



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



VFC Notes – Winter
(March, 2013)

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

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FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thanks to the mighty efforts of the NARFE National Office and membership chairs throughout the Virginia Federation of Chapters, our membership is declining at a slower rate. I am convinced that if we continue focusing on the core business of NARFE: membership and national legislation, we will reverse the membership trend. Under the leadership of the VFC Membership Chair Dennis Martin, Betty Warren of Virginia Beach (Bayside) Chapter 974 and B.J. Thomas McMillan of Northern Neck Chapter 1823 have developed dynamic presentations on recruiting and retention that show promise of progress in those areas. We applaud the Areas and chapters that have invited them for presentations, so far. Included in their presentations are emphases on dues-withholding, registration in the Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS) and outreach to active employees.

We are fast approaching the 2013 NARFE VFC State Convention to be held at the Holiday Inn Koger Center, Richmond (Midlothian), Virginia, April 21-24. The convention committee is planning an exciting program covering national and state legislation, chapter officer training and chapter recognition for outstanding performance. Register for the convention by March 15 and reserve hotel rooms by April 7. More detailed information on the convention is available on the vanarfe.org web site.

Congress is still in the throes of determining how to address the nation's fiscal issues, which leave federal employees, active and retired, vulnerable. Accordingly, we must use what influence we have to ameliorate the potential damage to us. In tracking the calls and message traffic to members of congress, we see there is room for improvement. Virginia message counts ranged from 10 in the 9th congressional district to 105 in the 11th. Clearly, more members need to contact congress and express their views. This is especially important in districts where the congressman has not been supportive. We believe that any fair-minded congressman will support fairness for federal employees once they understand the importance of what federal employees do and have done. It is up to us to educate them by putting faces and stories in front of them, often.

As we were seeking nominees for the 2013 Service Officer Award Program, we learned there are too many chapters without a service officer. Good service officers play an invaluable role in bringing the human factor to fore by sensitively preparing members for the inevitable. In times of stress, some members need help navigating the bureaucracies that dispense annuities, insurance, military burial benefits, etc. This is a clarion call for chapters to fill this key position if at all possible. Let me express our thanks to all those currently serving as service officers.

We are pleased that we have gone through the recent chapter elections and found that all of our 59 chapters are still in existence, although some may be teetering. Fortunately, there is a nucleus of dedicated members in each affected chapter on which to build for the future. These few cases are not due to a lack of members in the chapters but a lack of individuals willing to assume leadership positions. Past experiences tell us that when it is explained what is expected, the importance thereof and available support from the VFC, someone will assume the roles because the current times demand it.

RECRUIT A MEMBER!

Luther Santiful – VFC President

1ST VICE PRESIDENT



In the following pages, you will see reports from the Area Vice Presidents (AVP). Read them with care as these members represent the Chapters on the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) board. If you have issues and concerns, the AVP's are the people you will need to present them and get your answers.

As indicated in these articles, there are a number of new Chapter Presidents this year. Please give them your support. There is also a new AVP in Area V and a vacancy in the position of AVP in Area X. Great demands of time are placed on the AVP's. Sometimes these demands necessitate a reprioritization and reconsideration of personal constraints and organizational needs. There should be no stigma if a person decides that he/she can no longer meet the demands of a position and decides to resign. With approximately 18,000 members in the Virginia Federation, there should always be someone who can step up, even temporarily, and assume needed responsibilities. Consider how you may be able to assist and do not be hesitant to step up when needed. The mission of NARFE and the needs of NARFE should be important to all of us. And there is and should be someone available to help get new members acclimated and trained to assume the roles needed to make NARFE succeed in its mission.

To learn what the role of the Virginia Federation is in the NARFE mission, it is recommended that you attend the 2013 VFC Convention. Bulletin #1 for the Convention was sent out to all Chapter officers in late October 2012. Included in and attached to Bulletin #1 were the all of the deadlines and forms associated with the Convention, including the registration form. I implore you to make sure that your Chapter members are informed of the Convention and encouraged to attend. Area III is coordinating the 2013 VFC Convention and has been working very hard to make it a successful and significant event. The agenda is in the final stages of being formalized. Speakers, including a representative from the Office of Personnel Management, have been invited. And training for attendees has been incorporated. In addition, three VFC Bylaws amendments and one Resolution have been submitted for consideration at the Convention. Also, the five VFC Executive Committee positions, the ten AVP positions, and the ten AVP Nominating Committee positions and ten alternate positions will be voted upon and elected members installed at the Convention. **You should plan on attending!** The Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Koger Center, Richmond (Midlothian), Virginia, from April 22, 2013 thru April 24, 2013, with registration beginning on April 21, 2013. A block of over 200 rooms, at a special NARFE rate, have been set aside for Convention attendees; however reservations must be made directly with the hotel by April 7, 2013, to receive this special room rate. It is also recommended that attendees make their reservation using the local hotel telephone number (804-379-3800) and ask for "In-House Reservations."

I hope to see you at the 2013 VFC Convention.

Richard "Dick" Giangerelli – 1st Vice President

2ND VICE PRESIDENT



Happy New Year to all of our NARFE members in Virginia. As we enter 2013, we have many challenges for our chapters and members. In the area of membership, Virginia's statistics show we continued to lose quite a number of members in 2012 and our dues withholding is down. I personally don't have to worry about dues withholding since I am now a life time member of NARFE. I will proudly wear my pin.

