



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

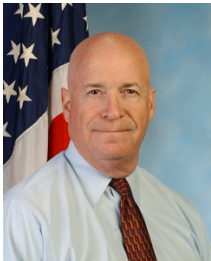


VFC Notes – Winter 2012

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

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FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



With the New Year, as I begin my first message for 2012 and my last message as your VFC President, I have several thoughts to share.

FIRST - We as federal employees and retirees are going to be in for a bumpy ride all this year with Congress and their attitude. We are going to find out which is the most important thing on their minds. Whether it is getting re-elected or to do the job they were elected to do. Virginia Federation members continue to be one of the most active groups of NARFE members in contacting elected officials and voicing their concerns with proposals that would reduce or restructure our earned benefits. Statistics through Friday, January 27, show Virginia NARFE members made another concerted effort to remind our legislators to protect our earned benefits.

SECOND - Let's start this year with everyone becoming a recruiter and with a goal of recruiting at least one new NARFE member. Nationally, NARFE has set a goal for an 8% increase in new members. At the end of 2011 total membership in the VFC was 18,743 voting members. With an 8% increase in membership our ranks would rise to 20,243. If each of our 59 Chapters were able to recruit 3 new members per month we would exceed this goal by the end of 2012. One aspect of the NARFE National efforts to increase our membership is a "Who Do You Know?" campaign. I am asking each VFC member, even, after retirement including those you relocated from a final duty station, to answer the question – Who do you know? Additionally, let us also have a renewed effort by all Chapter Membership Chairs and other Chapter Officers to retain every current member – not letting one drop due to failure to renew their membership. A major tool in accomplishing this task is the new Activity Reports on the main NARFE webpage (www.narfe.org). I hope all Chapter Presidents and Secretaries are taking the opportunity to use the new "activity reports" on NARFE's web site. This real-time method for retrieving membership information is also a real step forward, for example, when completing the F-7 report to update officer or committee position changes.

GUIDANCE ON USE OF CHAPTER DUES FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS – NARFE is incorporated under the District of Columbia (DC) Code. Due to the enactment of the new DC Code covering the rules of Incorporation and operation of non-profit associations NARFE HQ asked for a legal review of the proposed By-Laws created by the By-Laws Review Committee on the contents of the new publication for compliance, including an opinion on the impact of the new Code on our current restriction on the use of Chapter dues for charitable contributions such as Alzheimer's Research. Based upon an opinion from legal counsel, the following guidance on the use of chapter dues for charitable contributions has been developed by the National Treasurer.

The NARFE By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation imply that chapter dues be used for the objectives outlined in those publications for the chapters. Past NARFE guidance has been that chapter funds should be used for these objectives only and not for charitable contributions or other purposes. The legal opinion above negates that guidance as there is not a specific restriction on the use of chapter dues in the current NARFE By-Laws. NARFE continues to recommend that chapter dues funds be used for the objectives outlined in the By-Laws. If a chapter decides to use their dues funds for charitable contributions; we strongly recommend that this decision be made deliberately after a discussion at a chapter meeting and publication of this intention thru all means available to the chapter members. Feedback/concurrence from the members is critical to insuring that a specific charitable contribution does not become a divisive issue within the chapter and affect membership retention.

It must be emphasized this is a legal opinion based on the provisions of the DC Code and **NOT** an opinion of a NARFE National Officer and that it returns to the Chapters the discretion that existed before former National Secretary Nat Brown set out his opinion in 2010. The new guidance is provided to all Chapters to simplify the donations to Alzheimer's Research or any other charity using Chapters funds. As stated in the opinion, charitable donations by Chapters must not become a divisive issue within the chapter and should remain secondary to activities directly related to the overall NARFE mission such as recruitment and retention of members, letter-writing campaigns, health fairs and similar venues, and Chapter Officer/Service Officer training and seminars.

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS CHANGE – The NARFE National Executive Board recently voted to end its Pre-Retirement Seminar Program. However, NARFE members can obtain some pre-retirement information and answers to some questions on the main NARFE webpage (www.narfe.org), then go to: "Retirement Benefits." If you have further questions, please contact your Chapter or Federation Service Officer.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS – The 2012 NARFE National Convention will be held at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort, in Reno/Sparks, NV, August 26 - 30. Registration materials and hotel information are available on the NARFE website and in each monthly magazine (see pages 44 - 45 in the February issue). One of the items of business will be the proposed By-Laws and Standing Rules which are available for comment at www.narfe.org (Log in as a member; go to "32nd NARFE National Convention" then, "Convention & Registration Materials," "Proposed Revised Bylaws," and "By-Laws and Rules.") Comments or recommended changes may be sent by e-mail to brc@narfe.org and are due by March 31. The voting on the proposed By-Laws and Standing Rules will be at the National Convention.

2012 VFC CONVENTION – The NARFE VFC Convention will be held in Richmond, VA, on April 22-25, 2012 at the Holiday Inn– Koger Center. Registration forms must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2012 in order for names to appear in the Convention Program Book. I hope you are planning now to attend the convention. All VFC officer and Area Vice President positions are up for election. Excellent speakers are being lined up, such as Mike Causey from Federal News Radio. Most of us remember Mike from his days writing the "*Federal Diary*" column for the Washington Post. Also, confirmed are National Secretary Elaine Hughes who will provide the delegates with up-to-date information of the new HQ initiatives directed at membership acquisition (recruitment) and retention and the new NARFE National Legislation Director Julie Tagen who will update the successes made by NARFE members through the "Protect America's Heartbeat" campaign. Invitations have been extended to representatives of OPM and Senator Mark Warner. Further, there will be special seminars on Financial Planning, Alzheimer's Disease and much other business conducted at the convention.

CONVENTION SUPPORTERS – Whether you attend or are unable to attend, the Convention needs you support. Chapter members are invited to show their support and chapter pride by making contributions in one of the five categories: Super Angel, \$25; Angel, \$15; Cheerleader, \$10; Booster, \$5 and Supporter, \$1. Names of all contributors will be published in the program book provided contributions are postmarked no later than March 15, 2012. More information will be forthcoming in my Call To Convention in early March. So, I hope to see many of our members in Richmond.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION – Later in this issue of the VFC Notes will be the article on National Legislation written by Jim Brewer. This will be Jim's last submission inasmuch as he is stepping down from his position as the VFC National Legislation Chair due to personal reasons. He will be replaced by Tom Hall from Churchland Chapter 1293. I want to express my sincere thanks to Jim for his dedicated service to the VFC and to Tom for his willingness to accept the position and to continue the strong efforts that Jim established.

FINAL THOUGHT – Time flies when you are enjoying what you are doing!!! It seems like yesterday that I was President of Fairfax Chapter 737 and then elected to the position of VFC 2nd Vice President at the 2009 VFC Convention. The trip from that point on has been exciting and I could not have completed it to this point in time without the support, guidance, and help of all VFC members, especially my predecessors in the position: Ann Collins, Joe Beaudoin and Bill Martin. Thanks.

William "Bill" Shackelford, VFC President

>>>> The most useless tasks are the most fun to do<<<<<

1st VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This year has started on a very positive note for chapters in the Virginia Federation because for the first time to my knowledge many chapters were able to find new officers where needed. It was equally heartwarming as I installed officers around the state to meet so many veteran chapter officials who were being recycled. I think the willingness to assume leadership roles in NARFE is an acknowledgement that our benefits are in jeopardy and it is time to take a stand and let the politicians know we are concerned. Over the past year I have seen many NARFE members, retired and active, join in our "Protect America's Heartbeat" campaign which is designed to remind the American public that civil service is honorable and necessary. We hope to dispel the erroneous notion that federal employees are overpaid and unproductive.

In spite of the precarious position in which we find ourselves, chapter memberships continue to decline, mainly because of retention. However, some chapters still find ways to increase memberships. We must continue to recruit new members and while we have them for at least a year, work vigorously to retain them. Encouraging new members to sign up for "dues withholding" is the best way to have the greatest chance of a long term relationship.

Convention Bulletin # 2, discussing details of the upcoming 58th Annual VFC Convention during April 22-25, 2012 in Richmond, was mailed to all chapter presidents on January 30. For the benefit of all members, bulletins 1 and 2 are posted on the VANARFE website (www.vanarfe.org). Registrations and ad activity are slowly gaining momentum and hopefully will reach our goal as we near the actual convention date. Meanwhile, we are asking all officers and members to support and participate in the convention in some way. The convention committee, comprising the six chapters in Area VII, is hard at work planning great activities, work and fun, which should be beneficial and pleasing to attendees.

