



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Virginia Federation of Chapters Newsletter

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FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



December was a very busy month with Chapter elections, installation of officers, and holiday parties. It is good to see so many new people

stepping up to be officers and keeping most of our Chapters active. However, this is not the case for all Virginia Federation (VFC) Chapters. As Dick Giangerelli had to do when he was VFC President, I, unfortunately, have also had to close several Chapters throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VFC currently has 49 active Chapters and that number may decrease further. Several members from the closed Chapters have been reassigned to another Chapter near them. Please contact them and assist them in making their transition comfortable and pleasant.

Every organization needs members willing and able to step forward into management positions. And every member who steps forward needs to

determine how long they can continue to effectively serve in those management positions, based upon their health, and their family and other personal commitments. The VFC Board, like the VFC Chapters, is not immune to this problem. In fact, in December 2017, Betty Warren had to resign as the VFC Secretary because of increasing family responsibilities. I then appointed Dick Giangerelli to serve as the VFC Secretary for the remainder of Betty's term. This is an issue that VFC Chapters will also need to periodically address.

Many of our Chapters will be celebrating milestone years in 2017, including Arlington Chapter 0007 – the seventh Chapter formed in what is now known as NARFE – which was chartered 70 years ago, on November 25, 1947.

On the following pages, a range of things that are happening in Virginia will be presented. Dick Giangerelli's secretary report from the January 2017 VFC Board meeting summarizes the many items discussed, including the need for Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) and Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLLs) for the 115th Congressional Session, the potential for an electronic meeting of the VFC Board in the future, and the upcoming NARFE Region X Conference (which will be held in West Virginia in October 2017). See Dick's report for more details.

NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters - Newsletter

At the end of December 2016, NARFE Headquarters reported that there were 16,197 NARFE members in the VFC, which included both Chapter voting and non-voting members and 4,201 NARFE National Division members. The number of NARFE National Division members continues to increase as Chapter members decide not to continue their association with Chapters and as Chapters close. However, Chapter members remain an important part of NARFE and the VFC. In the future, the VFC Board will determine how the interests of Chapter members and National Division members residing in Virginia can best be served and addressed by the VFC.

Congressional advocacy is a fundamental aspect of the NARFE mission. To that end, the VFC is leading the way. For the 115th Congressional Session, 10 of the 11 Congressional District Liaison (CDL) positions are filled and the 2

Senatorial Legislative Liaison (SLL) positions are filled. There is a list of the members serving in these positions at the end of this report. Please consider volunteering or nominating a VFC member to fill the one currently vacant CDL position. We look forward to having the CDLs and SLLs participate in the NARFE National Legislative Training Conference in March 2017 and meet with more than 70 VFC members who will also be attending, joining the more than 230 NARFE members from around the country who will also be attending. What a wonderful opportunity for networking and cross-Federation discussions!

In a few short weeks, approximately 200 VFC members will converge at the 63rd VFC Convention, from April 2nd thru April 5th, at the Double Tree by Hilton in Williamsburg, Virginia. I hope to see you there!

Kathy Arpa, VFC President

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I mentioned in my fall VFC Notes, one of the primary jobs of the 1st Vice President is to fill in for the President when needed. In addition, a major job is to serve as VFC Convention Coordinator. Consequently, so I've spent much of the month of October working on 2017 VFC Convention business: composing Bulletin #1, updating all the convention forms, meeting with the printer, etc. Everything was ready at the beginning of November with the help of Stan Palen (the VFC Webmaster), Mary Heck (the 2016 Program Book Chair), and Creative Colors of Fredericksburg. All updated convention information is on the VFC website (at www.vanarfe.org). Please consult the website for the latest and greatest!

In November, I was quite busy with my home chapter's (Colonial Beach 595) annual fund raiser for Alzheimer's. This year we held a Harvest Supper with chili, soup, cornbread and dessert, door prizes, a silent auction, and a DJ. By the way, we did raise \$1,300. On the morning of our fund raiser, I went up to Woodbridge to add support to our NARFE members who were manning a booth at Congressman Rob Wittman's 2nd annual Health Fair. Of course, the Congressman went around to speak with everyone; and while I was chatting with him, he said to me: "Leslie, do you have anything to do with the Harvest Supper tonight in Colonial Beach?" I replied: "Yes, I am actually in charge of it." Then he said: "Good, I am planning on stopping by tonight." You can imagine the impact of that! Our 50 plus attendees at the

Alzheimer's event were thrilled at the opportunity to see their 1st District Congressman up close and personal. It really contributed to the success of our chapter event. Thank you, Congressman Wittman.

In December, I was busy with the usual round of holiday events and installations. I installed officers at Fredericksburg Chapter 90 with Moe Nolet, the President, and Louisa Chapter 2065 with Bill Martin, the President. I attended Peninsula Chapter 682's lovely holiday luncheon. Even though the traffic in the rain made me late, I did have a chance to discuss some important convention details with VFC 2nd Vice President, Pat Taylor.

So, one more time . . . just in case you hadn't heard . . . the 2017 VFC Convention will be held April 2-5, 2017 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Williamsburg. Early registration deadline is February 1, 2017. Please send in your registration, your chapter ad, your supporter contribution, and see if you can sell an ad or two!!

Leslie Ravenell, VFC 1st VP & 2016 VFC Convention Coordinator

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Since the October Board meeting, I have been working on the 2017 VFC Convention Committee, attending several chapter events, and working on state and national campaigns/events. And, of course, enjoying time with family, friends, and neighbors during Thanksgiving and Christmas!

In October, I attended a forum in Newport News for two candidates running for the 3rd Congressional District. In November, I worked the polls on Election Day, November 8th. I also worked a health fair at NASA Langley for my own Chapter 682. I had the pleasure of sharing in the reception and dinner held by the children of Region X VP Bill Shackelford and Region X/VFC Alzheimer Chair Donna Shackelford in recognition of their 40th wedding anniversary!

In December, I was invited to attend the swearing in of newly elected 93rd District Delegate Mike Mullin at the State Capitol. I extended invitations to President Kathy Arpa, 1st VP Leslie Ravenell, and Region X VP Bill Shackelford to attend my own Chapter 682 holiday luncheon. Bill and Donna Shackelford and Leslie and Rich Ravenell attended; but, unfortunately, Kathy had a previous commitment. Bill spoke to the members with an update on NEB meetings, and then installed the Chapter officers assisted by VFC Area I VP Jeanne Garrison.

On December 13th, I attended the holiday dinner of Williamsburg Chapter 685, where I had the honor of installing their officers, who obviously bring renewed energy and great interest to the Chapter. The members are excited about serving as co-hosts for the April convention under the guidance of their own Jeanne Garrison, who is Area I VP.