Because of our proximity to Washington, DC, we are surrounded by active and retired federal employees. This should help us in our growth. The new e-NARFE chapter continues to grow with over 900 members in Virginia. With the new OAM reports that are so user friendly, membership chairs can keep track of members much easier. Membership recruitment and retention is still a challenge. Betty Warren and B.J. Thomas McMillan have been working hard coming up with new ideas to help chapters recruit and retain members. Training sessions have been held throughout the state and they are ready to take their show on the road and would love to visit chapters and especially area meetings where they can train a large number of members at one location. We have scheduled one of these training sessions for the 13 chapters in the Northern Virginia Area for March 20 at the Vienna Community Center. We are hoping to see a big turnout for the first training of this type in the area. Information on the training was sent to chapter presidents from Gaston Gianni and it was mentioned at the Northern Virginia Caucus meeting in January. I hope to see the membership chairs, public relations chair, chapter presidents and anyone else that wants to help us the chapter in their recruitment efforts.

Chapters have done an outstanding job in support of Alzheimer's research contributions in 2012 and contributed to the success of meeting our National goal of \$10 million before the end of 2012. Donna Shackelford has news in her report about what is happening in other states which means we have a challenge this year to continue to be one of the top federations.

In State Legislation, there has been some activity on one of the items on our 2013 State Legislation Plan - the Transfer on Death Deed. The proposed Act received from the Virginia Bar Association was introduced as Transfer on Death Deed Act, SB 1093. See the State Legislative Chair's report for more details.

The VFC Board approved funds for the attendance of the Senatorial Legislative Liaisons, Congressional District Liaisons, AVPs and Executive Committee members at the NARFE Legislation Training to be held in March. We expect a large contingent from Virginia to attend.

As you are aware the 2013 VFC State Convention is almost upon us. The dates are April 22 to April 24, 2013. The theme for the 2013 VFC Convention, "NARFE HELPING PROTECT YOUR FEDERAL BENEFITS," clearly states the mission of NARFE. Convention registration forms must be postmarked by March 15 to be included in the program book. All activities will be held at the Holiday Inn Koger Center in Richmond. A welcoming reception will be held Monday and the banquet with lively entertainment will be on Tuesday evening. We hope you will register and attend one of the breakout sessions for Alzheimer's, Membership, Public Relations, National Legislation, State Legislation or Service. We plan to offer several other break-out/training sessions for those who attend the Convention. During the past quarter, I worked with the Strategic Planning Committee to develop a VFC Strategic Plan which was approved at the January Board Meeting. It will be discussed at the VFC Convention.

Although my activities during the past quarter were limited, I did enjoy my visits to Chapter 7, Chapter 893 and Chapter 2358 in Mt. Jackson, way out in the Shenandoah Valley. I also participated in the Health Fair sponsored by Congressman Gerry Connolly at Woodson High School and met many NARFE members and potential members.

I visited the Clearwater, Florida NARFE chapter the first week of February and shared info from the National Convention and also explaining how to use the OAM reports. I ran into one of the NARFE members I had met previously at a restaurant the other day and we ended up having lunch together so she invited me to their meeting.

I am always available to visit your chapter and especially would welcome an invitation to your area meetings.

I hope to see you at our VFC Convention in April.

Kathy Arpa – 2nd Vice President

SECRETARY REPORT



The VFC Board voted unanimously to set aside an additional sum of \$8,500 to fund attendance at the National Legislative Training Conference being held in March. Existing funds were in the budget to provide up to \$500 support for each of the 11 CDLs and the 2 SLLs. The additional funds were approved to support attendance by the 10 AVPs, the National Legislation Chair, and the members of the Executive committee. All attendees are expected to file vouchers with receipts to support their reimbursement up to a maximum of \$500 per attendee.

With the resignation of Jessie Barksdale as Area V AVP the President announced the appointment Debra Laughon to serve in this position. The search committee for future convention sites for 2014 and 2015 recommended that we remain at the Holiday Inn Midlothian for the additional two years. The VFC Board voted unanimously to accept this recommendation. The 2014 convention was assigned to Areas V and VI, while Area IX will be in charge of the 2015 convention.

Region X Vice President Bill Martin explained the prohibition on the use of chapter dues funds for donations to charities. Current National by-laws prohibit the use of chapter dues for this. Other funds raised by the chapter may be used for this, but not dues income.

President Santiful encouraged chapters to review the list of zip codes used by National for their chapter assignments, and work with local chapters to fix mistakes.

It was noted by 1st Vice President Giangerelli that less than 1/2 of the chapters have updated their F-7s this past quarter which suggests that officers have not changed or that new officers are not keeping National up to date on the chapter officials names.

The Nominating committee indicated that they had found candidates for all elected positions in the VFC except Treasurer. President Santiful was asked to send out a GEMS message to seek interested nominees.

William A. Schmidt –VFC Secretary



ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

Calling all Chapter Chairs for Alzheimer's -- be sure to eat your Cheerios every day because you are going to be very busy. You see I have received information that the Illinois Federation received two estate donations totaling \$50,000 that will be added to their annual contribution at the Alzheimer's Association. Remember that the Association runs a fiscal year from July 1 - June 30, unlike the stats that I

keep for the Virginia Federation. Using year old numbers, Illinois totaled \$55,186 as compared to the Virginia Federation \$85,555 sum. Remember that Chicago Chapter 852 beat out our own Woodbridge Chapter 1270 (who collected over \$16,000) this last year for bragging rights as the Number One chapter with contributions of \$24,285 which included a substantial bequeathment.

We in the VFC are certainly serious contenders, as we have shown over the past 15 years. When you add the \$50,000 extra for Illinois, you can see that we in Virginia have a huge job cut out for ourselves. But WE CAN DO IT. We need to set a goal of at least \$100,000, and we are almost half way there as I write this article. All of our numbers from now until the end of June will count.