The nomination deadline, February 20th, for the annual R. David Smith Memorial Award, is rapidly approaching. The award is an opportunity for the VFC to recognize a member for outstanding service to NARFE during the year 2011. Any member may nominate any other VFC member provided the nominee meets the award criteria listed on the VANARFE website.

In alternate years, the VFC conducts training for chapter officers and some committee chairs. Training sessions are scheduled for 2012 in Richmond, Williamsburg, Roanoke and Manassas during February and March. Exact locations and dates are posted on the VANARFE website. **REMEMBER - - Promote NARFE - - Recruit a member!**

Luther L. Santiful - 1st Vice President

2ND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In the following pages you will read reports by the various VFC Committee Chairs, that are responsible to reporting to me as VFC 2nd Vice President and for which I am responsible to coordinate activities. I am very impressed by their drive and their initiative; and I hope that all NARFE members in the Virginia Federation support their efforts.

As my third year as the Virginia Federation of Chapters 2nd Vice President draws to a close, I find that we continue to address some of the same past issues. The earned benefits of federal employees and retirees continue to be under attack and continue to be blamed for work that they have been directed to undertake. In addition, now some federal employees will lose their jobs to support tax breaks given to non-federal employees and to provide money to reduce the growing federal deficit. Then there is the specter of reduced retirement benefits for current and future federal employees. The idea of "Divide and Conquer" seems to be prevalent. And yet, some NARFE members continue to decide not to renew their NARFE memberships. Yes, new members join NARFE, but we still need to retain our current members to have a voice strong enough to fight for the rights and benefits of federal employees and retirees. You will hear more about that issue from Dennis Martin, the VFC Membership Chair.

Connie and John Bails, the VFC Service Co-Officers, continue to impress. Their newest initiative is to form a VFC Service Committee with a group of Area Service Coordinators. Please support them and do whatever you can to help.

Gaston Gianni, the VFC Public Relations Chair, is charging ahead on many fronts; but he, too, needs your support. His article covers a lot of issues relative to Public Relations and what is possible with your help.

Gene Brown, the VFC State Legislative Chair, is the newest addition to the VFC Board; but he is not acting like a "newbe". His article indicates how involved and knowledgeable he has become on current activities of interest to NARFE members in the Virginia Commonwealth arena. Please send him your ideas and consider where you may be able to provide him some assistance.

Donna Shackelford, the VFC Alzheimer's Chair, not only provides information on Alzheimer's Research contributions, but also presents some ideas on possible future directions. And I know she could use some help at the 2012 VFC Convention.

Jim Brewer, the VFC National Legislative Chair, is stepping down from this position because of increasing family commitments; but he doesn't seem let that prevent him from continuing to do a great job. Jim will not be at the 2012 VFC Convention. But don't worry about the future. Please welcome Tom Hall of Churchland Chapter 1293, VFC Area IV, to the VFC Board as the new VFC National Legislative Chair. Tom is currently serving as the VFC Senatorial Legislative Liaison to Senator Mark Warner. Tom has big shoes to fill as a result of the level that Jim has raised this position to. It seems that I am always writing about the accomplishments of others, and not my own. However, that is the nature of my position, and I take it very seriously. I believe that the aforementioned Committee Chairs are the face of the VFC to the members and they ensure that the Virginia Federation is the one that other NARFE Federations try to emulate. May it always be so.

Richard "Dick" Giangerelli – 2nd Vice President

FEDERATION SECRETARY



Several important issues came before the VFC Executive Board at the Jan 23–24, 2012 board meeting. It was determined that the current VFC Operational Handbook was not in compliance with the current Federation By-Laws. At the October board meeting the members of the board unanimously decided to adhere to the by-laws as adopted in the matter of setting chapter dues.

It was determined since that meeting that the multi tier level of dues collection used in previous years was spelled out as part of the Federation Treasurers duties in the Operational Handbook. The board unanimously voted at the January meeting to change the Organizational handbook for the Treasurer to make the Handbook and the VFC By-Laws compatible. At the same time modifications of two other parts of the handbook were changed to better clarify some of the Secretary's duties and wording discussing general policies. The VFC Secretary will be sending out notice to every Chapter President and Secretary of these changes.

All comments on this should be directed to the local Area Vice President at least two weeks prior to the next board meeting which will be held just prior to the April convention. The same mailing will also contain copies of the proxy form for those Chapters that cannot send delegates to the convention and a table of voting strength for all chapters at the convention.

Additionally, the board decided to adopt the new government mileage rate, as established by the Internal Revenue Service of \$.55 per mile for mileage reimbursements by the VFC.

Webmaster Stan Palen demonstrated the new map feature to be placed on the VFC web site where one can click on a region of the state where you live and have a list of local chapter presidents pop up. this will be a big help for prospective members in choosing an appropriate chapter.

Bill Schmidt – State Legislation Chair

FEDERATION TREASURER

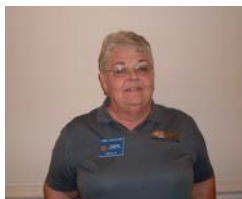
In January, at the VFC Executive Board meeting, expenditures for the 2nd Quarter of the operating year 2011-2012 were presented as follows:

Samuel Harris – VFC Treasurer



CATEGORY	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE	CATEGORY	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE
Revenue				Program Operations			
NARFE 10% Funds	\$ 60,000	\$ 29,356	\$ 30,644	NL Chair	\$ 3,600	\$ 951	\$ 2,649
Chapter Dues	\$ 34,500	\$ -	\$ 34,500	CDL	\$ 6,500	\$ 189	\$ 6,311
Reimbursed Expense	\$ 200	\$ 46	\$ 154	SL Chair	\$ 3,300	\$ 1,082	\$ 2,218
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	SL Representative	\$ 2,600	\$ -	\$ 2,600
Interest	\$ 800	\$ 919	\$ (119)	Membership Chair	\$ 3,800	\$ 662	\$ 3,138
NARFE Matching Funds	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,665	\$ 1,335	Public Relations Chair	\$ 4,875	\$ 4,008	\$ 867
Convention Reimbursement	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	Co-Service Officers	\$ 5,300	\$ 1,408	\$ 3,892
Prior Year Carryover	\$ 15,470	\$ -	\$ 15,470	Alzheimer's Chair	\$ 3,100	\$ 2,285	\$ 815
Total Revenues	\$ 118,470	\$ 34,986	\$ 83,584	Sub-Total	\$ 33,075	\$ 10,585	\$ 22,490
CATEGORY	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BALANCE	Administrative			
Executive Committee				Convention Advance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
President	\$ 6,075	\$ 4,399	\$ 1,676	Awards / Gifts	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
1st Vice President	\$ 3,700	\$ 856	\$ 2,844	NARFE / FEEA	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
2nd Vice President	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,032	\$ 1,468	Biennial Officer Training	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00
Secretary	\$ 2,300	\$ 403	\$ 1,897	Membership Contest	\$ 325.00	\$ -	\$ 325.00
Treasurer	\$ 2,990	\$ 1,481	\$ 1,509	Hotel	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,115	\$ 1,385
Sub-Total	\$ 17,565	\$ 8,171	\$ 9,394	Donations	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
				Recruitment	\$ 8,500	\$ 3,525	\$ 4,975
IPP and Appointees				Newsletter	\$ 1,000	\$ 598	\$ 402
Immediate Past President	\$ 1,950	\$ -	\$ 1,950	Special Meeting	\$ 8,000	\$ 5,984	\$ 2,016
Parliamentarian	\$ 1,400	\$ -	\$ 1,400	Web Site	\$ 200	\$ 36	\$ 164
Chaplain	\$ 1,600	\$ 302	\$ 1,298	Miscellaneous	\$ 1,000	\$ 624	\$ 376
By-Laws Committee	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ 600	Sub-Total	\$ 32,025	\$ 12,882	\$ 19,143
Sergeant-At-Arms	\$ 700	\$ -	\$ 700				
Nominating Committee	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500				
PRS Coordinator	\$ 1,100	\$ -	\$ 1,100	Executive Committee	\$ 17,565	\$ 8,171	\$ 9,394
Web Master	\$ 1,200	\$ 187	\$ 1,013	IPP and Appointees	\$ 9,050	\$ 489	\$ 8,561
Sub-Total	\$ 9,050	\$ 489	\$ 8,561	Field Operations	\$ 26,755	\$ 8,476	\$ 18,279
				Program Operations	\$ 33,075	\$ 10,585	\$ 22,490
Field Operations				Administrative	\$ 32,025	\$ 12,882	\$ 19,143
AVP I	\$ 2,375	\$ 411	\$ 1,964				
AVP II	\$ 2,950	\$ 812	\$ 2,138	GRAND TOTALS	\$ 118,470	\$ 40,603	\$ 77,867
AVP III	\$ 2,635	\$ 886	\$ 1,749				
AVP IV	\$ 2,275	\$ 610	\$ 1,665				
AVP V	\$ 2,050	\$ 654	\$ 1,396				
AVP VI	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,147	\$ 2,353				
AVP VII	\$ 3,870	\$ 1,149	\$ 2,721				
AVP VIII	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,228	\$ 1,772				
AVP IX	\$ 1,950	\$ 538	\$ 1,412				
AVP X	\$ 2,150	\$ 1,041	\$ 1,109				
Sub-Total	\$ 26,755	\$ 8,476	\$ 18,279				

