

VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



Virginia Changing for the Future

Annual Report July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

President
Leslie Ravenell

*1st Vice
President*
Constance Bails, Ph.D.

*2nd Vice
President*
Constance Bails

Secretary
Dick Shrum

Treasurer
Ralph Wong

Past President
Kathy Arpa



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Introduction

The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) is an effective and recognizable representative of the NARFE organization and is committed to making recommendations and offering guidance to federal employees and retirees. It was founded April 9, 1955 by NARFE members living in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, there are nearly 15,000 NARFE members in our 45 traditional Chapters, 51% of which are “National-Only” members. These members include current and retired federal employees, spouses, and survivor annuitants.

We have nine Areas organized geographically across the state, and each Chapter belongs to one of these Areas. You may join any chapter even if you are a permanent resident in another state. To find the nearest Chapter, go to the NARFE website at www.narfe.org and enter the five-digit postal zip code for your location.

Our current theme “Virginia Changing for the Future” reflects our mission. NARFE has many priorities, but its top priorities are recruiting and retention and, of course, legislation. Our goals are to unite, work together to protect our benefits, and vote on issues concerning our benefits. The following report discusses our methods and accomplishments in confronting our NARFE goals for the year.

Virginia is one of the few states that has a highly active State Legislation Program. We develop a Legislation Plan every year and present it to Virginia Delegates. We support State Legislation that strengthens fair and efficient governance and protects the rights, safety, and assets of Virginia’s seniors. We invite you to look at our Plan and our Newsletter at our Federation website www.vanarfe.org.

Our Service Officers are available to provide NARFE members, their families, and survivors with (1) aid in contacting the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) concerning benefits and programs, such as civil service annuities, survivor benefits, life insurance, income tax-withholding from annuities and health insurance; and (2) information on other important programs, such as Medicare, Social Security, and veterans’ benefits.

Help us help you by securing our future and joining NARFE if you are not already a member. [Join NARFE Now!](#)

Annual Report Editor
June Staton, Ph.D.



VFN President's Report

This report covers the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as President of the Virginia Federation (formally the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) for the past 12 months. I am now the Immediate Past President. My experience as President was unique as I spent a total of 28 months as Federation President, one month as Acting President, 12 months as VFC President and 15 months as the VFN President. I want to say thanks again to all who served with me, and as your Immediate Past President I hope to help move the VFN forward as NARFE approaches its 100th Anniversary.

At the July 2018 Board Meeting we decided to use the name Virginia Federation of NARFE and refer to the Federation as the VFN. At the beginning of this reporting period we had 46 chapters. In February 2019 the Lake of the Woods Chapter in Area VIII was closed and some of the members transferred to Chapter 90 in Fredericksburg. However, most members chose membership as National Only members. To compare membership year to year, on June 30, 2018 the total number was 15,622 with 7,956 Chapter members and 7,666 National members. On June 30, 2019 the total number was 14,843 with 7,241 Chapter members and 7,602 National Only members. The number of national members has remained stable while our chapter members have slowly gone down.

This year I continued my goal to visit each chapter in the Federation. I didn't make it to all 46 chapters as four are not currently meeting and one closed, but I did make it to 80% of our VFN Chapters with a couple of duplicate visits. The following are the visits made from July 2018 to June 2019:

Area I: Chapter 685 Williamsburg

Area II: Chapter 66 Tidewater plus a joint Area II Caucus with Chapter 974 Virginia Beach, Chapter 5 Metro, Chapter 1827 Seaside and Chapter 66 Tidewater.

Area III: Chapter 2080 Piedmont, Chapter 2065 Louisa, and Chapter 2265, Midlothian

Area VII: All chapters in the Area at the June Area Caucus

Area X: Chapter 1116 Vienna-Oakton to celebrate their 50th anniversary

In August 2018 I attended the Federation President's Meeting in Jacksonville, FL. as part of FEDCON18. This was the first National NARFE Conference (not a Convention). There were many interesting speakers and it was a different format from what conventioners had experienced before.

One of the highlights of the year was attending the Commonwealth Coffee in April 2019 sponsored by Senator Mark Warner and Senator Tim Kaine. At this event I spoke not only with our two VA Senators but also Congresswoman Elaine Luria of Congressional District 2, Congresswoman Abigail Spannberger of Congressional District 7, and Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton of Congressional District 10.

At the end of last year's report I said, "with all the significant changes put in place this past year - new by-laws, rights for National Only members, and OMOV, we have set the stage for moving forward in the next fiscal year". This became noticeably clear as we started planning our April Federation meeting. First, what would have normally been the VFC 65th Annual Convention became the 1st Annual VFN Conference instead of Convention.



“with all the significant changes put in place this past year - new by-laws, rights for National Only members, and OMOV, we have set the stage for moving forward in the next fiscal year”.

If we had a nickel for every Board member who still said convention instead of conference, we could have increased our treasury!! Our new by-laws officially recognized our 7,000 plus National VA members giving them full rights in the Federation to vote and to hold office. With these by-laws, members were notified of their rights and given all the information to exercise their rights. This was done with a series of emails detailing the election of federation officers and of attendance at our

VFN Conference. The by-laws also implemented the one member one vote (OMOV) concept giving all VA members the right to vote. This consisted of a long series (by yours truly) of emails to notify the 10,000 plus VFN members who supplied their email addresses to NARFE HQ. At the end of my report are the VFN 2019 Voting Results. See APPENDIX A of this document to view the voting statistics by chapter and area. In the end, we had a remarkably successful 1st Annual VFN Conference /Annual with an attendance of 158. We also had a successful election of officers and vote to change by-laws.

VFN 2019 VOTING RESULTS

Required To Pass

First Vice President			
A. Adkins	M. Nolet		Invalid
176	379		1

Bylaw Amendments Recommended For Adoption									
BLC 65-1		BLC 65-6		BLC 65-7		BLC 65-9		BLC 65-12	
Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject
573	3	540	36	546	29	561	12	557	17
BLC 65-13		BLC 65-14							
Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject						
564	12	567	11						

Bylaw Amendments Recommended for Rejection									
BLC 65-2		BLC 65-3		BLC 65-4		BLC 65-5		BLC 65-8	
Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject
502	53	509	45	502	50	517	37	506	42
BLC 65-10		BLC 65-11		BLC 65-15					
Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject	Accept	Reject				
517	36	494	58	506	45				

Ballots Received	
Valid	588
Invalid	2
Total	590

Leslie Ravenell, VFN Past President



Acting 1st and 2nd Vice President's Report

YES: WE ARE Changing for the Future!

At the VFC Convention in April 2018, I was re-elected to the position of 2nd Vice President. I was also appointed to serve as Acting 1st Vice President for the Virginia Federation due to the illness of the current 1st Vice President, Pat Taylor. It was my pleasure to serve in both position; however, being 1st and 2nd Vice President in one year is not for the faint at heart! I was sworn into office as the VFN President at the VFN Annual Conference in April 2019 and continued to work. I am grateful for the overwhelming support, encouragement and kindness extended to me during my election to this most prestigious position.

- ✓ Chapter & Area Meeting Mission
- ✓ Northern Virginia Caucus Meetings
- ✓ NARFE's National Legislative Conference
- ✓ VFN 2019 Conference
- ✓ Appreciation Luncheon
- ✓ Chapters Anniversary Celebrations
- ✓ FBCV Recruitment Outreach

Chapter & Area Meeting Mission - During the past 10 months I aggressively visited 15 chapters across the state of Virginia. My agenda and mission were to encourage our membership to take part in our new National Initiative, (OMOV) One Member One Vote. I helped facilitate the voting processes at the meetings, which increased the numbers of votes casted. I encouraged members to register and attend the 2019 conference with some success. I took the opportunity to encourage members to accept Chapter Officer positions in the following Chapters: Vienna Oakton, Fredericksburg, Piedmont, Farmville Colonial Beach, and Richmond Midlothian.