I'm hoping that many of the Chairs will attend the Convention in April. Be sure to get your registration in and make your reservation at the hotel. Those of you who are willing to help with the silent auction please let me know so I can plan appropriately. We will be in a slightly different location from the past few years, but just ask around and you'll find the area. Also remember to ask your Chapter to donate a nice gift, basket, jewelry, or other items so we can have an exceptionally successful auction this year. Each gift for the Silent Auction should have a value of at least \$25. I will select special items to be raffled off with tickets, so if you have a really unique item, please bring it to my attention when you come in. Of course, we'll be selling 50/50 tickets also as well as the auction and the items for raffle. I will have lots of giveaways too. As in the past years, we will have multiple drawings for the cash from 50/50 throughout the business session. The more tickets you buy, the better your chances to win, but you might choose to buy at various times.

I am planning to hold an informative session at the Convention, and one of the items to be explored is exactly what my duties are to the Association and to NARFE and our members in an effort to help everyone understand the time frame of money as it changes hands. I did this for our VFC Board in January and I was asked to make another presentation of it that same afternoon. I believe we are also going to have our Region X Alzheimer's Chair address the general session as well as the breakout session so all the Chairs can bring their questions and get "up front" answers. Every chapter looks for new and different fund raisers to make more money than previous years, so here is your chance to meet other Chairs and share new ideas during an open discussion time in this breakout. Chapter chairs should be sure they have a copy of the Manual for Alzheimer's Chapter Coordinators. I will try to bring some extras with me, but if you already have it, we can save a little money by not duplicating our efforts. Some of the new chairs may not have the carryovers from previous chairs. The current edition was revised January, 2011.

It is very sad when one of our members passes away. Many times other members want to memorialize the deceased with a monetary donation to Alzheimer's Research. That is wonderful. Just please be sure that the Chapter number is on the check and when forwarding the checks to me, double check that the address of the family or survivor is in the cover correspondence so I can make proper notifications and send the comforting sentiments that a particular individual thought enough of the deceased to make that contribution. I never tell the family the amount of the donation, but I try really hard to be timely in my cards to both the surviving family and also to the donor so everyone knows the check was properly handled.

Again, any help I can give you, please give me a call or an e-mail.

Donna Shackelford – VFC Alzheimer's Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This year-end report shows that VFC membership is down 8.5% unless the VFC e-NARFE members are added. The membership then is down by only 4.8%. Not bad for the year and compares quite favorably with the membership results for NARFE as a whole where the membership was down over 7%.

Speaking of the e-NARFE chapter (2363), over 900 of its members reside in the VFC area. NARFE HQ has decided to allow each Federation access to the members residing in their Federation. Because of the manpower requirements to maintain a Web site, HQ will maintain the site while allowing the Federation access to its members. This access will allow the Federation to provide Federation information to its members.

The new membership recruitment contest continues to do well with 138 members recruited since the contest started. For the year nearly 200 members were recruited by VFC members.

Two members were added to the Membership Committee - Betty Warren for retention and B.J. Thomas McMillan for recruitment. They've hit the ground running and are already providing training sessions.

Dennis K. Martin – VFC Membership Chair



NATIONAL LEGISLATION

General Election : Everyone is aware that the President was reelected in November as was every incumbent member of the Virginia delegation to the House of Representatives. Tim Kaine won election to the US Senate. Senator Kaine is presently slated to be assigned to three committees, Armed

Services, Foreign Relations and Budget. The Senate is split 53 Democrats, 45 Republicans and 2 Independents (caucusing with the Democrats). The House of Representatives is split 233 Republications, 200 Democrats and 2 vacant seats. Neither party has a 3/5ths "super" majority in the 113th congress.

National Legislation: On January 1st, Congress passed HR-8 which dealt with the "Fiscal Cliff". All Virginia Congressman voted "NO" with the exception of Representative Gerry Connolly of the 11th District. President Obama signed a Presidential decree stopping the federal employee's pay freeze. Congress then passed a bill that continued the pay freeze for congress. It seems that when Congress comes back in session during the week of Jan 20th it should be interesting. NARFE Headquarters has all ready been busy writing letters to congress supporting active and retired federal employees. I suspect that GEMS Emails will continue to be frequent this session of Congress. The up-to-date listing is available on line (www.narfe.org) at the NARFE Legislative Action Center along with information on how your Senators and Congressman voted.

Congressional District Liaisons: The changes caused by redistricting have been difficult, especially in Northern Va. Chapter areas and Congressional Districts are not in any way aligned which has frustrated some CDL's. We are continuing to work on getting more CDL's/ACDL's for the strange shaped Districts and trying to get the CDL's aligned with the districts they represent. We have approved a New CDL for the 6th Congressional District, Ed Misker. We are searching for a volunteer to serve as the CDL for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Congressional Districts. Additionally we are looking for a Senate Legislative Liaison for Senator Kaine. This is a great opportunity for NARFE members to step up and join the group of CDLs and SLLs.

Tom Hall –VFC National Legislation Chair

PUBLIC RELATIONS



A new year but the same old issues! How are we doing in spreading the word about NARFE? What are you doing to get new members? What are you doing to retain members? How have you made the community you live in aware of your NARFE chapter and your events and activities? What is the energy level of your chapter? Are you waiting for someone else to get the new members? How would you characterize your chapter's ability to energize its members to participate in "Call in Days" to congressional representatives? The solution, in my mind, lies with PUBLIC RELATIONS! **Let's make some noise!** Bring out the BS, **BRILLIANT STUFF** that is, and use matching funds to create or participate in some recruiting events. We need to get out and wave the NARFE flag! Get out in your

communities and represent NARFE in local events. Reach out and engage people to see if they are active or retired federal employees. Build strong relations among your members and challenge them to get involved. REMEMBER IT IS ALL ABOUT PROTECTING OUR EARNED BENEFITS. We can't rely on the "someone else will do it" or "NARFE Headquarters to do it all".

WE ALL HAVE TO GET ENGAGED in the business of NARFE!

That being said, I want to emphasize again that as the VFC Public Relations Chair, I am here to help. However, I can't help unless you ask!! Let me share with you some information about matching funds events in 2012 that helped bring in new members to NARFE. Maybe you and your Chapter can find an event or activity to participate in this year.

