.	82 <sup>nd</sup> district
Lacey Putney	19 <sup>th</sup> district
Vivian Watts	39 <sup>th</sup> district
Tom Rust. [R]	86 <sup>th</sup> district
David Poisson	32 <sup>nd</sup> district
Roslyn Dance	63 <sup>rd</sup> district
Lionell Spruil Sr	77 <sup>th</sup> district
M. Kirkland Cox	66 <sup>th</sup> district

*Bill Schmidt, [billschmidt39@yahoo.com](mailto:billschmidt39@yahoo.com)*

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

The number of members electing to have dues withholding continues to increase while the VFC membership is only down for the year by 38 members. It is typical that during the summer months, membership declines slightly.

The dues withholding is up over 13%, year-over-year, with over 10.5% now are having dues withheld. This will help with our membership retention. When compared to this time last year, the number of new members is up, partially as a result of the chapter recruiting efforts and the hard work of Pat Taylor and her Publicity efforts around the Commonwealth. Reinstatements are up and non-renewals are down. Based on these statistics, I expect to see year-end membership holding up quite well.

Congratulations to the Midlothian chapter. It is currently in sixth place in Category II, mid-size chapters, in the NARFE recruiting contest which will end July 2010. Also, congratulations are in order for the Peninsula Chapter which is currently in sixth place in Category III, large size chapters. (Nice money prizes in each category are being offered.)

*Dennis Martin, [dkmartin101@aol.com](mailto:dkmartin101@aol.com)*

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT**

PR is busy as usual. Membership recruitment and retention is high on the list of chapters, federations, and national projects these

days. And there is a direct correlation between PR and membership! Getting the NARFE name out is tough – even though the organization has been around since 1921, it is still a well kept secret!!!!

At the July VFC Board meeting, I asked for approval to pursue the idea of having a Virginia auto license plate bearing the NARFE logo. When you stop behind a car that has a logo for a college or an organization, you often look at it a little longer and remember the name. So why not have the organization name and our logo on a license plate for everyone to see when they're behind a proud NARFE member? The Board gave approval to pursue this idea. The very first step is to get 350 prepaid orders required by DMV. The cost is \$10 in addition to the annual license plate fee. If you're interested in signing up or if you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me directly. PR is the job of all members, not just a few!!! To get our name out, to build brand recognition can be the difference in gaining or losing members. Remember – there's strength in numbers when contacting members of Congress! The more members, the more they're inclined to listen to what we have to say about programs that can affect our earned benefits.

In September I will attend the Region X meeting at Lake Junaluska, NC. This annual meeting is conducted by the Region X Vice President and usually includes the Presidents and Vice Presidents of the five state federations included in the region: Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. This year Region X VP Paul Carew has asked the Membership, PR, and Communication Chairs of each Federation to join the meeting – specifically to discuss membership recruitment and retention, using the latest methods including IT. It should be an excellent opportunity to share ideas and experiences and to plan and build on new approaches. I'm looking forward to sharing some of the information from this meeting in a later column.

Plans for the 2010 Convention to be held in Virginia Beach are moving forward, and I'm proud to say I'm serving as PR Chair for the convention. One of my goals is to solicit

sponsors to provide financial support to help defray the cost of the convention. Keeping costs down so that more of our members can attend is a primary goal of the Convention Committee. The venue is the beautiful Virginia Beach Hotel and Conference Center, and the cost of lodging and meals is much lower than the Northern Virginia location of the 2009 convention. Members of the committee are working to make the convention both enjoyable and informative. And the venue is ideal for families to make a spring trip to the beach! We need each and every one of you to be in Virginia Beach April 25-28, 2010!!!

*Pat Taylor, mspat1942@aol.com*

### **AREA 1 NOTES**

The Area 1 chapters seem to be in good shape. I have noticed a downward trend in nonrenewals in May and June, and that's a good thing. I am happy to say that three of the four chapters in Area 1 were represented at the April VFC Convention in Reston and I carried the proxy for the fourth. In May, I visited Chapter 1757 in Gloucester to brief them on the VFC Convention in Reston. VFC President Martin personally attended chapter meetings in Northern Neck (Chapter 1823), Williamsburg (Chapter 685), and the Peninsula (Chapter 682) to give them the scoop on the VFC Convention. I hope he enjoyed his visits as much as each chapter reported being appreciative of his taking the time to visit with them and share his thoughts on the convention. In June, I attended the organizational meeting for the upcoming 2010 VFC Convention to be held in Virginia Beach and to be hosted by the chapters in Area I, II and IV. I am most pleased to report that Area I is well represented on the 2010 Convention Committee. Jim Landrum from Chapter 1823 will chair the Ads Committee; Shirley Atkins (Chapter 682) will chair the reception committee; Dale Johnson (Chapter 682) will be our data base manager; Marie Collins will be on the Greeters Committee, and Pat Taylor (Chapter 682) is handling PR. I will do the Program Book (Am I crazy or what!). I'm sure I'll have lots of help from committee members and others. As time goes on, I'm sure all Area I chapters will be involved. Shirley Atkins, Chapter 682 President,

was kind enough to stand in for me at the State Legislative Committee meeting hosted by Bill Schmidt in June. Thanks, Shirley. VFC and NARFE premier recruiter, Marie Collins, has scored another first I believe. She attended the recent Rural Mail Carriers Convention and got 15 active employees to sign up! I don't think anyone has tapped the Rural Mail Carriers before? Way to go Marie. And thanks, Marie, for standing in for me at the July VFC Board Meeting so I could go play with my grandkids in Tennessee. Hope all have a very good summer!