In January, I have received an invitation to attend a Town Meeting held on January 5th in Newport News - the event featured newly elected 1st District State Senator Monty Mason and newly elected 93rd District Delegate Mike Mullin to "share thoughts and suggestions on upcoming state legislation". Since VFC Legislation Chair Maggie Keator had arranged for VFC members to attend and be recognized at a session of the General Assembly in February, this was a great opportunity to present materials to these two legislators prior to February - and set up appointments to meet with them and/or their staffs soon.

I have confirmed the Strolling Silver Strings from the Norfolk Public Schools to provide entertainment at the VFC Convention banquet, and I hope to have confirmation on entertainment for the reception and for after dinner music. Joyce Rosser, a member of Chapter 682, is assisting with this task. I also prepared a letter for the VFC President's signature inviting 3rd District Congressman Bobby Scott to be the speaker at the opening session of the Convention. I followed up with Congressman Scott's scheduler in January and, with guidance from his scheduler and/or staff, will also coordinate with local media for coverage of his speech.

With the continuing absence of National Legislation (NL) Program Chair Steve Ledford due to illness, I updated the VFC website for NL, prepared a report for the January VFC Board meeting, and began the process for confirming Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) for 2017. I contacted CDLs currently serving to confirm their willingness to continue serving and began the process of trying to recruit members to fill open slots. These are vital positions within the VFC, especially with the anticipated changes that may occur with the new administration. All CDLs were encouraged to attend the NARFE National Legislative Training Conference in held March 2017 in Alexandria. All expenses for CDLs who attend will be paid in full by the VFC. Efforts will begin in January to schedule meetings with Senators Warner and Kaine so that VFC members attending the Legislative Conference can schedule meetings with their respective representatives while visiting the Capitol without any scheduling conflicts.

It's been a busy final quarter of 2016, and I'm looking forward to the first quarter of 2017 with renewed energy and excitement with our own VFC Convention and the National Legislative Training Conference!!

Pat Taylor, VFC 2nd Vice President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The FY-2017 Winter session of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Board meeting was held January 22 -24, 2017 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Williamsburg, Virginia, the future location for the 2017 VFC Convention. Eighteen members of the Board and one visitor were in attendance. The NARFE Region X Vice President was unable to attend, but he submitted a written report.

Main Topics of discussion:

The submitted report from the NARFE Region X Vice President, Bill, Shackelford, addressed the following issues: the current status of the budget; required support for and involvement in Federation activities of National Division members; the potential for electronic meetings in lieu of face-to-face meetings; the new non-residency requirement for the NARFE National Secretary/Treasurer; plans for the NARFE Strategic Plan over the 2016-2018 period; the accuracy and status of the websites of Federations and Chapters, and the assignment of the NARFE Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) to report on them.

Secretary Richard Giangerelli provided a report on the status of submitted Chapter F-7 Reports and the Area Vice Presidents were requested to contact the Chapters and encourage those with out-of-date Reports to update them.

Recent activities and issues in each of the ten VFC Areas, led by First Vice President Ravenell, were addressed and included: meetings with political incumbents and candidates; activities to encourage members to volunteer for Chapter officer and chair positions; potential additional Chapter closings; Health Fairs; Alzheimer's

activities and events; recent speakers of note at Chapter meetings; and other recent Chapter sponsored events.

Recent activities and issues relative to each of the VFC Committees, led by Second Vice President Taylor, included: Alzheimer Research contributions and special letters; the status of Congressional District Liaison (CDL) and Senatorial Legislative Liaison (SLL) positions for the 115th Congressional Session; planned attendance at the NARFE National Legislation Training Conference; the NARFE Matching Funds program; membership status, statistics, and activities; and the status of the revision to the VFC website.

Other Topics addressed by the VFC Board included:

- The biennial Region X Conference in Martinsville, West Virginia, October 12 thru 13, 2017;
- Status of the planning and arrangements for the 2017 VFC Convention, in Williamsburg, Virginia, April 2 thru 5, 2017;
- Status of Congressional District Liaison (CDL) and Senatorial Legislative Liaison (SLL) positions for the 115th Congressional Session;
- Planned attendance at the NARFE National Legislation Training Conference;
- NARFE Matching Funds program;
- Membership statistics, and activities;
- Revisions to the VFC website; and
- Positions on the VFC Executive Committee (four) to be voted on at the 2017 VFC Convention.

First Vice President Ravenell was appointed to find a central Virginia location for the July 2017 VFC Board meeting and possibly for future Board

meetings. She and Area VIII Vice President Nolet were appointed to a search committee for the location of the 2018 VFC Convention.

Secretary Richard Giangerelli gave a presentation on how a VFC Board meeting could be conducted electronically, the required equipment for such a meeting, and a possible trial run for a portion of the July 2017 VFC Board meeting. The NARFE Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) Region X Representative Richard Giangerelli also gave a presentation on past and current activities of the CAB, future plans, and where information can be found on the NARFE National website.

Richard Giangerelli, VFC Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2nd Quarter FY-2017 expenditures to date are **28%** of the approved FY-2017 budget. The total contribution collected for the VFC State Political Fund during the 4th Quarter of CY-2016 was \$310.00.

TREASURER REPORT SYNOPSIS AS OF December 31, 2016

Approved Budget	\$118,887.00
2 nd QTR FY17 Income	\$24,077.93
2 nd QTR FY17 Expenditure	\$33,630.03
% Expenditure to date	28%

Raphael Wong, VFC Treasurer

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

National Legislation is at the heart of our organization. The legislative director and legislative specialists at NARFE Headquarters are constantly researching bills and laws that may affect federal employees. In the Virginia Federation, National Legislation is so important that the VFC President has appointed members to serve as Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) and Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLLs) to aid in building an even stronger defense and better offense against bad bills and laws affecting Federal employees.

In the Virginia Federation, CDLs support every Congressional district across the state. They are asked to volunteer a tremendous amount of time in support of not only NARFE members, but also other Federal active and retired employees. In many instances, they perform their responsibilities and duties with little or no thanks. The CDLs and the SLLs are the lifeline between chapters and their respective Congressmen and Senators. They are tasked with communicating with chapter members, and assisting and leading the way in some instances.

Our legislative group of CDLs, SLLs, and Chapter representatives meet periodically and organize a discussion of NARFE issues with their Senators and respective Congressman. They believe in planning the event/meeting and then working on the plan. Please welcome your Liaisons and help them perform their duties defined in the NARFE organization manual. If you give them the opportunity, the Liaisons will help bring NARFE members together to unite in a single voice.