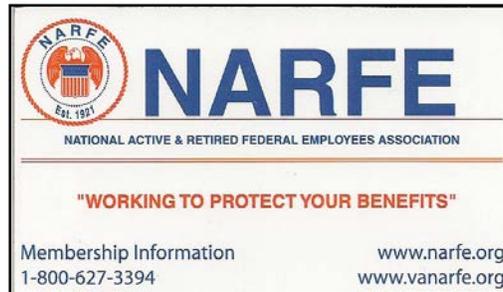
MATCHING FUNDS PROJECTS

- 1) Chapter 2265-Midlothian (Area III) set up a booth at the Chesterfield Triad Senior Day event. Chapter members were there with NARFE literature and membership applications. They signed up three new members and helped inform others about NARFE. They also used a sign-up sheet to keep in touch with potential members.
- 2) Chapter 1270-Woodbridge (Area IX) entered a NARFE float in the Dale City 4th of July Parade and placed an ad in the Parade program. Over 10,000 people lined the street to see the parade and the parade was televised live and rebroadcast several time on the local community channel. This helped raise the awareness of NARFE in the local community.
- 3) Chapter 1743-Suffolk (Area IV) set up a table at the 4 day Suffolk Peanut Festival. Festival organizers estimated that between 175,000 and 200,000 people attended. Chapter members passed out NARFE information, including the NARFE Magazine. They had a drawing for \$50 and a free NARFE membership for non NARFE individuals who provided their name and contact information. The Chapter subsequently provided National with the names and address of 58 active Federal employees and 26 retired Federal employees. This information will be used be National to recruit new members.
- 4) Chapters 1116-Vienna-Oakton, 1159-Annandale, 401-Falls Church, 893-Springfield, 480-McLean Great Falls, 737-Fairfax and 1241-Dulles (Areas IX & X) pulled together to place a NARFE ad in the local county paper which reaches 130,000 households. They received several calls related to the ad and had at least one new member join NARFE.
- 5) Chapter 164-Harrisonburg, (Area VII), set up a NARFE display booth at the 7 day Rockingham County Fair which had over 80,000 in attendance. The Chapter had bags with the NARFE Magazine, membership applications, and VFC PR Goodies to hand out. The Chapter maintained a log book and collected the names and address of active and retired

federal employees as well as the general public. Using NARFE Form M-2 they collected useful information from potential new members and referred the information to National for future use.

OTHER EVENTS

During the year Area Vice Presidents in Areas I, II, IV, VII, IX, & X attended various health fairs, county fairs and political events as places to spread the NARFE message. In addition, some chapters participated in local events and passed out NARFE "GOODIES". These were in addition, to the PR Goodies provided in the above matching funds projects. These PR Goodies did two things—help build awareness of NARFE and attracted potential new members to NARFE. As a result of these efforts, our PR Goodies were depleted and I restocked the supplies in late 2012 to gear up for 2013 events. (Bags, pens, sticky notes, letter openers and NARFE magnets). This is a picture of our new NARFE magnet.



Please let me know of your upcoming events and PR needs. You can send me an e-mail at gastongianni@aol.com or call me at 703-508-4339, if you have any questions.

Finally, please check out the Public Relations Section of the VFC web site (www.vanarfe.org) where you will find revised Matching Funds Guidelines and examples of letter requests and final reports. Remember, matching funds is an excellent way of stretching your chapter funds!

CLOSING QUOTE: "If you care at all, you'll get some results. If you care enough, you'll get incredible results." Jim Rohn

Gaston Gianni, VFC PR Chair

SERVICE OFFICERS



WE ARE AVAILABLE to provide assistance to Chapter Service Officers in all areas pertaining to procedures governing delivery of annuity payments; federal life and health insurance; survivor benefits; change of beneficiary procedures; death benefits; federal income tax withholding; and the preparation of forms relating to these matters. In addition, we can provide assistance in resolving problems involving claims submitted to the Office of Personnel Management by NARFE members. Please contact us at (703) 802-7344, if you need assistance.

U.S. Treasury Requires Electronic Federal Benefit Payments

If you still receive a paper check for your Social Security or other federal benefit payments, you are required by law to switch to an electronic payment method by March 1, 2013. You can choose to get your payments by direct deposit to a bank or credit union account or to a Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card account. **You must switch to electronic payments by March 1, 2013.** Sign up for direct deposit or the Direct Express® card by contacting the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at (800) 333-1795. You may also sign up for direct deposit online.

John and Constance T. Bails – VFC Co-Service Officers



STATE LEGISLATION

On January 9, 2013, the 2013 legislative session was gaveled in at noon for a 45 day "short session". There are few new members, since elections were last held in 2011, so there were minimal changes in committee assignments. This is not a budget session so the legislative session is expected to wrap up in late February. All 100 seats in the House of Delegates are up for election, as well as the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General.

The Virginia General Assembly has a new website which is a great resource to track legislation live each day: <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov>

Top issues to be considered this session include:

- Considering a ban on texting while driving.
- Finding a new funding mechanism for transportation which could either eliminate or increase the gas tax.
- Making a decision on the future of uranium mining, something that has been pushed off for several years.

- Maintaining funding for education, social services, and the arts.
- Considering a bill to close the gun show loopholes.
- Transfer on Death Deeds

This is the third year that "Transfer on Death Deeds" has been listed in the VFC State Legislation Plans. SJ349 was introduced in 2011 to request the Virginia Bar Association to study the merits of legislation authorizing transfer on death deeds but failed in House sub-committee.

We realized that many families could benefit from a way to transfer their principal asset (i.e., the primary residence), without enduring the cost, administrative burden, and public nature of the probate process. Currently spouses can transfer on death their primary residences, but it is difficult for individuals to do so with children or others who might benefit. Asset specific mechanisms for the non-probate transfer of personal property and funds at death are now common. However, there is no generally available straightforward, inexpensive, and reliable means of passing real property, which may be a decedent's major asset, directly to a beneficiary at death.