Northern Virginia Caucus Meetings - I attended two Northern Virginia Caucus, meetings which gave me the opportunity to experience the needs and challenges of 12-chapter Presidents and two Area Vice Presidents at one setting. It was beneficial because it gave officers at all levels to ask questions on the activities of the VFN and share information from other chapters and areas.

NARFE's National Legislative Conference – At the National Legislative Conference held March 10-14 in Washington D.C., I attended many training classes, and political outbreak sessions. I carried lots of the information to the VFN Board to be passed on to the VFN membership body. I am proud of the opportunity that our legislative arm of the VFN seized the opportunity to meet with National Senators and Representatives and discuss the concerns and initiatives we want addressed by constituents. Our National Legislative Chairperson, Gaston Gianni did an excellent job coordinating our successful VFN outreach initiative.



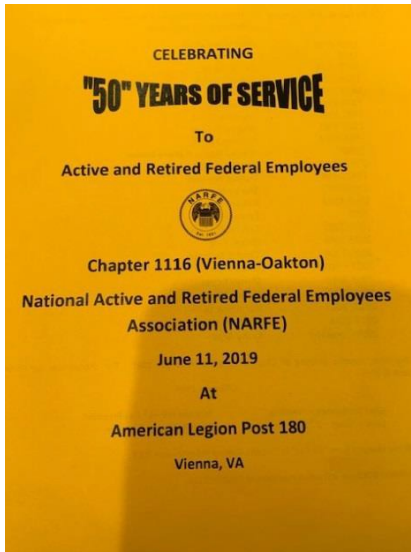
VFN 2019 Conference - In my last assignment as VFN 1st Vice President, I served as Coordinator with Vice Chairperson, Area VII Vice President, Dr. Steve Dansker. The entire committee did an outstanding job that produced an exceptional 2019 Conference, which I am extremely proud. The Conference was held at the Doubletree Hotel, Charlottesville, VA on 7-10 April 2019. There were 258 registered



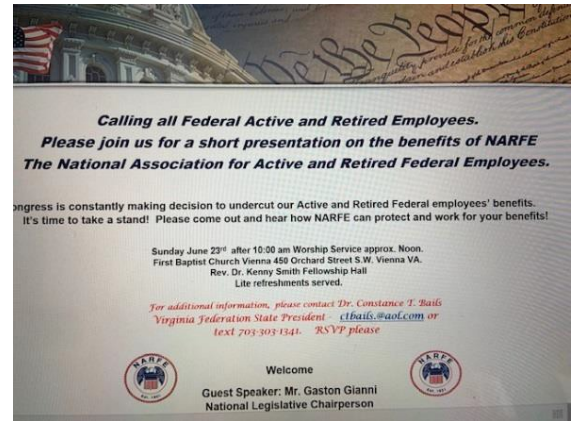
attendees. The actual gross income was \$27,200 with over \$4500 from attendance and non-attendance sponsors, both commercial and VFN-related members. Of note, at the Conference was the participation of 15 exhibitors, 22 program book commercial and advertisers.

Appreciation Luncheon – Area VII hosted an appreciation luncheon along with Area II in honor of the many volunteers that served on the Conference Committee throughout the State of Virginia. Thanks for a Job Well DONE!

Chapters Anniversary Celebrations – It was my esteem pleasure to provide activity reports for the Virginia Federation of NARFE, along with the National President at Anniversary Celebrations for Chapters Vienna Oakton1116 and Colonial Williamsburg 685.



Recruitment Outreach Briefing (FBCV)– On June 23 I hosted a NARFE briefing at First Baptist of Vienna Church on the benefits the organization brings to Federal employees. National Legislative Chair Gaston Gianni presented an overview of our national legislative program, John Bails presented, NARFE the Organization and I presented what NARFE can do for the



Active and Retired Federal Employees. There were 50 participants and the outcome of the presentations generated 12 new NARFE recruits.

Dr. Constance Bails Ph.D., 2nd Vice President, Acting 1st Vice President



Secretary's Report

During FY-2019, the Board of Directors of the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) met at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Charlottesville, Virginia on the following dates:

- July 23-24, 2018
- October 22-23, 2018
- January 7-8, 2019
- April 7 & 10, 2019
- Before and after the Conference and Annual Meeting
- March 4, 2019 (First GoToMeeting), to consider and approve the Handbook Revision.

The quarterly meetings of the Board normally consisted of:

- VFN President presentation of recent activities
- Review and approval of the minutes of prior VFN Board meeting
- Treasurer report on the VFN financial status
- Region X Vice President report on NARFE national and regional activities
- VFN Area Vice Presidents report of Chapter issues, concerns and activities
- VFN Program Chairs report of past and planned activities and information update.

The meetings were typically preceded by two-hour coordination meetings: The Area Vice Presidents meeting led by the VFN 1st Vice President to discuss chapter activities; and Program Chairs meeting led by the VFN 2nd Vice President to review program activities (shifted to advance online GoToMeeting events in 2019). The board also held evening three-hour meetings of the Executive Committee led by VFN President to carry out overall coordination and planning. In addition, the July 2018 meeting considered the following:

- An FY-19 budget proposed by Treasurer and approved
- Final report of 2018 Convention showed 150 member attendees and only 10 vendors, resulting in shortfall of \$460 and no profits to share with assisting chapters
- State Legislative Plan update
- Noted HQ approval of major VFN Bylaws Revision
- Preparation for the new OMOV-balloting procedures
- Increased effort to work with national-only members of VFN
- Initial review of VFN Organizational Handbook for revision.

Items at the October 2018 meeting included: review of FEDCON18 event, program and participation; interim review of the Handbook Revision progress, with request for all Board members to input; report on preparation for VFN biennial training; approval of several “pen-and-ink” changes to the VFN Bylaws to correct some typos and edits missed in the earlier Bylaws Revision (HQ approved October 24th); and funding approval to establish the “starting numbers” for the new annual financial review process.



The January 2019 meeting focused on: Nominating Committee report on candidates, noting lack of one for Treasurer; success of VFN biennial training in 3 locations; plan to produce a new version of the “what VFN does for members and chapters letter”; and efforts to examine OMOV-balloting process and rules, including decision to vote in the May 1-31 period.



The April 7th meeting noted the new format, including the conduct of an Annual Meeting within the 2019 VFN Conference window; the remaining three Area V chapters and the Area itself would be closed by June 30; and VFN’s income of \$4539 from the redistribution of funds from recently closed chapters.

The April 10th meeting following the 2019 Conference noted the successful outcome of the Conference, the number of attendees and vendors, and the excellent informational and training seminars held; the election by acclamation of the four unopposed candidates; the new Federation motto “Virginia Changing for the Future!”; and approved specific procedures and rules to conduct balloting in May.

Board meetings are open to the membership and copies of approved minutes are available from the Secretary.

Richard Shrum, VFN Secretary



Treasurer's Report

The 4th QTR expenditure to date is 70% of the approved FY19 budget. The total contribution collected to the VFC State Political Fund ending in 2nd QTR CY 2019 is \$1230.00.

