

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES (NARFE)

Published September 2020

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Constance Bails, Ph.D

**1st Vice
President**
Maureen Nolet

**2nd Vice
President**
Robert Martin

Secretary
Deanna Shepherd


Treasurer
William Martin

**Immediate
Past President**
Leslie Ravenell



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Introduction

The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) was established on April 9, 1955 by NARFE members living in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, there are over 13,000 NARFE members in our 41 traditional Chapters, with over 50% of which are “National-Only” members. These members include active and retired federal employees, spouses, and survivor annuitants. There are over 147,000 annuitants in Virginia. We have nine Areas organized geographically across the state, and each Chapter belongs to one of these Areas. You can read about what is happening in your area on pages 13-23. You may join any chapter even if you are a permanent resident in another state. See list of Virginia chapters on page 37. 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 theme “Virginia Facing the Challenges” reflected the obstacles we faced during the year with the global pandemic, “stay at home orders,” as well as attacks on our federal benefits. We learned about social distancing, face masks, skype, facetime, go-to-meeting and ZOOM. This annual report describes our activities, accomplishments, and challenges in reaching our NARFE goals for the year.

NARFE has many priorities, but its top priorities are legislation, recruiting and retention. Virginia is one of the few states that has highly active National and State Legislation Programs. In our National Legislation Program, we have 11 Congressional District Liaisons (CDL’s), one for each of Virginia’s 11 Congressional Districts and two Senate Legislative Leaders (SLL), one for each of our Senators, all working with their local Congressional delegation. We develop a Virginia Legislation Plan every year and present it to our local delegates. We invite you to look at the Plan and our past newsletters at the Federation website www.vanarfe.org. On pages 24-31 you will find information about these programs as well as our other programs that are available to our members including Alzheimer’s, membership, public relations, and service. This year we are also including reports from our Net Coordinator and Webmaster.

Our members and their families are important to us. During the past fiscal year our recruiters signed up almost 60 new members. Our membership still needs to grow. Help us keep this organization strong as we look forward to celebrating 100 years of service at NARFE’s Centennial Gala on June 21, 2021 in Washington, D. C.

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.”
Maya Angelou

Kathy Arpa
Annual Report Editor
VFN President 2016-2017





2019-2020 Virginia Federation of NARFE Executive Board

President - Dr. Constance C. Bails, Ph.D
Presidentbails@vanarfe.org
Chapter 737 - Fairfax

1st Vice President – Maureen (Moe) Nolet
Chapter 90 - Fredericksburg

2nd Vice President – Eddie Eithes
Chapter 489 - McLean-Great Falls

Secretary – Karen Cheatwood
Chapter 2065 - Louisa

Treasurer – William (Bill) Martin
Chapter 2065 - Louisa

Immediate Past President – Leslie Ravenell
Chapter 595 - Colonial Beach





VFN President's Report

Hopefully, we all realize that these last several months have been trying times for all of us! I am pleased to hear that most of our members are safe and secure. We must remain vigilant and stay the course, follow CDC guidelines and advice! We also understand the need for social distancing due to COVID-19 can impact our physical, emotional, and mental health. I want to take a moment to thank everyone who diligently adhered to the recommendations over these past and future months until they find a vaccine or a cure for this virus. I know it is a lonely, and sometimes anxiety-ridden time, but our efforts are working: *Many states are showing promising signs of flattening the curve and reducing hospitalizations.* The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) is trying hard to find a way to reach out to those impacted.



For your general information, we understand that many of our members may not be aware of the Virginia Federation of NARFE, or many may not understand the functions of the organization. Therefore, please allow me to explain some of the highlights of the VFN. The Virginia Federation of NARFE is a Board of Directors, comprised of an Executive Committee, nine Area Vice Presidents, six Program Chairpersons, Special Committees, and Appointees dedicated to safeguarding the earned benefits of our active and retired federal employees and annuitants under the leadership of the National NARFE organization. **Specifically, the Federation:**

- *Encourages and assists in the strength and development of Chapters in Virginia and National Only Members.*
- *Organizes new Chapters and assists in closing and consolidating Chapters within Virginia. And we promote and actively participate in the retention of current members and recruitment of new members.*
- *We have Service Officers throughout the state that help resolve benefit issues and keep members informed of federal directives and information.*
- *We coordinate VFN Outreach Activities, such as annually walking for Alzheimer's, NARFE's charity to support.*
- *Our webpage is VANARFE.org. We encourage all to visit the site often. We also publish fall and Spring Newsletters to highlight and share activities that were accomplished in the areas and chapters of the VFN. We develop and issue a State Legislative Plan to all Virginia members, also listed on our VFN website.*
- *We host various officers and information training across the state and at the Annual VFN Conference. Also, the Board of Directors and the VFN Program Chairs attend chapter meetings to present updates on VFN Program activities that also include National and Virginia political updates.*

WHAT DOES VA NARFE DO FOR YOU?

VA NARFE is continually working on keeping our goals and mission at the forefront. We are always trying to enhance our efforts to protect the earned rights and benefits of Active and Retired Federal employees, their families, and survivors. Our priorities are to continually develop and improve our programs within our federal community, NARFE Leadership, and with our infinity partners. We strive to unite, work, and vote on issues concerning our benefits. To that end, we have a two-person Public Relations Team to help us get the word out that VA NARFE is alive and well! Also, to help keep our members more informed, we now have a Virginia Federation of NARFE Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter. To find us on Facebook, search for the Virginia Federation of NARFE page using Facebook search function. You will find live streaming of the Region X Conferences and all the presenters, an overview of the new AMS system and some of the resolved challenges presented by the Headquarters experts on AMS, and much more.



One of the constant tasks we face is maintaining the connection between the chapters, National only members, the VFN, and National Headquarters. The VFN Board of Directors is doing all we can to expand those lines of communication. We have increased our chapter visits to provide updates on the VFN and the National Organization, from myself, the executive team, and the program chairs! First six months of the fiscal year, we traveled to approximately 50 outreaches on behalf of the Virginia Federation of NARFE. That includes chapter visits, State, Regional and National Conferences, Meetings and Outreach Program participation. We are sending our teams of Program Chairs to offer presentations to provide guidance and assistance to the areas and chapters. For example, National and State Legislative Chairs visited Area I and did an outstanding presentation on the status of National and State Legislation. The VFN Team was also joined by the Congressional Liaison Representative, who presented a report from the political representatives in that geographical area. We plan to continue such presentations throughout the state, eventually including all VFN Program Chairs.

OUTREACH VISITS TO CHAPTERS and AREAS

We had been remarkably busy before the Pandemic began in March 2020. I had the privilege of visiting many chapters to swear in officers, and with the help of AVP's to build up Areas and to HELP salvage chapters. Last year when I attended the LEGCON meeting in Washington D.C., we had the opportunity to visit our senators and members of Congress. One of our many questions to Senator Tim Kaine and Congressman Gerry Connolly was, "what is being done to make sure that the Federal Active employees never endure a shutdown as experienced in 2019?" I also attended a telephonic town hall meeting with Congressman Connolly, where I posed the questions again about legislation to avoid the future of government shutdowns and lack of pay for active federal employees. We saw him also at the Northern Virginia Caucus meeting of NARFE members and asked him the same questions. He did talk about the strides Congress is making to guarantee this does not happen again. He also shared they have added federal contractors to the equation. He reported that Congress managed to stop of the OPM GSA merger, of which NARFE has been tracking the progress as well. We are continually trying to make sure that we include concerns for our active as well as retired federal employees, chapter members and National only in our goals, plans, and objectives.

