



**Doubletree by Hilton, 1021 Koger Center, Blvd. Richmond VA, 23235, 804-379-3800**

**VFN Executive Board Meeting - Conference Rm Anna Room  
Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Resumption of VFN Board Meeting from January 11, 2021

**9:00 am Reconvene Meeting**

**Committees Chairperson's Reports**

**Audit Committee -**

Frances Boatman - Stated that as a result of a meeting with President Bails, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Robert Martin, Committee member Area Vice President Luther Santiful and herself; it was recommended that the audit be postponed until after the COVID pandemic. Leslie Ravenell made the motion, second by Donna Shackelford, to postpone the audit until such time that the pandemic had eased. The motion was approved. Mark Fisher is also a member of the Audit Committee.

**By Laws Committee -**

Jim Little – Stated that the committee will be reviewing the current By Laws line by line for recommended changes. There are still a number of vacancies on the committee that need to be filled, which requires a member from each Area.

**Electronic Communications Committee (ECC) -**

Debbie Fisk – thanked all who have participated on the Committee. Other Committee and Program Chairs are participating because of the interrelated nature of the various programs and committees. The ECC is working on website. Also, “How to Use Zoom” training and other programs to help with communications across the VFN. Debbie Fisk will email a list of Committee members to Acting Secretary Esther Nash. Debbie also asked that all important dates be emailed to President Bails so there will be data to load into a potential calendar application.

Discussion followed regarding making the Electronic Communications Committee a program under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Leslie Ravenell made a motion, second by Gaston Gianni, to

propose that the By Laws be amended to add an Electronic Communication Program Chair under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The motion was approved; Jim Little, By Laws Committee Chair took note. Leslie will write up the proposed language for the By Law change. It was noted that the By Laws changes approved by the VFN last year has not gone forward to NARFE HQ and once at NARFE Headquarters, it could take as long as a year for NARFE HQ to approve.

#### **Nominating Committee -**

Larry McIlwee – Nominating Committee: Stated that Committee needs more members. The nominations to date are:

President – Bob Martin

Second Vice President – Frances Boatman

Nominations are still needed for First Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Larry thanked Jim Little for all his help, yet it has been very difficult getting nominees to step forward.

#### **First Vice President – Maureen “Moe” Nolet**

All Area Vice Presidents have submitted the information as to when they visited their chapters and when the chapters meetings are held with their membership. This includes how they use Zoom, Go-to- Meeting, face to face, etc.

She had not received the minutes from the previous 2021 Conference meeting. Still being compiled by conference secretary. Asked what part of the organizational body would determine the procedures for postponing the conference, if in place or virtual conference in April could not be conducted. Leslie stated in general the conference committee would make the recommendation to board and then the board would decide.

Moe finished her report with all AVP's being busy with their chapters with trying to inform them of the Zoom training and establishing points of contact at their chapters.

Discussion was held at the meeting as to an in-person meeting, virtual or moving to next year. Whatever decision is made the sixty-day deadline notification would be February 10, 2021. Some suggestions were; suspend all business and election until we meet face to face at a later date, hold a virtual meeting in April, move everything to October or move everything to next year, date would be determined. Discussion followed.

Note: As the results of that meeting, President Bails went to the hotel for alternative dates and she was provided October 2021 available for the conference. After this meeting she will meet with them again and inform them of our decision. Discussion followed.

*Ted stated Area VP Julia Hobbs had been in meeting via phone since 9:00am, attendance will be amended.*

**Parliamentarian Linda Smallwood** - stated in accordance with. Article 8 Section 2. Of the VFN Bylaws. Therefore, request comes before the board and they vote, as long as they in accordance with bylaws. Final decisions will be made by the board. The decision can be made by the board because of the extraordinary conditions which the pandemic would fall under those situations. Whatever the board decides because of the pandemic is what would be presented to the membership.

In accordance with the bylaws Article eight section two; Due to the pandemic the board can have a meeting at any time they decide.

**Motion:**

**Leslie Ravenell** made a motion to postpone the 2021 April VFN Conference and elections to October 2021. Seconded by Bill Martin. No one held a discussion. Vote taken - Fifteen was in favor which was the majority in attendance. Motion was passed. Dates offered by hotel 10-13 October 2021. Election will be done in accordance with the VFN rules. including presentations of candidates, and put the ballot and tellers in place if necessary. Discussion followed.

**Jim Little**, brought before the board, moving the meeting to October should be in accordance with the bylaws. The board should move the meeting which can be done electronically. And that is being moved to October with conference. To justify the postponing the meeting, the bylaws does permit this. Bylaws need to fine-tuned and reflect the meeting is required every year and conference can be whenever. Tried to have conference every other year, did not pass. Conference is not required but a meeting is. Discussion followed.

**MOTION:**

Leslie Ravenell made a motion because of the pandemic that the April 2021 VFN Conference, in order with our prescribed bylaws, including the annual meeting and the nomination process of presentation of candidates for elected office this would include nominations from the floor and b, be moved October 2021 in person. After the October meeting then go into the election process. Seconded by Bill Martin. Discussion followed. Twenty members eligible to vote, nineteen members voted to approve with one objection. Motion carried. Discussion followed.

**MOTION:**

Mary Heck made the motion that there be a virtual business meeting held in April 2021 to include the election, seconded Bill Martin. Discussion followed. Vote taken four in favor. Motion failed.

**President Bails discussed** –

Action plan initiative:

Open up lines of communication - with training electronically.

VFN collective outreach initiative and suggestions – Area Vice Presidents need to expand what they for members reaching down to the chapters and staying in touch. We must try and encourage participation with some type of electronical communications.

President Bails is tasking the training committee for the training for VFN “Day of Training”

**CHAPTER CLOSING:**

**Closing Chapter (s)** - Eastern Shore Chapter 1175, Area II, contained (sixty-nine zip codes).

**Note:** Only Headquarters has the authority to close a chapter with the VFN President signature as a request. All Area Vice Presidents should be aware of how to close a chapter.

**ROUND TABLE:** – President thanked Stan for his hard work and dedication and Jim for encouraging us to move on. Marylin Riddle, Chaplain has received responses from four chapters, President requested that Marylin be notified in a timely manner of members that have passed. Doris needs videos that are owed to her by end of week. Jim is in need of candidates; he is again sending out request and also for bylaws committee members.

Larry reported that he is in need of bylaws recommendation, only one response received so far. This was a disappointing response to his request. Frances stated that we had a good meeting with in depth discussions. She is willing to help any chapter that is trouble, that she will do whatever she can do to help with the membership. Moe thank everyone for their cooperation. Connie echoed Moe and Frances comments.

Marylin closed the meeting with prayers.

Submitted,

Esther L. Nash  
Acting Secretary

Atch: Attendance