*Sharon Rose, AVP, sharonhrose@hotmail.com*

## AREA II NOTES

Beach and leisure times in the Tidewater and Eastern Shore areas! The chapters are dark except for summer luncheons and picnics. The Chapters will begin business as usual in September.

Before the summer break, all chapter meetings were as scheduled. They continue to have good speakers and some luncheon meetings. Tidewater Chapter 66 member gave a NARFE presentation at Local 1 International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, Norfolk. There is an apparent latent desire on the part of many to acquire relevant information on retirement and active federal employees. Judging from the Q/A session the information was well received. A representative from NARFE was invited to speak at the fall meeting.

CDL for the Second District and chapter officers plan to visit Congressman Glenn Nye's office in Virginia Beach and Eastern Shore during August lobby month.

Organizationally, we are very busy planning for the VFC 2010 Convention in Virginia Beach. Chairpersons have been assigned to all positions and we are working hard to make this a very successful convention.

*Betty L. Warren, AVP, blwarren1@cox.net*

## AREA III Notes

The chapters of Area III include 28 – Petersburg, 60 – Richmond, 1138 - South of the James, 1472 - Colonial Heights, 1510 – Imperial Plaza, 1727 – Tuckahoe, and 2265 – Midlothian.

Midlothian is the only chapter holding meetings in July and August.

Membership dropped 1.53% overall. Tuckahoe and Midlothian both gained approximately 2.5% each. Losses varied from 0.5% for 28, 3.5% for 60, 4% for 1492, 4.75% for 1138, and 7.5 % for 1510. The largest losses were primarily due to deaths. The trend of reinstatement of dropped members continues. Chapters 2265, 1138, and 1472 combined to recruit at the TRIAD meeting in Chesterfield on May 6<sup>th</sup>; Chapters 28 and 1472 recruited at the Petersburg TRIAD, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Petersburg gained 29% of members signing up for dues withholding while Midlothian holds the largest overall number of members on dues withholding.

Chapters 28, 1138, 1472, 1727, and 2265 all had members attend and participate in the development of the State Legislative Plan on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Kroger Center Holiday Inn in Midlothian. The plan was condensed and approved by the VFC Board on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Also, the board voted to provide PAC contributions of \$500 each to Delegates Roslyn Dance (D) of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Dist. and Kirkland Cox of the 66<sup>th</sup> Dist. (Both delegates are running for reelection from their respective districts.) Thus far, C. Carroll Graham and I have been unsuccessful in persuading any Area III members to assist Mr. Graham in lobbying efforts at the State General Assembly when it begins the 2010 session.

Mr. Barry Corson (Ch 2265), Congressional District Liaison for Congressman Eric Cantor, was planning for a meeting with Congressman Cantor's Chief of Staff and waiting for word from her so he set up a meeting place and invite chapter presidents with members in the 7<sup>th</sup> Dist. Barbara Nugent (Ch 1472), Congressional District Liaison for 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Congressman Randy Forbes announced Congressman Forbes was conducting a workshop for protection of seniors at John Tyler Community College August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Area chapter members continue giving generously to Alzheimer's research. Chapters 28, 1472, 1510, 1138, and 2265 have reached two thirds of their annual goals. Chapter 1510 raised money in July at their annual Trading Post during which they sold baked items and specialty goods for Alzheimer's. With contributions from

other chapters, Midlothian raised a considerable amount for Alzheimer's research in memory of the late VFC past president, Dave Smith.

In June, I attended the Ch 1138 meeting and reported on the VFC Convention and the NARFE dues referendum. I also spoke on the importance of the dues referendum at the Ch 1472 Spring Luncheon. VFC President Bill Martin and 1<sup>st</sup> VP Carolyn Wilson attended the Ch 1510 Spring Luncheon.

From July 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Summer Board Meeting at Gordonsville, VA. Among the board accomplishments were approval of the State Legislative Plan after its development in June, approval of PAC contributions for nine delegates running for reelection in the VA General Assembly in the fall (including two from Area III), and approval of the Dave Smith Leadership Award.

I conducted my first Area Council of Chapters meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> with 12 presidents, coordinators and other officers. Ms. Wilson, VFC 1<sup>st</sup> VP and I reported activities of the state convention and recent board meeting. Activities are generally going well in the chapters. Ch 28, 60, 1472, 1510, and 2265 websites are current. Chs 28 and 1510 made good use of pictures. Most chapters now have current bylaws with Chapters' 1138 and 1727 bylaws being revised.

The main new business was to determine the future of the Area 3 newsletter after Ch 2265 notified us they would no longer be a part of it. A motion was made and carried that the other six chapters would continue to publish the area newsletter. Editor Larry Garelick, Ch. 60, is working with an editorial contractor and printer on details. The first edition is expected to be published in mid-October.

*Jack W. McMurchy, AVP, [lazyjdiam@comcast.net](mailto:lazyjdiam@comcast.net)*

#### **AREA IV NOTES**

Greetings and best wishes to all members of the VFC and NARFE - Norma and I have just returned from our vacation at the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Temperatures were hot so we walked in any shade we could find. The A/C in the unit was in top condition and made our time there very comfortable and pleasant. Try a visit to Outer Banks, N.C. some time.

