

VFC Annual Report – 2007

Ann M. Collins, President

The Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Board again had an active and challenging year. This report booklet cannot possibly capture all of the VFC's work, but it highlights important accomplishments by each of the 22 voting members on the Board. The hard work by the VFC Board members is recognized and appreciated.

Many members have asked about the current representation of the 22-voting Board members by VFC Area based on membership information. As of December 31, 2006 membership data:

Area	# on Board	%	# of Members	% of VFC Membership
Area I	1	(4.5 %)	1,342	6.6 %
Area II	1	(4.5 %)	1,236	6.1 %
Area III	3	(13.7 %)	1,526	7.5 %
Area IV	1	(4.5 %)	966	4.7 %
Area V	1	(4.5 %)	513	2.5 %
Area VI	1	(4.5 %)	838	4.1 %
Area VII	2	(9.1 %)	1,314	6.5 %
Area VIII	2	(9.1 %)	2,034	10.0 %
Area IX	7	(31.9 %)	5,766	28.3 %
Area X	3	(13.7 %)	4,830	23.7 %
TOTAL	22	(100.0 %)	20,365	100.0 %

The VFC promotes the objectives of NARFE throughout Virginia (see the inside cover page of this report booklet and also go to the VFC web site, www.vanarfe.org). The VFC President personifies the organization, presides at meetings, and provides leadership as well as executive oversight to overall Federation programs and activities.

The underlying theme and tone I set for each year of my 2-year term was focusing on a broad NARFE awareness effort in reaching out into all VFC and NARFE activities and events working toward making NARFE a household name in Virginia (NARFE as a brand name). The mantra of that theme encouraged our members to display “hearts big enough to dream, bold enough to dare, and warm enough to care.” As your President, I focused on showing a VFC NARFE presence as much as possible to our membership, legislators, and others in Virginia organizations and communities by participating in numerous chapter meetings and events, NARFE-PAC events, meetings with both congressional and state legislators, and meetings or activities sponsored by other organizations. Working together as a Federation/Chapter team, we achieved these major accomplishments during my 2-years as VFC President:

- o Increased total membership from 20,076 to 20,365.
- o Established formal positions as VFC congressional district liaisons to enhance VFC relationships with district offices. Appointees agreed to serve for the entire two-year session of Congress. (Duties/responsibilities are in the VFC Organizational Handbook.)
- o Enhanced communications between the Federation and Chapters via emails directly from the VFC President and Program Chairs to chapter leaders; monitored content of official VFC emails; changed the web host and established separate web pages for each of the six NARFE program areas on the VFC web site, www.vanarfe.org; expanded the distribution listing of the *VFC Notes*; and created three VFC Area newsletters (Areas II, III, and IV), now giving a lifeline between the leadership and members of each chapter in those areas.

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- o Encouraged a mantra to raise the general awareness of NARFE and VFC in Virginia to make it a household name (NARFE as a brand name). VFC had numerous requests for matching funds covering planned recruiting events in nearly every VFC area. Also, the January 2007 evening event held in Northern Virginia for current federal employees (CFE) and potential CFE members utilized a more subliminal approach to recruit members. The event was well attended and focused on assisting current employees in planning retirement strategies. The speaker was James Ruth, CFP, author of “Managing Money,” a regular feature in *NARFE*.

The current VFC year (May 2006-April 2007) started with some changes on the VFC Board. Of the 22 positions with voting privileges, eight had new incumbents elected by delegates at the 2006 Convention or appointed by the VFC President. New incumbents were 2nd VP Bill Martin; AVP I Sharon Rose (appointed in August 2006 for unexpired term due to death of Ralph Hoyle); AVP II Betty Warren; AVP V Joe Spence (appointed for unexpired term held temporarily by Allen Wright); AVP VI George Hawkins (returned after serving a 6-year term limit followed by a one year absence); AVP VIII Art Klotz; AVP X Bill Boning; and State Legislation Chair Bill Schmidt. Also, Bob McConahy was appointed as VFC Net Coordinator.