ALZHEIMERS



*"That can't happen to me!"
"None of my family ever had it."
"I'm too young for that."
"I always exercise my mind, every day"*

Do those statements sound familiar? Let me tell you, we are all vulnerable to the ravages of Alzheimer's disease. We are trying harder all the time to find a cure and to be able to survive the disease. Awareness on the part of every individual is a key. We are also more alert to any symptoms that may be lingering, and getting medical attention early is vital. There are some medications that tend to delay a full-blown onset, and the longer we can have good quality of life, the more likely new treatments may be discovered.

When I visit chapters, it is very common for a member to approach me with a paper in hand, and ask if I have seen this, or am I aware of.... This tells me that many of you are doing what you can and trying really hard to be aware. That's wonderful, and I'm very proud of the entire VFC for tuning in. Be sure to wear your purple ribbons, so other people will also ask what it means, and you can make them aware of the epidemic level of the only incurable disease known.

At VFC, we are getting ready for our 2012 Convention, and I'm no exception. We'll have another exciting Alzheimer's area with Silent Auction, Raffle (prizes), raffle tickets for monetary drawings, and this year we will have a "Sweet N Savory" walk, similar to the "Sweet Treat" walk last year. However, I've heard several of you say you would like for it not to be so sweet, or not so much chocolate. Therefore, this year I'm asking that you bring a big variety of items to walk for: chips & dip, veggie tray, salsa, dinner rolls, meat and/or cheese trays, in addition to the cakes, cookies, brownies, or pies. The overall point is to make money for Alzheimer's Research, so your contributions and participation are urgently needed. Remember, though, that we do not have refrigeration. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help me with all of these endeavors at the Convention, please contact me.

We have invited Dr. Steve DeKoskey to speak. He is the Dean of Medicine at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and he is the most recent Researcher to head up a project for Alzheimer's Research funded by NARFE. You will definitely want to hear what your money is doing. We are also trying to contact the Central Virginia Alzheimer's Association and have someone from there address us, possibly in a breakout session.

I'm also looking forward to our Convention for 2013. I have this bright idea to sell a recipe book with recipes from all over Virginia. That means I need to start collecting now in order to get a book together by then, so bring the instructions for your favorite meal or dish and we'll have a good product by 2013. We can use modern day items, or back to the colonial days. Remember many people read a recipe book like they read a novel.

I would be remiss if I did not give you an update on our monetary donations to date. We closed the calendar year with a total of \$73,675.46. That works out to \$3.86 per capita for VFC. Of course, the Alzheimer's Association works on a fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) and I want to tell you for that time span, Virginia totals \$41,703.22. By the way, Texas has a long way to go in their challenge, being just over \$8,500 for the same six-month period in 2011.

If you need any help in your Chapter with Alzheimer's business, please feel free to call on me. I have handouts and pamphlets I'd be glad to share, please contact me.

Donna Shackelford – Alzheimers Chair

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MEMBERSHIP

Total membership at the end of 2011 was down by 4.2%. However, if the Virginia NARFE members in the e-NARFE chapter are added, the total decrease is only 2.7%. For the year there was an increase in dues withholding members of 2.1% or 45 additional members. While less of an increase than some prior years the increase shows continued emphasis by the chapters and efforts to increase dues withholding will continue. Non-renewals are unfortunately still over last year's. Reinstatement numbers are up when compared to last year which is a positive. Finally, the membership numbers were not helped by the fact that transfers out vs. transfers in were ahead of last year.

In addition to emphasizing retention, members continue to recruit new members and the VFC Membership Contest shows that VFC members have recruited a total of 419 members since the start of the contest. With this sort of member initiative, the VFC can look forward to success in 2012.

Dennis Martin – Membership Chair

NATIONAL LEGISLATION



NARFE-PAC contributions through the 4th quarter of first session of the 112th Congressional Cycle show 282 VFC NARFE members contributed a total of \$11,637.00. Fourth quarter contributions totaled \$725.00, missing our proposed 2011 first session contribution NARFE-PAC goal by \$13,363.00 for the year. Our goal for the second session of the 112th Congressional cycle is shown as \$25,000.00 which will likely be exceeded as donations historically increase dramatically in election years. Thanks to all supporting NARFE-PAC. Point to remember is that NARFE is a National Name with Congressmen and we are gaining political clout through our combined National Legislative involvement and comments of bills affecting Federal Employee's and spouses. Let's continue to support

the Congressmen that support our NARFE Mission and Vision via our NARFE-PAC donations.

National NARFE-PAC contribution figures as of the end of the 4th quarter of the first session indicated Region X contributors totaled 705 members contributing \$24,395.13. Other NARFE regions have reported NARFE-PAC statistics through the 4th quarter as follows: #9 = \$15,165.15; #8 = \$27,022.80; #7 = \$14,038; #6 = \$11,623; #5 = \$27,084.74; #4 = \$16,970.00; #3 = \$18,566.00; #2 = \$22,825.55; #1 = \$7,564.00. Session one National totals through the 4th quarter of 2011 show 5,407 members contributing \$171, 579.37.

No new NARFE-PAC disbursements have been made for Virginia Congressmen or Senators since my last report although several potential disbursements are still pending, as reported in the fall VFC newsletter. Other 2011 NARFE-PAC National Disbursements include fifty two (52) candidate disbursements by state as of December 31, 2011 and committee disbursements as follows: DCCC = \$15,000., NRCC = \$15,000., DSCC = \$15,000., NRSC = \$15,000.

At the upcoming 2012 VFC Convention, I recommend the member's attending the National Legislative break out session to be prepared to discuss NARFE-PAC goals for the 113th Congress. VFC actual donations as of the end of the 112th Congressional, 4th quarter by Chapter is as follows:

CHAPTER	CHAPTER	GOAL	DONATIONS		CHAPTER	CHAPTER	GOAL	DONATIONS
Metro-Virginia Beach	5	\$ 374	\$ 50		Eastern Shore	1175	\$ 155	\$ -
Arlington	7	\$ 1,320	\$ 975		Dulles	1241	\$ 1,032	\$ 730
Petersburg	28	\$ 252	\$ 70		Woodbridge	1270	\$ 1,036	\$ 590
Richmond	60	\$ 426	\$ 70		Churchland	1293	\$ 275	\$ 40
Portsmouth	63	\$ 153	\$ -		Colonial Heights	1472	\$ 295	\$ -
Tidewater	66	\$ 366	\$ -		Imperial Plaza	1510	\$ 73	\$ 10
Fredericksburg	90	\$ 936	\$ 220		Warrenton-Fauquier	1549	\$ 382	\$ 160
Lynchburg	110	\$ 175	\$ -		Metro-Northern Virginia	1665	\$ 365	\$ 1,075
Roanoke Valley	111	\$ 602	\$ 270		Chesapeake	1682	\$ 326	\$ 40
Charlottesville	135	\$ 363	\$ 150		Brentwood	1697	\$ 165	\$ 40
Harrisonburg	164	\$ 250	\$ 80		Tuckahoe	1727	\$ 152	\$ 25
Staunton-Waynesboro-Augusta	178	\$ 165	\$ 20		Suffolk	1743	\$ 208	\$ -
Winchester	180	\$ 757	\$ 160		Middle Peninsula	1757	\$ 145	\$ -
Alexandria	232	\$ 1,807	\$ 995		Page Valley	1793	\$ 88	\$ 50
Manassas	356	\$ 578	\$ 185		Northern Neck	1823	\$ 351	\$ 70
Falls Church	401	\$ 820	\$ 292		Seaside-Virginia Beach	1827	\$ 241	\$ -
McLean	489	\$ 544	\$ 320		Wilderness Trail	1837	\$ 90	\$ -
Colonial Beach	595	\$ 207	\$ 200		Martinsville-Henry	1882	\$ 51	\$ -
Peninsula	682	\$ 870	\$ 120		Lake Of The Woods	1885	\$ 294	\$ 20
Williamsburg	685	\$ 425	\$ 174		Louisa	2065	\$ 161	\$ 70
Fairfax	737	\$ 1,360	\$ 690		Southside	2079	\$ 125	\$ -
Springfield	893	\$ 2,274	\$ 1,220		Piedmont	2080	\$ 91	\$ 20
Virginia Beach-Bayside	974	\$ 354	\$ -		Caroline	2112	\$ 64	\$ 20
Danville	1011	\$ 105	\$ -		Midlothian	2265	\$ 523	\$ 120
Bedford	1068	\$ 67	\$ -		Southwest Highlands	2330	\$ 120	\$ 20
Vienna-Oakton	1116	\$ 842	\$ 246		Falls Run	2343	\$ 146	\$ -
Loudon	1133	\$ 360	\$ 50		Shenandoah	2358	\$ 101	\$ 1,020
New River Valley	1134	\$ 252	\$ 25		Monticello	2361	\$ -	\$ -
South Of The James	1138	\$ 198	\$ 275		Joint Expeditionary Base	2362	\$ -	\$ -
Annandale	1159	\$ 632	\$ 560					

NARFE members and National Legislative Activists answered the call from the NARFE sponsored "Call Your Congressmen Drive" which reported a successful event recording "a good response" in November to the Protect America Heartbeat Alert. The alert statistics indicated that the VFC respondents on Friday totaled 84 calling in to their Congressmen and 146 calling in on Saturday. Additionally, NARFE recorded (42) forty-two, 1st time NARFE member / activists calling their Congressmen. Nationally, approximately two thousand six hundred twenty (2,620)

members called in to their Congressmen for this event. In my opinion, this statistic is an indication that more and more federal employees and NARFE members believe we can no longer wait for our Congressional Leadership to do the right thing on their own without providing them with our experience and guidance. Thanks to all members that participated and please pass on and assist other members to make the call in next events.

Jim Brewer – National Legislation Chair

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

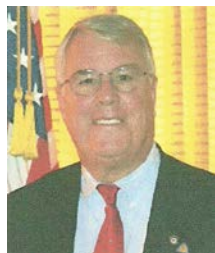
The VFC Organizational Handbook requires that the Nominating Committee nominate at least one candidate for each of the elected offices. The Committee, composed of representatives from all ten areas has presented the following slate of officers for the term 2012–2013 (*indicates incumbent):

President	Luther Santiful	Chapter 2358	Area VII
1st Vice President	Richard Giangerelli	Chapter 1241	Area X
2nd Vice President	Kathy Arpa	Chapter 1116	Area X
Secretary	William Schmidt*	Chapter 1241	Area X
Treasurer	Samuel Harris*	Chapter 1727	Area III

Following the Nominating Committee report to the Convention, there will be a call for additional nominations from the floor. If there are additional nominations, single nominating and seconding speeches limited to three minutes and two minutes, respectively, will be allowed for each candidate nominated. Each opposing candidate will be given an opportunity to speak to the convention for no longer than five minutes.

Maureen Nolet – Nominations Committee Chair

PUBLIC RELATIONS



From time to time I hear the following: “Why so much fuss about the NARFE License Plate Project? That’s not what NARFE is about! NARFE should be about protecting our benefits.” I agree but let me try to help everyone see how the License Plate Project can help NARFE be a stronger organization. First, the function of public relations is all about building awareness of NARFE’s name, mission and activities. Most active federal employees and retirees are not aware of NARFE. Furthermore, in Virginia there are over 300,000 active and retired federal employees BUT only about 20,000 are members of NARFE. **We need to do better** at reaching out to these people to make them aware of NARFE and inviting them to join. Second, there are already over 200 special interest license plates Virginia. These plates were created by other organizations and institutions to help them build awareness of their name brand. VFC NARFE should do the same! The more we do to build the NARFE name recognition and NARFE membership, the stronger NARFE will

be in protecting our earned benefits on Capitol Hill.

The NARFE Special License Plate is an excellent way to build the NARFE brand and spread awareness in Virginia. Pat Taylor, our current Area I VP, came up with an excellent design for a NARFE plate a few years ago when she was the VFC PR Chair. As shown below the plate has the NARFE seal, National Active and Retired Federal Employees spelled out at the bottom, and a flowing American flag in the background. What a patriotic way to build awareness of NARFE and to show your support for our flag, country and NARFE!



Please consider supporting this effort. We need YOU to make it a success. Go the VFC web site (www.VANARFE.org) and click on the NARFE Special License Plate link which will take you to a page with more detailed information about the project. Click on the VA application VSA-10 to bring up and application form to fill out. It only cost \$10 per year! **WE NEED YOU TO PARTICIPATE** to get to the required mandatory 450 applications before we can go forward with state legislation authorizing the NAFRE plate. If you have any questions about filling out the form please email me gastongianni@aol.com or call me 703-508-4339.

CURRENT PROJECT STATUS: As of January 20, 2012 we have 63 applications, an increase of 9 since the last Board meeting. I have asked the PR Chairs and Chapter Presidents to work toward getting 8 to 10 people in their chapters signed up so we get meet the required 450. I am pleased to announce that the Woodbridge Chapter 1270 in Area IX was the first chapter to reach and exceed the goal of 8-10. The Chapter has reserved a total of 14 plates! This proves it can be done. Area IX leads among the 10 Areas with 22. We still have a LONG way to go and need the help of EVERY chapter!

MATCHING FUNDS: We closed the year with 13 Matching Fund Projects for a total \$14,151.56. Ten of the projects were Chapter projects and three were VFC projects. NARFE Headquarters provided \$6,823.27, VFC provided \$5,188.31 and the Chapters provided \$2,139.98. Keep matching funds in mind as you plan your Chapter year projects. These funds are there to help with recruiting new members to

NARFE. So look for opportunities to represent NARFE and recruit new members in 2012. Using matching funds, the VFC purchased four ZAP Banners which can be used by the Chapters at recruiting events. Check with your VFC Area Vice President to get one of the banners.

I hope to see you at the upcoming 58th Annual VFC Convention in April. It looks like the convention team is putting together a great program. Come to the convention; learn more about NARFE, the VFC and NARFE-ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE. Stop by my table and sign up for a NARFE Special License Plate. It's easy, doesn't cost much, and it will help the VFC build NARFE in Virginia. Remember, ACCEPT the CHALLENGE and get a NARFE license plate.

Closing Quote: "Public Relations is the planned and sustained effort to establish and maintain goodwill and mutual understanding between an organization and its publics." Institute of Public Relations

Gaston Gianni – Public Relations Chair

SERVICE OFFICERS



YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR TAX RELIEF – Older adults and persons with disabilities may be eligible to receive real estate tax and car tax relief from Fairfax County. Qualified taxpayers also may be eligible for rent relief.

To qualify, the following requirements must be met:

- The applicant must be at least 65 years of age, or have a permanent and total disability.
 - Applicants who turn 65 or become permanently and totally disabled during the year of application also may qualify for tax relief on a prorated (a portion of the year) basis.
 - If the dwelling is jointly owned by an applicant and spouse, either the applicant or the spouse must be at least 65 years of age or older, or permanently and totally disabled.
- The gross income from all sources of the owners of the dwelling and any relatives of the owners who reside in the dwelling may not exceed \$72,000.

The following income limitations and percentage of relief apply:

- \$52,000 or less—100 percent
- \$52,001-\$62,000—50 percent
- \$62,001-\$72,000—25 percent

Up to \$6,500 may be subtracted from the total combined income calculation for each relative (other than the applicant's spouse) residing in the household. Also, up to \$7,500 of the income of an applicant who has permanent and total disabilities may be excluded. The applicant may have a net asset limit of \$340,000 (not including the value of the home, its furnishings, and up to one acre of land). Returning applicants must file between January 1 and April 1, 2012. Applications will continue to be accepted based on hardship and for first-time filers through December 31, 2012.