Planning and preparation for the 2010 VFC Convention is progressing well. Bulletin #1 may be distributed in early September. I request each Chapter President in Area IV plan to attend if possible and communicate with Officers, Chairs, and regular members who have an interest in attending. Churchland Chapter 1293 has some new officers: Secretary - Charles Sullivan Legislative Chair - Tom Hall and Membership Chair- Bobby Whittington. All are doing well. At the June meeting of Chapter 0063, I was honored to install Mr. Paul Wilson as President of the Chapter. He is doing well as President. He is taking the position formerly held by Raymond Ballard. Joe Silberholz, President of Suffolk Chapter 1743, is making plans for the Suffolk Peanut Festival to be held in October 2009. Plans are to use matching funds and have members from each chapter in Area IV to participate. This worked very well last year. Norma and I expect to participate in the NNSY Health Fair in November 2009. It is too early for details at this time. I will communicate with Linda Fletcher of Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Annette Gray, NNSY Security Officer at the proper time.

*Joseph D. Lee, AVP, [jonolee@peoplepc.com](mailto:jonolee@peoplepc.com)*

#### **AREA V NOTES**

Area V has six chapters: 0110 (Lynchburg), 1011 (Danville), 1068 (Bedford), 1882 (Martinsville/Henry), 2079 (South Hill), 2080 (Piedmont). Chapter membership ranges from 54 total (Bedford - smallest) to 161 total (Lynchburg - largest). All chapters are functioning normally. Chapters 0110 and 1068 do not hold chapter meetings during the summer. They resume their regular meeting schedule in September. All chapters in Area V are experiencing slight, but normal gains/losses. Membership gains can be attributed to local and/or national recruitment efforts such as Pre-retirement Seminars, word-of-mouth, etc.

On May 26, 2009, Joe Beaudoin, National Vice-President, was the guest speaker for Chapter 1011 (Danville). Joe's remarks included recruitment/retention, NARFE dues, and NARFE-PAC.

Like other chapters throughout the country, there has been a lot of discussion throughout Area V concerning NARFE dues. These discussions have been helpful in allowing members to express their

concerns about the NARFE Referendum. The feelings and perceptions of members regarding this issue created the kind of dialogue that one would expect from a diverse membership such as NARFE. The information about the referendum that is posted on the national web site was very helpful during my chapter visits and subsequent Q&A sessions. I believe that Area V members who attended meetings on a regular basis, and who have participated in discussions on the issue will have a better understanding when it's time to vote.

Recruitment/retention remains the primary focus in Area V. However, we have not been able to establish a viable relationship with local Postmasters/Postal Union Officials as anticipated. We are also focused on reducing the number of non-renewals and increasing dues withholding. Unfortunately, Area V is not a contender in the National Recruitment Contest. Chapters continue to contribute to Alzheimer's and NARFE-PAC.

Information pertaining to the 2010 VFC Convention has been shared with chapters via emails and chapter visits. Area V web pages are current.

*Jessie Barksdale, AVP, [jbarksda@myway.com](mailto:jbarksda@myway.com)*

### AREA VII NOTES

Following the VFC Convention, we held an Area VII meeting devoted to state legislation and membership. Each of the Area VII six chapters was represented by five members that included the state legislation and membership chairs. William A. Schmidt, VFC State Legislation Chair, led the discussions on state legislation. Dennis K. Martin, VFC Membership Chair, discussed membership issues with emphasis on teaching membership chairs how to analyze and use membership reports. This meeting was far more productive than previous meetings because we built on enthusiasm gained from the recent convention.

During picnic season, most Area VII chapters are involved in fun and frolic. Shenandoah County Chapter 2358 used its picnic to meet and listen to John Lesinski, a candidate for the House of Delegates 15<sup>th</sup> District. Both competing candidates were invited; however, Todd Gilbert, the incumbent, is expected to visit the September chapter meeting. Harrisonburg Chapter held its annual picnic where participants won some great prizes playing bingo. The size of the crowd contributed to a sizeable 50-50 pot for Alzheimer's.

Staunton-Augusta County, -Waynesboro Chapter 178 covers a lot of geography which necessitates moving chapter meetings around to accommodate more members. Their July meeting

was held in Buena Vista at a senior center. In addition to the regular chapter business meeting, the local senior center band entertained the members with '50s music. I was surprised that so many NARFE retirees still remember the various elements of Hand Jive dancing.

During the most recent quarter, Area VII overall membership slightly increased with some chapters gaining and some losing, albeit minimally. All chapters continue to improve dues withholding.

*Luther Santiful, AVP, [santiful@aol.com](mailto:santiful@aol.com)*

### AREA VIII NOTES

June was a busy month for me with the State Legislative Meeting in Richmond conducted by State Legislation Chair Bill Schmidt and two chapter visits, one to Falls Run Chapter 2343 for their 5th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon and the other to Louisa Chapter 2065. The information I gained at the State Legislative meeting really helped me when I attended a Westmoreland County Democratic Meeting in July and met a staffer from the office of District 99, House of Delegates, and Albert Pollard. As soon as I said NARFE, there was immediate recognition. I also met a staffer who is representing a potential Democratic candidate (not Krystal Ball who has already declared) who will run against District 1 Congressman Rob Wittman in 2010. This candidate has not yet declared. This staffer was really familiar with NARFE as well. However, I was also very impressed with the response email I got from Congressman Wittman after I sent him an email in regard to the proposal to change the way annuities are calculated, using the high 5 years of salary instead of the high 3. His response indicated very strong support of many of our NARFE's issues in addition to not being in favor of the annuities calculation proposal. So 2010 may be a tough race in 2010 for District 1.