OPEN COMMUNICATION - SOME OF THE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FROM THE FEDERATION

October	31	Maryland Federation Day of Training Guest Speaker
November	13	Midlothian Chapters Area Meeting for new AVP and Chapter Presidents w/1 st VP
	14	Blacksburg to discuss Chapter Closing
December	10	Vienna- Oakton, Swearing in Officers at Holiday Party
	11	Midlothian American Legion Holiday Party and Swearing in Officers /RVP X
	12	Shenandoah County Swearing-in Officers holiday breakfast
January	7	January Board Meeting
February	12	Springfield Chapter combining chapters
February	19	Petersburg presented Jack McMurchy Certificate of Appreciation from VFN
February	27	Go to Meeting Board of Directors
March	5	Spaghetti Luncheon Alzheimer's Benefits, Area I, Virginia Beach
March	9	VFN Conference Committee Team, Fredericksburg
March	10	Hosted IX & X Area Meeting, Fairfax, Update on Federation Activities /past VP
March	12	NARFE Presentation during Women's History Month, Department of Human Resources Baltimore, Maryland, Women's History Month Guest Speaker for Active Federal Employees. I was able to present NARFE applications and magazines, and NARFE overview
March	12	Cancelled the Annual Meeting because of the Corona Virus
May	22	1 st VFN Electronic Annual Meeting (go-to-meeting)



VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF NARFE 2020 CONFERENCE

Thank you all who registered and those who had planned on registering for the 2020 Virginia Federation of NARFE Conference. We had a great agenda planned for you. As you know, we had to cancel the conference because of the COVID-19 Corona virus. However, we know that we are better off safe than sorry. Our VFN Board of Directors took every precaution to ensure that we put a plan in place as expeditiously as possible. We issued a letter of cancellation to the entire Virginia membership, including National only, on March 12, 2020, before the governor ordered the shutdown of the Commonwealth of Virginia. We followed up with a meeting of our Conference Committee on March 16, the Field Area Vice Presidents on March 17, and finally, the entire Board of Directors on March 18 to discuss the next steps at every level possible, including selecting a day time and place for next year. As a result, we agreed to plan for the 2021 Conference to take place April 11- 14, 2021, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 1021 Koger Center Blvd., Richmond, VA. Our theme for this year was "Facing the Challenges." We hope that you will keep us in mind as we start to put our plans together for next year and sign up early. Those that left their registration and fee with us will not have to register again. In fact, we will notify you as the time grows near. If you would like to volunteer to work on the committee, please let us know.

VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF NARFE ANNUAL ELECTRONIC MEETING

On May 22, 2020, we hosted our very first Virginia Federation of NARFE's Annual Electronic Meeting. Our agenda included a State of the Virginia Federation of NARFE Annual Report and accomplishments, budget report, by laws and nomination reports, including nominations from the floor. Region X Vice President, William Shackelford presented an update for Region X and National activities. All VFN chapter and National Only members were invited.

We are incredibly excited that so many National Only NARFE members responded to our emails and attended our first Electronic 2020 Annual Meeting. Hopefully, we will continue to bridge the gap, and all members who live in Virginia will understand that we are not either-or. We can function together and support the goals and objectives of NARFE. We are all Federal employees - active and retired, annuitants, spouses, and families, working to safeguard our benefits.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Stan Palen, our Webmaster, and John Bails our Net Coordinator, timekeeper, and Registrar, for so much of the leg work to make the electronic annual meeting possible. Also special thanks to all of you who participated, Secretary Karen Cheatwood, Treasurer Bill Martin, Nominating Committee, and By-Laws Proposal Chair Jim Little and Bill Shackelford. Kudos to our Region X Vice President for the Region and National Update, the Board of Directors. More thanks to Past President Leslie Ravenell for trying to co-pilot, and our parliamentary, Dr. Linda Smallwood, for guidance, Arlene Arthur and her Ballot and Tellers Team, and all Officers, and Members.

2019-2020 VFN AWARDS PROGRAM

Each year at our annual conference we present awards for outstanding service to some of our membership. This year because our meeting was conducted electronically, we presented the annual awards at the July 12-14, 2020 Board of Directors summer meeting. The awards were presented as follows: Gaston Gianni, National Legislative Chair, Management Award for Outstanding Leadership, Luther Santiful, Area VII VP, for many years of Exceptional Service to VA Federation of NARFE, Leslie Ravenell, Past President, President's Choice Award for dedicated support.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to Bill Martin, Treasurer, Karen Cheatwood, Secretary and Jim Little, Nomination and Bylaws Chair, for outstanding continuous service. We also presented Jack McMurchy, past Area and Chapter President, a certificate of appreciation at a special meeting in his chapter because he was unable to travel.



VFN ELECTRONICS COMMITTEE

Our newly revived electronic committee was formed in early 2020 and is up and running. It encompasses marketing/membership and communications. Members are - Maureen Nolet (Fredericksburg) 1st Vice President, Stan Palen, (Colonial Beach), Webmaster, Doris McAdams, (Woodbridge) and Patricia Wolfe, (Dulles) Public Relations Co-Chairs, Deanna Shepherd (National-Lorton), VFN Secretary, Kathy Arpa, (Vienna-Oakton), VFN Editor, John Bails, (Fairfax) Net Coordinator, Robert Martin, (Fredericksburg), 2nd Vice President and State Legislative Chair, and Debbie Fisk from Midlothian. If technology is your thing and you would like to become a part of the team, please contact Chairperson Debbie Fisk at narfe2265df@gmail.com. The team has some great ideas and plans to expand our website and social media components. We are quite creative in new and additional opportunities for committees, programs, and areas to meet using our go-to-meeting and our zoom capabilities. We can begin using these forums for town hall meetings or brainstorming new ideas to help advance our programs.

BRIDGING GAPS WITH OUR NEIGHBORING FEDERATIONS

Along with the Lt. Governor of Maryland, Boyd Rutherford, and Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, George Owings, I was one of the guest speakers at the Maryland Federation of NARFE. For the past four-plus years, including this year, I am the top **recruiter** for the Commonwealth of Virginia. My presentation was Marketing and Recruitment Programs that may help NARFE recruit more members, a presentation that I also presented at the National Executive Board/ Federation Presidents Council Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, July 7- 11, 2019. I was awarded the Maryland MFN's "Lucky Coin" by Maryland Federation President, Dr. Gary Roundtree, who is also the Federation Presidents Council 2019 Chairperson. I was also invited as a guest speaker for North Carolina and Pennsylvania 2020 Federation's Annual Conferences.

THOSE IN NEED - CDV-19

If you know of any VFN member who has been significantly impacted by the Corona virus pandemic, we are willing to extend help in any way that we can. We are asking the Area Vice Presidents to canvas your chapters and find out if there are any in needs among our members that we may be able to reach; send a card, make a call to check on the elders, go to the store, deliver some food or water, etc. If such an opportunity occurs, please contact our Chaplain, Marilyn Riddle, mriddle@cox.net or Arlene Arthur at arlenebw@gmail.com

**we can
help**

VFN, LET'S ALL CONTINUE TO DO OUR PART

The easiest way to protect your neighbors and loved ones is to stay home. Virginia's health is in your hands.

Constance J. Bails, Ph.D.
President
Virginia Federation of NARFE





1ST Vice President's Report

My annual report will only cover the dates of July 2019 through the beginning of January 2020. Unfortunately, in January I fell ill to a serious illness. Fortunately, our VFN president and several of the VFN officers and members stepped up in my absence. I am very grateful to all of them. I was also re-elected and sworn as the VFN 1st Vice President for a second term.