We have worked hard to fill the vacancies in our CDLs ranks. We also have two SLLs and look forward to tremendous participation from our

CDLs and SLLs at the National Legislative Training Conference in March 2017. [A list of all SLL and CDL appointments are posted on pages 19 and 20 of these VFC Notes.](#)

Compiled by Pat Taylor, VFC 2nd Vice President

STATE LEGISLATION REPORT

I think everyone was counting down until Tuesday, November 8, 2016, and are glad our airwaves and email accounts now turn to interests other than federal elections. Our active members continue to serve our nation and its people, whatever the outcome. That has been the genius of our nation's constitutional and peaceful transition of power, and as Ben Franklin said, "A republic, if you can keep it."

The Virginia Ballot: There were five Presidential candidates on the Virginia Ballot, all 11 House of Representatives positions and four State Special Elections: State Senate District 1 – T. Monty Mason (D), Thomas R. Holston (R), and John B. Bloom (I); State Senate District 5 – Lionell Spruill, Sr. (D), no opponent; House of Delegates District 77 – C.E. "Cliff" Hayes, Jr. (D), no opponent; House of Delegates District 93 – Michael P. Mullin (D) and Heather L. Cordasco (R). The House District 93 is considered by some as the "Governor McAuliffe veto seat" because if a Republican win that seat, there will not be enough Democrats in the House of Delegates to sustain a governor's veto (requires 34 of 100 members).

There were two State Constitutional Amendments on the ballot: Right to Work Constitutional Amendment and Tax Relief Constitutional Amendment. You can go to the Virginia State Board of Elections website www.elections.virginia.gov or to the League of Women Voters website www.lwv-va.org for more information.

State Legislative Plan: The 2017 VFC State Legislative Plan is available on the VFC website www.vanarfe.org. This year we focused on seven issues. Each Area Vice President had copies for distribution to each chapter. The fall is a great time to contact your General Assembly members to ask for support and/or bill sponsorship.

Our state legislative focus empowers NARFE Virginia members to have a real impact on many quality of life issues controlled by our state legislature. Given our members experience in national government, we remain concerned about fair and efficient governance at all levels and we seek to protect the rights, safety and assets of Virginians. We also know that many federal legislators come from state legislatures and governorships. In Virginia, our two Senators are former governors, and only three of our 11 current Congressmen have not had local or General Assembly service. When we cultivate good working relationships at the state level, we find our national officials ready to welcome us when we need to discuss federal employees and annuitants' benefits and rights.

Let's save the date for a NARFE Virginia General Assembly Day – Wednesday, February 1, 2017. More information will soon be posted on the website. Contact Margaret Keator, State Legislative Program Chair, for assistance and more information at maggiekeator@gmail.com or (757) 812-0127.

Margaret Keator, VFC State Legislation Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At the end of November 2016, VFC Chapter voting membership was 12,081. Although VFC membership is still declining (-6.9%, up from -7.6% last year), there are significant bright spots. The three areas with the least year-to-date (YTD) decline in membership for the membership trend months (September thru November) were Areas III, VI and VIII. In addition, 14 Chapters either showed an YTD

increase in membership over this three-month period, or had a decline of less than 1%. Nine Chapters met this standard for all three months (1727 Tuckahoe, 2265 Midlothian, 1293 Churchland, 1697 Brentwood, 110 Lynchburg, 1837 Wilderness Trail, 2112 Caroline, 2343 Falls Run, and 1159 Annandale). I hope to talk with these Chapters to discover what they are doing to achieve this outcome. The Virginia National Division membership grew by 16%, to a total of 3,433. This summary is based on statistics from September, October and November. The December data was available at this writing.

In another metric, 22 Chapters increased membership from the prior month. Three Chapters increased membership in two of the three months: 1293 Churchland, 135 Charlottesville, and 1159 Annandale; and 737 Fairfax increased its membership from September to November. In addition, 22 Chapters held their membership steady in September, 16 in October, and 8 in November.

Prospect Conversion Ratio (number of new members/number of prospects referred by NARFE Headquarters) YTD (as of end-Nov) was 33% for the VFC (up from 13.8% last year!!). Area VII carried the best YTD Prospect Conversion Ratio over all three months – 48% to 52%. Twenty-four chapters had YTD Ratios of 50% or higher for at least one of the months from September to November; fourteen of these Chapters maintained that ratio in each of the three months.

Reinstatement Ratio (number of reinstatements/number of non-renews) YTD (as of end-Nov) was 35.3% for the VFC (versus 40.7% last year). Area VIII carried the best YTD Reinstatement Ratio over all three months – 43% to 48%. Twenty-two chapters had YTD Ratios of 40% or higher for at least one of the months from September to November; again, fourteen of these Chapters maintained that ratio in each

of the three months.

So, we are doing very well on some aspects of Membership. Kudos to those who have worked hard to achieve the above results!

On the down side, at least five Chapters have closed or are being closed. In every case, the problem was not lack of members – one Chapter had over 400 members. Rather, the problem was lack of members willing to step up to leadership positions. For those Chapters with new members, the challenge now is to welcome those individuals and encourage them to become active members. Beyond contacting them to come to a meeting, here are a few suggestions:

- Appoint a hostess/host for each Chapter meeting, whose job is to introduce new attendees to the other attending members;
- Give the new members a job, no matter how small, (for example ask them to bring cookies or help serve refreshments); and
- Encourage the new members to share ideas for programs, participate in an Alzheimer fundraising project, etc.

Other Membership Activities:

In the October 2016 Notes, I introduced the re-designed Membership area for the VFC website. (To access this area, go to www.vanarfe.org and click on the Membership link on the left-hand side.) It includes a blog - which I'm using to distribute the Membership statistics for the months September thru November 2016. Membership Chairs can also use the blog to share ideas and ask questions. You do not need to register or obtain a password to participate. Let me know what you think.

B.J. Thomas McMillan, VFC Membership Chair

SERVICE REPORT

Updated OPM Retirement Services Online:

<https://www.servicesonline.opm.gov>.

You can use these services to:

- Change your Federal and State Income Tax Withholding;
- Change your mailing address;
- Change your OPM password;
- Establish an allotment to an organization;
- Request a Duplicate Annuity Booklet;
- Set up a checking or savings allotment;
- Sign up for direct deposit of your annuity;
- Update your e-mail address or opt-in to receive information electronically;
- View or print your Annuity Statement or Verification of Income;
- View or print 1099-R Tax Forms;
- View or print a Retirement Services Reference Card (ID Card);
- View or print a Year-to-Date Summary of Payments [New];
- View or print Verification of Life Insurance (FEGLI); and
- View the status of your case while in Interim Pay status.

Services Online cannot be used to make any changes to your Federal dental or Federal vision insurance (FEDVIP) coverage. Please contact BENEFEDS or call 1-877-888-3337 for any changes and/or comments related to your FEDVIP coverage.

John & Dr. Constance T. Bails, VFC Co-Service Officers

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

The October to December period tends to be a slow season for Public Relations (PR) activities. PR Goodies (handout items) were sent out to Marie Collins for use at various health fairs at government installations and offices in Area I.