4th QTR FY18 TREASURER REPORT SYNOPSIS ENDING June 30, 2019:

Approved Budget	\$120,107
Income	\$79,036
Expenditure	\$83,865
Required from Savings	\$4,865

5-Year Comparison of VFN Finances (Income & Expenses):

	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY2019
Revenue:					
NARFE 10% Fund	50,442	52,696	46,693	57,418	49,933
Chapter Dues	24,297	24,392	20,540	13,522	13,577
Other Income	7,150	8,507	26,801	4,775	15,526
TOTAL	81,889	85,595	94,034	75,715	79,036
Expenses:					
Executive Committee	11,674	11,835	10,292	11,164	14,091
IPP & Appointees	6,248	5,867	5,215	7,779	7,009
Field Operations	17,487	16,877	15,670	18,060	13,222
Program Operations	13,640	15,417	14,007	14,673	13,001
Administrative	41,017	32,874	49,844	23,988	36,578
TOTAL	90,066	82,870	95,028	75,664	83,901
Surplus to Savings:	-8,177	2,725	-994	51	

Summary of Operations Accounts ending June 30, 2019:

Operation Fund (Checking)	\$ 49,489.62
Share Savings	\$5.00
General Reserve Fund	\$ 25872.27
Contingency Fund	\$ 10343.13
Escrow Fund (from Closed Chapters)	\$55.08
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$85,765.10

Raphael Wong, Treasurer



FIELD OPERATIONS

Area I Vice President's Report

Chapters in Area I adjusted to the gradual overall loss of members through non-renewal or conversion to National Only membership. Despite that, the area membership is stable. Some chapters were recognized for their efforts on this issue. Middle Peninsula, chapter 1757 was recognized for having an increase in membership. Marie Collins from Peninsula chapter 682 recruited the second highest number of new members in the Federation. Williamsburg chapter 685 experienced the lowest percentage of lost members.

Throughout the area the chapters presented programs that stimulated interest and encouraged chapter membership and attendance. Chapter 1823 presented a program on the Buffalo Soldiers and one on aging, which was included in the VFN conference program. Other chapters had programs by historians, librarians, and law enforcement officers. Speaker topics included scams and crimes against older citizens and presentations by providers of health care related services. Most chapters had representatives at the state legislative conference and participated in meetings with the CDLs and their respective Congressional representatives. Some had state politicians as the speaker at a meeting.

Alzheimer's research was supported by the ongoing project of "Miles of Pennies" by chapter 682 led by Marie Collins. All chapters continued to make regular contributions raising funds through raffles for cash or prizes.

All chapters received information on the new VFN voting process. Although Area I had a low total voter participation, it had the second highest percentage of voters of the VFN areas. Two chapters 685 and 1823 were in the top ten chapters for percentage of voter participation in the Federation election.

Jeanne Garrison, Area I Vice President

Area II Vice President's Report

It was a challenge to serve as Area II Vice President and Co-member of The Ballot and Teller Committee for the past several months. It required the allocation of time and energy from me and many others for the 2019 VFN Conference. During the year chapters engaged in improving members participation and increasing chapter membership. Towards that end, recruitment and membership is ongoing. Chapters implored their Representatives and Senators on federal workers and retirees' issues. Members wrote letters and visited their representatives concerning Postal Reform provisions under the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

There are four distinct Chapters in Area II found in Virginia Beach and Norfolk: Metro 5, Tidewater 66, Virginia Beach 974, and Seaside 1827. Each chapter is diverse and unique to the area. Of the four chapters, one chapter is social and the other three are more legislatives. All the chapters kept their current chapter presidents for another year.



During these stressed economic times and with decreased membership, some chapters still published a monthly newsletter. The combined chapters participated in Health Fairs for retirees, annuitants and active federal employees for member recruitment. All the chapters are dark during July and August. Below is a summary of chapters represented.

Metro Chapter 5 (the oldest chapter in the Federation): Julia Hobbs, President Julia created a monthly chapter newsletter with items of interest to keep members informed and used innovative ways to get members to attend meetings or activities. Two major challenges are aging members, lack of attendance and participation, and members transferred from Chapter membership to National Only.

Tidewater Chapter 66: Margie Mitchell, President of the chapter, sponsored a booth at the Norfolk Senior Olympics, issued literature and explained the benefits and goals of NARFE.

Virginia Beach Chapter 974: President Alex Adkin encouraged more members to attend chapter meetings and become more involved. The speakers for the monthly meeting programs were exciting and informative.

Seaside Chapter 1827: President Murray, one of the three member NARFE delegates met with Congressman Scott Taylor to discuss 1) the proposed Postal reform legislation 2) pay raise for current Federal employees, and 3) the proposed changes to Federal benefits for active and retired Federal employees. Chapter membership declined significantly from 89 members to 65. The chapter donated \$1,140 to NARFE Alzheimer's Research.

It has been my pleasure to serve again as Area II Vice President. Thank you!

Betty L. Warren, Area II Vice President

Area III Vice President's Report

At the beginning of the reporting period, there were four chapters in Area III: Petersburg 28, Richmond 60, Tuckahoe 1727 and Midlothian 2265. Louisa 2065 transferred from Area VIII and Piedmont 2080 transferred from Area V, so we now have six chapters. VFN President Ravenell attended the Piedmont Chapter and welcomed them to Area III. Her visit was really appreciated by Duane Benton, President Chapter 2080. Two chapters, Midlothian 2265 and Petersburg 28 installed officers at their first meeting in 2019.

Petersburg Chapter 28: Chartered in 1950 and celebrated its 69th year. Re-elected officers and filled committee chairs; supported Alzheimer's research and contributed generously. Funds were raised primarily through an auction of donated items and individual donations. Donated generously to both state and national political action committees and were involved with state and national legislators on issues affecting members entitlements and taxes.

Richmond Chapter 60: Organized under charter on January 14, 1952 with seven chapter members. One of ten Charter Chapters that organized the 10th State Federation of Chapters in 1955. Two chapter members hold positions of high standing: Guy Yannello, former President of the Virginia Federation of Chapters and President of



Chapter 60; and James W. Stone, former National Field Vice-President of Region X. Chapter 60 actively supports Alzheimer's Disease Research.

Tuckahoe Chapter 1727: Remained vibrant with a membership of 66 members; held excellent meetings; maintained an excellent web page on www.vanarfe.org; provided a variety of programs that focused on NARFE's mission and senior citizens. Met monthly, except July and August, at the Welborne United Methodist Church in Richmond's Westend.

Louisa Chapter 2065: Transferred from Area VIII this year; held a variety of speaker meetings provided by federation committee chairs, civic and volunteer organization leaders, and local Alzheimer officials. Distributed monthly newsletter by email to over 90% of the members; mailed remaining 10%.

Piedmont Chapter 2080: Transferred from Area V this year; a small chapter with 24 members. The members and officers were dedicated and active.

Midlothian Chapter 2265: Membership of 272; all officer and committee chair positions are filled. Hosted a Political Forum for Congressional Districts 4 and 7 covering many members of Area III and Area IV. The forum was organized and conducted by Don Utton, National Legislation Chair of the chapter. Attending the forum were: Incumbent Congressman Donald McEachin, 4th VA District and his opponent Ryan McAdams; Abigail Spanberger challenging Congressman Dave Brat, 7th VA District, and Bob Zombron, Congressional District Liaison for District 7. Bob Zombron, also Chapter 2265's President, met with Congressman Brat at the Chesterfield Government Center to discuss NARFE's Legislative Priorities.

William F. {Bill} Martin, Area III Vice President

Area IV Vice President's Report

We have three chapters in Area IV: Churchland 1293, Brentwood 1697, and Suffolk 1743. Area IV had an exceptionally good year considering the loss of former Area IV Vice President, Bobby Whittington. Bobby and his wife Barbara were active NARFE members and volunteered countless hours to NARFE and will be deeply missed throughout the Virginia NARFE community. All chapters in Area IV held monthly meetings with interesting speakers.