Recently, Dick Murphy, a member of the VFC State Legislation Committee, reported that SB1093, with Senator Emmett Hanger as the Chief Patron, passed the Senate by a 40-0 vote. It was then sent to the House Committee for Courts of Justice. We ask all to contact and urge their Senator and Delegates to support this bill.

In this election year, the VFC State Legislative Committee will meet in June to suggest contributing to the campaigns of those members of the General Assembly who support our issues. Please consider making a donation to the VFC State Political Account. Please use the following form, which is found on the VFC website (www.vanarfe.org), to make a donation.

Gene Brown – VFC 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 23832-7842				

AREA I



My last report from Area I stated that things were going great. Fortunately that is the status again with this report!!!

All four chapters (682, 685, 1757, and 1823) have full slates of officer for 2013. And it's great to add that several of the members who have stepped up to serve as officers or program chairs are new to their respective positions. Any time you have more members willing to step forward to help lead a chapter it's something to share with others! Thanks to the folks in all four chapters who are now in leadership positions. Special thanks to Tom Yager, who is the new President of 682, and to Jeanne Garrison, who is the new President of 685. New perspectives, new ideas, renewed interest – new leaders tend to bring out renewed vigor in chapters. Thanks to Jim Bradbury, who is again serving as President of 1757 (and who has succeeded in getting more members to move into leadership positions/program chairs), and to B. J. Thomas McMillan who is once again serving as President with a full slate of officers!

Advocacy efforts within the chapters have been steady for months now – letters, e-mails, surveys, phone calls, etc. And, of course, the three congressional debates scheduled last October definitely added to the interest in National Legislation. At least three – possibly four – Area I members will be attending the Legislative Training Conference to be held in March. An Area I meeting will be scheduled after the conference so those who attended can share their information and insights with others. We're also fortunate to have Wanda Hewlin (682) who is CDL for Congressman Bobby Scott, 3rd District, and Ray Whipple (682) who is currently going through the appointment process to serve as Vice CDL for Congressman Rigell (2nd District). Now we need to get more members interested in working on State Legislation!!!

An Area I meeting was held in November with 19 members in attendance. B. J. Thomas McMillan, who has been appointed by VFC President Luther Santiful to come up with a plan to increase recruitment, was the featured speaker. She gave her initial presentation at the Area I meeting and lead an interactive discussion with the 19 members in attendance. She then compiled the various ideas and made a presentation at the VFC Board meeting held in January. Great work, B.J.! We're looking forward to hearing more from you in the coming months!

Another Area I meeting currently in the planning stage will feature Connie and John Bails, VFC Chairs who will provide information on how Service Officers should work (i.e., informing members on how to handle questions, etc. rather than doing the work for them). We're also currently working on setting up co-service officers in the chapters so someone will always be available to assist when needed.

As you can see, Area I chapters are busy, and attendance at meetings is increasing. Chapter 1823 has been holding day trips which have brought out more members; Chapter 682 is getting back on schedule with day trips; and Chapter 1757 is scheduling a 6-day cruise out of Norfolk which is being presented to other chapters as a joint venture! Activity stimulates interest, and all four chapters are active and definitely working to recruit new members – and to retain those they have now! Thanks for the great work from your very proud Area I Vice President.

Patricia Taylor – VFC Area I Vice President

AREA II



On the 6th of December, 49 members of Chapters 5 and 974 attended a holiday luncheon at the Chef's Table, a very nice restaurant on Independence Boulevard near Virginia Beach Towne Center. The luncheon menu featured broiled crab cakes, strip steaks, and chicken with penne pasta. After the meal, everyone was served a large portion of NARFE cake and a drawing was held for 16 door prizes. Photographs of the luncheon are provided below. Aside from the luncheon, there were no Chapter meetings in December. I attended meetings of Chapters 5 and 974 in January.

Alex Adkins – VFC Area II Vice President



Holiday Luncheon



Drawina for Door Prizes



NARFF Cake

NARFE - ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

AREA III



Membership continues to be a concern of six out of the seven chapters. Losses to the e-chapter appear to be a problem. Retention is the biggest problem we have. In 2013, all chapters will strive to recruit new members and keep the ones we have.

All chapters have a full slate of officers. Installation of officers took place during the holiday luncheons. Bill Martin, Region X Vice President, installed the officers at Chapter 1727 Midlothian and Chapter 1472 Colonial Heights. Sam Harris, VFC Treasurer, installed the officers at Chapter 28 Petersburg and I did the honors at the other four chapters.

Chapter 1138 South of the James decided not to have a Christmas Luncheon but instead the money that would have been spent on the luncheon was sent to the Red Cross for the Hurricane Sandy Victim's Fund.

Some of the speakers for the quarter were Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Elder Hostel, Inc., and an attorney discussing elder law concerns. All chapters had their meetings planned for the next quarter.

Chapter 1727 Midlothian and Chapter 28 Petersburg exceeded their goals for Alzheimer's. Auctions were a good money making activity.

All chapters are working on their committee responsibilities for the 2013 VFC Convention. We are working very hard on selling ads. I think we are well on our way to a successful Convention.