For more information including tax relief requirements for people with disabilities or to obtain tax relief applications, contact the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 223, Fairfax; call **703-222-8234** Monday—Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta and click on Tax Relief under the Real Estate heading.

Source: GOLDEN GAZETTE

HEALTH BENEFITS ELECTION FORM (SF) 2809 HAS BEEN UPDATED – OPM have updated the Health Benefits Election Form, Standard Form (SF) 2809 and posted it to their website at www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/sf2809.pdf. The new form is now consistent with the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and includes updated eligibility information for children. **NOTE: Please Begin To Use The New Form Immediately As The Previous Edition Is Not Usable.** The new SF 2809 requests additional information for both enrollees and their eligible family members. The additional information requested is:

- Medicare Claim Number for both the enrollee and dependents. Previously this number was not gathered.
- Email address for enrollee and dependents who do not live with the enrollee. Previously email addresses were not gathered.
- Preferred telephone number for enrollee and dependents who do not live with the enrollee. Previously only the daytime telephone number of the enrollee was gathered.

The new form has several additional changes:

- Other health insurance information is requested in a different way that we hope will reduce instances of an enrollee or family member receiving benefits under more than one FEHB enrollment.
- The new form is not multiple pages as the previous form was. After the form is completed, the employing office must generate 5 copies and distribute them according to the instructions on page 5 of the form.
- The paper SF 2809 is no longer available for purchase. The online edition of the revised form must be downloaded.

OPM electronic enrollment systems are currently being programmed to gather the new information and detailed information will be provided in a forthcoming Benefits Administration Letter.

*Source – OPM Benefits Information
John & Connie Bails, Co-Service Officers*

STATE LEGISLATION



The General Assembly meets annually, beginning on the second Wednesday in January, for 60 days in even-numbered years and for 30 days in odd numbered years, with an option to extend the annual session for a maximum of 30 days. There are 40 senators who serve a term of four years. There are 100 delegates who serve a term of 2 years.

This year the General Assembly meets for 60 days. As a result of the November 2011 election, there are 24 new members: 16 new House Members and 8 new Senate Members.

On January 10, Governor Bob McDonnell, Lt. Governor Bill Bolling, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, Speaker of the House William Howell, and Senate Republican Leader Tommy Norment, joined by Republican members of the House and Senate collectively laid out their 10 major priorities for the upcoming session. The agenda included initiatives to improve Virginia's transportation system, strengthen K-12 and higher education, reform state government and help businesses start and grow.

The 2012 Regular Session convened on Wednesday, January 11, at 12 noon by William J. Howell, Speaker of the House. Committee assignments were made along with the swearing in of four new members: Senators Bryce Reeves (District 17) and Bill Stanley (District 20), and Delegates Richard Morris (District 64) and Michael Watson (District 93). At the end of the day, 1143 House Bills and 546 Senate Bills were introduced. By the 20th of January, approximately 3000 bills had been introduced.

Crossover Day is scheduled for February 14. Bills introduced by the General Assembly members related to our 2012 State Legislative Plan are listed below:

- **Constitutional Amendment; Taking Or Damaging Of Private Property For Public Use (Second Reference)** – Summary As Introduced: Constitutional amendment (second resolution); taking or damaging of private property; public use. Revises the prohibition on the enactment by the General Assembly of laws whereby private property may be taken or damaged. An existing provision authorizing the General Assembly to define what constitutes a public use is removed. The proposed amendment provides that private property can be taken or damaged only for a public use, only with just compensation to the owner, and only so much taken as is necessary for the public use. Just compensation must equal or exceed the value of the property taken, lost profits and lost access, and damages to the residue caused by the taking. A public service company, public service corporation, or railroad exercises the power of eminent domain for public use when such exercise is for the authorized provision of utility, common carrier, or railroad services. In all other cases, a taking or damaging of private property is not for public use if the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development, except for the elimination of a public nuisance existing on the property. The condemnor bears the burden of proving that the use is public, without a presumption that it is. HJ 3 (Bell), SJ 3 (Obenshain)
- **Financial Exploitation Of Elderly Or Vulnerable Adults; Penalty** – Summary As Introduced: Provides that it is a Class 5 felony to knowingly, by deception, intimidation, undue influence, coercion, harassment, duress, or misrepresentation, use, obtain, convert, or take control of an elderly or vulnerable adult's property or financial resources with the intent to temporarily or permanently deprive the adult of the use, benefit, or possession of the property or financial resources. If the violation is by a caregiver or person with a fiduciary relationship it is a Class 3 felony. The bill also allows forfeiture of personal property used in connection with the crime. HB 409 (Watts), 690 (Plum), 987 (Loupassi), SB 222 (Herring),
- **Absentee Voting; Persons Age 65 And Older On Day Of An Election Are Entitled To Vote Absentee** – Summary As Introduced: Elections; absentee voting. Provides that persons age 65 and older on the day of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested are entitled to vote absentee. HB 309 (Crockett-Stark), HB 669 (Surovell), SB 187 (J. Miller)
- **Continuing Care Facilities; Residents Meetings** – Summary As Introduced: Continuing care facilities; residents meetings. Requires that the issues discussed at meetings between the governing body of a continuing care facility and the residents of the facility or their representatives include income, expenditures, and financial matters as they apply to the facility and proposed changes in policies, programs, facilities, and services. Currently, these issues may be, but are not required to be, discussed at such meetings. HB 178 (O'Bannon)
- **Real Property Tax; Exemption For Elderly And Disabled** – Summary As Introduced: Removes the requirement that "income" be restricted to that which is taxable under federal income tax laws, for purposes of a locality that elects to have income caps in determining eligibility of the elderly and disabled for tax relief. HB 1046 (Keam)
- **Handicapped Parking; Allows Localities By Ordinance To Grant Free Parking** – Summary As Introduced: Handicapped parking. Allows localities by ordinance to grant four hours free parking to vehicles exhibiting disabled parking indicia in some places while not granting such free parking in other places. HB 289 (Sherwood), SB 454 (Vogel)

General Assembly 2013 – The annual VFC State Legislation (SL) Committee meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn–Koger Center on June 13 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. At that meeting the State Legislation Committee of the VFC which is composed of the SL Chair, two SL representatives, ten Area Vice Presidents, Area SL coordinators along with the VFC President, two VFC Vice Presidents and the VFC Immediate Past President will prepare a draft plan for the 2013 Legislative Session. Every Chapter is encouraged to consider issues that the VFC should include in our state legislative program for 2013.

We need to make a significant effort to increase the funds in the VFC PAC. Every chapter is encouraged to make efforts to find donors for the PAC fund. The application for making a donation is on the next page and also found on the "VFC State Political Account Donation Form 2011" link under the "State Legislation" link on www.vanarfe.org

Gene Brown, State Legislation Chair

VFC STATE POLITICAL ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTION

AREA _____ CHAPTER _____ DATE _____

Amount: \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Retired Yes/No _____

If working show employer (Required by State Board of Elections)

Employer Name _____

Employer Address _____

Make check payable to:

VFC STATE POLITICAL ACCOUNT and mail to

James Bradley
VFC State Legislative Representative
4150 Round Hill Drive
Chesterfield, Virginia 23229

2012 VFC CONVENTION



This will be the 58th Annual VFC Convention. Since the October, 2011 VFC Board of Directors meeting, preparations have continued for the 2012 VFC Convention to be held April 22-25, 2012. The preparations continued with the second 2012 VFC Convention Committee meeting in Harrisonburg on January 20th. All sub-committees were represented.



The Convention will be hosted by the six chapters of Area VII (Northwest Virginia) with the convention theme: "NARFE – Accepting The Challenge." The convention will be held in Midlothian, Virginia at the Holiday Inn Koger Convention Center as it was for the 57th Annual

Convention. The Convention will be held over 4 days, with the major Business Sessions being held during the second and third days. In addition to conducting VFC business, the Convention will present a variety of speakers who will address topics that are of direct relevance to not only the registrants but all 18,000+ VFC members. There also will be training sessions for chapter officers and a host of interactive side-sessions that are intended to further the knowledge of VFC committee members. In addition, the convention hosts social activities that culminate in a festive formal banquet on the Convention's last night.