Churchland Chapter 1293: With the passing of Bobby Whittington, Graylin Taylor assumed the role of president and the chapter is doing well. In May, I spoke on the One-Member-One-Vote procedures and handed out bios on the candidates running for VFN 1st Vice President. The meeting was well-attended and included two new members as well. The chapter sponsored NARFE recruitment events at health fairs at the Naval Hospital and the Naval Shipyard, both in Portsmouth, VA.



Brentwood Chapter 1697: I installed officers at the February meeting (From left to right: Area IV VP, Ray Orland; President, Dr. June Staton; VP, Florence Claggion; Treasurer, Ella Anderson; Service Officer, Jeff Rau; Alzheimer’s Chair, Lyle Thoburn; Legislative Officer, John Hill; Membership Chair, Raymond Staton, Sr.). This year, the chapter impressively showed active participation and support in NARFE training and recruitment. Fourteen members of the chapter attended the November 7th VFN Training event sponsored by Dr. Constance Bails.



The chapter sponsored NARFE two recruitment events: Blue Cross Blue Shield Open Season Health Fair and FBI Open Health Season. Their membership increased from 103 September 2018 to 113 in July 2019. Two members attended LEGCON19: NARFE’s Legislative Training Conference in Alexandria, VA and three attended the 2019 VFN Annual Meeting and Conference in Charlottesville, VA.



Suffolk Chapter 1743: As President of this chapter, I led our continued efforts with NARFE recruitments at the Suffolk Peanut Fest and the National Night Out. In March, chapter member Dillard Horton (Area CDL) and I attended the LEGCON10: NARFE legislative workshop. It was a wonderful experience and enforced NARFE’s true mission (Advocacy). This was my first advocacy effort as the new Congressional District Leader (CDL) for Virginia’s 3rd. District. In November, chapter members attended the training session held in

Chesapeake led by Dr. Constance Bails. In June, Dr. Ayn Welleford spoke on various issues related to aging. She spoke at our state conference this year. At this meeting, all three chapters in the area were in attendance, for a total of 29 members.

None of the Area IV chapters meet in July and August; however, this is a time for advocacy work in the area. In July, I met with Senator Kaine’s representatives in Windsor County, Va. In August, I attended a town hall by Congressman Bobby Scott. At each event I addressed several NARFE related issues.

Raymond Orland, Area IV Vice President

Area V Vice President’s Report

(AREA IS CLOSED)



Area VI Vice President's Report

There are three chapters in Area VI: Roanoke Valley Chapter 111, New River Valley chapter 1134, and Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837. At the 2019 VFH Conference, I was re-elected Area VI Vice-President and received an award for Area VI, Chapter 111 received an award for Alzheimer's contributions.

Roanoke Valley Chapter 111: President Frances Boatman participated in Senator Mark Warner's conference call to federal retirees throughout Virginia on September 25 to hear updates regarding his work in Washington on behalf of federal retirees and addressed concerns regarding NARFE benefits. Senator Warner issued a statement summarizing highlights of that conference call. The chapter held a successful Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Fair Recruitment event October 25 at Vinton War Memoria. Two members of the chapter attended a very informative VFN Leadership, Officers and Member's Workshop led by Dr. Constance Bails in Fairfax. VFN Acting 1st Vice President gave a compelling talk about the important work of NARFE and the positive results Virginia NARFE has achieved in protecting our earned pay and benefits. She also installed the 2019 Chapter 111 officers: Frances Boatman, President; Mary Anna Page, 2nd Vice President and Programs Chair; Ellie Long, Secretary; and Mark Fisher, Treasurer. Wanda Ware, 1st Vice President and Membership Chair was sworn in by Mark Fisher at the January 4, 2019 meeting.

Frances Boatman CDL, met Senator Kaine's and Congressman Cline's and discussed issues such as opposing cuts to earned federal benefits (e.g. COLAs), Postal Reform and Retiree Health Benefits, and the Social Security Fairness Act (GPO and WEP). Wanda Ware and Frances Boatman attended the Virginia United Postmasters and Managers Convention April 4 – 7; recruiting members for NARFE. Four members represented Chapter 111 at the 2019 VFN Conference in Charlottesville. Frances and Wanda attended the VFN State Legislative Planning Meeting at Ruther Glen, VA on May 21 and helped develop a list of issues for the 2020 VFN State Legislative Plan to be used by VFN PAC for identifying and supporting candidates in the 2020 Virginia race. Partnered with Blue Cross representatives to sponsor a recruitment event at two health fairs for federal employees held at the Poff Building and regional airport in May and June.

The New River Valley chapter 1134: President George Flick attended the Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Health Fair held at the Vinton War Memorial. The chapter held their annual social gathering on September 25th at the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre for a lunch and show. I attended the November meeting and installed officers for the new year. Chapter members contributed \$1,190 to the Alzheimer's fund in 2018 thus exceeding the goal of \$1,000. One chapter member attended the VFN 2019 Annual Meeting and Conference in April. George Blume, a long-time chapter member, NARFE distinguished member, and retired Virginia Cooperative Extension Specialist in Rural Sociology, was awarded the French Legion of Honor -- the highest military honor-- at a ceremony in Roanoke during the 2019 D-Day celebration. French Embassy staff made the presentation signifying the great appreciation for America's role in returning freedom to France. George was in France during the Battle of the Bulge. Such a great recognition for one of our own. Congratulations George!

Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837: The chapter experienced difficulty finding new members for various positions and attend chapter meetings. I installed the current returning officers. At the March meeting a proposal was made



to reduce the meeting to twice a year; however, the board decided to try at getting members one more time and recommend chapter closure if they are not successful. The final vote will come at the September 2019 meeting.

Mark Fisher, Area VI Vice President

Area VII Vice President's Report

For the NARFE National Presidential Election, Area VII led the Virginia Federation per capita vote, as well as the Virginia Federation Alzheimer's Research per capita collection for the 2018 Calendar year. All five Area VII chapters held chapter officer elections, had monthly Alzheimer's Research collections, and listened to FEHBP presenters, Kathy Bass and Morgan Canterbury, from Blue Cross Blue Shield. All chapters had at least one representative at the 2019 VFN Conference Committee meeting on October 23rd, which Area VII hosted 7-10 April 2019 in Charlottesville at the Doubletree Hotel. As Area VII VP, I attended both the July and October VFN Board of Directors Meetings and chaired the first meeting of the 2019 VFN Conference Committee Meeting.

Shenandoah County Chapter 2358: Assisted in hosting 2019 VFN Conference. Placed the recruiting Ad below in the Shenandoah County Annual Fair-Guide. Will Yerkes from Bankers Life Insurance Company gave an in-depth Social Security and Medicare presentation in October. The November Alzheimer's Research Collection chapter meeting resulted in the collection of over \$1500 collected, principally from chapter member Jeff Delano.



ATTENTION!

ARE YOU A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE OR RETIREE?

The Shenandoah County Chapter of **NARFE**, the **National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**, invites you to join us. We meet the second Thursday of each month, except January and August, at 10:00 a.m., at Denny's in Mt. Jackson. Come hear

what **NARFE** has to offer you. Come at 9:00 a.m. and get to know us during the social hour. We look forward to meeting you. In the meantime,

Enjoy the 101st Shenandoah



County Fair.

Page Valley Chapter 1793: Held Annual Alzheimer Fundraiser Picnic at Lake Arrowhead in Luray, VA, with Joni Runzo, Alzheimer's Association, as guest speaker. Members donated \$1,160 for Alzheimer's Research which included a generous \$300 donation by chapter member Ruby Norton. Participated in the annual Page County Walk to End Alzheimer's - raffled several items and gave monetary donations for Alzheimer's Research. Chapter



member Peggy Smith attended a political fundraiser at the Luray VFW for Senator Tim Kaine and expressed great concern that the Government keep its commitments to Federal workers budget cuts are discussed.