Handout items were sent to Raphael Wong for use at the Department of Treasury's FINCEN Health Fair. Handout items were used for Congressman Rob Wittman's Health Fair for Federal Employees and Retirees, where I also assisted in the set up and staffing of the NARFE table. Handout items were sent to Wilma Grant for use in Congressman Gerry Connelly's Health Fair for Active and Retired Federal Employees.

I processed two Matching Funds Requests. These are pending a decision by NARFE Headquarters. Area Vice Presidents, please remind your Chapters that if they are planning an event where Matching Funds will be requested, THEY MUST REQUEST APPROVAL IN ADVANCE FROM NARFE HEADQUARTERS. Have the Chapters contact me and I will assist them with their requests. If this is not done in advance the Chapters run a high risk of not receiving Matching Funds.

I assisted the VFC President in developing a communication welcoming NARFE Virginia National Division Members to the VFC. I also attended a debate for the candidates running for the 1st Congressional District. I attended a meeting between American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) representatives and members of Congressman Wittman's District office staff. AFGE wanted to meet and introduce themselves to the Congressman, and initiate plans to have the Congressman visit with Federal employees at various Federal Government facilities in the 1st District. The Congressman's staff referenced NARFE's working relations with the Congressman as a model for AFGE to follow. I offered my assistance to Adam Orlovich, AFGE's Legislative/Political Organizer for Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

At the request of Congressman Wittman's District Office Director, I provided comments on a draft action plan for the Congressman's

engagement with NARFE during 2017. The comments were related to face-to-face meetings with NARFE, keeping the VFC informed of events that NARFE could attend, and keeping current the Federal Employees section of the Congressman's web site.

Gaston Gianni, VFC Public Relations Chair

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Since the last VFC Board meeting, I have visited several Chapters and been in contact with others via e-mail or telephone. I am frequently asked how much a specific Chapter has contributed during the month, and I can usually answer that promptly, unless I am away from my computer. I am occasionally asked if someone's check has been forwarded, and I can normally answer that question in a few minutes.

I try to watch the donations for especially large gifts. If the donor gives more than \$500, I will send a thank you card provided by the Alzheimer's Association in Chicago. I also try to watch for any gifts given in memory of someone. I have special cards for those contributions, and my intent is to send that acknowledgement as soon as possible, even if I'm not sending the money to Chicago until the end of the month.

One Chapter sent a large check for Alzheimer's Research which I had to return. It was from dues money for a chapter that was closing. Money from dues cannot be contributed for Alzheimer's Research; in fact, dues money is never to be used for charitable contributions. There are IRS regulations regarding this issue; and the responsible officers can be held liable for fines if it is determined that dues money was used in this way. I urge all the AVPs to ensure that the disbursement regulations are reviewed with any Chapter that is closing.

When the December numbers for members in each Chapter become available, I will provide up

to date information in the per capita chart. I will send, via e-mail, the donation chart and the per capita chart to the VFC Board. The AVPs can share this information with their Chapters.

Relative to the 2017 VFC Convention, a silent auction will be held as in previous years; and there will be some raffle items. My goal is for each chapter to participate in some fashion. I will again hold a competition to determine which Chapter contributes the silent auction item that raises the most revenue for Alzheimer's Research. I will break the Chapters into small (less than 300 members) and large (greater than 300 members), putting the chances on a fairer plane by using the NARFE numbers from the December 2016 M110 report. A \$25 award will be given to the two Chapters, and this will come out of the VFC Alzheimer's budget, not the profits from the Convention or the collection for Alzheimer's. [The VFC Treasurer will write the checks while we are all together.]

The silent auction item does not have to be a basket of goodies. It can be a single item. In either case, the value should exceed \$50. It is also possible for a couple of Chapters to join to have a bigger donation.

As in the past, \$50 drawings from the 50/50 tickets proceeds will be held. Members who attend may want to have their return address stickers with them for the raffle drawings (the purple bags).

Last year in April, I sent \$2,778 to Chicago for Alzheimer's Research. Let's do even better this year, with a goal of at least \$3,400!! We can do it.

Donna Shackelford, VFC Alzheimer's Coordinator & Region X Alzheimer's Coordinator



AREA VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Jeanne Garrison

AREA I

All Area I chapters are doing well and are helping to plan the 2017 VFC Convention. There have been questions about the NARFE decision regarding nonmandatory chapter membership and the one-person/one-vote concept. There is much concern over the possible demise of Chapters and lack of support from NARFE Headquarters at that level. As AVP, I have tried to answer questions and encourage membership recruitment for each Chapter and have attended many interesting and informative Chapter meetings. I spent much of my time coordinating and trying to answer questions of those who are helping with the 2017 VFC Convention in Williamsburg. I have also written articles about the Convention for my own Chapter 685 Newsletter and encouraged the other Chapters to publicize the Convention in their newsletters.

Peninsula Chapter 682 met regularly with several interesting presentations, including health insurance presentations from GEHA and BlueCross/Blue Shield and local speakers on other topics of interest. In December, they completed the 31st mile of pennies for Alzheimer's. Their past president, Ray Whipple, is the Congressional District Liaison for the 3rd Congressional District. Williamsburg Chapter 685 had speakers on different topics including a speaker from GEHA and one to discuss Medicare. This year several members participated in a local walk to raise funds for Alzheimer's. Middle Peninsula Chapter 1757 continues to meet in Gloucester and has lunches with speakers on various topics. Northern Neck Chapter 1823 meets in more than one location, since the membership is spread out over a large area. They have had a variety of programs including a speaker from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and a silent

auction was held at their Christmas party as one of their ways to raise money for Alzheimer's.

I attended all four Chapter Christmas parties, including two that were held on the same day. I installed the officers at the Middle Peninsula Chapter and attended Peninsula Chapter's meeting, where Bill Shackelford installed the Chapter officers. Pat Taylor installed the officers at the Williamsburg Chapter. The election of officers at the Northern Neck Chapter will be later in 2017.

Alex Adkins

AREA II

The officers of Chapters 5, 66, 974, and 1827 will continue for another year in their current positions. Elections were held during the Chapters' November meetings. Eastern Shore Chapter 1175 has a vacancy for its Secretary/Treasurer position that it has not been able to fill.

Volunteers from all Area II Chapters are working on the 2017 VFC Convention. The following are volunteers from each chapter: Chapter 974: Alex and P.J. Adkins, Fran Sansone, and Bill and Robin Poulter; Chapter 66: Arlene and Johnny Arthur; Chapter 1827: Lynne Pipis; and Chapter 5: Betty Mitchel. We are still recruiting volunteers and hope to add more Area II members to the list.