A meeting was held October 31st with Virginia General Assembly Delegate Kirk Cox. Those in attendance were House Majority Leader Cox; Joe Gresko, State Legislative Representative; Jack McMurchy, President of Petersburg Chapter 28 and Chapter State Legislative Chair; Stephen Stastny, Area III State Legislation Coordinator; and Carolyn Wilson, Area III Vice President. The NARFE-VA 2012/2013 Legislative Plan was discussed with Delegate Cox. The need/issue of transportation for seniors to remain independent was thoroughly discussed and established. Delegate Cox stated that he would take up the issue/need for certification for geriatric professions (other than MD's) with the Legislative Health Care Task Force. Delegate Cox said that a key contact involved with Appropriations and Health Care is Delegate O'Bannon (MD) from Henrico County. Delegate O'Bannon is Chair of the Joint Commission for Health Care. Mr. Gresko and Carroll Graham, Tuckahoe Chapter 1727, had tried to set up a meeting with Delegate O'Bannon and Senator Stosch to discuss this matter before the General Assembly went into session, however, it appears that meeting will take place in late February or early March.

Carolyn Wilson – VFC Area III Vice President

AREA IV



Area IV consists of five chapters: Portsmouth #63; Churchland #1293; Chesapeake #1682; Brentwood #1697; and, Suffolk #1743. See individual chapter websites for further information.

Chapters held 'elections' for members seeking chapter board positions. The majority of boards remained 'status quo' with little change. However, the Suffolk chapter president 'stepped down' to devote his efforts to recruiting and retention as their Membership Chair. No member volunteered to become the permanent president, but a previous president, Joe Silberholz, volunteered to serve as Acting President until someone steps forward to fill that office. I'm told several members are 'considering' running for president; and hopefully that will be resolved in a month or so. I have visited chapters and installed board members.

The Churchland Chapter had recruiting tables at two Federal Employee Health Fairs during the fall season. Our volunteers met and talked with many active federal workers as well as some retirees; telling them about NARFE and its mission, and giving out NARFE bags containing brochures, applications, a NARFE magazine and a small gift.

Area IV chapters held Christmas parties during their December meetings. Entertainers were present at several events; such as bluegrass musicians and a singer who presented a musical tribute to Frank Sinatra... and a mixture of Christmas carols.

I hosted the third Chapter President's Breakfast (for Area IV) on February 6, 2013. I lead discussions and sought support in several areas: Primarily, we addressed support for the 2013 VFC Convention in Richmond. Chapter presidents are reviewing the tasks outlined in VFC Bulletin #1; and initiating actions to assist the convention, its memorial service, selling ads, individual and chapter contributions, donation of items for the Alzheimer's Silent Auction, etc. Additionally, we discussed the upcoming Legislative Training Conference. To provide more detailed and current information concerning that event, I invited VFC Legislative Chair, Thomas Hall, to also attend the breakfast.

Finally, VFC Luther Santiful attended the Chesapeake Chapter meeting on February 5, 2013. We invited members of other chapters to also attend and meet Luther.

Bobby Whittington – VFC Area IV Vice President

AREA V



In the November 2012 elections, Jessie Barksdale was elected to the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors. Unfortunately, as a result of the time demands of that position, he had to resign from the NARFE Virginia Federation position of Area V Area Vice President, and requested that someone be appointed to complete his term of office after December 31, 2012. Luther Santiful, the NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters President, in accordance with the Virginia Federation Bylaws, appointed me to fill the Area V Area Vice President position until someone could be elected at the 2013 VFC Convention.

I am so excited to be able to step into this position, and am grateful to Jessie Barksdale and Luther Santiful for providing me with this opportunity. I am looking forward to meeting and working with the members of six chapters in Area V, which includes the Bedford Chapter 1068, the Danville Chapter 1011, the Lynchburg Chapter 0110, the Martinsville-Henry Chapter 1882, the Piedmont Chapter 2080, and the Southside Chapter 2079. I plan on visiting each of these chapters and assisting them to increase membership and become more active.

I am a member of the Bedford Chapter 1068. I retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 2009, after 29 years and 2 months of federal service. I was a rural carrier in the Bedford area. I am currently a member of the Bedford Professional Women's organization and previously served as the president of that organization. I am also chairperson of the box office for the Little Town Players, a live theater group. As a member of the Big Island Baptist Church, I sing in the choir, serve as clerk of the church, serve on mission committee, and serve on the transition team. I am also a 4-H All Star. However, be advised, I will do my best to serve and fulfill the needs of Area V as the Area Vice President.

I hope to see and meet with as many Virginia Federation members as possible at the 2013 VFC Convention in April 2013. I believe that the Convention provides a great opportunity to meet with you and discuss your ideas on the NARFE issues.

Debra Laughon – VFC Area V Vice President

AREA VI



CHAPTERS - Area VI includes Chapter 111 (Roanoke Valley), Chapter 1134 (New River Valley), Chapter 1837 (Wilderness Trail), and Chapter 2330 (Southwest Highlands).

Winter 2013 - - No Article Submitted From Area VI.

Wanda Ware – VFC Area VI Vice President

AREA VII



Area VII is comprised of six chapters: Winchester #180, Shenandoah County #2358, Page Valley #1793, Harrisonburg #164, Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro #178, and Charlottesville #135.

This period began just prior to the November 2012 National elections. Continuing on from the previous quarterly notes, all six chapters from Area VII were deeply involved in the run-ups to these very important events. As discussed previously, our two VA Congressmen: Bob Goodlatte (6th District) and Frank Wolf (10th District) attended NARFE chapter events (Goodlatte at Harrisonburg, and Wolf at Winchester). Both were made aware of our concerns that we not be unfairly singled out in attempts to balance the federal budgets.

As has been the practice, all six chapters in Area VII held their officer elections in November. All positions are filled, with most incumbents running again. We in Area VII are fortunate to have both the NARFE National President and the VFC President as members of our chapters; Joe Beaudoin (Winchester) and Luther Santiful (Shenandoah County), respectively. These gentlemen participated in the swearing-in ceremonies for our chapters during November and December. Additionally, President Beaudoin recognized a number of members of Chapter 180 for distinguished service. All of the new 2103 Area VII officers are listed on the VFC Area VII webpage.