As of January, 2012 the main achievements of the Convention Committee are listed here:

- 100% of sub-committee chairs are filled and committee duties have been detailed
- Bulletin #1 with attachments and Bulletin #2 have been posted on the VFC website
- Banquet menu selected
- Registration dates and fees were finalized
- Printer and Program Book Coordinator were designated
- VFC Convention contract was signed and reviewed
- Convention rooms were designated
- Advertising major areas of interest were identified (ex. Tourism)
- Major cut off dates were finalized
- Calls for speakers were made, and partially finalized
- Thrusts for Exhibitors and Ads were begun
- Convention Budget has been finalized
- Banquet entertainment has been selected
- Preparations to finalize the Agenda have continued
- Hospitality Room Sponsors have been selected

Luther Santiful – 2012 VFC Convention Coordinator
Steve Dansker – 2012 VFC Convention Chair

AREA I



I'm happy to say that all four chapters in Area I are doing great right now. First and perhaps foremost, all chapter offices were filled prior to installation ceremonies in December.

VFC President Bill Shackelford and I attended Northern Neck's holiday luncheon, and Bill installed new President B. J. Thomas (aka Beverly J.). I attended Williamsburg's holiday dinner and installed Mary Swain as their new President. VFC 1st VP Luther Santiful, accompanied by Wilhelmina, made the trip to Newport News to attend Peninsula's holiday "laugh fest" (complete with Santa and his 8 reindeer dressed in appropriate "reindeer" attire) and installed their officers. I missed Middle Peninsula's luncheon due to illness, but they stated they were all "reruns" anyway so they were already prepared to get moving in 2012. I will say one more time – I am proud to serve as VP for Area I and appreciate the efforts from the chapters' members to encourage and support me as I complete my second year in the position.

Letters, phone calls, and e-mails continue to be sent to our congressional leaders. National Legislation Chair Jim Brewer has worked diligently to keep us informed of the status of various bills, encouraged members to keep in touch with representatives – and the members in Area I have repeatedly answered his calls for action. Congressional Wittman serves the largest number of members in Area I, and our 1st District CDLs Ray Whipple and Reginald Sykes have been busy working with the Congressman's office. On Friday, January 13th, Ray, Reginald, and I met with Congressman Wittman and his District Director Joe Schmacher in Yorktown. We spent an hour discussing issues and came away confident that he listened and will continue to support NARFE on critical issues. As a result of our meeting, we will be setting up an "Advisory Group" comprised of both active and retired NARFE members who will be contacted via conference calls to get input on various issues before the Congressman goes into sessions to vote. We are pleased that this plan, which was initially discussed during the visit to the Capitol following the Legislative Conference in March, is now coming to fruition. Joe Schumacher will be working with us on establishing this group and implementing the calling system in the coming weeks.

As usual chapters are struggling with membership recruitment and retention, but at least some new members were recruited during the many health fairs held on the Peninsula during the past few months. Chapter 682's Membership Chair Marie Collins recruited six new members while working Fort Eustis' health fair in December and two members were recruited at NASA/Langley's event. Marie has agreed to hold a session with members of Chapter 682 to show them how she achieves this level of success! If only we could bottle Marie's enthusiasm and expertise when it comes to recruiting!

During the first quarter of 2012 efforts are being made to get members in Area I to sign up to attend the VFC training session to be held in Williamsburg in February and to plan to attend the State Convention in April. Chapters are purchasing ad space in the Convention program book, compiling and submitting the names of members to be listed in the memorial booklet, and deciding who will be serving as voting delegates. Indications are that Area I will increase their participation this year at the State Convention, and several members have already started making plans to attend the National Convention in Reno.

As the Area I VP, I have worked with Region X VP Bill Martin and VFC President Bill Shackelford to get National Secretary Elaine Hughes to come to Williamsburg to make a presentation on her newly formulated plans for membership. I asked Betty Warren (Area II VP), Jack McMurchy (Area III VP), and Bobby Whittington (Area IV VP) to work with me on this project. With lots of assistance, this plan has come together, and on January 30th Elaine will be speaking to 40-50 members from numerous chapters about her new plans. A primary goal of mine is communication - to keep chapter leadership and members in the Southeastern part of the state well informed. And I must add, this membership presentation is happening as the result of lots of effort on the part of many people in the VFC and our Region X VP Bill Martin. Thanks to all who have helped make this happen early in 2012.

There's strength in numbers whether it's reminding our representatives that we are watching them and VOTING or whether it's working together to strength our chapters. So Area I is ready to increase their membership numbers and to move on to bigger goals in 2012!!!

Patricia "Pat" Taylor- Area I Vice President

AREA II



At the close of each year, a considerable amount of time is set aside to recount notable individuals who made a significant contribution or otherwise held our attention, on the national stage. We, too, have our own notable individuals. They are our chapter members who have served on the NARFE stage they occupied during the past year. There are seven chapters in Area II. Five of the seven chapters were successful in electing officers to serve in year 2012. Eastern Shore Chapter 1175 has not elected officers for 2012. The newest chapter, Joint Expeditionary Base Chapter 2362 is in transition. This chapter has undergone a transfer of functions and contracting out the remainder of the federal civilian workforce. There are no members left in this chapter. The plan now is to recruit officers and move the chapter to Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Several evening meetings are planned to recruit from this population to see what can done to turn this around. Contact persons and ads are already in place to promote this event. Chapter Officers were sworn in at the Christmas

Luncheon as a result of the November elections.

Members from Seaside 1827, Virginia Beach 974, Metro 5, and Tidewater 66 chapters participated in Health Fairs at nine federal agencies and military installations. NARFE brochures and applications were distributed to active federal employees at these agencies.

Pending Events: Seaside Chapter 1827 and Virginia Beach Chapter 974 are planning a Spaghetti Luncheon and Silent Auction to support Alzheimer's Research for their chapter. They usually have a speaker from the Southeastern Alzheimer's Association and this event is well attended.

Membership and Recruitment is a constant balancing act. Two of the chapters are trying something new. They are mailing letters, renewal notice form and a dues withholding application to lapsed or dropped members. Chapters are advertising the monthly meetings in the

local newspapers. This is an excellent tool. I get calls from time to time from retirees interested in the meeting subject or information about NARFE. Three chapters use the Robo-caller to contact their members. However, we have found that personal calling is the preferred method plus you get an immediate response.

Legislative: A majority of the chapters were represented at the November meeting with Vince Agnelli, CDL and Congressman Rigell for the Second congressional District.

Betty L Warren - Area II Vice President

AREA III



In November and December chapter elections were held in all seven chapters of Area III. Since Colonial Heights officers serve a 2-year term, the only election necessary was to replace Secretary Arlene Barkley, who resigned after a year for family reasons. Gwynn Stastny was elected to the position. Additionally President, Mary Lykins, reported that Vice President Carolyn Wilson had resigned and also vacated the Membership and Public Relations chairs. Mary will begin work finding replacements for Chapter 1472. Current officers in Petersburg were reelected except for the Secretary, Kit Ericson who did not run and was replaced by Marjorie Dixon. All current officers of South of the James were reelected, however President Joyce Thomas told chapter members that 2012 would be her last year. All current officers of Imperial Plaza were reelected. In Chapter 1727 (Tuckahoe), all current officers were reelected except Vice President Margaret Seim, who stepped down. Former Chapter President Carroll Graham was elected to the position. Richmond elected three new officers: President Judith Brantner, Vice President Yvette Gilmore and Treasurer Louise Whitehead. Secretary Carol Garlick was reelected. President Lynn Osborne, 1st Vice President Tony Michalek and Secretary Catherine Dorsett were reelected in Midlothian. Treasurer Noel Borasky reached her term limit and was replaced by the former 2nd Vice President Ann Simkins. Brenda Cordle was elected as the new 2nd Vice President.

In December and January, I visited all chapters and enjoyed Christmas luncheons. During these visits I installed officers in Tuckahoe, Richmond, Imperial Plaza, Colonial Heights, and South of the James. Since I also serve as Chapter President VFC Treasurer Sam Harris installed the officers in Petersburg. Former Area III Vice President Bob Boyd installed the Midlothian chapter officers, since I had a scheduling conflict. I was able to attend the Midlothian January meeting and especially enjoyed their speaker, Tony Booth from a local FM station who played 60s - 80s popular music and told interesting stories of his experiences. I also presided over the Area Council of Chapters meeting in January and attended the VFC Board Meeting. On January 30th, nine members from four chapters in Area III joined 41 members from Areas 1, 2 and 4 at a presentation by National Secretary Elaine Hughes in Williamsburg on membership. Area I Vice President Pat Taylor did a great job of organizing the event along with Bill Shackelford, VFC president and Bill Martin, Regional X Vice President.