Virginia Beach Chapter 974 - The Chapter sponsored a meet-the-candidate forum for candidates running for Mayor of the city on the last Thursday of September. NARFE members from four area Chapters attended the meeting. Five candidates for the position gave 10-minute presentations followed by five minutes of questions and answers. After the questions and answers, refreshments were served and the candidates mingled with Chapter members to discuss issues pending before the city council. For many of the attendees, having direct access, in a casual environment, to the candidates for

mayor is an important benefit of NARFE membership.

Chapter 974 members Donald and Betty Warren set up recruiting tables for health fairs at the U.S. Postal Service Distribution Center in Norfolk and the Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) at the Norfolk Naval Station. They also hosted a Holiday Luncheon for all local NARFE members on December 15th at Grand Affairs Catering in Virginia Beach. Forty local NARFE members and their guests from other local Chapters attended the luncheon. As done in the past, the luncheon included door prizes and live entertainment.

NARFE Chapter 1827 held its luncheon on December 1st at Waterman's Surfside Grill at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. Waterman's is a small restaurant with a limited seating capacity, but it is in a wonderful location and has reasonable prices.

Jack McMurchy

AREA III

I attended the VFC Board Meeting in October at the Doubletree by Hilton Midlothian and reported the closing of Colonial Heights Chapter 1472, which closed at the end of 2016. Petersburg Chapter 28 gained the zip codes and six members of Chapter. Eight members decided to join Midlothian Chapter 2265, since they live in Chesterfield County. All of the remaining members (approximately 145) decided to become National Division members.

Petersburg Chapter 28 - All Colonial Heights members were invited to attend a meeting to hear Ms. Holly, the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Representative, discuss the changes in FEHBP rates and benefits for 2017. There was a good turnout for the meeting, with 10 Colonial Heights members in attendance. Following the presentation, a business meeting was held. The membership chair, Roy Beasley, reported that Fort Lee had decided to hold their annual health services day on the same day as the October

Chapter meeting; therefore, the Chapter was unable to have a booth or pass out materials. Unfortunately, the November guest speaker, on "Buffalo Soldiers," cancelled due to illness and it was too late to schedule another speaker. The Christmas Luncheon was held at the Great Chinese Buffet in Colonial Heights. Carolyn Wilson (former VFC 1st & 2nd VP, VFC Public Relations, and former Colonial Heights Chapter 1472 President) installed the four officers to another term, including myself as President. Volunteers were appointed as assistants to the Vice President and the Secretary to help them; and a volunteer will be appointed to help the Treasurer.

In December, I attended the Tuckahoe Chapter 1727 and the Imperial Plaza Chapter 1510 Christmas Luncheon meetings and installed their officers for another term in office. I installed the officers of Richmond Chapter 60 for another term of office in their final meeting at the River City Diner. In January, the Chapter will begin holding meetings at Shoney's in Glen Allen. This was a rewarding meeting to attend as the former Secretary, because of my presentation when installing the officers, some volunteered to serve another term. I did not attend the Midlothian Chapter 2265 Christmas Luncheon, as it was held on the same day as the Petersburg Chapter Christmas Luncheon.

Raymond Orland

AREA IV

The Brentwood, Churchland, and Suffolk Chapters continue to meet and are very active. The Portsmouth Chapter is in the process of closing. The Portsmouth Chapter has 54 members who will be transferred to chapters nearest their residence. The Chesapeake Chapter has not met since June 2016 because they have no one willing to serve as an officer. Bobby Whittington (President of the Churchland Chapter) had been acting President. He gave Chapter members until January 2017 to step forward as officers; but there has been no

movement. Bobby will be requesting the closure of the Chesapeake Chapter.

The Brentwood, Churchland, and Suffolk Chapters continue to promote and seek support for the upcoming VFC Convention. Bobby Whittington volunteered to serve as the Area IV representative on the VFC Constitution and By-Laws Committee. Following are reports from our active Chapters.

Brentwood Chapter 1697 – A little more than 10% of the members remain active and two or three members from Portsmouth Chapter 63 attend the monthly meetings. A Government Employee Health Association (GEHA) representative spoke at the November meeting, and Ms. Jean Garrison, (also the Area I Vice President) delivered a presentation on the 2017 Benefit changes and changes to the health plan rates. Jean was presented a Certificate of Appreciation. The topic of discussion following the presentation was the closing of Portsmouth Chapter 63. Area Vice President Ray Orland led the discussion on the procedures for closing a Chapter and provided a copy of the letter to be sent to all Chapter 63 members. Also in attendance were the Chapter 63 President Paul Wilson and the Chapter 63 Treasurer Ruth Williams. Mr. Norman Morse, an active Chapter 63 member, attended the meeting. The November Chapter Newsletter was posted on the VFC NARFE website. A traditional December Holiday Luncheon was held on December 13, 2016, at the Golden Coral in Chesapeake, Virginia. Upcoming meetings will include speakers from the Chesapeake Fire Department, Chesapeake Sheriff Department, Master Hills Red Dragon- Martial Arts & Fitness, Inc. and the Chesapeake Parks and Recreation.

Churchland Chapter 1293 - Churchland's membership has been growing... and getting younger and more diversified. That's a 'win-win-win' situation! All officer positions are filled – the Vice President and Treasurer are relative newcomers. BlueCross BlueShield spokesperson

Linda Fletcher was guest speaker at the November meeting and she covered the Open Season information regarding health plan changes and costs. She announced she'd be retiring early in 2017, but will be available to help out with their Federal Health Plan events in future years. Two Chapter members attended the Federal Health Fair events at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in early November (two different members at each event). Over 800 bags of NARFE materials, including magazines, applications, and 'gifts' from Gaston were passed out. We gave away one free NARFE annual membership at each event from a drawing of completed NARFE Membership contact cards. Alzheimer's Piggy Banks, brochures, and like materials resulted in donations of \$100.00 for the Alzheimer's Association from 'recruits' visiting our tables. The invited guests at the December meeting were the Singing Bees, a vocal group from the Beazley's Senior Citizen Center in Portsmouth; they sang Christmas carols. Great! A Chapter member had a jewelry display rack with multiple pairs of women's earrings; and she gave a pair of earrings to all females in attendance. An abbreviated meeting focusing primarily on the 2017 VFC Convention was held.

Suffolk Chapter 1743 - Nineteen members attended the November meeting and listened to Kevin Sary, the Suffolk Visitor Center supervisor. His talk covered many topics, including tours and special events, and was very interesting. He provided information on all of the programs and events. A Christmas party was held in December, with no formal meeting. It was well attended (22 people); and games were played and songs were sung, with the staff of Lake Prince Woods assisting in the singing. Mr. Phil Ferguson, Suffolk Commonwealth Attorney, was the January speaker with 22 members in attendance. He spoke about how Suffolk has reduced gang activity through a pro-active approach in the schools and the communities; and stated that Suffolk has the lowest homicide

rate in Hampton Roads. Mr. Ferguson and his assistant were presented NARFE coffee cups in appreciation of their presentation.