During my active time, I was able to establish quarterly meetings with all the Area Vice Presidents (AVPs) via Go-to-Meeting or ZOOM prior to the VFN Executive Board meetings. We are working on other items, so that we can be successful. The Region X Conference, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, which I was able to attend, was not only informative and educational, but it also provided all attendees the opportunity to establish future communications with each other for the future. Attendees were from the five states in Region X which includes Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia and NARFE Headquarters. I attended the VFN Executive Board and VFN Board meetings and the Annual State Legislative Committee meeting. At this meeting, we established our goals for the upcoming year and prioritized them. I attended the popular yearly Peanut Festival, where we handed out information on NARFE - what it is and what it does to help the Federal employees both retired and active. Hopefully, we were successful in obtaining new members. I attended the yearly Colonial Beach Harvest Dinner, which is a fund raiser for Alzheimer's Research. They were successful in raising a large donation for Alzheimer's. While there, I met some of the new members and talked with the current members about their chapter, etc.

Congressman Rob Wittman sponsored two events here in Fredericksburg, both of which I attended. One was at the local Fredericksburg VFW Center. There he spoke about the future of the proposed VA Clinic to be built in Fredericksburg and he had a panel of individuals that are working on the project. The attendees showed quite a bit of interest. The other event was for seniors in the local Fredericksburg area. For this event, I was invited by Gaston Gianni, the VFN National Legislation Chair. The Congressman invited several vendors, some of which had presentations which were well received. Presenters provided a wealth of information, contacts and answered residents' questions. Some attendees were retired Federal employees. At the NARFE exhibit table, we educated both retired and active Federal employees, some of which were not familiar with what NARFE does or what it is.

I continued to request that Area Vice Presidents (AVPs) have their chapter presidents update their newsletters and website on the VFN home page on a regular basis. During this time, I was able to visit some chapters to see how they were doing and what, if any, needs they might have. Their response was about the same from all – the need to have members step up to fill vacancies, participate more within the chapters and more communications starting with the VFN board, then the AVPs and the chapter presidents. On the next page you will see the current area designations as well as the name of your Area Vice President.

At the present time, I am the 2021 VFN Conference Coordinator with hopes that we will be able to have a face-to-face/in person conference in April 2021.

I would like to take this opportunity thank everyone that has and continues to support and encourage me through my absence and in addition to those that stepped up to help the board during my illness. The kindness extended to me during my illness was overwhelming. I will do my best to continue, as best I can, as your VFN 1st Vice President.

Maureen "Moe" Nolet, VFN 1st Vice President

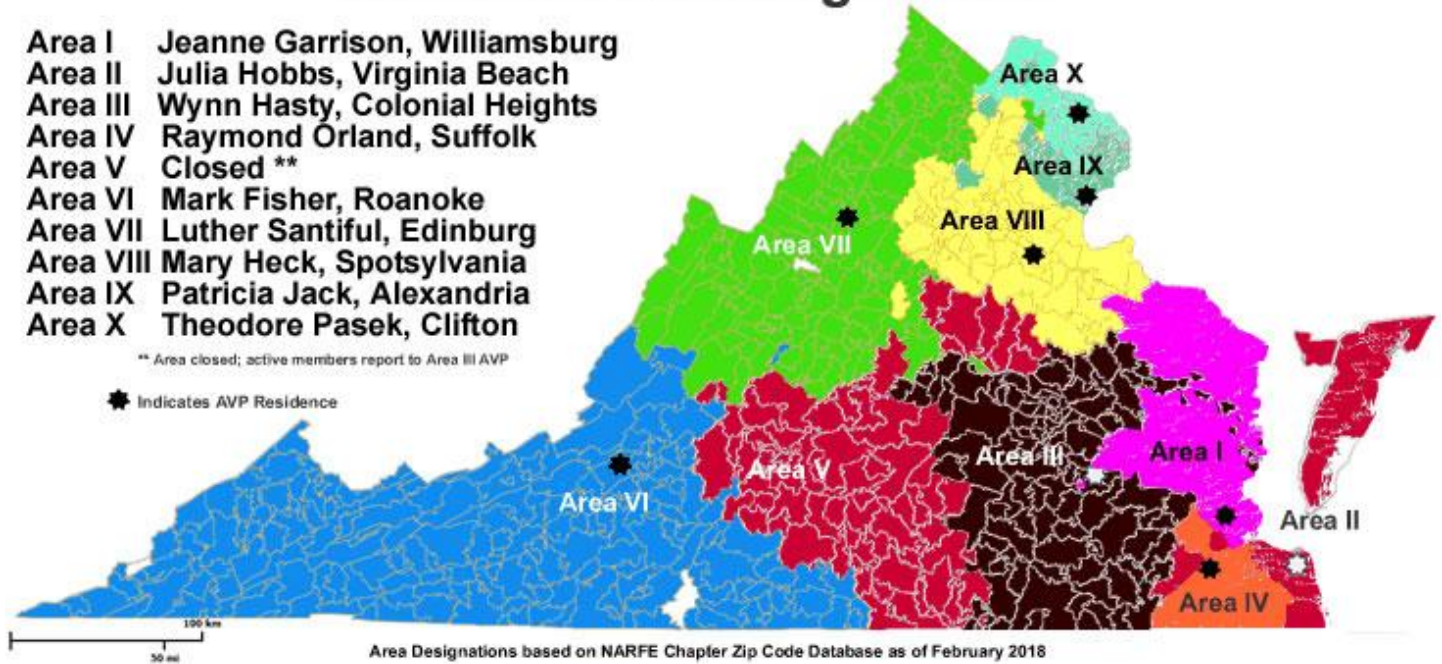


Current Area Designations

- Area I Jeanne Garrison, Williamsburg
- Area II Julia Hobbs, Virginia Beach
- Area III Wynn Hasty, Colonial Heights
- Area IV Raymond Orland, Suffolk
- Area V Closed **
- Area VI Mark Fisher, Roanoke
- Area VII Luther Santiful, Edinburg
- Area VIII Mary Heck, Spotsylvania
- Area IX Patricia Jack, Alexandria
- Area X Theodore Pasek, Clifton

** Area closed; active members report to Area III AVP

★ Indicates AVP Residence





Treasurer's Report

FY 20 TREASURER'S REPORT SYNOPSIS ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

Approved Budget	\$101,752	
Income	62,928	
* Expenses	45,750	
Effect on FY 20 Budget	\$17,178	<u>NOT</u> required - Available for FY 21

5-Year Comparison of VFN Finances (Income & Expenses) FY 2016 – FY2020

Revenue:	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
NARFE 10% Fund	\$52,696	\$46,693	\$57,418	\$49,933	\$48,018
Chapter Dues	24,392	20,540	13,522	13,577	11,234
Other Income	8,507	26,801	4,775	15,526	3,676
Total Revenue	<u>\$85,595</u>	<u>\$94,034</u>	<u>\$75,715</u>	<u>\$79,036</u>	<u>\$62,928</u>
Expenses:					
	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	* FY 2020
Executive Committee	\$11,835	\$10,292	\$11,164	\$14,091	\$10,954
IPP & Appointees	5,867	5,215	7,779	7,009	7,250
Field Operations	16,877	15,670	18,060	13,222	11,227
Program Operations	15,417	14,007	14,673	13,001	3,591
Administrative	32,874	49,844	23,988	36,578	12,728
Total Expenses	<u>\$82,870</u>	<u>\$95,028</u>	<u>\$75,664</u>	<u>\$83,901</u>	<u>\$45,750</u>
Revenue - Expenses	<u>\$2,725</u>	<u>(\$994)</u>	<u>\$51</u>	<u>(\$4,865)</u>	<u>\$17,178</u>