Previously, I reported the Area III newsletter had not been published since last summer due to financial problems of one chapter. At the Area council meeting in January, five chapters decided to continue the newsletter on a quarterly basis with Larry Garlick from Chapter 60 (Richmond) serving as editor. Midlothian publishes their own newsletter, and Richmond will not participate until their finances improve.

In November, Midlothian accomplished a first when President Lynn Osborne, 1st Vice President Tony Michalek and a member of Louisa Chapter 2065 held a meeting in the Glen Allen office of 7th District Congressman Eric Cantor. It was the first time the Congressman had met with NARFE members. It is hoped that this is good beginning and leads to the type of relationship we already enjoy with our other Congressmen and Senators. Legislative activists in all chapters continue to contact our Congressmen and Senators by e-mail, letter, and telephone in an effort to gain support towards protecting our entitlements.

Losses in membership continue to outweigh the gains, but December numbers were encouraging. We have continued retention efforts and provided NARFE materials and information at health fairs and TRIAD events. Petersburg Chapter has held "Lunch and Learn" meetings at the Fort Lee EEO Office, but no new members were recruited. Since increasing workload and retirements has cut attendance to 1 or 2, it was decided to stop the meetings.

Varied speakers and other program activities continue in all chapters. I spoke to South of the James on latest actions of the "Protect America's Heartbeat" Campaign and to Petersburg on the 1967 anti-Vietnam war march on the Pentagon. I was surprised at the interest. Additionally, with a successful bake sale in November and a raffle last spring, Midlothian led the area with the largest amount of money raised for Alzheimer's Research and Petersburg was ranked second with a successful auction and large individual contributions. Colonial Heights and Tuckahoe also did well. Area III chapters have contributed the second largest amount in the Federation to the State Legislative PAC committee. All our chapters are preparing for officer training and the VFC convention.

Thanks to all Chapter Presidents and members and the six coordinators for their great support during my tenure. I hope you give my successor the same cooperation and help.

Jack W. McMurchy - Area III Vice President

AREA IV REPORT



Area IV consists of five chapters – Chapter 63 (Portsmouth); Chapter 1293 (Churchland); Chapter 1682 (Chesapeake); Chapter 1692 (Brentwood); and, Chapter 1743 (Suffolk).

In November 2011, Area IV participated in two Health Fairs on government installations – the Portsmouth Naval Hospital & Medical Facility and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (located in Portsmouth). Participating NARFE members handed out over 500 gift bags containing a NARFE magazine, brochures, pamphlets and membership applications; along with a NARFE 'trinket' of some type (ballpoint pen, measuring tape, envelope opener, etc.). Our members spoke with well over 500 federal employees (mostly active) regarding NARFE and its involvement in protecting the pay, retirement annuities and benefits of federal workers and retirees. Surprisingly, over 90% of those visiting our table had little or no knowledge of NARFE and its mission.

During December 2011 and January 2012, the Area IV Vice President personally visited with four of the five area chapters; meeting and talking with the chapter's members and installing the board members of each chapter. (The fifth chapter could not be visited because two chapters meet on the same day each month. Therefore, the fifth chapter will be visited on the second Tuesday in February.)

Guest speakers were in attendance at almost every chapter's meetings during the quarter. These speakers provided a wide variety – such as politicians, healthcare agents, Alzheimer's Foundation staff, senior-living spokespersons, singers, choirs and even a spokesman for the Virginia Opera Company, who visited two chapters.

In January, the Area IV VP attended the VFC Quarterly Conference in Richmond and presented the area's report concerning significant events, ongoing actions and future objectives and goals. Additionally, the Area IV VP attended a luncheon meeting in Williamsburg in January, hosted by the Area I Vice President; with a very special guest speaker – Ms. Elaine Hughes, HQ NARFE Secretary. Ms. Hughes provided a briefing regarding NARFE actions pertaining to membership and retention including goals, problem areas and actions. Fifty one members from Areas I, II, III and IV (along with a couple of VFC escorts with Ms. Hughes) attended the lunch and presentation. Area IV had nine attendees representing three of our chapters.

The Area IV VP is hosting a breakfast for the presidents of the five area's chapters in early February to facilitate 'networking' within the area, discussions of common problems, ongoing actions to correct problems and to build better communications and mutual support within the area.

Area IV continues to support preparations for the VFC Convention in Richmond, in April. Chapters have been involved in selling vendor, business and chapter advertisements for the convention program/handbook. Additionally, chapter presidents reviewed the NARFE/VFC listing of deceased members (for 2011) provided by the VFC President and Chaplain. A number of additions and corrections have been provided. Attendance by Area IV members is expected to very good this year.

Mr. Jim Brewer tendered his resignation as the VFC National Legislation Chair some months ago. As of January 30, 2012, Churchland Chapter member, Thomas Hall, volunteered to replace Jim; and was appointed to that position by VFC President Bill Shackelford. Tom currently serves as the Churchland Chapter's Vice President and Senatorial Legislative Representative.

Our next special VFC event will be the VFC Training Sessions, at Williamsburg, on February 23, 2012. Members from all Area IV have been strongly urged to participate in these training classes which pertain to the duties and responsibilities of Chapter Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Service Officers. Multiple attendees from all five Area IV chapters are expected to take advantage of these welcome (and needed) training sessions.

Bobby L. Whittington, Area IV Vice President



AREA V

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

Winter 2012 - - No Article Submitted From Area V.

Jessie Barksdale - Area V Vice President

AREA VI



It's mid-winter in the Great Southwest and winter has not yet arrived. All four Chapters are operating on all cylinders. All have a full slate of officers and required committee chairs. However, some individuals who hold important offices are experiencing ill health or are drawn to warmer climates for a few weeks thereby making it difficult to perform their duties. Other officers are trying to fill these roles. Membership Chairs are having a hard time keeping up with the loss of members through death and non-renewals. Even with special efforts to contact former members and other efforts to reach out to active Federal Workers, we are in the "red". Many members are involved in "Protect America's Heartbeat" program and NARFE's efforts to protect our benefits.

Two of three Chapters have found good meeting places for the current year, while a third is still negotiating with their previous site. Finding places to hold meetings without having to pay space rent is getting harder. For years the Chapters in this area have been able to meet when a meal is taken as part of the meeting. Businesses are now wanting a guaranteed number of attendees which Chapters have difficulty meeting.

Leaders in the Wytheville and Abingdon Chapters are having a hard time getting their officers and committee chairs to participate in the VFC sponsored training and the upcoming Federation Convention. All Chapters will sponsor ads in the 2012 Convention program and most will have some officers/committee chairs at the training in our region. Only two Chapters, so far are planning to send delegates to the Convention. As Area Vice President, I have offered overnight housing in my home in Blacksburg to entice participants in the far west to participate.

The Area Vice President continues to encourage participation in donations to State and Federal NARFE PACs. Members are contacting U.S. Congressman and Senators and Legislative Chairs have distributed the 2012 State Legislative Plan to all members of the Virginia General Assembly in our Area.

Finally, I must report that I wish to step down from my position as the Area Vice President and I am actively recruiting a replacement. Two members have shown some interest. I have provided those interested with job descriptions and other materials to help them understand the job.

Del Dyer - Area VI Vice President



AREA VII

Chapters in Area VII include Charlottesville–135, Harrisonburg–164, Page Valley–1793, Shenandoah County–2358, Staunton-Waynesboro-Augusta –178 and Winchester–180.