Debra Laughon

AREA V

As of January 2017, Area V now consists of four chapters, Bedford Chapter 1068 with 27 members, Lynchburg Chapter 110 with 72 members, Piedmont (Farmville) Chapter 2080 with 39 members, and Southside (South Hill) Chapter 2079 with 45 members. After an official request from Danville Chapter 1011, paperwork to close that chapter has been submitted to NARFE Headquarters.

Piedmont Chapter 2080 and Lynchburg Chapter 110 continue to meet. Southside Chapter 2079 has not met in a while, but plans to meet soon. In the past, they have resisted closure as they are proud of their more than 60 years as a NARFE Chapter.

Mark Fisher

AREA VI

In November, I attended a health fair sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield. Prior to the health fair, the local representative contacted Roanoke Valley Chapter 111 and indicated that the fair would be a good opportunity for the Chapter to meet and recruit new members. The event was well attended and the Chapter recruited new members. As a special thanks to Keith Wray of Anthem BlueCross BlueShield, he was



presented with a VFC Coffee Cup at the November Chapter meeting. Keith also attended the December meeting of Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837.

During the November meeting of Roanoke Valley Chapter 111, new officers were elected for the coming year and they were installed at the Christmas Chapter luncheon in December. Del Dyer installed the officers present and I will install the other officers in January. A retiring VA Hospital employee will serve as the Chapter's president and I will be serving as the Chapter's treasurer.



Later in November, I travelled to Blacksburg to attend New River Valley Chapter 1134's bi-monthly meeting and install their officers. I am pleased to be working with Del as Chapter 1134 president.



In December, I traveled to Wytheville to attend the quarterly meeting of Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837. The meeting was adjusted to the first Tuesday so they could have Keith Wray provide updated information on the BlueCross BlueShield plans for 2017. Also, since their officers serve two-year terms, I did not install any officers. We were pleased that two former members from the now closed Southwest Highlands Chapter 2330 joined us. Prior to the March meeting the members of the Board will call or email former members of the Southwest Highlands Chapter 2330 to invite them to be active in the Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837.

Paula Dansker ***Area VII***

I attended six Area VII Chapter meetings during the Quarter: Winchester (Oct, Dec); Page Valley (Dec); and Shenandoah County (Oct, Nov, and Dec). I conducted officer installations at the Winchester, the Charlottesville, and the Page Valley Chapters. A major issue of concern in our Area is the effect that non-mandatory chapter membership will have on Chapter membership. Staunton-Augusta County Chapter 178 voted to closed in December. The remaining five Chapters held annual chapter officer elections in November. These Chapters had the following speakers, entertainers and special events:

Shenandoah County Chapter 2358: Kathy Bass, BlueCross BlueShield, in October; Sheri Thoman, Alzheimer's Research, in November and an Annual Alzheimer's Research appeal. In December, Bill Shackelford, NARFE Region X VP, attended and music was provided by Dave Lewis,

guitar and Jeff Delano, singer (both chapter members).

Winchester Chapter 180: Programs consisted of "Treating Alzheimer's Patients with Music" in October, Kathy Bass, of BlueCross BlueShield, in November, and the Dixieland Band and a "Christmas-Hawaiian Style" tour in December.

Charlottesville Chapter 135: Programs consisted of Bob Gibson, Senior researcher at Academy for Civic Renewal, in October, Lewis Wray, Field Service Account Consultant, BlueCross BlueShield, in November, and a Chapter sing-along by members with musical instruments in December.

Page Valley Chapter 1793: In October, Kathy Bass, BlueCross BlueShield, spoke and Chapter members participated in the Page County Walk to End Alzheimer's; in November, Michael Coombs, Hearing-at-Home, spoke; and in December Christmas musical entertainment was provided by local soprano Julia Verba and Cathy Ashanky, accompanied by Chapter member Paul Ackerman on the keyboard.

Maureen Nolet ***AREA VIII***

This quarter, I had the pleasure of working the NARFE table at Rob Wittman's Health Fair. I visited and installed new officers for some of the Area VIII chapters.

Fredericksburg Chapter 90 continues to have their fund raiser "Ready to Make Soup" donated by one of the officers. All proceeds collected from the sale of the soup go to Alzheimer's. New officers were installed in December.

Colonial Beach Chapter 595 held its annual fund raiser for Alzheimer's; and, instead of the Big Band Dance, the Chapter had a Harvest Supper. They served chili, soup, corn bread and much more. They raised over \$1,000.00 for Alzheimer's. Also, at this event Congressman Rob Wittman surprised them when he appeared. In December, the chapter sang holiday songs and presented gifts to the residents at the

Westmorland Rehabilitation Center. Officers will be installed in January.

Fauquier Chapter 1549 is preparing to celebrate their 40th anniversary in April. The Chapter honored Distinguished Members with a certificate and pin, presented to them by VFC Immediate Past President Dick Giangerelli at the October meeting. New officers were installed at their December meeting.

Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885, Caroline Chapter 2112, and Louisa Chapter 2065 have installed their new officers. Falls Run Chapter 2343 installed some of their new officers.

Jim Little **AREA IX**

Area IX has 3,612 voting Chapter members: Alexandria - 944; Manassas - 298; Falls Church - 289; Springfield - 1,182; Annandale - 410; and Woodbridge - 489. The membership reflects a net decrease of 77 members, but includes 8 new recruits: Alexandria - 4, Springfield - 3, and Annandale - 1. We partnered with Area VIII and Area X to host NARFE information tables at Congressmen Wittman's and Connolly's annual FEHB Health Fairs.

Alexandria Chapter 232 fielded many telephone calls and emails from members about the steep rise in Long Term Health Insurance premiums, encouraging NARFE to "do something". Members were directed to the office of Representative Don Beyer and the NARFE website, and asked to take advantage of NARFE webinars. In October, the chapter held its bi-annual Candidate Forum with Charles Hernick (R) and Micke Lucier (Don Beyer (D) surrogate). John Hatton, NARFE Deputy Legislative Director was the moderator. Molly Checksfeld, NARFE Grassroots Program Manager, also attended. In November, a presentation was held on the FEHBP Open Season at the regular monthly meeting. In December, the Annual Holiday Party was held at Mount Vernon Country Club.

Manassas Chapter 356 continued its monthly newsletters and held informative meetings. In

October, a presentation was made on the 2017 FEHBP changes and Medicare; and members and their families walked in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. In November, there was a presentation on AAA's role as an advocate for the safety and security of motorists; and it was interesting to note that AAA advocates and engages at the federal, state, and local level on issues related to highway, automobile safety, infrastructure, travel, tourism, energy and environmental policies. December was the annual Holiday Party, with raffle items (donated by the Executive Board and Committee Chairs) going to each attendee and with the proceeds going to Alzheimer's. Erin Rayner, Director of Community Outreach for Congresswoman Barbara Comstock, attended and stated that the Congresswoman would keep an eye on our programs.