Charlottesville/Albemarle Chapter 135: Made monthly Alzheimer's Research collections. In October, Ed Berkowitz represented the Chapter at the 2019 VFN Conference Committee Meeting and provided several speaker recommendations.

Steve Dansker, Area VII Vice President

Area VIII Vice President's Report

This past year I had opportunities to visit the chapters in my area and attend the VFN 65th Annual Conference. I was also re-elected as Area VIII VP. In addition, I was elected as the VFN 1st VP. As a result, Mary Heck is now the new Area VIII VP. The chapters were busy all year recruiting members and officers for the upcoming year. Like other areas, some chapters had a challenging time filling positions of leadership. Nonetheless, they continue to thrive. To reduce the number of meetings some chapters meet quarterly. All the chapters have updated their bylaws and had them approved. Below is a summary of the status of each chapter.

Fredericksburg Chapter 90: Filled the Alzheimer's position, had interesting speakers, and created and maintained a Facebook page. Service Officer, Esther Nash, provided services to member's and families as needed, and served on the Ballot and Tellers Committee of 2019 election. State and National Legislation Chair, Bob Martin, attended the LEGCON19 training conference and took part in NARFE Lobby Day on Capitol Hill; also met with staff from Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger's and Senator Tim Kaine's office to discuss NARFE critical issues.

Colonial Beach Chapter 595: Held annual Harvest Supper fund raiser for Alzheimer's; visited a local nursing home, sang Christmas Carols, presented gifts to the residents; and collected food donations for the monthly Food Bank.

Fauquier Chapter 1549: Sponsored a recruitment event at FAA's TRACON Health Fair in Vint Hill Farms; donated food to support the local food bank; provided interesting speakers; updated the chapter bylaws and sent to NARFE HQ for final approval.

Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885: Chapter 1885 closed on February 11, 2019. As a part of the closure process, chapter members were transferred to the Fredericksburg chapter and NARFE Only. Some members dropped their membership in NARFE.

Caroline Chapter 2112: Updated rosters and chapter website; provided chapter reports; had interesting guest speakers revised the Bylaws which were approved; set up a Facebook page; and collected food for six Food Banks. Two members attended the State Legislative Meeting in May.

Falls Run Chapter 2343: Raised money from Night Light Event for Alzheimer's; conducted a Trick-or-Treat where residents left food donations on the curb for chapter members to collect for SERVE. They had interesting speakers for their membership.

Maureen Nolet, Area VIII Vice President



Area IX Vice President's Report

Area IX is made up of five chapters: 232 Alexandria, 356 Manassas, 893 Springfield, 1159 Annandale, and 1270 Woodbridge. Fiscal Year 2019 was a challenging but successful year for Area IX. A significant success was Area IX's recognition at the 2019 VFN Conference for Alzheimer's Research fundraising. Three chapters - Woodbridge, Annandale, and Springfield were recognized as second, third, and fourth highest fundraising chapters in calendar year 2018. Area IX was highest in fundraising in the state of Virginia, raising \$14,149.73, representing a quarter of the whole state's contributions. Congratulations to all Area IX chapters for their efforts and success in Leading the Way.

Area IX continued to experience declines in membership due to transfers to National Only status; however, it successfully recruited 20 new members and 20 transfers-in! Area IX's chapter membership stands at 1,957, representing 27% of the total VFN Chapter membership. All five chapters were active with monthly meetings and unique events and all have had interesting speakers; all chapters had a full slate of elected officers and participated in various capacities of the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters. Gaston Gianni, of the Woodbridge Chapter, server as the chair of the VFN National Legislation Standing Committee. All chapters were active in National and VFN Activities, and members attended the FedCon2018 Annual Conference in August, the LegCon2019 in March, and the VFN Annual Conference in April. In addition, Pierce Johnson, former Area IX Vice President, and I attended the Vienna Chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration in June.

All chapters supported the community and multiple charitable organizations and made contributions to several local food banks, homeless shelters, senior citizens centers, and other organizations. Two chapters, Alexandria and Springfield, were active with the Little Theatre of Alexandria; Annandale supported an Adopt-A-Road program; and Manassas and Woodbridge participated in the Annual Walk to End Alzheimer's in Manassas. Springfield Chapter hosted NARFE President Ken Thomas at its Annual Holiday Party. In the months leading up to Virginia's mid-term elections, most chapters invited local and state candidates to their meetings to take part in various forums and speaking opportunities.

Recruitment continues to be a major emphasis for Area IX. As part of the Northern Virginia Caucus, in December 2018, Areas IX and X cohosted a NARFE information table at the Annual Gerry Connolly Open Season FEHBP Health Fair. The successful event generated over 30 completed M-2 Prospect Information Cards and recruited two new members. One of the new members received a free one-year membership in a drawing of completed M-2 cards. Manassas Chapter sponsored a NARFE information table at a Blue Cross-Blue Shield Health Fair at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas, and Woodbridge Chapter hosted an information table at the Dale City Family Day following the Dale City Annual Fourth of July Parade.

This is my last report as Area IX Vice President – I want to thank all the officers and members of the Manassas, Alexandria, Springfield, Annandale, and Woodbridge Chapters, as well as my fellow VFN officers, for their support during my four year tenure as Area IX Vice President. Our chapters' steadfast diligence and commitment have helped the VFN and NARFE accomplish NARFE's goals. I also want to thank Pat Jack, Chapter 232 Alexandria President, for stepping forward to serve as Area IX Vice President.

James Little, Area IX Vice President



Area X Vice President's Report

NARFE Virginia Federation's Area X is made up of six independent chapters: Arlington, Dulles, Fairfax, Great Falls/McLean, Northern VA Metro and Vienna-Oakton.

Arlington Chapter 7: Sadly, William (Bill) Thomson died on June 16, 2019. He was an active member of Arlington Chapter 7 and President for several years.

Fairfax Chapter 737: The Chapter has 412 members. Several chapter members stepped up to increased responsibilities within the VFN. Dr. Constance Bails was elected as President of the VFN at the April VFN Conference. Ted Pasek is the Area X Vice President as well as Chapter President. Two new officers in the chapter volunteered to serve: Charles Fleming is the new First VP and Jim Mays is the Secretary. Chapter member Hazel Roberts was selected for a Fairfax County Sr Citizen Award for her work as chaplain and as a communicator and liaison to those who are unable to attend meetings. Fairfax Chapter collected non-perishable food for "Food for Others" who distributed the food to those in need in Northern Virginia. The annual BBQ for Alzheimer's Research at the 29 Diner in Fairfax City was extraordinarily successful, increasing Alzheimer Research donations. Nine members attended the VFN conference in April at Charlottesville.

Vienna-Oakton 1116: Celebrated its 50th anniversary June 11, 2019 at the American Legion Post 180 Vienna, VA. The first recorded meeting of Chapter 1116 (Vienna) was May 21, 1969. The name was changed from "Vienna" to "Vienna-Oakton" in September 2005. Invocation was led by John Bails, Chapter 737. NARFE members from Springfield 893, Dulles Chapter 1241, and Woodbridge Chapter 1270 participated in the celebration. Keynote



speaker Ken Thomas, NARFE National President shared news about NARFE changes in rebranding itself to attract more members. In the photo are: Left to right, Ted Pasek, Kathy Arpa, Dr. Constance Bails, Ken Thomas, Leslie Ravenell and Bill Shackelford. Kathy Arpa presented awards to NARFE distinguished members (membership over 20 years): Shirley Martin, Adrian Van Huizen, Shirley Keyes, Norma Sedgwick, Marian Reeves, Carol Haefs and Curtis Turnbow. Mark Arpa performed "Never Forget", a violin solo in memory of the deceased members of the Chapter.