* FY 2020 Expenses are very low due to the Pandemic with very little VFN activity March-June and Annual Conference cancelled



Summary of Operations Accounts ending June 30, 2020:

Operation Fund (Checking)	\$63,701.97
Share Savings	5.00
General Reserve Fund	25,897.18
Contingency Fund	10,353.09
<u>Escrow Fund (from Closed Chapters)</u>	<u>55.08</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$100,012.32</u>

Bill Martin
VFN Treasurer

NARFE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING



NATIONAL NARFE HEADQUARTERS
606 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1914
Phone : 703-838-7760

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FIELD OPERATIONS

Area I Vice President's Report

From last summer to the end of the year all chapters functioned normally with monthly meetings. As noted in the last VFN newsletter, Chapter 682 membership chair, Marie Collins, celebrated her 95th Birthday. Chapter 685 Williamsburg celebrated the 60th anniversary of being a chapter. Chapter 1757 voted to change its vacation months from summers to winter since many members go south during the cold weather. Chapter 1823 voted to have two members serve as Co-Presidents of the chapter.

As Area Vice-President, I was able to attend several of the meetings and install officers at three of the December meetings. I also attended the summer and fall VFN board meetings. In October there was a very successful training meeting in Gloucester.

The new year started normally with chapters 682, 685, and 1823 holding regular meetings. Chapter 1757 took their planned vacation with the expectation of resuming in April. Some were planning to attend the annual meeting to be held in April. However, all of that changed with the COVID-19 crisis as people stayed home. Since then only one chapter, Northern Neck-Warsaw Chapter 1823, has continued to get together in person. This chapter has found ways to meet and socially distance in a variety of locations. In June there was a wine tasting at a local winery, and they have made plans to continue to get together within the state guidelines. The board of chapter 1757 conducted a Zoom meeting to make chapter plans. Chapters 682 and 685 have sent newsletters but have not met in person. .

I attended the VFN board meeting in January but due to the pandemic I have not been able to attend chapter meetings since March. Prior to the cancellation of the annual meeting I was in charge of the supporter contributions. There were quite a few donors. With the cancellation some requested refunds but most allowed the contribution to go for 2021. I participated in several Go-To-Meeting and Zoom online conferences following the annual meeting cancellation.

Jeanne Garrison
Area I Vice President





Area II Vice President's Report

During 2019, I became the Area II VP around mid-year, and that added a lot of additional duties to my regular duties of Chapter 5 President. Therefore, the business of running the Chapter slowed down. In addition, I worked during the health fairs for the months of November, December, and early January. This included attending all area fairs at local military facilities. While working with the insurance programs explaining to military and civilians about the health program, I hosted NARFE tables with information, handouts, and giveaways for new memberships in NARFE. I encountered many prospective members and explained to them the benefits of a membership in NARFE. After I became the AVP, I had members from other Chapters learn to host the membership drive tables at the Health Fairs. This expanded their expertise of trying to get new members for NARFE from an extended group of people they came in contact with from the prospective members attending the health fairs. My group of chapters includes four in the Tidewater Area.

Metro-Virginia Beach Chapter 5 has been in a transitional state this year, as a good number of members have aged out of the interest of NARFE and traveling to a meeting. Therefore, as President I have moved toward doing a lot more newsletters to stay in touch with people and to give them the current information about the elections; revisions and new interests of the National Office; and explain a little better about the items they read about in the NARFE magazine. I also remind them of what they need to do, such as pay their dues and contact their Congress person and Senators on interesting items with respect to their retirement and pay.

Tidewater Norfolk Chapter 66 always hosts a very nice Christmas Luncheon and invites guest speakers to all of their Chapter meetings hosted at the REC center in Norfolk Virginia. The Chapter member who was responsible for the Chapter Newsletter was Tom Van Tiem who does an excellent job of posting a lot of the Legislative news and votes of local interest.

Chapter 974 of Virginia Beach also hosts a very nice Christmas Luncheon at a local golf course where a good number of Civil Service and military members show an interest in the group and the information about who they are and what NARFE is about. They encourage a lot of visitors to attend to come and bring friends with them to include new faces to the informational part of the gathering. Alex Adkins is the President of the Chapter and he is always providing the members at his meetings with NARFE information and National news from NARFE, so that they better understand what they read in their monthly magazine.

Chapter 1827 of Seaside-Virginia Beach hosts an annual Spaghetti Luncheon at one of the neighborhood churches, and this is an annual fund raiser for the Alzheimer's Association. President Joe Murray sends invitations and advertisements to all of the local Chapters and the Federation Officers; this gives his speaking program a lot of good information about NARFE and what they do for dues paying members as well as how to go about joining the NARFE organization.

Julia Hobbs
Area II Vice President



Area III Vice President's Report

I took over as President of NARFE Petersburg Chapter 28 in September 2019. Jack McMurchy stepped down as President due to health issues. In October 2019, we had a Blue Cross-Blue Shield representative talk to us concerning changes forthcoming in Open Season. Normal business meeting followed.

In November 2019, the chapter had a speaker from Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce who made a presentation on a trip to Ireland they were sponsoring. The trip was cancelled due to COVID- 19.

In January 2020, the chapter had Mr. Richard Stuart, the Mayor of Pocahontas Island in Petersburg, made an historical presentation on the origins of the island, the first African American Colony in the United States. Meetings were discontinued in February 2020 due to the onset of COVID-19; meetings have yet to be resumed.

In December 2019, I installed new officers of Richmond Chapter 60 at their regular business meeting; no meetings have been held since that date, but they are expected to resume in January 2021.

Midlothian Chapter 2265 had regular in person programs January 2020 through March 2020, and one ZOOM meeting in June 2020. This meeting was not very well attended. During the summer the Executive Board sent handwritten notes "just thinking about you" to reach out to their members. They will have phone contacts with each member to encourage them to attend a ZOOM meeting in October 2020. This meeting will have a BC/BS representative to explain changes in their plans prior to Open Season. They had regularly scheduled meetings prior to the virus. I attended their Chapter meeting in November 2019 and introduced myself and spoke to the group on Virginia Federation priorities.

In September 2019, Louisa Chapter 2065 honored Louisa Andrews and Louis Kopecho on their 100th birthdays. They also honored James Andrews, who was President of Louisa Chapter when it was Chartered in 1986. They chartered a Nominating Committee for Chapter President in 2020. Bill Martin is now serving as the Virginia Federation Treasurer.

Tuckahoe Chapter 1727 will have a ZOOM meeting with a Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative in October. They have not scheduled any in-person meetings due to the virus.

Wynn Hasty
Area III Vice President





Area IV Vice President's Report



October and November were busy for all the chapters in Area IV. The Churchland

Chapter participated in health fairs at the Naval Shipyard and the Naval Hospital. The Brentwood Chapter partnered with Blue Cross and Blue Shield at an Open Season Health Fair. Brentwood Chapter 1697 also attended the FBI Open Season Health Fair in Chesapeake. For their effort they were able to recruit five new members.



