

# Virginia Federation of NARFE

## Executive Leadership

### President

**Leslie Ravenell**

804-224-3069 or email:  
nell8211@gmail.com

### First Vice President

**Pat Taylor**

757-599-5408 or email:  
mspat1942@aol.com

### Second Vice President

**Dr. Constance Bails**

703-802-7344 or email:  
ctbails@aol.com

### Immediate Past President

**Kathy Arpa**

703-205-9041 or email:  
mkarpa@hotmail.com



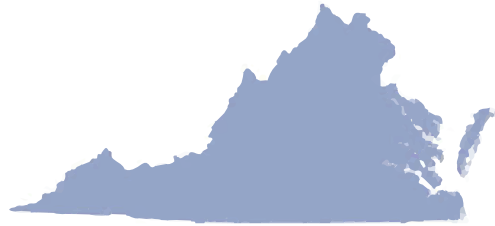
*Protecting America's  
Heartbeat for over 90 Years!*

# Virginia Federation of NARFE

15,500 Members Strong

🏠 46 Chapters

🏠 10 Area Vice Presidents



## Virginia Federation of NARFE Legislative Contact:

### Eddie Eitches

State Legislation Representative  
703-790-9187 or e-mail:  
eitches@verizon.net



# National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)



## Virginia Federation of NARFE

**2019**

## State Legislative Plan

*Protecting Earned Benefits of Active and  
Retired Federal Employees and  
the interest of Virginia's citizens*



# 2019 State Legislative Plan - Virginia

## Tax Law Changes

2018 Federal Income Tax Law changes now make it likely that many Americans will take the standard deduction, rather than itemizing deductions. Under present Virginia tax law, if a taxpayer does not itemize in their federal taxes, they cannot itemize at the state level, thereby, potentially, increasing their state income taxes. We urge the Virginia General Assembly to enact legislation so that all Virginians can itemize at the state level even if they take the standard deduction at the Federal level.

## Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Premiums

Health Care costs continue to rise, and most retirees are on fixed incomes. Therefore, we support legislation that would amend VA58.1-322(C) to allow retirees to subtract health insurance and long-term care premiums from federal adjusted gross income on Virginia state tax returns with no income restrictions.

## Minimum Nursing Home Standards

Nursing home residents need adequate certified staff to maintain and improve their physical and emotional quality of life. Current federal regulations require “sufficient” staffing to meet the needs of residents. While many states have adopted minimum staffing levels, Virginia has yet to do so. We urge the Virginia General Assembly to enact legislation to adopt and implement certified nursing home staffing assignments and staffing levels.

## Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform

Gerrymandering reduces political competition and fosters a climate of partisan gridlock. We urge the Virginia General Assembly to pass legislation ensuring that future redistricting is undertaken in a nonpartisan and transparent manner, conducted through impartial means, such as by an independent commission. Should the Virginia General Assembly fail to pass such legislation, redistricting should be conducted in a bipartisan manner. We also urge the Virginia General Assembly to respond promptly to court orders to act to correct actions such as racial gerrymandering.

## Voting Reform

Many states now permit some form of “no-excuse” absentee voting for their citizens. We recommend that the Virginia General Assembly pass legislation that would allow “no-excuse” absentee voting, similar to more than half of the other states.

## Exempting Federal Pensions from Virginia Income Tax

The annuity paid by the Federal Government to retirees under CSRS and FERS should be treated the same as Social Security pensions and should not be taxed as income by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Multiple states already exempt federal pensions from state tax.

For more information on these issues or to schedule a meeting, please contact:

Dr. Constance Bails  
VFN 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
ctbails@aol.com\_

Or

Eddie Eitches  
VFN State Legislative Representative  
eitches@verizon.net