Metro Chapter 1665: Held monthly luncheon meetings at the Portofino Restaurant near Crystal. Membership hovers around 100; however, luncheon attendance declined as membership ages. The chapter treasury is quite healthy at about \$3,000 with primary expenses of mailing out newsletters to a few members without computers and paying dues to the Virginia Federation. The chapter's long-time treasurer resigned and was replaced by a loyal member. Chapter meetings had interesting speakers: Jessica Vasquez, Arlington County Senior Adult Outreach Supervisor; Theo Stamos, Arlington Commonwealth Attorney; Jackie Lynch and Tom Robinson from H&R Block; Andrew Schneider, Arlington Thrive; Garrett Peck, Historian and Writer (The Great War in America: WWI and Its Aftermath); Joan McDermott and Erica Wood, AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities; and Heather Hurlock, Arlington County Police Department (Scams).

Ted Pasek, Area X Vice President



PROGRAM AREAS

National Legislation Chair's Report

The VFN National Legislative Committee had a busy and successful year. We continued to be viewed by NARFE as one of the leaders in the congressional advocacy area. One major accomplishment was filling several vacancies in the Senate Legislative Leader (SDL) and Congressional District Leader (CDL) positions. Currently the National Legislation (NL) team is made up of two SDLs and eleven CDLs. This is the first time in several years that we have a full team! THANK YOU to all the members of the team for volunteering for this especially important NARFE role! During this period the 115th Congress ended and the 116th Congress started. The elections for the new Congress resulted in five new Representatives in the Virginia Delegation. This necessitated building new congressional relationships with Washington and District Office staffs. The team was up to the task and are ready to move forward into the 2019-2020 period!

The NL team participated, at the request of the NARFE Maryland Federation, in the development of the 2019 Golden Edition of NARFE Profiles Civil Service book. The book contained 196 profiles of civil servants from the MD, PA, VA and D.C. Federations. The purpose of the book is to inform members of Congress about Federal Public Servant careers that positively affect agency programs and the American Public. We were successful in having one of Virginia's Representatives, Congressman Rob Wittman from VA's 1st Congressional District; contribute one of the Forwards for the book. We had 38 profiles from VA NARFE members. If the VFN is invited to participate again, we hope to have more of our VA NARFE members participate. The book is posted on the VFN website at www.vanarfe.org.

Another success for the Federation in the Advocacy area was *the NARFE 2019 National Legislative Conference* in March 2019. VA Senators Warner and Kaine spoke at the conference. We had 38 VA NARFE members registered for the conference. The picture shows some of the VA attendees with Senator Kaine.



In addition, the National Legislative Team led eleven meetings on Capitol Hill which included meetings with three Representatives and eight congressional staffs from the other offices. At each meeting, we discussed NARFE's top legislative priorities and requested support. Each congressional office was presented with a copy of the 2019 NARFE Profile Book.

During August we actively took part in NARFE's Grassroots Advocacy month. Meetings were set up with congressional offices and/or calls made to advise the VA Congressional Delegation of NARFE's top legislative priorities. The NL Team worked with Chapter leaders and NARFE Members in the fight to protect active and retired federal employee benefits. The effort was a success and we will do it again in August 2019.



In April 2019, VFN held its first Annual Conference (formally call convention) in Charlottesville, VA. The NL Committee team was well represented. We had two SDLs and eight CDLs in attendance. As part of the conference, we provided a training update on the makeup, role and priorities of the VFN National Legislative Committee. At the conference, we raised \$3,430 in funds for the 2019-2020 NARFE PAC Fund (see below for more information on NARFE PAC). THANK YOU again to the 35 NARFE members who helped make this effort a success!

NARFE's Political Action Fund is a separate function designed to raise voluntary funds from NARFE members. The purpose of the fund is to help build strong congressional relations by supplying financial support to NARFE congressional supporters. Nationally, during the 2017-2018 115th Congress, NARFE collected about \$1,896,000 for PAC and paid out over \$1,104,000 to various congressional members and committees. Virginia NARFE members contributed \$145,000 to the NARFE PAC Fund! THANK YOU to the 2,107 VA NARFE members who made voluntary contributions! NARFE PAC distributed \$68,500 to eight members of the VA Congressional delegation and one candidate who showed strong NARFE support.

Now that a new Congress has started, another NARFE PAC cycle has started. It is important that all NARFE members consider supporting the 2019-2020 NARFE PAC Cycle. These funds help us gain access to the Congress and to show appreciation to members who support NARFE in key votes on issues affection active and retired Federal employee.

The VA National Legislative Committee's web page on www.vanarfe.org under the committee chairs section on the left hand side, has been updated with current information about the committee and its work in VA. In addition I want to call your attention to the NARFE Advocacy web site www.narfe.org/ledislation/ which has excellent information on the key issues facing NARFE members, how to contact your congressional representatives and sample letters to send your representative. Please check out both sites and become active in the political process to protect the benefits of active and retired federal employees.

Finally, as Chair of the committee, I served on the VFN Board, attended and participated in quarterly Board meetings. During the year, I also participated in VA NARFE's training programs offered around the state. In addition, I spoke at two chapter meetings—Colonial Beach Chapter 595 and Fredericksburg Chapter 90—and gave a presentation on the work of the VA NL Committee to members from the First Baptist Church of Vienna. Thank you for those invitations to speak about the important work the VA NAFRE National Legislative team is doing to protect our earned benefits. Please send me an email at gastongianni@aol.com if you have any questions about this report or wish to have a speaker at your chapter meeting.

“People working together as a group can accomplish things which no individual acting alone could ever hope to bring about”. Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Gaston Gianni, National Legislation Chair



State Legislation Chair's Report

The 2019 Virginia General Assembly session was a “building” year for the Virginia Federation of NARFE State Legislation Committee. In May 2018, the State Legislation Committee developed VFN state legislative issues for the 2019 legislative session. The proposed issues were approved by the VFN Board in July. State Legislation Representative Eddie Eitches guided the process. A new Chair was appointed in November 2018 at the crucial point of the legislative process. There were delays in the printing of the VFN issues “trifold” and delivery to the state legislators. Also impacting the process was the compacted calendar of the second-year session of the General Assembly.

During the 2019 Virginia General Assembly session, I observed both a House of Delegates and a Senate session. I learned where the offices of the state legislators were located, how the committee system operated, and what resources are available to those interested in state legislation. I attended the LEGCON2019 training session in Fairfax VA presented by NARFE in March 2109. As a result of this training, I gained extensive knowledge and an excellent basic understanding of the fundamentals of a state legislation program.



At the 2019 VFN Conference, the State Legislation Chair made a special appeal for contributions to the VFN State PAC. This appeal resulted in over \$1,000 in contributions. The PAC program works with chapters, as well as develops candidate questionnaires to determine how to distribute PAC dollars. The State Legislation Committee developed the 2020 VFN Legislative position on May 21, 2019. The proposals were presented to the VFN Board for approval in July.

VFN 2019 State Legislative Plan – Virginia Post Session 2019 - Where Did We Wind Up?

Tax Law Changes: HB 2529 ER was passed by both Houses of the State Legislature. The bill increased the state standard deduction by 50%, from \$3,000 to \$4,500 for single individuals and from \$6,000 to \$9,000 for married couples filing jointly. This aspect of the bill covers taxes starting in 2019. For 2018, the bill contained a provision for a refund of up to \$110 for individuals and up to \$220 for married filing jointly and will be issued in October 2019. The bill also removed caps on deductions for local property taxes on itemized on state tax returns. Its emergency clause allowed it to go into effect upon the Governor’s signature but required approval by 80% of both Houses. Governor Northam signed the bill on February 15, 2019 and the bill immediately became law.

Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Premiums: The Senate unanimously passed a bill to give credits for health insurance to retired state employees which would be applied to their health insurance costs, however there were no provisions for income tax deductions. The bill is contingent upon funding in a general appropriation act and was tabled by the House Sub-Committee on Compensation and Retirement. This bill did not address the VFN Plan’s issue but was in the general area.

Minimum Nursing Home Standards: Further research will determine if we need to work through the State Board of Health or the State Department of Health to achieve our goals. Current law states: Section 32.1-127 Regulations
A. The regulations promulgated by the Board to carry out the provisions of this article shall be in substantial conformity to the standards of health, hygiene, sanitation, construction and safety as established and recognized by medical and health care professionals and by specialists in matters of public health and safety,



B. Such regulations: 1. Shall include minimum standards for...(ii) the operation, staffing and equipping of hospitals, nursing homes and certified nursing facilities; ... This shows the authority already is permitted by law. This issue may also have a partner in the Virginia Nurses Association.

Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform: The General Assembly passed a proposed constitutional amendment that calls for a 16 member commission to submit redistricting plans to the General Assembly for consideration. Neither the General Assembly nor the Governor may make any amendments to the submitted plans. If the General Assembly does not approve, the Commission must give a new plan. If the General Assembly is unable to approve new plans, the Supreme Court of Virginia will draw districts. The Commission will consist of two members of each party of each House of the General Assembly (eight legislative members). The other eight members will be selected by five retired Virginia Circuit Court Justices who shall select from a list of citizen members submitted by the two party leaders of each House of the General Assembly. Our Plan calls for accomplishment of redistricting in a nonpartisan manner through impartial means. The legislation passed is for a constitutional amendment whose timing will just make it for the 2021 redistricting required after the 2020 Census, as such our proposal would not be viable until 2031.

Voting Reform: The General Assembly passed HB2790 which permits no-excuse in-person voting one week before an election. It allows absentee voting with an excuse as before with the same timeframe as in the past. Unless changed by the Governor, this legislation will be in effect at the November 3, 2020 general election. The bill awaits the Governor’s signature.

Exempting Federal Pensions from Virginia Income Tax: There was no legislation proposed to address this issue. History has shown that when directed by the courts to treat state and federal retiree income equally, the Commonwealth has chosen to tax both rather than exempt either.

Bob Martin, State Legislation Chair

Membership Chair’s Report

Membership Awards at VFC Convention - Congratulations to those who received Membership awards at the April VFC Convention for their 2018-19 efforts:

Top Recruiter

Connie Bails, Chapter 737 Fairfax
Marie Collins, Chapter 682 Peninsula

Best Membership Record (most increase/least decline in Chapter membership)

Area VII	(-6.5%)
Chapter 1757 Middle Peninsula	(+8.0%)

Best Prospect Conversion Ratio (# of new members as a % of Prospects identified by HQ)

Area VII	26%
Chapter 135 Charlottesville	75%

Best Reinstatement Ratio (% of non-renewed members who reinstated their membership)



Areas VII	47%
Chapter 1793 Page Valley	100%

The Conference Membership Meeting covered how to read the Membership statistics that I publish, and the Membership recruitment and retention materials available at the HQ website www.narfe.org and the VFN website under the Membership area www.vanarfe.org. (At Vanarfe.org, click on Membership on the left column). I also conducted a hands-on session in how to use Twitter. (See Goals, below.)

Chapter Membership Trends

As of end May, VFN Chapter membership was down by -6% from the EOY 2018. Virginia National Division membership has slowed and was up by only ½ %. The net decline in total VFN membership, counting both Chapter and National Division members, was -2.7%. National Division members continue to account for more than 50% of total VFN members. Transfers Out of chapters have declined significantly, following HQ's correction of the confusion in the renewal forms. This confusion caused many Chapter members to mistakenly transfer to the National Division.

New member recruitment is UP by 30% and the number of New Prospects was also UP by 76%. However, the Prospect Conversion Ratio (# of New Members as a percent of # of Prospects) for the VFN is less than 7%, suggesting that more efforts by Chapters on contacting the New Prospects reported by HQ could yield satisfactory results.

THE FABULOUS GOOD NEWS IS THAT A MAJORITY OF CHAPTERS – 25 – HAD EITHER A NET INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP, A 0% DECLINE, OR A DECLINE OF LESS THAN 5% AS OF END MAY 2019.

My goals for 2019

- Find a blog program or other mechanism, a Facebook group page, to allow Membership Chairs to comment on my posts and those of other Membership Chairs
- Establish a Twitter account for VFN Membership for Membership chairs to share info on meeting programs or other Chapter activities.
- Encourage and work with Chapters in creating their own Chapter websites or Facebook sites.
- Encourage the use of Skype to enable presentations by representatives from Federal agencies that might draw in more prospective members. For example, I'm hoping to set up a presentation via Skype by an FTC employee on robocalls – and invite members of the public in general.
- Use Skype to communicate with Membership chairs as a group, on how to set up Skype, ideas for recruiting and retention, etc.
- An online calendar to post Chapter events and programs that would also be accessible to National Division members. Also, to post events in the various VFN areas that might lend themselves to a recruitment booth.

Beverly Thomas-McMillan, Membership Chair



Service Co-Chair's Report

Service Officers play a vital role in meeting the needs of chapter members and their families on annuities, health insurance, Social Security and other benefits. Federation Service Officers assist chapter Service Officers as they serve the needs of their chapters and their members by providing training, information, resources and access to resources that their members need.

Our chapter interactions slowed during the summer months but were available to help chapters and members with their questions and benefits needs. Just as no two people are the same, no two member needs are the same. Some requests were related to deaths of members or member spouses, health insurance questions and others were mental support. All requests were resolved or referred to resources better qualified to assist.

During the 2018 Convention in Charlottesville we were committed to ongoing communications with the chapter Service Officers. We provided monthly newsletter articles to all chapter Service Officers on record to give Service Officers prompt information to share with chapter members via chapter newsletters or meeting talking points. Chapter Service Officer must let us know if they are not getting the monthly newsletter.

We have enjoyed being visible throughout the Federation. In October we volunteered to help man the NARFE table set up by Area IV during the Suffolk Peanut Fest. The NARFE table provided visibility and opportunities to talk with federal employees/retirees/families about benefits of NARFE membership. We plan to volunteer again in 2019. The table attracted the attention of a NARFE member who was visiting the area from Anacortes, WA. That surprise visit was further validation of the far reaching tentacles of NARFE. We have also had opportunities to visit chapters, not as speakers but as guests.

We took part in the Leadership and Officers Training sessions held in Charlottesville in October and Chesapeake in November. The sessions provided us with a platform to discuss the purpose and added value of having Service Officers within the NARFE organization. The sessions also allowed us the opportunity to have further interaction with chapter Service Officers.

During the 2019 Conference we conducted Service Officer training. Not all attendees were chapter Service Officers, but each person left with increased awareness of resources available to all NARFE members. We were also privileged to be invited to conduct a prior Service Officer training session for Area VII in March.

**Knowledge is power,
and we want to help
empower every member
of our federation.**

We are always available for Area Service Officer training and as chapter guest speakers. We thank Mike Cordero, President of Chapter 180 (Winchester) and Kathy Arpa, President of Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton) for inviting us to be guest speakers. We customize our talks to meet the needs of individual chapters. Let us know how we can help you or your chapter.

It was a busy year and as the 2018-2019 fiscal year comes to an end, sadly, Johnny Arthur will be stepping down as Co-Service Officer; however, he will still be around, and he will still be involved.