In January, I performed the installation of officers for the Brentwood Chapter 1697, and in February I installed officers for the Churchland Chapter 1293. I also discussed the details of the 2020 Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN)



Conference scheduled for April 5-8 in Richmond, VA. Their monthly meetings consist of guest speakers for diverse topics concerning seniors including finances, income tax, security, and recreational activities. They consistently have about 20% of their members in attendance each month. That is quite

astounding, and the numbers continue to increase! The chapter is continuing to recruit new members; however, they also continue to lose members to "NARFE National Only" status when members renew their membership. The Brentwood Chapter updated their bylaws and sent the final copy to NARFE Headquarters for review and approval.

Amid public health concerns regarding COVID-19, many of their planned NARFE activities were canceled. The cancellations included the VFN 2020 Conference, the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office-Annual Senior Luncheon, the Suffolk Chapter Congressman Meeting, and the Brentwood Chapter 1697 40th Anniversary Celebration.

I am also pleased to announce that Barbara Whittington received a service award from the Churchland Chapter.

Raymond Orland
Area IV Vice President





Area VI Vice President's Report

The Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837 has closed, and the New River Valley Chapter 1134 has elected to close and submitted the final documentation to VFN President Bails. The Roanoke Valley Chapter 111 has not held an in person meeting since February and has elected to cancel in person meetings for the rest of the year. They will be conducting a chapter ZOOM meeting on Friday, September 4; this was decided after several executive board meetings using ZOOM.

Mark Fisher
Area VI Vice President

Area VII Vice President's Report

All Area VII chapters: Charlottesville-Albemarle Chapter 135, Harrisonburg Chapter 164, Winchester Chapter 180, Shenandoah County Chapter 2358, and Page Valley-Luray Chapter 1793 are viable and productive. Each chapter held elections and acquired the requisite officers, although many officers were recycled, as happens so frequently.



As Area Vice President, I installed the officers of Page Valley Chapter 1793: including Sharon Booker, Pat Joyce (Co-Presidents), and Gerald Griffin (Secretary).

Chapter 1793 had to cancel two of its major events: The Annual Alzheimer's Fundraiser picnic at Arrowhead Park in Luray and their Walk to End Alzheimer's. In spite of these cancellations, contributions for Alzheimer's Research were respectable, and a few new members were added during the year. The chapter is looking forward to its 40th Anniversary in October.

Shenandoah County Chapter 2358: At the October meeting, representatives from Aetna, Kaiser and Blue Cross/Blue Shield presented their programs for the coming year. In keeping with the plan to have programs beneficial to chapter members, a representative from a local fresh food market gave a presentation on available organic food.

Charlottesville-Albemarle Chapter 135: Joanne Hirsch volunteered to be the VA-05 Congressional District Liaison, and she immediately started to promote NARFE's objectives. COVID-19 curtailed all chapters' activities after February 2020, but all have maintained relationships with members by email and telephone.



Luther Santiful
Area VII Vice President



Area VIII Vice President's Report

I attended the Falls Run Chapter 2343 election meeting September 12, 2019, and returned for the installation of officers and Christmas Dinner. I attended the Colonial Beach Chapter 595 Harvest Supper to raise funds for Alzheimer's Research and in February returned for a regular meeting at the Hunan Diner. In March I attended the Fauquier Chapter 1549 meeting at "The Inn at Vint Hill".



I was able to attend the Region X Conference the last week of September, held in Winston-Salem NC. In October, January, and July, I attended the VFN Board meetings in Richmond. Go-To-Meetings were attended, as well as the Annual VFN meeting May 28.

Fredericksburg Chapter 90 meets each third Wednesday of the month except July, and normally meets at the Salem Church Library. Meeting times, locations and exceptions are published on the chapter Face book page, on the VANARFE web page, and in the semi-annual newsletter. The chapter has finally filled positions that have been vacant for a long time: Vice President and Membership Chair. Chapter meetings from March to June were cancelled due to the COVID-19 Virus.

In August 2019 the chapter had a summer luncheon at a local restaurant as a social function and to celebrate summer.

Our speaker for September was Bob Martin, VFN State Legislative Chair. He gave a presentation on the issues being considered for the 2020 State Legislative Plan.



Alzheimer's Chair, MaryAnn Henry, raised money to donate to Alzheimer's Research by preparing a large basket to raffle. Some members participated in the Fredericksburg Alzheimer's Walk on October 12. In September there was a speaker from Aetna and in October a speaker from Blue Cross Blue Shield. They gave an informative presentation for the upcoming 2019-2020 FEHB Open Season.

In November, the president of Chapter 90 attended a Senior Health Fair hosted by Congressman Rob Wittman at the Dorothy Hart Center. The overall program and attendance was very good.



November's speaker was Jane Unbehagen, author of a book describing her experiences as caregiver for her mother with Alzheimer's. She had books for sale with her which she autographed. She remains active with local support groups.

In December the chapter conducted election of officers with all positions filled. There was also a holiday luncheon to celebrate the upcoming holidays.

In January 2020 the new chapter officers were installed by VFN Past President, Leslie Ravenell: Chapter Vice President, Dennis Coleman and Secretary, Mary Heck. Absent officers were President, Maureen Nolet, and Treasurer Kevin Wilkinson.





The speaker for January was Diane Grimes from the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank. She gave a presentation on the work they perform and the needs they have. Chapter members donated canned goods to the organization.

In February 2020, Nicole Farmer of the Virginia Insurance Counseling Assistance Program gave a presentation discussing their role in the area including running a Senior Café at the Marshall Center in Spotsylvania and serving as Ombudsmen for patients in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.



Chapter 90 continues to update their Facebook page, newsletter and web page to include a list of upcoming events.

In September and October Colonial Beach Chapter 595's speakers were opponents in the Virginia State Senate District 28 race, Democrat Qasim Rashid and incumbent Republican Senator Richard Stuart. The chapter has been contributing items for the food bank. The highlight of the year was the annual Harvest Supper, always held on the first Saturday in November, where \$1,500 was raised for Alzheimer's. The event included a supper of soup, chili, meatloaf, and other comfort foods; a DJ to dance the night away; a silent auction; and many door prizes and a 50/50 drawing.

In January 2020, a full slate of officers was installed: Leslie Ravenell, President, Jim Lynch, 1st Vice President, Ann Mills, 2nd Vice President, Maria Wendt, Secretary and Stan Palen, Treasurer. There were no other meetings after March due to the COVID-19 virus.

Fauquier Chapter 1549's annual picnic was held in September. In October, Lt Richard MacWelch, from the Fauquier Sheriff's Department, made a presentation on "Cons, Frauds, and Scams". In December there was a Christmas party.

In January, Mr. Josh Brown, from the Fauquier Bank, talked about topics that included banking security.

In February, Ms. Kathy Harper, publisher of "*Discover Publications*", gave a talk about her background and about the publication. In March, the last meeting for this period, Mr. Jack Pozo-Olano from the Old Warrenton Athletic Club, made a presentation on staying healthy, eating right, and exercising.

On August 1, 2019, Caroline Chapter 2112 held its Annual Chapter Luncheon at Wilkerson's Restaurant in Colonial Beach, with 20 in attendance, including eight guests. While there, Mary Heck was installed as Area VIII Vice President by Leslie Ravenell, Immediate Past President of the Virginia Federation of NARFE.

In September Reginald Underwood, Caroline County Board of Supervisors, Reedy Church District spoke on local matters. I attended their regular meeting at the Timbers Restaurant in February 2020.

Beverly Cunningham, of the Fredericksburg Alzheimer's Association Caregivers Group, spoke in October on Signs and Behaviors of Alzheimer's, and distributed written information on the subject.

In November Barbara Holley, of Blue Cross-Blue Shield, spoke of changes coming with the FEHB Open Season.