Martha Bogle
U.S. Park Service

Among noteworthy events during November, all chapters held Alzheimer's Research fund raising collection programs. Retiring Shenandoah National Park Superintendent Martha Bogle was guest speaker at a recent Page Valley Chapter meeting. In addition to being a terrific speaker, she supported the chapter with a generous donation toward our participation in the Page County "Walk to End Alzheimer's" this past summer. Many of our Area VII members attended a Dementia and Alzheimer's Care Event November 15, co-hosted by Linda Kurtz, director of Dutch Haven Assisted Living and Morning Glory Secure Memory Care. During December, all chapters held Holiday celebrations during their monthly meetings.

Area VII chapters were privileged to have as our speakers: Mike Combs, a hearing equipment specialist (Shenandoah County), Vanessa Lacey the Regional representative of BC/BS (Page Valley and Shenandoah County), and Julie Herczeg, from the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, VA. Julie gave an interesting presentation, explaining the early "Christmas" traditions in England, Ireland, Germany and Africa, which immigrants brought with them to America. She closed by playing her dulcimer and singing Holiday songs. Other Holiday Entertainment at chapter meetings was supplied by guitarist Dave Lewis (Shenandoah County) and The Dixie Rhythm Band (Winchester).



Holiday Entertainment by The Dixie Rhythm Band (Winchester)

Finally, during the quarter, I was able to attend and speak at one meeting of all six Area VII chapters. My main themes were a report of VFC Board meeting results, and a wrap-up of the NARFE National Convention.

Steve Dansker – VFC Area VII Vice President

AREA VIII



Fredericksburg Chapter 90; It was with great pleasure that I installed Moe Nolet for her third year as President of Chapter 90 at their Holiday Luncheon. The challenge for this chapter is meeting attendance. With approximately 650 members, meeting attendance ranges from 15 to 40 depending on the speaker.

Colonial Beach Chapter 595: Bill Martin came to Colonial Beach in January to install the new Officers for 2013 with myself returning as President. We have a new Vice President, Jean Starkey, and Dot Almassy has moved to Secretary, giving Ann Jenkins, our previous Secretary for many years, a chance to concentrate on health issues. In November, the chapter's Big Band Dance brought in \$1200

for Alzheimer's Research.

Warrenton-Fauquier Chapter 1549: Luther Santiful installed new Officers at the December Holiday Luncheon. Jerry Rosenfeld moved from Vice President to President. Congratulations Jerry and many thanks to Barbara Scott who has served the past two years as President.

Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885: I was happy to install Shirley Cornwall as President of Chapter 1885 for the second year. It was a beautiful sunny day at Lake of the Woods Clubhouse where the dining room has a gorgeous lake view and a harpist played Christmas songs. It was really a perfect day. Chapter 1885 is continuing their tour program with a trip to Charleston Casino in March.

Louisa Chapter 2065: Kate Killam was installed as President of Chapter 2065 at the December meeting at Tavern on the Rails. Rachel Hollins will be there as Vice President to help her out. Thanks so much to Ray Siewert, outgoing President, for all his hard work these past two years.

Caroline Chapter 2112: Caroline Chapter is now settled into its new meeting space at the Bowling Green United Methodist Church. A local Restaurant caters their lunch. I was there along with Bill Martin, Region X Vice President to install their 2013 Officers. Judi Moore is returning to the Office of President. Thanks to Annette MacDonald for her service. She is now focusing on medical issues.

Falls Run Chapter 2343: Chapter 2343 had a fabulous Silent Auction at their Holiday meeting in December at Cannon Ridge Golf Club. I installed Mike Anderson as President. He has served for many years as Vice President. Also Don Shiffert is back as Vice President of Chapter 2343. Thanks to Julia Alessio for her work as President these past two years.



Jackie Richards
Chapter 2343

Area VIII conducted a meeting on 1 February 2013 in Fredericksburg. We had 18 members in attendance along with Region X Vice President, Bill Martin, VFC 1st Vice President Dick Giangerelli, and VFC Public Relations Chair, Gaston Gianni. Lots of interesting information was shared.

Finally, I want to express heartfelt thanks to a very dedicated NARFE member from Area VIII. Last Fall Jackie Richards of Falls Run Chapter 2343 announced that, after 31 years of service to NARFE, she was stepping aside. During those 31 years she has served continuously either as a Chapter Officer or Committee member. Do you know Jackie? If you have been around for awhile, you may remember that she worked alongside her husband, Jim, in the Northern Neck Chapter 1823 and then became First lady of the VFC when Jim was the VFC President, 1999-2001. Later she and her husband moved to the Falls Run Community and in 2004 established the first one zip code NARFE chapter. It took a bit of convincing on their part to NARFE Headquarters; but now Chapter 2343 is a thriving, active chapter and has been a model for other one zip code chapters that since have been established since. Besides being a dedicated asset to her chapter, Jackie also served as Area VIII Vice President and I was thrilled to have her as my mentor. You may also know Jackie for her famous "Red Book". She has traveled all over the state visiting chapters and giving presentations. Finally, if for no other reason, you should know Jackie because she was the first recipient of the R. David Smith Award at the Virginia Beach VFC Convention in 2010. This award is given to recognize significant citizenship and community service contributions as a member of the VFC and NARFE.

So, Jackie, words like "Thank You" are just not enough. Even though you will be "stepping aside", please know that we will continue to call on you for your wisdom, expertise and leadership for all things NARFE.

Leslie E. Ravenell – VFC Area VIII Vice President

AREA IX



It has been a busy fall and winter for Area IX. With elections behind us (and many of the incumbents re-elected), the only thing left to determine is which congressional district our members wound up in!! NARFE members can certainly be proud of the role they played in the past election!!!