Falls Church Chapter 401 is still in the process of being closed. Final paperwork has been submitted to NARFE Headquarters to transfer the remaining 289 members to local Chapters based on their residence or another Chapter of their choosing.

Springfield Chapter 893 meetings included a personal account and film about America's Pilgrims on the Camino. Lead Delegate, Joe Bush, reviewed key outcomes from the 34th NARFE National Convention; and Jim Little congratulated the Chapter for being the second largest Alzheimer's fundraiser for the Area. A BlueCross BlueShield representative spoke on the FEHBP Open Season. Three Board members attended the Fairfax County Senior Citizens Council Holiday Party. The Chapter's Holiday Party at The Fairfax in Fort Belvoir had 51 members, and guests. The speaker, NARFE President Richard Thissen, installed the newly elected officers and presented a Certificate of Distinguished Service to Deanna Shepherd for outstanding leadership as President the past two years. This quarter, members were encouraged to contact their elected officials regarding key legislative and OPM issues.

Annandale Chapter 1159 collected \$4,219 for Alzheimer's in 2016, \$519 above its goal. In October, a presentation was held on "Computer Forensics and Cyber Security". Jane Kidwell, an active member, received the 2016 Care First BlueCross BlueShield Distinguished Annuitant Award. In November, a presentation was made on 2017 FEHBP changes; the chapter conducted its last 2016 Adopt-A-Road pickup; and the fall food drive for the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) was completed with a total contribution of 183 pounds of food and paper products and \$400 in cash contributions. In December, the Holiday Luncheon was held at PJ Skidoos and included entertainment by the Fairfax High School a cappella singers.

Woodbridge Chapter 1270 participated in the National Walk to End Alzheimer's in October and hosted Congressman Gerry Connolly at its October meeting. In November, they had a presentation on FEHBP health care options. At its December Holiday party, the New Dominion Chorale entertained and new officers were installed. The Chapter raised more than \$8,000 during 2016 for Alzheimer's Research and collected 400 pounds of food for the local charity Action in Community through Service (ACTS).

Wilma Grant

AREA X

The following are reports from Chapter Presidents in Area X:

Arlington Chapter 7: Officers were installed by Area X VP Wilma Grant. The 2nd VP, Service Officer, and Sunshine Chair positions are still vacant. Meetings in October and November had with speakers from BlueCross BlueShield and the Federal Marshals Service; and a Holiday Party was held in December. Ed Weiler (tentative) will attend the NARFE National Legislative Training Conference. Mary Knox was recognized by BlueCross BlueShield for NARFE Member Recognition in the Local Community.

Dulles Chapter 1241: Chapter Officers were installed by Wilma Grant, Area X VP. New members were appointed as a Hospitality Chair and a Sunshine Chair; and a new member was appointed to the Audit Committee. Four members plan to attend the NARFE National Legislative Training Conference. As of November 1, 2016, the Chapter had 757 total members and 711 voting members. At the October meeting, Lucy Norment, District Director, and Mary Ann Cannon, Constituent Services Director, discussed the many services that their office provides to constituents in the 10th Congressional District and other topics that included applications for Service Academies, immigration issues, OPM and Social Security inquiries, and local and state issues such as Snow Removal and Transportation. Sandy Neuzil, of Reston Visually Impaired Persons, also attended and shared information about their program, and invited attendees to join their next meeting to learn more. At the November meeting, VFC Service Officers Connie & John Bails provided an Update on the Service Officer Program. In December, a holiday party was held at Amphora Restaurant, in Herndon, Virginia, with music provided by the Reston Folk Band, and included gift and Poinsettia drawings, and food donations for Loudoun County Hunger Relief, which provides neighborhood children's breakfasts in Leesburg (thanks to "The Bonings" who delivered them).

Fairfax Chapter 737: President Ralph Thomson announced that he will retire at the end of this year, after many years of dedicated NARFE service. At the September meeting, Randy Sayles of Dulles Chapter presented his first-hand story on "The Siege of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan in 1979" and the events that took place. At the October meeting, Anna Nelson, VP Programs & Services for National Capital Chapter of Alzheimer's, presented information on the latest accomplishments in Alzheimer's Research. At the November meeting, Battalion Chief Chris Schaff, of Virginia Task Force One, spoke about Fairfax County's

elite domestic and international disaster Fire/Rescue response team and showed one of their search dogs after the presentation. The Holiday party was held in December and included music by the Fairfax Saxophone Quartet. It should be noted that the 29 Diner in Fairfax City has participated with the Chapter for last two years in donating to Alzheimer's research and, donated \$886 from a portion of their sales to Chapter members. Also, in honor of Frank Kelley, a long-time NARFE member and a proud Marine, who held several Chapter offices including Chapter President, 1st VP Bob Sottile arranged for a Frank Kelly Memorial at the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Virginia, from contributions from Chapter members.

McLean/Great Falls Chapter 489: The September meeting was reserved for networking and included a lunch of sumptuous pizzas and desserts. At the October meeting, VFC Service Officers Connie and John Bails discussed the importance of organizing your personal and financial records, and the usefulness of the NARFE F-100 Booklet. They also stressed the need for surviving spouses to obtain at least 12 copies of a Death Certificate for a deceased spouse, which are very needed to transfer ownership. At the November meeting, Johnny Jones from Legal Shield spoke on problems associated with identity theft and how IDShield could provide support for multiple family members for single person pricing for other similar services and the services available through LegalShield. In December, a Christmas Luncheon was held at the J. Gilbert Restaurant in McLean.

Metro Northern Virginia Chapter 1665: The Chapter has embraced the electronic age and, in October, started sending out the Chapter newsletter via e-mail with the number of members agreeing to receive the electronic version increasing each month; thereby saving the Chapter postage costs. While the incumbents in most of the Chapter officer positions remain unchanged for this next year,

Mary Elizabeth Boyd has joined the Chapter management structure as the new Service Officer. Perhaps Mary was encouraged to step forward by the speakers at the October meeting, VFC Service Officers Connie and John Bails. In November, a local historian spoke on the Prohibition era. In December, there was no speaker, just a Holiday party.