In July I attended my first Virginia Federation of Chapters Board Meeting. I finally met all the VA Board members. I especially enjoyed hearing how Marie Collins from Area I recruits new members. A few weeks ago I went to the Pentagon for a meeting in regard to a project related to my former career and when I met several DoD staff, I used Marie's techniques. I recruited one active employee on the spot and I think several others will also join when I see them at the next meeting.

I understand that some chapters do not meet in the summer but not so in Area VIII. Fredericksburg Chapter 90 hosted our State Legislation Chair, Bill Schmidt, in June and was well received by the members. Colonial Beach Chapter 595 participated

in the Potomac River Festival with an antique car driven by members Ed and JoAnn Coffey. Also Chapter 595 will sponsor the annual boat ride to Cobb Island and dinner at Capt John's Seafood Restaurant on 19 August. Louisa Chapter 2065 is busy with a political summer picnic on 20 August and also manning a membership table at the County Agricultural Fair on 31 July and 1 August. Both candidates for Governor, Democratic and the Republican have been invited to attend the picnic. Caroline Chapter 2112 is also holding a picnic on 6 August at Pitts Pond. Warrenton-Fauquier Chapter 1549 just voted to keep their monthly meeting at the Inn at Vint Hill (former Army Officers Club). This decision will help keep down the costs for monthly meetings.

*Leslie Ravenell, AVP, [nell8211@msn.com](mailto:nell8211@msn.com)*

### **AREA IX NOTES**

Several chapters from Area IX have "gone dark" for the summer months, but now with that all behind us, we are looking forward to a new year full of NARFE activities.

Several chapters have taken the "Grass-Roots Advocacy Month" to heart and invited their local Congressman to join them at their luncheons/meetings. In order of appearance, Chapter 356 (Manassas) will be hearing from Congressman Frank Wolf at their luncheon on 19 August. Chapter 1270 (Woodbridge) will be hearing from Congressman Rob Wittman at their luncheon on 28 August. Chapter 1159 (Annandale) will be hearing from Congressman Gerry Connolly at 1000 on 2 September. Chapter 893 (Springfield) will be hearing from Gerry Connolly at their luncheon on 10 November. Locations are available on the specific chapter websites.

I was able to attend the Chapter 401 (Falls Church) 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June along with Area X Vice President Kathy Arpa, VFC President Bill Martin and National President Margaret Baptiste. It was a fine celebration, and President Baptiste spoke at length on the benefits of unified dues in her remarks. I would encourage all chapter presidents to plan similar celebrations as their own chapters reach significant milestone anniversaries. I say this by way of apology, since Chapter 1270's slipped by while I was serving as Chapter President. ☹ And congratulations are in order to 401's President, Frank Szumilo, who has stepped up to the challenge to fill Charlie Delaplane's shoes as the VFC National Legislation Committee Chair.

In addition, I was able to visit Chapter 356 (Manassas) for their June meeting where CDR John

Hooper, USCG talked about the Coast Guard's role in Maritime Homeland Security. Chapter 356 now meets for lunch at the Hibachi Grill and Sushi Bar Café.

Chapter 1270 (Woodbridge) again participated in the biggest Fourth of July parade in Virginia this year, along with both candidates for governor. Riding the "Fife and Drum" float were VFC President Bill Martin, Chapter 1270 President Gaston Gianni and Chapter Vice-President Joyce Pieritz. Chapter 1270 is certainly to be commended for this fifth appearance promoting NARFE membership and taking 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their category. I was pleased to be able to present the winning trophy.

June 11<sup>th</sup> saw many of us VFC Area Vice Presidents, several Chapter Presidents and many Legislative Chairs attending the State Legislation Day in Midlothian, VA. Although not as widely attended as the bi-annual National Legislation Day, sponsored by National, it was still a valuable and informative exercise, allowing us to be better informed on state-wide efforts by the VFC.

An interesting sidelight, I was visiting my son in Philadelphia a couple of months ago. I wore my NARFE polo shirt when we went out to dinner. Lo, and behold, a fellow sitting outside said, "I know what NARFE is!" Turns out, he designed the cover for the July issue of the NARFE magazine! Small world.

I have been pleased that all Area IX chapters have websites, accessible from the VFC Homepage (although they range from "just the basics" to a "full smorgasbord.") Most chapters have a newsletter (and in defense of those that don't, it WAS the summer when most have gone "dark.") And the majority of chapters have their Representative on their schedule, for the "Grass Roots Advocacy Month." All are encouraged to "look over their fences," see what their fellow Presidents are doing, and using those ideas, make their own chapter better. I'm hoping to visit the remaining Area IX chapters BEFORE the next VFC Notes come out!

*Pierce Johnson, AVP, [radmpierce@comcast.net](mailto:radmpierce@comcast.net)*

### **AREA X Notes**

On May 28, the 2009 VFC Convention Committee had their post convention meeting. Positive and negative reports were given from all committees and additional comments were added by those in attendance. Copies of the final reports were shared with Carolyn Wilson, 2010 Convention Coordinator and Betty Warren, Convention Chair.

All chapters in Area X received a portion of the profit from the 2009 VFC Convention.