The last meeting took place in early March before the COVID-19 closings, where the speaker was Rev Carol Sealy, from the Bowling Green United Methodist Church giving a Motivational Talk. The incumbent officers agreed to serve another year.





Falls Run Chapter 2343 only meets quarterly, in March, June, and September, with a Holiday Dinner in December. In September elections were held with a new president being elected. On October 5th the chapter collected nearly \$3,500 for Alzheimer's Research with their Light's On for Alzheimer's event (the most ever). October 30 the community donated a large van of food to the SERVE organization picked up by volunteers at mailboxes.

In December there was the Holiday Dinner where new officers were installed by Maureen Nolet, VFN 1st VP. There have been no meetings since then because of the virus.

Mary Heck
Area VII Vice President



Area IX Vice President's Report

Great weather allowed Area IX's five chapters to meet their schedule of program meetings, holiday lunches, and community outreach initiatives during the July-December period. In November, we joined Area X in hosting an Information and Recruitment table at Congressman Gerry Connolly's Annual Health Fair. The November issue of NARFE Magazine, which summarized premiums for the fee for service insurance plans, was in high demand. Once again, Area IX led the Virginia Federation in annual fund raising for Alzheimer Research, with Woodbridge Chapter 1270 and Annandale Chapter 1179 topping Area IX donations. On a sad note in November, Alexandria Chapter 232 voted to disband due to low attendance and failure of members to step into leadership roles. The polling of members to elicit their transfer preference began in early January.

During the first three months of 2020, it was business as usual for the four remaining chapters – monthly program meetings and outreach activities. In March, each received a preliminary list of new transfers from Alexandria. The surviving Chapters were quick to welcome these new members via letter or newsletter. Then the Pandemic hit. In-person meetings were cancelled by most from April until fall. Three of the surviving chapters have utilized virtual tools for Board and membership meetings, and all have issued either on-going or off-cycle newsletters or notes to keep old and new members abreast of news as it develops. The temporary closure of the National Office has delayed official action on the closure of Alexandria Chapter 232 and subsequent transfers of funds – an irritation and a financial drain. Another important casualty was the Federation's Annual Conference, which was cancelled.

Optimistically, chapters are hoping to resume in-person meetings in the fall but will plan for alternatives, as needed. A priority for all is to retain current members and develop strategies to attract new members to join. Another priority is to encourage current members to step into leadership positions.

Patricia Jack
Area IX Vice President





Area X Vice President's Report

The VFN Conference, scheduled for Richmond, VA, in April of 2020, was cancelled because of the COVID-19 virus. Several virtual meetings were held to discuss whether to postpone or cancel the conference and what needed to be done to further NARFE objectives and VFN plans. Because of the virus most chapters in Area X did not have meetings in April, May and June.

During this year I, as Area X VP, visited all the chapters, Arlington Chapter 7, McLean-Great Falls Chapter 489, Fairfax Chapter 737, Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116, Dulles Chapter 1241, and Metro Northern Virginia Chapter 1665. Officers were installed at Arlington, McLean and Metro. I attended a Dulles Board meeting and spoke at Vienna-Oakton and Metro. I co-coordinated a NARFE table to solicit members at Representative Connolly's Annual Health Fair in Fairfax.

Chapter member totals are as follows: Arlington, 416; McLean-Great Falls, 138; Fairfax, 357; Vienna-Oakton, 212; Dulles, 385; and Metro Northern Virginia, 184.



Members of Area X joined members from other areas and states in Region X and attended the Region X Conference (hosted by Bill Shackelford, Region X Vice President) in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in September 2019. Special guest speakers included Barbara Sido, NARFE Executive Director, James Marshall, Federal Benefits Institute, Marsha Padilla-Goad, NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Manager and Dr. Constance Bails, President of the Virginia Federation.

In September, Paul Singh, AARP, spoke to the McLean-Great Falls Chapter 489 on decluttering. He had an engaging presentation giving us 10 tips on decluttering. Changes and updates to the 2020 FEHB Blue Cross Blue Shield plan were also presented by Kathy Bass In October. Members at the November 2019 meeting

enjoyed a presentation by Eddie Eitches, Chapter Legislative Chair, on the results of the Virginia elections. He also presented the members the six legislative issues that the Virginia Federation of NARFE has compiled for the upcoming 2020 Virginia Legislature. The chapter celebrated a Christmas/Holiday Luncheon Meeting at J. Gilberts in December 2019. In January 2020, Sheila Hans, AARP Speaker Bureau, spoke on "Caregiving 101 – Creating a Plan." Sheila shared a framework to help plan care for friends, family members, or loved ones. This is an opportunity to connect with other family caregivers, exchange tips and advice, and learn about resources available.

The February meeting featured Jim Johnston, author of the book ***Murder, Inc.: CIA under JFK.*** He was the lawyer for the Senate Intelligence Committee in 1975 and spoke on his experience and extensive research into the "secret files" declassified by the JFK Records Act. In March the chapter attended a joint meeting with the other Northern Virginia Chapters of the VFN. We joined the 9 Northern Virginia chapters (VFN Areas 9 and 10) hosted by the Fairfax Chapter 737. We had the largest number of attendees of all the Northern Virginia chapters. Then COVID-19 caused a hiatus.

Fairfax Chapter 737 is sad to report that between February and June 2020 four of its members passed on to their reward. Two were board members – Chaplin and Alzheimer's Chair. Members of Fairfax Chapter 737 at the December 2019 meeting. Sharon Lenius, the chapter Entertainment Chair, has won the highest award of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) for 2020. She will receive the John Cotton Dana Award for her contributions as significant as the SLA founder John Cotton Dana made since founding in 1909.





During this fiscal year the Fairfax Chapter collected and donated 645 pounds of non-perishable food to Food for Others (FFO) in Fairfax, VA. The January 2020 meeting included Alison Padget, Director of Development & Outreach for FFO. She spoke of the 70,000 residents of Fairfax County who live in poverty and how FFO assists them. This was before the COVID-19 virus outbreak causing hunger and homelessness to be magnified today. National President Ken Thomas addressed the chapter at the September 2019 meeting. He spoke of the many changes and challenges facing NARFE financially, in membership and at national HQ, as well as the plans for the future. In October 2019 Ms. Meredith Hanley, from the National Association of Aging, spoke on “How We Think, Talk & Act about Dementia Makes a Difference to Those Touched by It.” It was very interesting and practical advice.



October was Alzheimer’s Month, and there was a good turn-out at the annual BBQ Alzheimer’s fund raiser at the 29 Diner in Fairfax. The photo depicts members who supported the 2019 Alzheimer’s Walk in Manassas. Goodwin House at Home was the chapter’s November program. At the December Holiday Party, there was little idea of what the future had in store. In January 2020, Veterans Moving Forward, a 501(c)3, described their role in providing service dogs to veterans in need, and one of their dogs also visited us! March was a special meeting with VFN President Dr.

Bails and immediate past President Leslie Ravenell leading the program to update members on issues and plans.



This was the last in-person meeting as COVID-19 struck. In May we had a virtual ZOOM meeting featuring Virginia Delegate David Bulova. He gave an update on the results of the Virginia General Assembly meeting.

Vienna-Oakton 1116 remains a vital part of Area X in Northern Virginia after celebrating 50 years as a chapter in 2019. Monthly meetings include guest speakers and/or interesting programs, such as legislative updates/advocacy; a presentation by a philatelist that highlighted the significance of the Federal Government; a representative from Blue Cross and Blue Shield; Ted Pasek, VFN Area X Vice President; and Doris McAdams, VFN Public Relations Chair. Raffles were held and personal contributions were given for Alzheimer’ Research. At a holiday luncheon in December, Dr. Constance Bails, installed the Chapter’s officers for 2020 and members contributed to the local annual Toys for Tots Drive.