Arlene and Johnny Arthur, VF Co-Service Officers



Public Relations Chair's Report

On April 27, 2018, volunteered and was appointed to replace the long-standing Chair, Gaston Gianni as the Virginia Federation's Public Relations Chair for the 2018/2019 year. I briefed the Northern Virginia Caucus members afterwards. This transition fortunately coincided with the selection of a new Deputy Director of Public Relations at NARFE Headquarters. Working with Headquarters, we seek to ensure that the Federation has a strong and recognized public relations program which supports NARFE and our Federation's goals and objectives. I provided a "snapshot" of the principal responsibilities of this position and referenced the printed and online resources available to Chapters that included the Public Relations Handbook for NARFE Chapters and Federations, and the F-18, NARFE's Requisition for Printed Supplies. I advocated the development of innovative approaches and guidelines necessary to achieve recruitment goals and increase knowledge of NARFE's "brand." My goal is to continue to provide expert resources to our clients, internally and externally.

During the 2018/2019, the following goals and objectives were achieved:

- Submitted significant revisions to the Virginia Federation Handbook on changes and additions to the duties of the Public Relations Chair which were approved by the Board as revised on March 4, 2019.
- Revise Chapter and Federation Officer's Manual, F-10, (12/13) regarding the Public Relations Officer positions, approved by the Board.
- Developed Consistent VFN Procedural Guidelines consistent with Headquarters' revision of NARFE's Matching Funds Program Guidelines that were reviewed and approved by Headquarters
- Wrote a procedural outline for the operation of recruiting events to reflect areas of clarity needed to enhance existing practices for greater efficiency, coordination with Headquarters, and more effective use of staff.
- Sent an "outreach" memorandum on February 27, 2019, to Area Vice Presidents which focused used on recognizing Chapters' Public Relations Officers prior to the annual Conference for training purposes and for the organization of PR committees Federation-wide.
- Supported and facilitated twelve recruitment fairs conducted by Chapters of the Federation ensuring organization, procedural compliance, and distribution of NARFE recruitment materials from a large inventory, in a timely manner. As a result of these events, I developed procedural guidance for the planning and conducting future events.

Two designated Public Relations Chapter Officers attended the VFN 2019 Conference; however, I prepared 20 comprehensive briefing presentation folders for attendees as a resource and review of the year's activities and accomplishments. Completing the folders were "NEXT STEPS/ACTIVITIES" outlining three areas to increase public relations focus going forward. These areas were presented as proposals for talking points to generate discussion by our Chapter and VFN leaders, not guidelines or requirements.

Unfortunately, I regretfully resigned my position. Notwithstanding my disappointment in not being able to lead you over the next year in planning and executing a proactive public relations program, I have no doubt that the Federation will be successful in this regard.

Deanna Shepherd, Past Public Relations Chair



Alzheimer's Chair's Report

Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is being tracked by biomarkers now. This is a blood test or a spinal fluid test which allows the medical profession to diagnose the disease before the usual symptoms appear. The tests are essential to show which individuals are in preliminary stages and should receive treatments that slow or stop the disease when such treatments are available. The tests allow researchers to enroll only those individuals with the brain changes that treatments target; thus, narrowing the scope of the research, making it dependable and more accurate.

NARFE again has a total to spend due to the generosity of its members. \$450,000 will be available as grants to researchers when the NARFE Alzheimer's Committee (NAC) meets the middle of September in Chicago. Many specialists submit their papers concerning an aspect of AD they wish to pursue, and the experts at the Alzheimer's Association choose 8-10 of the projects to present to the NAC. A doctor who is familiar with each of these projects discusses them with the NAC and a vote is then taken of the 12 members of NAC to determine three to four which seem the worthiest for NARFE members to sponsor. The NAC is made up of one representative from each Region, plus the national president and one person representing the Alzheimer's Association.

During this past year, the Virginia Federation of Chapters donated \$59,307 to research. We are once again the Number One contributor in the nation. Since I've been keeping records, Virginia has given more than \$1.1 million to the cause. This Federation was very imaginative in raising funds with projects such as shredding, dances, door-to-door collections, funeral parlors, and regular chapter meetings. A side benefit of all these fund raisers is that they keep the name of NARFE out in the public eye.

Federation conventions are always a primary source of funds for each Federation. This past year, I collected \$2,800 for Alzheimer's Research while we were at the convention in Charlottesville. The chapter with the greatest donations was Chapter 180, Winchester with \$6,618.30. The next four chapters were Woodbridge, Annandale, Midlothian and Falls Run. The per capita award was granted to Falls Run, with \$50.33, followed by Shenandoah Valley, Colonial Beach, Lake of the Woods and Woodbridge.

Sharon Cordero, Carlye Stucky, Caroline Fisher, Ronnie Hart, and Ted Pasek were very devoted and helpful in performing duties at the Convention Alzheimer's Research display. I very much appreciated their efforts and endurance. Good things happen when amazing people work hard!!

Donna Shackelford, Alzheimer's Chair





APPENDIX A

VFN Voting Statistics-By Chapter Area

As Of: 6/8/2019

Area	# Memb-04-21	# Memb-05-31	Number VOTING	% Voted
1	678	678	71	10.5%
2	310	307	31	10.1%
3	627	624	64	10.3%
4	274	276	24	8.7%
5	59	57	1	1.8%
6	339	335	29	8.7%
7	677	675	62	9.2%
8	590	583	62	10.6%
9	1981	1974	99	5.0%
10	1819	1808	97	5.4%
Sub-Total	7354	7317	540	7.4%
Natl Mbrs	7775	7735	48	0.6%
VFN TOTAL	15129	15052	588	3.9%

Note: % Voting uses 05-31-19 Members.



VFN Voting Statistics-By Chapter Area

As Of: 6/8/2019

Area	Chap	# Memb-04-21	# Memb-05-31	Number VOTING	% Voted	Area	Chap	# Memb-04-21	# Memb-05-31	Number VOTING	% Voted
1	682	337	333	24	7.2%	7	135	147	147	4	2.7%
1	685	170	174	27	15.5%	7	164	103	103	2	1.9%
1	1757	54	54	2	3.7%	7	180	345	343	43	12.5%
1	1823	117	117	18	15.4%	7	1793	38	38	5	13.2%
2	5	58	56	3	5.4%	7	2358	44	44	8	18.2%
2	66	74	75	14	18.7%	8	90	273	266	18	6.8%
2	974	88	89	8	9.0%	8	595	93	95	17	17.9%
2	1175	28	25	2	8.0%	8	1549	138	136	18	13.2%
2	1827	62	62	4	6.5%	8	2112	25	25	7	28.0%
3	28	95	95	10	10.5%	8	2343	61	61	2	3.3%
3	60	102	102	9	8.8%	9	232	533	531	20	3.8%
3	1727	59	58	1	1.7%	9	356	174	173	13	7.5%
3	2065	75	74	15	20.3%	9	893	661	658	19	2.9%
3	2080	25	25	2	8.0%	9	1159	331	333	17	5.1%
3	2265	271	270	27	10.0%	9	1270	282	279	30	10.8%
4	1293	74	74	3	4.1%	10	7	446	442	9	2.0%
4	1697	111	113	13	11.5%	10	489	160	159	8	5.0%
4	1743	89	89	8	9.0%	10	737	411	411	38	9.2%
5	110	28	27	1	3.7%	10	1116	247	245	16	6.5%
5	1068	13	12			10	1241	450	447	22	4.9%
5	2079	18	18			10	1665	105	104	4	3.8%
6	111	208	203	17	8.4%						
6	1134	82	83	12	14.5%						
6	1837	49	49								
Sub Total		2287	2277	220	9.7%	Sub Total		5067	5040	320	6.3%
						Total		7354	7317	540	7.4%