On May 20, chapters in Area X met for a luncheon meeting to discuss the 2010 legislative agenda for the Virginia Assembly. On June 11, I attended a Legislative Meeting in Richmond. Also attending from Area X were Bill Schmidt, VFC State Legislative Chair, and Bill Shackelford, President, Chapter 737 and VFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.



In June we received word that a contribution in the amount of \$148,897.53 was made to the Alzheimer's fund and credited to Chapter 489 (McLean-Great Falls) in Area X. As a result, the VFC exceeded its initial goal of \$65,000 in February. Also, in June, I attended the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Falls Church Chapter 401 hosted by Frank Szumilo and members of Chapter 401. Also attending were National President Margaret Baptiste, VFC President Bill Martin, Pierce Johnson, Area IX Vice President, and Gaston Gianni, President of Woodbridge Chapter 1270.



Chapters in Area X are on summer break until September. Four chapters in Area X are planning anniversary celebrations this fall. Chapter 737 (Fairfax) will celebrate their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 8, Chapter 1133 (Loudoun) will celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> in September or October, Chapter 1665 (Metro Northern Virginia) will celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September and Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton) will celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> at (their holiday

party in December. In September, chapters will begin fall activities including the selection of a nominating committee to develop a slate of officers for 2010 and begin preparation of resolutions for the National Convention in 2010.

I attended the summer VFC Board Meeting in Gordonsville on July 12-14. I worked with Stan Palen, Jack McMurchy and Carolyn Wilson to develop criteria for the R. David Smith award and I presented the Committee report at the Board Meeting. Watch for further information on this in the next VFC Notes. I also presented a recommendation that NARFE establish a charitable foundation under title 26, United States Code, section 501(c)(3), and apply for participation in the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area. This was recommended by a member of Chapter 1116.

Dick Giangerelli, President of Chapter 1241 (Dulles) in Area X received an award for his service as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the VFC.



Chapters will be participating in grass roots advocacy month activities with their local politicians. I will be attending a meeting with the Annandale Chapter 1159 in September where Congressman Gerry Connolly will be the guest speaker.

***Kathy Arpa, AVP, [mkarpa@hotmail.com](mailto:mkarpa@hotmail.com)***

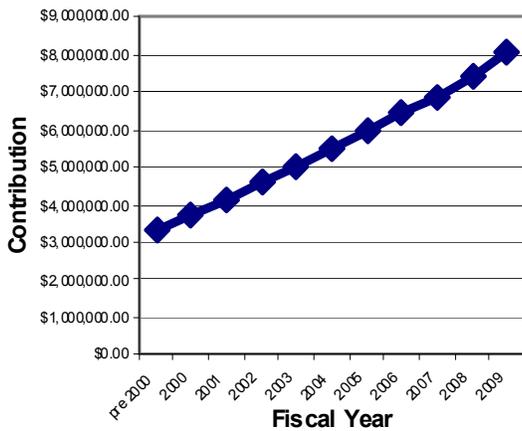
### **ALZHEIMER'S NOTES**

We are currently weathering a recession, during which livelihoods and homes are being lost and families are moving back together to save money and survive. At the same time, charities and associations are struggling to survive. You would expect that the contributions to NARFE Alzheimer's Research would also be decreasing. But that is not happening in Virginia! In Virginia, contributions to NARFE Alzheimer's Research continue to come in from NARFE members at an increasing rate.

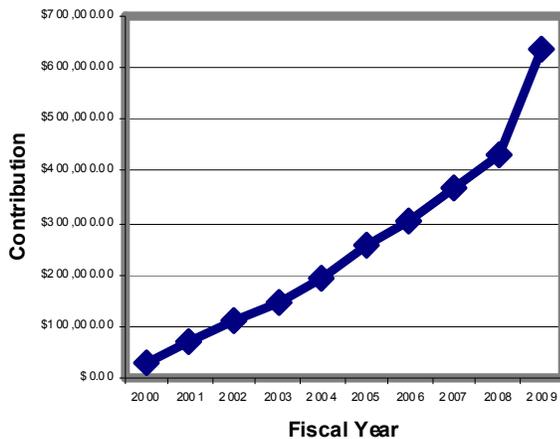
At the end of June 2009, the total contributions to NARFE Alzheimer's Research was \$8,075,719 and this seemed to come in at a steady

and constant rate, as indicated below:

**NARFE Alzheimer's Contributions**



**VFC Alzheimer's Contributions**



The contribution records prior to July 1, 2000 (Fiscal Year 2000 for the Alzheimer's Foundation) do not allow the amount of contributions by each NARFE Federation to be determined; however, since FY 2000, members of the VFC have typically provided between 9% and 13 % of the contributions. In FY 2009, this percentage increased significantly, as the result of a contribution made in February 2009 by a member of the McLean Chapter 489 who left \$148,897.53 in his will. As a result of this extremely extraordinary contribution, in FY 2009, members of the VFC contributed 33% of the amount contributed that year, or \$205,657.54 out of a total of \$629,682.55. However, even without this extremely extraordinary contribution, the contributions from members of the VFC have been coming in at a steady and constant rate, as indicated in the above chart.

Even without this extremely extraordinary contribution from the McLean Chapter 489, the total

amount contributed by members of the VFC this calendar year, January thru July 2009, is \$10,506.56 higher than it was for the period January thru July 2008. I'm sure that past VFC President R. David Smith is at least partially responsible for this increase, as the majority of the 65 contributions submitted in memory of a deceased VFC member were submitted in memory of R. David Smith.