In January, members celebrated the birthday of Marion Reeves who turned 95 years young with a special luncheon at Tequila Grande in Vienna.





One of the most popular programs this year was entitled "**The Road Ahead**" – Transitioning into a retirement community, presented by former chapter member Marge Van Lierde. Marge gave an in-depth report on the timeline from the decision to move, preparation to move, the actual move to a retirement community, and her lifestyle since moving. A major factor which contributed to the large turnout was the media where it was published, including local newspapers, a church bulletin and "Golden Gazette", a monthly publication for older adults in Fairfax County. Because of the popularity of this program, the chapter president suggested that a similar program be included in a break-out session at the VFN Conference in April 2020. The Conference was cancelled because of the pandemic.

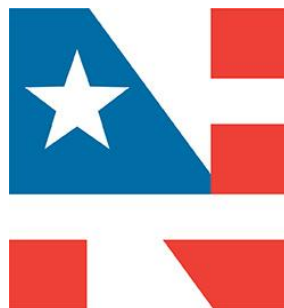
Vienna-Oakton's last meeting in March featured outgoing Mayor of Vienna Laurie DiRocco who shared information on the latest construction projects and development in the Town of Vienna. Several members expressed their concern about COVID-19 and indicated they would not feel comfortable attending meetings in the near future. Despite a good turnout this was our last meeting. Chapter president communicated with members during the shutdown, including sharing recipes, which several members enjoyed.

Until recently, Metro Northern Virginia Chapter 1665 continued its monthly luncheon meetings at the Portofino Restaurant near Crystal City on the fourth Thursday of the month, with some exceptions. Membership in the chapter still hovers around 100; however, this number will increase as members of the closed Alexandria chapter will be added to its rolls. The treasury remains healthy at about \$3,215, and primary expenses are mailing out newsletters to members who don't have computers and dues payable to the Virginia Federation. The chapter has not held a meeting since February because of the COVID-19 virus. Also, the Portofino remains closed for lunch. Long-time membership chair, Mary K. Parker, has left the Area, and she has not yet been replaced.

Monthly subjects from last year - September 2019 were: 40th Anniversary Celebration, Ted Pasek special guest and speaker.

October – Michael O'Connor Physical Therapist; November – Sandy Newton, President Arlington Civic Federation and Michele Nesbit-Johnson, BlueCross/BlueShield Representative; December – Holiday Party; January – Silent Auction for Alzheimer's (\$1,065 donated); February – Ana Nelson, Alzheimer's Association. Meetings after March were cancelled.

Theodore Pasek
Area X Vice President





PROGRAM AREAS

Alzheimer's Chair's Report



We have had good successes in spite of a little disruption this year known as Covid-19. Let me start with the latter part of 2019 since that is the first part of our fiscal year.

Our greatest event in the fall of course is the Walk to End Alzheimer's. As a nation, NARFE raised a total of \$74,581. That is a record high, and we should all be very proud. Virginia was fourth in the nation, with a total of \$5,593. We followed Texas, Maryland and Florida. The idea now is to raise \$100,000 for the organization, and that would get us back on the banner for Alzheimer's best donors. Let's make it happen.

During this past year, the Virginia Federation of NARFE donated \$53,225 to research. We are once again the Number One contributor in the nation and our Federation alone has given more than the other nine Regions. Since I've been keeping records, Virginia has given more than \$1.3 million to the cause. You have been quite imaginative in raising funds such as shredding projects, dances, door-to-door collections, funeral parlors, and regular chapter meetings. A side benefit of all these fundraisers is that you are getting the name of NARFE out in the public eye.

Most of the chapters have had no meetings since the first part of March, and our annual conference was also cancelled due to the virus. For that reason, collections were very limited and I did not attempt to determine which chapters were leading the way in donations or per capita. Hopefully we will be back on track soon and we can continue our traditional awards in this regard.

Thanks to all of you who purchased Alzheimer's postal stamps when they were on sale. Across the nation, 8.2 million stamps were sold, yielding \$1,060,786.46 for National Institute of Health research projects. There is legislation under consideration to reinstitute that program, and everyone needs to encourage their congressional representatives to support the bills. They are HR 3113 and S1728. There are almost 492 million stamps in storage just waiting to be sold. When you look at the tremendous benefit from the ones that were purchased, think about how much more money could be raised for additional research projects. This is worth supporting people because we could all need these laboratory results. There are already 5.7 million people living with Alzheimer's, and the number is rising rapidly.

The Alzheimer's Program Chair will stay in touch with the chapter coordinators as necessary with any news they can share and any news the Program Chair can share with the chapters.

Donna Shackelford
Alzheimer's Program Chair





Membership Chair's Report

At the end of Fiscal Year 2020, Virginia Federation has 13,687 members consisting of 6,350 Chapter members in 41 chapters and 7,337 National members. Membership decreased by 953 (6.51%) since October 18, 2019. Chapter members decreased by 786 (11.02%) and National members decreased by 167 (2.23%).

FY 2020 recruiting efforts yielded 31 recruiters signing 58 new members. Our VFN top Recruiters were: Dr. Constance T. Bails, Chapter 737 Fairfax – 14 members recruited and Dr. June J. Staton, Chapter 1697 Brentwood – five members recruited.

Chapter 111 Roanoke Valley reported a recruiting event, with a free year's membership awarded. Chapter 1697 Brentwood reported two recruiting events, with two free memberships awarded. Area II reported recruiting at health fairs in their area. Areas IX and X also reported recruiting at health fairs in their area.



Letters were sent to close Bedford, Lynchburg, and South Hill Chapter members notifying them of their newly assigned chapters. Notification was also sent to their receiving Chapter Presidents.

Attended AMS webinars regarding updates and changes. After the M112 was added back to AMS in May, worked with AMS staff to resolve several membership listing problems. Attended all Board meetings as scheduled, and prepared and submitted FY 2021 Budget Request for Membership with explanations for expenditures.

Frances E. Boatman
VFN Membership Chair





National Legislation Chair's Report

The Virginia Federation is one of NARFE's leaders in the congressional advocacy area. This is accomplished through the Federation's National Legislative Team consisting of a Chair, 11 Congressional District Liaisons (CDL), one for each of Virginia's 11 Congressional Districts, and two Senate Legislative Leaders (SLL), one for each of our Senators. The Team leads the Federation's efforts to build relationships with the Virginia Federal Congressional delegation and to advance NARFE's position on important legislative matters affecting active and retired federal employees. The Team also informs and interacts with the Federation's Area Vice Presidents, Chapters and VA National members about issues affecting the pay and benefits of Federal employees and retirees. The Committee is also responsible for coordinating Virginia NARFE's participation in NARFE's Political Action Committee (PAC). This includes encouraging NARFE members to contribute to NARFE PAC, reporting on VA NARFE PAC statistics (Collections and Disbursements within Virginia), and coordinating the process for seeking Chapters and Area VPs inputs to the NARFE PAC's decision making process for allocating funds to VA's congressional delegation.

We hope that all our NARFE members and their families are doing well as we all deal with the effects of the virus on our country. While we are all sheltered in place and adjusting to the "new normal" way of life, there are some things that don't change. **NARFE ADVOCACY** must go on, now more than ever! With all of our "free" time I hope you will continue with your efforts to contact your congressional representatives and let them know of your support for NARFE's important legislative issues.

