



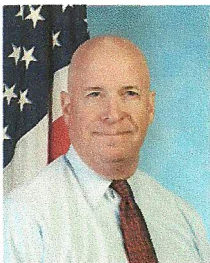
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

VFC Notes – Fall 2010

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

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FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The 31st NARFE National Convention which was held in Grand Rapids, Michigan from August 28 through September 2, was a wonderful experience for approximately 1,100 NARFE members in attendance. The Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) was represented by 52 delegates, including all five members of the VFC Executive Committee, five Area Vice Presidents, Immediate Past President William Martin and National Vice President Joseph Beaudoin. Effective November 1, Bill Martin and Joe Beaudoin assumed the offices of Region X Vice President and National President respectively.

The National Convention kicked off on Sunday, 8/28 with opening ceremonies and the report of National Alzheimer's Chair Barb Pretzer. The VFC was recognized for its efforts during the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, as the #1 NARFE contributor of funds to Alzheimer's Research. Our members contributed \$66,270 to combat this dreaded disease. This total was more than double the total of the second place Federation.



Prior to the opening ceremonies, I attended the NARFE Federations Presidents' meeting. All of us in the room agreed that NARFE is in a very critical transition period and that the vast majority of individuals leaving the workforce today are FERS employees. Recruiting them into an organization such as NARFE is a very difficult task and retaining these same persons is an even greater one. This is a realization that we all must face and the VFC is confronting this issue head-on. While most of the Federation Presidents were concerned with closing chapters, I was pleased to announce that through the efforts of Area II Vice President Betty Warren, the VFC has submitted the request for formal charters of two new Chapters, at Fort Story in Virginia Beach and the U.S. Federal Building in Norfolk. With these new charters, the number of VFC Chapters increases from 57 to 59.

With the new National annual dues increase to \$40, effective January 2011, this is an excellent time to remind members that they can save 15% on their National dues. By signing up for Dues Withholding, annual dues will be \$34.00 plus chapter dues. A member may also obtain a National Life Membership which is another option that offers protection against future dues increases while showing your ongoing support of NARFE's mission to serve federal employees and retirees. The fee schedule is based on age. You can make a single payment or quarterly installments (4 payments). Members should check with their Chapter Membership Chairs for more information on a National Life Membership. Another option to save some money on dues is to pay multiple years at a time. With the recent increase to \$40, a member can pay \$72 for two years or \$102 for three years.

Chapters will continue to establish their dues and National will continue to collect those dues and remit them to the chapters.

As most of you are aware, closing Chapters within the VFC is not an option. With the importance of retaining our earned benefits, it is difficult to understand why we do not have more willing persons waiting to serve in the chapters. A lack of willingness on the part of many may be due to their lack of knowledge about the duties and responsibilities of Chapter leadership. I appreciate the work of all VFC members in all of our chapters who so willingly take on numerous NARFE responsibilities in order to keep their Chapters alive. I especially want to thank Area IX Vice President Pierce Johnson and Public Relations Chair Carolyn Wilson for their efforts to insure the viability of Falls Church Chapter 401 and also Area III Vice President Jack McMurchy and Carolyn Wilson for their continuing efforts in Tuckahoe Chapter 1727.

William "Bill" Shackelford, VFC President