The VFC goal is to contribute \$65,000 to NARFE Alzheimer's Research in calendar year 2009. To date, excluding the one extremely extraordinary contribution, 81% of the VFC Chapters have contributed 369 contributions through the VFC and 51 contributions directly to the Alzheimer's Foundation, or approximately \$3.18 per VFC member. I challenge you to meet the VFC goal for calendar year 2009 of \$65,000 in addition to the one extremely extraordinary contribution. The following chart indicates how close the VFC is to meeting this goal and comparison with calendar year 2008.

This will probably be the last report I write as the Acting VFC Alzheimer's Chair, Shirley Keyes, the VFC Alzheimer's Chair, is scheduled to return from caring for her daughter in early August 2009. I ask that you assist her, as you have me, in performing this function. Please remember to make your checks payable to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research" and include your NARFE Chapter number in the notes section of the checks.

*Richard Giangerelli, r\_giangerelli@msn.com*

### THE VFC WEB PAGE

The VFC has a continuing problem with bad email addresses. This can occasionally get us listed as a spammer. You need to make sure NARFE Headquarters has your current email address. You can verify it by going to the main website [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org). Log in using your last name and member number on the front of your NARFE magazine and verify what they have on file. Since email addresses are typed in by hand, sometimes they make errors that you can correct on line. If this does not work for you, you can email me and I will try to straighten it out for you.

If you do not want to use your home email address, you can get a free email address from several places. Hotmail, MSN, Yahoo Mail and Gmail by Google are a few. Once you have one of these, you never need to update your email. You can set your current email program to read your current mailbox as well as one of the free ones at the same time.

Congress is really looking hard at cutting our benefits to save money. We need current email

addresses to get the word out if a bill is being worked on that adversely impacts us. Historically we have been able to raise an uproar and squash some of these bills.

A flood of emails from all of us to our congressmen does have an effect.

The address for the VFC web page is [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org). It is regularly updated. You should check it out and let your members know of this valuable asset. If you find errors, please let me know at [stan@vanarfe.org](mailto:stan@vanarfe.org). If you see items that should be added to the web page, email me with the information or topic.

Have you looked at your chapter's web site? Each chapter has one. Does it need updating?

The direct link to your chapter is [www.vanarfe.org/595/595.htm](http://www.vanarfe.org/595/595.htm). Just substitute your chapter number. We can add pictures of current events or officers or whatever you would like.

***Stan Palen, [stan@vanarfe.org](mailto:stan@vanarfe.org)***

### **NOMINATIONS FOR VFC OFFICERS 2010-2011**

The NARFE VFC Convention will be held in Virginia Beach, VA April 26-28, 2010. The Nominating Committee is soliciting for NARFE Members who want to run for VFC office. The offices include President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

If you are interested in one of these positions, please forward your resume to Janet Payne-Swann, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, no later than November 30, 2009 for consideration. The committee will meet to review all resumes, as well as interview potential candidates, as necessary. Each of the ten areas in Virginia is represented by a member and an alternate.

The VFC Organizational Handbook states that the committee should nominate at least one candidate for each of the elected offices. More than one nominee may be submitted for each of the above offices, as well as a nomination from the floor will be heard.

It is requested that incumbents also notify the committee of their intent to run for office.

Resumes may be sent to Janet Payne-Swann at: [bjswann@cox.net](mailto:bjswann@cox.net) or

809 Hidden Harbour Court,  
Chesapeake, VA 23322-7076

Since the VFC Notes are only mailed to chapter officers and not to individual chapter members, I would certainly appreciate each chapter notifying their chapter members of these opportunities.

***Janet Payne-Swann, Chair, [bjswann@cox.net](mailto:bjswann@cox.net)***

### **Why Be A Member of NARFE?**

There has been a chain of events that have occurred over the last few years that I believe we need to keep in mind. I believe they indicate why we need to always be aware of what is happening and be ready to oppose those actions that will adversely affect our earned retirement benefits.

In 2004 Peter G. Peterson's book *Running On Empty* was published. On page 39 he has this to say, "In 1994 I served on President Clinton's Bipartisan Commission on Entitlements and Tax Reform, whose interim report flatly declared 'In 2030, unless appropriate policy changes are made in the interim, projected spending for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and *Federal employee retirement programs* (italics mine) alone will consume all tax revenues collected by the federal government.' Who listened? Neither party; Not in Congress or anywhere else."

In the December 9, 2008 NARFE Legislative Update we are told, "As first explained on pages 37-38 of the December *NARFE* magazine, which most members received before Thanksgiving, federal workers and annuitants enrolled in BC/BS standard option in 2009 would be responsible for paying 100 percent of the billed amount, up to a \$7,500 catastrophic limit per procedure for surgery performed by out-of-network physicians and 100 percent of the bill, up to a maximum of \$800, for anesthesia provided by an out-of-network anesthesiologist." NARFE with the help of the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce and its Chairman Danny Davis were able to get that changed.

On April 2, 2009 before passing their fiscal 2010 budget resolution, the House of Representatives defeated a substitute amendment offered by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) which would have *cut* appropriations for entitlements like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid by \$1.3 trillion over ten years. Included in the proposed \$1.3 trillion *cut* was a \$10.263 *billion* reduction over ten years in appropriations for federal civil service retirement and health benefits. The amendment was defeated 137 to 293, but we must keep in mind that 137 Representatives voted *for* the amendment.