During June and July 2006, we were saddened by the deaths of two VFC Past Presidents: Dr. Henry Harper (1989-1991) and James C. Rice (2001-2003). Also, Area I Vice President Ralph Hoyle passed away in August 2006. Our sincere condolences are extended to their families.

In July, the Board approved the initial budget and adopted these goals to guide our chapters:

(1) Membership - At least a net increase of five percent (5%) during 2006 calendar year. *(The VFC achieved the goal with a net increase of 450 (2.26%) to 20,365 members as of December 31, 2006. Although the VFC had nearly 2,600 new members--including 600+ members from the credit union incentive--the VFC could not have had such a large net increase without the hard work of many membership chairs and members at the chapter level to recruit and retain members. Thirty-two (32) chapters had a net increase and ten (10) of those chapters met or exceeded the VFC goal. At the January 2007 meeting, the Board adopted the same goal for 2007 calendar year. Also, the Board approved \$1,000 to sponsor M112 Report orientations focusing on retention at three locations.)*

(2) National Legislation - Contributions to NARFE-PAC of \$85,000 during the 109th Congress (January 1, 2005 - December 31, 2006). *(Although the VFC fell slightly short of the goal with contributions of \$82,351, the Board felt it was realistic and re-established the \$85,000 goal for the 110th Congress. Also, in October 2006, the Board approved \$10,400 to cover attendance at the 2007 NARFE National Legislative Training Conference by the newly appointed congressional liaisons.)*

(3) Alzheimer's - At the April 2006 VFC Convention, the Alzheimer's Committee set a goal of \$55,000 for calendar year 2006. *(Donations for 2006 totaled \$46,613.15, or short of the goal. The reduction in contributions was due partly because two golf tournaments and a dinner dance of previous years were not held in 2006.)*

(4) State Legislation – Contributions to the VFC State Political Account of \$30,000 for period July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007. (As of this report, the Account balance is only \$5,896.)

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During the year, the VFC published the revised VFC ByLaws, as adopted by the delegates at the 2006 VFC Convention. Also, the VFC Organizational Handbook was revised. Both documents are posted on the VFC web site, www.vanarfe.org.

Twenty chapters were represented at the 2006 NARFE National Convention in Albuquerque, NM. Seven resolutions were submitted by Virginia chapters; four were defeated, two were adopted as amended, and one referred to the National Executive Board to develop an implementing resolution for the 2008 Convention. The VFC again received special recognition at the National Convention for achieving the highest NARFE Alzheimer's Research contributions for calendar year 2005 which totaled \$58,851.

The leaders in our 56 chapters are the linchpins for the Federation. They are responsible for the care and feeding of the grass roots—the chapter members. The Federation provides guidance and assistance to chapters when needed via the six program chairs or the ten area vice presidents. Both are our liaisons with chapters. During the past year, the Federation provided assistance to Chapters in a number of ways. Some direct funding support was provided. Also, the Federation sponsored numerous recruiting exhibits/events or supported Chapters in reaching out into local NARFE communities to raise the general awareness of NARFE by approving requests and, in some cases, providing some of the funds under National's "Matching Funds Program" (MFP). The VFC supported these events/activities/projects:

- 4th of July Parade, Dale City, VA. - Woodbridge Chapter 1270. (MFP)
- NARFE National radio ads for Tidewater/Hampton areas. VFC contributed \$2,500.
- Virginia State Fair, Richmond, VA. – Area III chapter members staffed a booth for 11 days, partnering with SeniorNavigator. (MFP)
- 2006 NARFE National Convention, NM – VFC provided \$100 incentive to each chapter sending at least one delegate. Twenty (20) chapters received the incentive.
- Annual Peanut Fest, Suffolk, VA. – Suffolk Chapter 1743. (MFP)
- Senior Beacon Info Expo, Springfield Mall, VA. - Springfield Chapter 893. (MFP)
- Health Fairs at numerous locations, Hampton Roads area – Peninsula Chapter 682
- 2006 SeniorNavigator Compass Rose Awards, VFC was a Silver Sponsor. (MFP)
- TRIAD Fall Conference in NOVA – Areas IX and X
- TRIAD Senior's Day, Chesterfield, VA - VFC
- Cosponsor for Legislative Forum with the NOVA Aging Network- VFC (MFP)
- VA Coalition on Aging and Elder Rights Coalition Legislative Forum – VFC. (MFP)
- AARP Mobility Forum - VFC
- NARFE Ad in Church Bulletin – Churchland Chapter 1293. (MFP)
- NARFE Chapter Banners (with new name) for twenty (20) chapters. (MFP) .
- Purchase of a stand-alone table display and table throw along with numerous giveaways, handout bags, etc. for recruiting exhibits/events at various locations. (MFP)
- Donation by VFC to NARFE-FEEA (\$1,000--\$500 each to NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund and NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund.)
- Outreach Event (evening) in NOVA for recruiting current employees -VFC (MFP)
- Numerous exhibits/events with the US Postal Supervisor/Employee organizations.
- NARFE Congressional Directory for the 110th Congress. VFC will provide one copy to each Chapter, the VFC Congressional Liaisons, and voting members of the Board.

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Highlights of my personal involvement the past year:

- Visited 24 chapters this year (now visited all 56 chapters at least once during the past five years; many repeat visits to chapters over the years as well. (Also visited 22 chapters at my own expense when campaigning for 2nd VP).
- Hosted (VFC) the Region X Federation President's Conference, Bristol, VA.
- Participated in the NARFE Federation Presidents' Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- Served as Delegate-at-Large, 2006 NARFE National Convention, Albuquerque, NM.
- Participated in the VFC sponsored pre-convention trip to Santa Fe, NM/Durango, CO.
- Represented VFC, NARFE at numerous meetings: Maryland Federation Convention; NOVA Caucus meetings; State Board of Elections Training Session; INOVA/AARP Briefing to Governor Kaine on Long-Term Care Initiative; NOVA Aging Network Legislative Forum; SeniorNavigator Compass Rose Awards; AARP; Virginia Commissioner on Aging; and Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging.
- Served as Silver Representative, VA-11th District, and NARFE representative at the National Silverhaired Congress Session, Washington, DC, February 2007.
- Participated in the 2007 NARFE National Legislative Training Conference and visited legislative staffs of Congressman Tom Davis and Congressman Bob Goodlatte on "Hill Day."
- Served as VFC Congressional Liaison for VA-11th District.
- Signed a letter forwarding the VFC's State Legislation Plan for the 2007 General Assembly to the Governor and to each of the 100 delegates and 40 senators.
- Served on the Board of Directors, Virginia Coalition on Aging (term expires December 2008) and appointed to the VCA Policy Committee.

At the 2007 VFC Convention, I will complete the 2-year term limit as Federation President. I want to express my personal thanks to each chapter leader and member for your support. It has been a privilege to serve our NARFE members in Virginia (20,365 as of December 2006). I especially enjoyed the many visits to chapter meetings/events and the opportunity to talk directly with members and to hear comments and concerns. Many members have urged me to now seek a National office. I am flattered and appreciate the confidence from so many. As a LIFE member, NARFE will always have a place in my activities. However, after serving NARFE in a Federation or Chapter leadership position for the past eight (8) years with a very strong commitment of involvement, I have now decided to continue my NARFE work more behind the scenes. I will remain a voting member of the Board, when I become VFC Immediate Past President. In addition, I will continue to represent NARFE as the VFC Congressional Liaison for VA-11th District and as a Board member of the Virginia Coalition on Aging (VCA). Also, I will continue to support our chapters in reaching out to raise the awareness of NARFE and to apply the 3E's (educate-encourage-energize) to our membership. A well-known identity and strength in numbers will make a difference. NARFE may become a household name in Virginia, yet!

Again, thanks for your support and the opportunity to serve as your Federation President for the 2005-2007 term.

Ann M. Collins