I have been pleased at the increasing number of members attending monthly meetings. Some chapters must pay for a meeting location; others meet at local restaurants. In the first instance the rental fees come out of the chapter treasury; whereas in the latter, members are paying for a lunch with the restaurant providing the meeting place. In any event, it would seem that members are beginning to focus on the fact that, as our National President, Joe Beaudoin, indicated several years ago, "Federal workers and retirees really do have a target on their backs (or foreheads)!" Members have been encouraged to contact their Congressmen and Senators on a regular basis. And NARFE headquarters makes it extremely easy to do so.

In addition to the normal monthly activities, chapters are demonstrating their livelihood, each with their own newsletter and website. They each have a slate of officers, and most chair positions are filled as well. Two chapters, Springfield (893) and Woodbridge (1270), have new presidents, which is a good indicator of an active chapter. Either continuing officers or new officers were installed. Our National Secretary, Elaine Hughes, installed Pat Harahan as the new president of Chapter 893 and I installed Jim Little as the new president of Chapter 1270. Many thanks are due to outgoing presidents Jim Delgado (893) and Joyce Pieritz (1270) for their excellent work in leading their chapters these past two years! I also installed continuing officers in Manassas (356) and Alexandria (232) Chapters. VFC Public Relations Chair, Gaston Gianni, did the installation honors for Annandale (1159) and Falls Church (401) Chapters. Most of these installations took place at the chapter Christmas parties. I'm not sure if it is the holiday or if members really want to see their officers sworn in, but attendance at these events overshadowed most of the other meetings during the year. Or, maybe it is the entertainment, which has always been top rate!

The Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters continues to thrive under Gaston Gianni's leadership. In January, Fred Hamidzada from NARFE Headquarters IT staff spoke on and demonstrated the use of the "Online Activities Module (OAM)". The OAM can be used to keep the list of officers up to date; and it provides real-time membership information. The OAM has a number of other useful features to help chapters manage and communicate with their membership; and it is amazingly easy to use. Fred can be contacted via email at fhamidzada@narfe.org. The Texas Federation has developed an excellent instruction manual for using the OAM system. It can be found on the Texas Federation website at <http://www.txnarfe.org/GoingPaperlessTXHandbook.pdf>.

I am very pleased that most chapters in Area IX will have someone (or more) attending the NARFE Legislative Training Conference in March 2013. I have found that once a member attends, he or she becomes "hooked" on the reasons NARFE exists and becomes an active participant in the whole legislative process. I am hoping that, by the time of the 2013 VFC Convention in April 2013, we will no longer be talking about the "fiscal cliff," sequestration, or the debt ceiling. What do you think the chances are??

Pierce Johnson – VFC Area XI Vice President

AREA X



Area X includes Arlington Chapter 7, McLean/Great Falls Chapter 489, Fairfax Chapter 737, Vienna Chapter 1116, Loudoun/Leesburg Chapter 1133, Dulles Chapter 1241, and Metro Northern Virginia Chapter 1665.

Chapter officers have been installed in six of the seven chapters in Area X and the officers of the seventh chapter, Loudoun/Leesburg Chapter 1133, will be elected and installed by the end of February 2013. I would like to welcome new Presidents (Mark McLachlan - Chapter 7, Annabelle Linden - Chapter 737, and Norm Fisette - Chapter 1116. Bill Schmidt is continuing as President of Chapter 1241 and Judy Willis is continuing as president of Chapter 1665.

All of the chapters in Area X continue to experience declining membership, though the rate of the decline has slowed. During the last quarter, membership in Area X chapters has declined from 4,525 to 4,464. In the future, greater emphasis needs to be placed on retaining existing members and recruiting new members.

Chapters 737, 1116, and 1133 participated in the recruitment drive at the November 2012 Health Fair sponsored by Congressman Gerry Connolly. Hopefully, as a result of these efforts and the information provided to attendees, membership in Area X chapters will begin to increase again. Unfortunately, as a result of additional demands on my time, I will not be able to continue as the Area Vice President of Area X; and I must resign effective immediately. I will continue to serve as treasurer, membership chair, and newsletter editor of Chapter 1133.

Victoria Duarte – VFC Area X Vice President (Former)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Virginia Federation Of Chapters
59th Annual Convention
April 21 - 24, 2013
Holiday Inn - Koger Center
Richmond

Contact Carolyn Wilson for more information
E-Mail - - cew1940@verizon.net

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E-mail at web form: warner.senate.gov , then click on "E-mail Senator Warner."			
Honorable Tim Kaine United States Senate	B40C Dirksen S.O.B. Ph. 202-224-4024	507 East Franklin Street, 1st Floor Richmond, VA 23219 Ph. 804-771-2221	
E-mail at web form: kaine.senate.gov , then click on "Contact Tim"			
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Honorable Rob Wittman (Plus an office in Tappahannock)	1318 Longworth H.O.B. Ph. 202-225-4261 Fax 202-225-4382	4904-B George Washington Hwy Yorktown, VA 23692 Ph. 757-874-6687 Fax 757-874-7164	3504 Plank Road Suite 203 Fredericksburg, VA 22407 Ph. 540-548-1086 Fax 540-548-1658
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Honorable Randy Forbes (Plus an office in Emporia)	2438 Rayburn H.O.B. Ph. 202-225-6365 Fax 202-226-1170	505 Independence Pkwy Suite 104 Chesapeake, VA 23320 Ph. 757-382-0080 Fax 757-382-0780	2903 Boulevard, Suite B Colonial Heights, VA 23834 Ph. 804-526-4969 Fax 804-526-7486
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(NOTE: Continued on Page 19)

(Continued) Contact Information – Virginia Members of Congress – As of January 1, 2013

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Honorable James P. Moran	2239 Rayburn H.O.B. Ph. 202-225-4376 Fax 202-225-0017	333 N. Fairfax Street Alexandria, VA 22314 Ph. 703-971-4700 Fax 703-922-9436	None as of report date
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