In a policy agenda released on June 4, 2009, House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH) and Minority Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA) recommended that the federal civilian annuity calculation be based on the highest five years of salary instead of the highest three years. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that "the average new Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retiree would receive about \$1,250 less in 2008 and \$6,530

less over five years than under current law." In addition, the Boehner/Cantor paper recommended that federal civilian employees not be afforded their earned annuity until they reached age 62, under any circumstance.

On July 23, 2009 the Senate added several civil service reforms to S. 1390. However, to get the reforms passed those supporting them had to remove several of the changes such as permitting Federal Employees Retirement System workers to credit unused sick

leave toward retirement. A filibuster by Senator Tom Coburn, R-OK, forced the changes in the amendment. During the filibuster he had this to say, **"By the way, if you are a Federal employee and unhappy with me trying to defeat this amendment, you should pay attention to something. There is no guarantee to your Federal pension based on the economics we face today in this country. If you think it is guaranteed, you have another thought coming because the world economic system is going to determine whether we can honor that pension. That is what is coming. We are very close."**

In the July 30, 2009 newsletter from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, Dave Walker, CEO of the foundation, has this to say, "I was pleased to read Fred Hiatt's interview of President Obama published in the Washington Post. During the interview, the President stated his willingness to consider a fiscal commission where 'everything is going to have to be on the table,' noting it may be the most realistic way to begin putting our nation's financial house in order.

*Everything* is going to have to be on the table! If everything is going to be *on* the table, we had better be *at* the table in some way. Our way to be "at the table" is NARFE! The commission will do the study and make its report. It will be up to Congress to make the changes. That is the "table" at which we must have a "seat". What was it Peterson said about the report made by President Clinton's Bipartisan Commission on Entitlements and Tax Reform? Nobody listened. This time it will likely be that both parties will listen. We had better be there!

Someone has said that we all ride the NARFE train; i.e. we all, active *and* retired, benefit from the work NARFE does. Some of us buy a ticket. That ticket is membership in NARFE!

**George Hawkins, Membership Chair,  
Chapter 1134 – Previously Area VI VP**

## **NARFE Dues – It's Time**

Recently I have received numerous emails and phone calls from members concerned about the NARFE dues referendum. With a few exceptions, most have a bone to pick. The concerns range from the referendum process itself to the amount and distribution of the dues if and when the referendum passes.

The most discomfoting accusation proffered is that the referendum is nothing but a sneaky and underhanded way of getting an unwarranted dues increase. If I felt there was any truth to this charge, I would not support the referendum.

Certainly a referendum addressing the functionality of an organization's means of support, dollars and cents will enter the picture; but to misinterpret or misrepresent the intent of the proposal and the integrity of the proposers, does a disservice to the rationale for the referendum and threatens its passage.

Our current dues structure is outdated and confusing. It hinders membership recruitment and - most especially - retention. For example, when a new member receives the renewal notice after the first year and spots the dues increase associated with chapter participation that holds no interest, this is a powerful reason to not renew. With over twenty-five dues categories available, it can be a logistical nightmare for chapter treasurers to comprehend and manage. A dues structure that in many ways is an existential hindrance to the organizational health and growth of NARFE, and is a debilitating factor in accomplishing the mission of protecting our earned benefits, should be replaced.

I have heard a number of members say that they support the concept of a single dues BUT. . . . and then they enumerate their concerns about the referendum and why they can't support it. It is a given that the referendum isn't perfect. Few things are. But I have learned through long years of experience that it is much easier and wiser to modify a rule or regulation once passed than see it defeated and then start the process again from the beginning. If there are adjustments or corrections desired, they could be presented and ratified at a future time, such as the 2010 convention in Grand Rapids, MI.

It is my sincere concern that, if the referendum were defeated, it would be some years before the concept of single dues would be raised again. So please study the referendum and supporting materials, discuss it in your chapter meetings and vote FOR it in December.