1. As required all six chapters conducted their annual elections and all important chapter offices are filled with very qualified individuals
 2. All six chapters held Holiday celebrations in December
 3. Through an assortment of activities, all six chapters continue to make donations to the Alzheimer's Research effort
4. I presented Distinguished Member Awards to:
 - Shenandoah County (2358) - Luther Santiful
 - Charlottesville/Albemarle County (135) - Bettie Mohler
 - Staunton/Augusta County/Waynesboro (178) - Art Hendrickson
 - Page Valley (1793) - Jim Blubaugh
 - Harrisonburg (164) - George Rose
 5. Speakers/Performers
 - Charlottesville (135) - (1) Vanessa Lacey (from Blue Cross Blue Shield) speaking about health care benefits, (2) Chris Bonheim (nutritionist at the Atlantic Coast Health Club) speaking about health and nutrition, (3) Bob Gibson (from the Sorensen Institute in Charlottesville) speaking about local and national political issues
 - Shenandoah County (2358) – (1) Sharon DeBoever from the Central and Western Virginia Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association (speaking on "Dementia Basics") , (2) Gaston Gianni- VFC PR Chair
 - Staunton (178) -virtuoso performance by Jen LaRue, who sang Christmas carols while playing both the flute and piano
 - Winchester (180) – (1) Hilltop Singers from Handley High School, (2) Adult Care Center Music Therapist Tara Lescalleet, (3) Dixie Rhythm Band performed
 - Page Valley (1793) – (1) Susan Friedman, President/CEO, Alzheimer's Association of Western and Central Virginia, (2) Christmas slides & music program by Chapter Member Paul Ackerman, (3) Vanessa Lacey of Federal Blue Cross/Blue Shield, (4) VFC co-Service Officers John and Connie Bails
 - Harrisonburg (164) – (1) Luther Santiful, VFC 1st VP reported on the VFC convention plans which Area 7 will sponsor, (2) pianist Browning Boggs, a chapter member and a guest soloist, Jamie Inouye, 14, accompanied by her father, Bryce Inouye
 6. Special Events
 - Chapter 180 - NARFE booth at the Festival Of Leaves in Front Royal
 - Chapter 180 sponsored the "Kids Voting" precinct at Greenwood Mill Elementary School as a part of the Kids Voting of Northern Shenandoah Valley
 - Chapter 180 - October National Meeting Month, with focus on recruiting
 7. Chapter 1793 – Chapter letter to State Senator Mark Obenshain and Delegate Todd Gilbert forwarding a list of NARFE/VFC State Legislation Priorities for 2012 asking for their support.
 8. All chapters within Area VII continue the preparations for the VFC Convention in Richmond, in April.

Steve Dansker - Area VII Vice President

AREA VIII



All is well in Area VIII as the seven chapters begin their work in support of NARFE in 2012. 2011 ended with some great holiday celebrations. I was fortunate to celebrate with six of the seven chapters, only missing one, Warrenton-Fauquier Chapter 1549 as my presence was required at my home chapter, Colonial Beach 595, at the same time. I was happy to install officers at Falls Run Chapter 2343, Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885, and Fredericksburg Chapter 90. Our VFC President, Bill Shackelford helped with several other installations in Area VIII. Thanks, Bill. Last year I missed the holiday celebration at Louisa Chapter 2065 due to bad weather, snow and ice. This year at Tavern On the Rail, I enjoyed the party at Chapter 2065 and I was glad to be there for many reasons but most of all, because it was the last time the Chapter celebrated with one of their most dedicated members, Gail Martin.

With installations happening at all the chapters, Area VIII has some new leadership and has also welcomed back some returning leadership. Two of the seven chapters elected and installed new presidents. Caroline Chapter 2112 elected Annette McDonald (former Vice President) to be the new president and Judi Moore, immediate past president agreed to serve as Vice President. Chapter 2112 is a small chapter but it actually has over one fifth of its total membership at every meeting. Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885 had a big challenge: replace the entire executive board. But guess what? They did it! Congratulations to the new Board of 1885 with Shirley Cornwell at the helm and Nick Duy, Immediate Past President, assisting her as Vice President. Welcome back to the following returning Presidents: Chapter 1549 (Fauquier/Warrenton) Barbara Scott, Chapter 2065 (Louisa) Ray Siewert, and Chapter 2343, Julia Alessio, and Chapter 90 (Fredericksburg), Maureen Nolet. I also was re-elected president of my home chapter, Colonial Beach 595.

The following was received by William Shackelford, President, Virginia Federation of Chapters. The writer raises some very interesting points that everyone should consider.

TRIBUTES TO FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANTS

There are no monuments or tributes to Federal Civil Servants as a whole. There are no unknown Civil Service Employee Memorials. There are no National Holidays honoring Civil Servants. We celebrate Veterans Day and Memorial Day for military personnel and Labor day for ALL workers. But no specific day or monument for federal civil servants, even though there are more active Federal employees working than active military personnel, and there may be more living Civil Servant retirees alive than military retirees. Many non-uniformed service personnel die on duty, and many not in any designated combat zone. However, when a uniformed military person dies, whether in combat or not, they are granted full honors. It's rare that a civilian federal employee gets any type of recognition, and then that person has to be at an SES level or above. In other words, publicly the Nation does not recognize the worth or the sacrifices that these patriots have endured. This is a tragedy, and ought to be rectified. The world has changed since the advent of terrorists and drug cartels. Nearly every day, if you read the police reports, there is an item that states that either one or more of our federal civil servants is killed or maimed. And that's just not Border Patrol folks. Need I cite Oklahoma City, Twin Towers, African Embassies and others too numerous to mention here that call into focus this fact. Then there are the unsung heroes of our Department of Defense civilians who are constantly on missions that sometimes result in loss of life. Some are necessarily held secret, but many are not.

Other actions similar to those above involve literally tens of thousands of Federal every day. If truth be known, more Federal civilians are at risk daily than uniformed personnel throughout the world and in the USA. But none of this is reported or if so, only when some big event occurs. Let me begin first by stating that on any given day, over a million Civil Servants are at their posts of duty carrying out the responsibilities of keeping this country running. There are over 100 different individual employment codes that run the gamut from the lowest General Schedule (GS) or Wage-Grade (WG) employee up to Senior Executive Service management. All of these people perform vital jobs that seem to be under the radar screen.

They work their shifts, they save lives, they pay benefits. In effect, they do every job under the sun without a single complaint. And they do these jobs without the outward praise given to our country's uniformed military honorees.

It is time this inequity should cease. It is time that Civil Servants should be recognized for what they are - - - a vital to the existence of the country. They need to be given honors comparable to those that our fighting forces receive.

Much has been written and spoken of the sacrifices that our uniformed military members suffer both in terms of family separations, danger in battle, and private careers foregone. Many civilian servants do and have done the same. Many of them have died in battles, served overseas without family, and likewise are not involved in commercial enterprises as are many civilian contractors. Except in rare instances, such as like the Stars on the Wall at CIA Headquarters or the photo galleries in FBI Headquarters and Field Offices, when these folks when die they get no honors. Another exception is politicians (who are also Federal Civilian Servants) who receive all of the attention of the nation upon their cessation from Government work. These folks are treated with everything the nation can muster. But the average civil servant receives no outward public acknowledgement.

Recently, a small successful attempt at recognition was achieved with the passing of legislation that a U.S. Flag will given to the next of kin of those fallen civil servants, who die during the performance of their official duties at their funeral. There needs to be more of this type of official recognition. At some government agencies, a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol is given to the retiree, along with presidential certificates as an expression of appreciation for dedicated service. These are all private accolades, however. But, there needs to be public recognition on a grand scale to demonstrate our nation's thanks for jobs well done and for the ultimate sacrifices given.

While the military uniform service members are part of two Departments (Defense and DHS), civilian personnel are members of ALL Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches of the Federal Government. It is a given fact that our reach extends further than those in uniform. It is for these reasons that I feel that it's time that we civil servants get recognized for our sacrifices that my fellow military folks are receiving. But pointedly, in no way do I cast any less respect for my military brethren. The recent Act to give flags to those civil servants that gave the supreme sacrifice is a nice start, but only a start.

I now leave it to our President and the Congress to take whatever steps are necessary to see to it that the millions of unsung heroes should be given the same type of tribute that they themselves receive; a recognition long overdue to those that have unfairly suffered the unfair criticism of the an ungrateful public far too long. **IT IS TIME!!!!**

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

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E-mail at web form: warner.senate.gov , then click on "E-mail Senator Warner."			
Honorable Jim Webb United States Senate (Plus offices in Arlington, Norton, & Danville)	248 Russell S.O.B. Ph. 202-224-4024 Fax 202-228-6363	507 E. Franklin Street Richmond, VA 23219 Ph. 804-771-2221 Fax 804-771-8313	222 Central Park Avenue Suite 120 Virginia Beach, VA 23462 Ph. 757-518-1674 Fax 757-518-1679
E-mail at web form: webb.senate.gov , then click on "Contact Senator Webb on line"			
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VFC National Legislation Chair – Jim Brewer

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(NOTE: Continued on Page 15)

(Continued) Contact Information – Virginia Members of Congress – As of January 1, 2011

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