Vienna/Oakton Chapter 1116: Chapter meetings were moved to the American Legion Post 180 in Vienna, while the Vienna Community Center is renovated. In October, Gayle Nelson of BlueCross BlueShield spoke about the FEHBP changes. In November, Randy Sayles from Dulles Chapter spoke about his involvement at the 1979 attack on the American Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. In December, a Holiday party was held and included a Toys-for-Tots drive. Notable member awards during this quarter included local community recognition for Shirley Martin for her involvement as a Grand Marshal at the 70th Halloween Parade in Vienna, which she has been organizing since 1947; and Margaret Murphy was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from NARFE President Richard Thissen in recognition of her 10 years of service as the Chapter Secretary.

Stan Palen, Webmaster

The NARFE Chapter newsletters are one of the most effective means of keeping chapter members informed. Therefore, it is recommended that every Chapter appoint a member as editor of a periodic Chapter newsletter. The newsletter is particularly important to members who are unable to attend meetings regularly, but want to maintain an interest in Chapter activities. The newsletter can be distributed via U.S. Postal Service mail service, email (such as the NARFE Email System), or both.

Some Chapters have chosen to do a monthly newsletter and some have chosen to do a

quarterly newsletter. Both approaches are effective.

Many Chapters have eliminated their printed newsletter and have chosen to do an electronic newsletter, which is much more efficient and cost effective than a printed one. However, this requires someone to maintain an *up-to-date* listing of all Chapter members with email addresses on file or download them from the OAM database on the NARFE website (at www.narfe.org). The newsletter can also be posted on the VFC website (at www.vanarfe.org) by e-mailing a copy to either Stan Palen (at stan@vanarfe.org) or Sid Sachs (at chapterwebmaster@vanarfe.org).

Posting a newsletter on the VFC website means that members can access it from anywhere; and can keep up on what is happening in their Chapter, upcoming programs, fundraisers, activities in another Chapter in their area, etc., even when they are traveling. All current newsletters that have been submitted are listed on the left side of the main page of the VFC website.

Look at the newsletters listed and see what can be done. Currently, 27 of the 49 VFC Chapters have newsletters listed on the VFC website.

The VFC website is also where potential NARFE members go to find information about NARFE Chapters in Virginia. Every VFC Chapter is listed and each Chapter has a web page. Therefore, it is very important to keep the information about your Chapter current and up to date. You can see what is listed by entering the following in a web search:

www.vanarfe.org/Chapternumber/Chapternumber.htm
(i.e., for Chapter 1241, search
www.vanarfe.org/1241/1241.htm)

If you need assistance or have questions, contact either Stan Palen or Sid Sachs, the VFC Webmasters. The Chapter web page can include pictures of Chapter activities, listings or narratives of upcoming/future events, or anything else that might be of interest to current or potential Chapter members.

Did you know that the VFC website is updated at least weekly? The VFC Program Chairs constantly submit information. In fact, the Alzheimer's page has five new short videos attached to it. **Look at the VFC website!**



SLL & CDL Appointments for the 115th Congressional Session

SLL for Senator Mark Warner
(effective 1/1/2017)

Steve Ledford (Annandale Chapter 1159)
Phone: (703) 916-8546
E-Mail: unionmgmt@mac.com

SLL for Senator Tim Kaine
(effective 1/31/2017)

Eddie Eitches (McLean-Great Falls Chapter 489)
Phone: (703) 790-9187
E-Mail: eitches@verizon.net

CDL for Cong. Dist. 1
(effective 1/1/2017)
Rep. Robert Wittman

Gaston Gianni (Woodbridge Chapter 1270)
Phone: (703) 670-6433
E-Mail: GastonGianni@aol.com

CDL for Cong. Dist. 2
(effective 1/31/2017)
Rep. Scott Taylor

William Ketron (Williamsburg Chapter 685)
Phone: (757) 565-2483
E-Mail: ketron5@cox.net

CDL for Cong. Dist. 3
(effective 1/1/2017)
Rep. Robert Scott

Raymond D. Whipple (Peninsula Chapter 682)
Phone: (757) 596-0869
E-Mail: ray26sky@verizon.net

CDL for Cong. Dist. 4
(effective 1/1/2017)
Rep. Donald McEachin

Dillard H. Horton, Jr. (Suffolk Chapter 1743)
Tele. No.: (757) 539-5403
E-Mail: papadhh@gmail.com

CDL for Cong. Dist. 5
Rep. Michael Wade

VACANT

CDL for Cong. Dist. 6
(effective 1/1/2017)
Rep. Bob Goodlatte

Edward I. Misker (Staunton-Waynesboro-Augusta
Chapter 0178)
Phone: (434) 325-7585
E-Mail: emisker@prodigy.net

CDL for Cong. Dist. 7
(effective 1/1/2017)
Rep. David Brat

Robert Zombron (Midlothian Chapter 2265)
Phone: (804) 744-2683
E-Mail: bojudyz@verizon.net

CDL for Cong. Dist. 8
(effective 1/1/2017)
Rep. Donald Beyer

John Tolleris (Alexandria Chapter 0232)
Phone: (703) 960-7562
E-Mail: jatolleris@aol.com

CDL for Cong. Dist. 9
(effective 1/1/2017)
Rep. Morgan Griffith

Mary F. Kelley (Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837)
Phone: (276) 744-2590
E-Mail: mfk@valink.com

CDL for Cong. Dist. 10
(effective 1/31/2017)
Rep. Barbara Comstock

Charles McAndrew (Dulles Chapter 1241)
Phone: (703) 620-4489
E-Mail: Charles.mcandrew@verizon.net

CDL for Cong. Dist. 11
(effective 1/1/2017)
Rep. Gerald Connolly

Judy Thorne (Dulles Chapter 1241)
Phone: (703) 860-4715
E-Mail: Thornemusick@aol.com



Important VFC Dates

January 2017

January 1: Deadline for Chapters to file F-7 Report with NARFE HQ

January 8-10: Winter VFC Board Meeting – new location: Doubletree by Hilton, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

January 9: Nominating Committee Report to VFC President and VFC Board

January 17: Deadline for submission of Resolutions to VFC Secretary for consideration at the 2017 VFC Convention – Send to Betty Warren at blwarren12@verizon.net

January 21: Deadline for VFC Secretary to present Annual Summary of Chapter Membership and listing of authorized votes for the VFC Convention

January 27: Deadline for VFC Treasurer to send out invoices to Chapters for VFC Chapter dues

January 27: Deadline for VFC Constitution & Bylaws Committee to submit recommendations on submitted comments and recommended revisions to Proposed VFC Bylaws Amendments to VFC President

February 2017

February 10: Deadline for submission of nominations for Leadership Award to 2nd Vice President, Patricia Taylor at m spat1942@aol.com

February 16: Deadline for VFC President to send out “Call to Convention”

March 2017

March 12-15: NARFE Legislation Training Conference, Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, VA

April 2017

April 2-5: 63rd VFC Convention in Williamsburg, VA

**Doubletree by Hilton
50 Kingsmill Road,
Williamsburg, VA**

VFC website: www.vanarfe.org