**Paul Carew, Region X Vice President**

**Contact Information – Virginia Members of Congress – As of August 15, 2009**

Member of Congress	Washington Office*	Local Office 1	Local Office 2
Honorable Mark Warner United States Senate (Plus an office in Abingdon)	B40C Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Ph. 202-224-2023 Fax 202-224-6295	5309 Commonwealth Centre Pkwy Suite 401 Midlothian, VA 23112 Ph. 804-739-0247	101 W. Main St. 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, & Roanoke)	144 Russell Senate Office Bldg Ph. 202-224-4024 Fax 202-228-6363	507 E. Franklin St. Richmond, VA 23219 Ph. 804-771-2221 Fax 804-771-8313	222 Central Park Ave , 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”			
Honorable Rob Wittman Representative – 1 <sup>st</sup> District (Plus an office in Tappahannock)	1318 Longworth House Office Bldg Ph. 202-225-4261 Fax 202-225-4382	4904-B George Washington Hwy Yorktown, VA 23692 Ph. 757-874-6687 Fax 757-874-7164	3504 Plank Rd., Suite 203 Fredericksburg, VA 22407 Ph. 540-548-1086 Fax 540-548-1658
E-mail at <a href="http://wittman.house.gov">wittman.house.gov</a> , then click on “Contact”			
Honorable Glenn Nye Representative – 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	116 Cannon House Office Bldg Ph. 202-225-4215 Fax 202-225-4218	4772 Euclid Rd, Suite E Virginia Beach, VA 23462 Ph. 757-326-6201 Fax 757-326-6209	None as of report date
E-mail at <a href="http://nye.house.gov">nye.house.gov</a> , then click on “Contact Me,” then under “Help with a problem” click on “e-mail me”			
Honorable Robert “Bobby” Scott – Representative – 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	1201 Longworth House Office Bldg Ph. 202-225-8351 Fax 202-225-8354	501 N. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St., Suite 401 Richmond, VA 23219-1321 Ph. 804-644-4845 Fax 804-648-6026	2600 Washington Ave. Suite 1010 Newport News, VA 23607 Ph. 757-380-1000 Fax 757-928-6694
E-mail at <a href="http://bobbyscott.house.gov">bobbyscott.house.gov</a> , click on “Contact,” then “Contact Bobby Scott,” then “Email Bobby Scott”			
Honorable Randy Forbes Representative – 4 <sup>th</sup> District (Plus an office in Emporia)	2438 Rayburn House Office Bldg Ph. 202-225-6365 Fax 202-226-1170	505 Independence Pkwy Suite 104 Chesapeake, VA 23320 Ph. 757-382-0080 Fax 757-382-0780	2903 Boulevard, Suite B Colonial Heights, VA 23834 Ph. 804-526-4969 Fax 804-526-7486
E-mail at <a href="http://forbes.house.gov">forbes.house.gov</a> , then click on “Contact,” then click on “Email”			
Honorable Tom Perriello Representative – 5 <sup>th</sup> District	1520 Longworth House Office Bldg Ph. 202-225-4711 Fax 202-225-5681	104 South First St. Charlottesville, VA 22902 Ph. 434-293-9631 Fax 434-293-9632	308 Craghead St., Suite 102 Danville, VA 24541 Ph. (not available on 2/14/09) Fax “ “ “ “
E-mail: <a href="http://perriello.house.gov">perriello.house.gov</a> , click on “Contact Me,” then under “Help with a problem” click on “e-mail me”			
Honorable Robert Goodlatte – Representative – 6 <sup>th</sup> District (Plus offices in Harrisonburg and Staunton)	2240 Rayburn House Office Bldg Ph. 202-225-5431 Fax 202-225-9681	10 Franklin Rd., S.E. Suite 540 Roanoke, VA 24011 Ph. 540-857-2672 Fax 540-857-2675	916 Main St., Suite 300 Lynchburg, VA 24504 Ph. 434-845-8306 Fax 434-845-8245
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”			
Honorable Eric Cantor Representative – 7 <sup>th</sup> District	329 Cannon House Office Bldg Ph. 202-225-2815 Fax 202-225-0011	4201 Dominion Blvd. Suite 110 Glen Allen, VA 23060 Ph. 804-747-4073 Fax 804-747-5308	763 Madison Rd., # 207 Culpeper, VA 22701 Ph. 540-825-8960 Fax 540-825-8964
E-mail at <a href="http://cantor.house.gov">cantor.house.gov</a> , click on “Contact Us”, then click on “Write your Representative Service”			

\*All Senate offices are Washington, D.C. 20510  
VFC/National Legislation, Frank Szumilo

All House offices are Washington, D.C. 20515

**(NOTE: Continued on Reverse)**

# VFC-NARFE

**Return Service Requested**  
 Virginia Federation of Chapters NARFE  
 294 Tyler Point Lane  
 Bumpass VA 23024-4633



**If you receive this and are no longer on the board of either a chapter or the Federation, please give to the board Member who replaced you.**

**Postal Service (Time Value) Please Deliver By August 22, 2009**

**(Continued) Contact Information – Virginia Members of Congress – As of August 15, 2009**

Member of Congress	Washington Office*	Local Office 1	Local Office 2
Honorable James P. Moran Representative – 8 <sup>th</sup> District	2239 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Ph. 202-225-4376 Fax 202-225-0017	333 N. Fairfax St. 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”			
Honorable Rick Boucher Representative – 9 <sup>th</sup> District (Plus an office in Big Stone Gap)	2187 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Ph. 202-225-3861 Fax 202-225-0442	188 East Main St. Abingdon, VA 24210 Ph. 276-628-1145	106 North Washington Pulaski, VA 24301 Ph. 540-980-4310
E-mail at <a href="http://www.boucher.house.gov">www.boucher.house.gov</a> , then click on “Click here to E-mail Congressman Boucher”			
Honorable Frank Wolf Representative – 10 <sup>th</sup> District	241 Cannon House Office Bldg. Ph. 202-225-5136 Fax 202-225-0437	13873 Park Center Rd. Suite 130 Herndon, VA 20171 Ph. 703-709-5800, or 800-945-9653 in State Fax 703-709-5802	110 N. Cameron St. 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.”			
Honorable Gerry E. Connolly Representative – 11 <sup>th</sup> District	327 Cannon House Office Bldg. Ph. 202-225-1492 Fax 202-225-3071	4115 Annandale Rd. Suite 103 Annandale, VA 22003 Ph. 703-256-3071 Fax 703-354-1284	None as of report date
E-mail at <a href="http://connolly.house.gov">connolly.house.gov</a> , then click on “Contact Me”			

\*All Senate offices are Washington, D.C. 20510  
 VFC/National Legislation, Frank Szumilo

All House offices are Washington, D.C. 20515