In this report, I want to update you on four areas—new members to the VFN National Legislative Committee, current NARFE legislative issues, where VA NARFE stands with its PAC contributions and the Committee's plans for 2020-21.

New CLL Appointments

First, I want to welcome and thank **Joanne Hirsch**, Charlottesville Chapter 135, **Del Dyer**, New River Valley Blacksburg Chapter 1134, **Marilyn Riddle**, Williamsburg Chapter 685 and **Dennis Freeman**, Fairfax Chapter 737, for agreeing to serve as Congressional District Leaders. Joanne will be the CDL for VA's 5th Congressional District and work with Congressman Denver Rigglesman and his office. Del will be the CDL for VA's 9th Congressional District and work with Congressman Morgan Griffith and his office. Marilyn will be CDL for the 2nd Congressional District and work with Congresswoman Elaine Luria and her District offices. Dennis will be the CDL for the 10th Congressional District and work with Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton and her District offices.

Thank You to the following NARFE members for their past service as CDLs: Bill Ketron, Williamsburg Chapter 685, Ray Brandenburg, Fauquier Chapter 1549, Mary Kelley, Wilderness Chapter 1837 and Jim Lynch, McLean-Great Falls Chapter 489.

Next, I want to list **NARFE' top nine legislative priorities** that need your attention. These items are listed on NARFE's website under the ADVOCACY page under TAKE ACTION. Click on the link and go to the item and send a letter to your Representative and Senators. **They need to hear from you and know that these items are important to you!**



1. Support Fair COLA for Seniors Act (HR-1553)
2. Support WEP Reform legislation (HR-3934, HR-4540) (S-3401)
3. Oppose FY 2021 Budget Proposal that negatively affect Federal employees and retirees
4. Support paid family leave for Federal employees
5. Support UPS Fairness Act (HR-2382 and S-2965)
6. Support Fair Act of 2020 (HR-5690 and S-3231)
7. Support Federal Retirement Fairness (HR-2478)
8. Oppose mandatory Medicare Enrollment for Postal Retirees
9. Support Social Security Fairness Act of 2019 (HR-141 and S-521)

Please take a look at the Issue Briefs and the prepared letters for the above issues on the NARFE web site www.narfe.org.

NARFE PAC UPDATE: This is an important election year and the NARFE PAC cycle will close as this Congress comes to a close in December. I would like to encourage everyone to make a contribution to NARFE PAC. NARFE needs all the funds it can get for this important function. So any contributions you can make will be greatly appreciated. Here is where VA stands as of the end of June 2020. (That means we have two more quarters before the 2019-2020 cycle closes.) VA chapter members (1,001) have contributed about \$80,650 and VA NARFE National members (836) have contributed about \$48,300 for a VA state total of \$128,950. **THANK YOU to all that have contributed!!** Virginia ranks third behind California and Maryland in funds contributed. We are close enough to overtake Maryland. So let's put a push on to raise more PAC funds!!! Also we have 46 sustaining members (36 from chapter members and 10 from VA National members). This is a great way to help by having a contribution made every month. It's easy just let National know how much you want to give and a credit card number to apply the amount.

How were the PAC funds used in VA? A total of \$88,000 has been given to 10 members of the VA congressional delegation (Wittman, Luria, Scott, McEachin, Spanberger, Beyer, Wexton, Connolly, Warner and Kaine). All of this information is detailed on the NARFE web site under the ADVOCACY section where you can find the PAC information link. www.narfe.org In addition, there is information specific to all the NARFE Chapters in VA. Check it out!!

The following are the names and contact information for **VFNC's National Legislative Team:**

National Legislative Committee Chair: Gaston Gianni, Woodbridge 1270, gastongianni@aol.com (This position is a voting member of the VFN Board.)

Senatorial Legislative Leaders:

Sen. Mark Warner-- SLL Bill Briscoe, Manassas 356, Email: (whbriscoe@comcast.net)

Sen. Tim Kaine --SLL Eddie Eitches, McLean-Great Falls 489, Email: (eitches@verizon.net)

Congressional District Liaisons

1st CDL Gaston Gianni, Woodbridge 1270, Email: (gastongianni@aol.com) —Rep. Rob Wittman

2nd CDL Marilyn Riddle, Williamsburg Chapter 685 Email: (mriddle@cox.net) —Rep. Elaine Luria

3rd CDL Ray Orland, Suffolk 1743, Email: (raymondngail@aol.com) --- Rep. Bobby Scott

4th CDL Dillard Horton, Suffolk 1743, Email: (papadhh@gmail.com)—Rep. Donald McEachin

5th CDL, Joanne Hirsch, Charlottesville Chapter 135 Email: (cprinstr@verizon.net)--Rep. Denver Riggleman



6th CDL Frances Boatman, Roanoke 111, Email (FEBoatman@live.com) -- Rep. Ben Cline
7th CDL Bob Zombron, Midlothian 2265, Email: (bobjudyz@verizon.net) —Rep. Abigail Spanberger
8th CDL John Tolleris, Alexandria 232, Email: (jatolleris@aol.com) --Rep. Don Beyer
9th CDL, Del Dyer, New River Valley Blacksburg Chapter 1134 Email: (ddyer@vt.edu)—Rep. Morgan Griffith
10th CDL, Dennis Freeman, Fairfax Chapter 737 Email: (deepfreeze2548@me.com) —Rep. Jennifer Wexton
11th CDL Judy Thorne, Dulles 1241, Email: (thornemusick@aol.com) —Rep. Gerald Connolly

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.

Closing Quote: “Don’t be reluctant to give of yourself **generously**: It’s the mark of **caring** and **compassion** and **personal greatness**.” Brian Tracy

Gaston Gianni
VFN National Legislative Chair





Public Relations Chair's Report

I came on board as Public Relations Chair a few months into the year. Last year NARFE updated its logo and as I depleted the stock of old merchandise, I replaced it with merchandise with the new logo. I still need to replace the table covers and some flags. I shipped merchandise to the various chapters as they requested it for use at various functions (health fairs and the Peanut Festival, etc.).

I participated in Congressman Connolly's and Congressman Wittman's senior resources fair. I attended the Northern Virginia Caucus of NARFE meetings. I attended the Region X conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

We now have a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Virginia-Federation-NARFE>. Our general membership meetings are live streamed on Facebook. We have an Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/vanarfe/>. Some of our activities are posted here as well. We have a Twitter account: @VANARFE1.



This year I plan to set up a YouTube account for the organization.

I need short videos from each program chair about their program. The videos for Facebook need to be two to three minutes in length and those for YouTube can be about five minutes in length. I will need these on a continuing basis so program chairs should choose a different topic to discuss in each video. For our social media presence to be successful getting input from the program chairs and others is critical. We need the membership to visit, like, share and subscribe to our social media sites.

The lock down has removed most opportunity for in person interaction. I was able to speak at the Vienna-Oakton January meeting. I miss being able to visit with the chapters. I am available to assist any chapter with their public relations needs. When I accepted this position, I planned to visit as many chapters as possible.



Some of the Annandale Chapter 1159's NARFE activities are evident by this sign posted near Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

I attended the Area IX and X combined meeting on March 10, 2020 at the American Legion in Fairfax.



I seize every opportunity I can to promote NARFE and to recruit as I am finding a lot of retirees feel that they don't need NARFE.

President Bails, thank you for allowing me to serve the organization in this position.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris McAdams
VFN Public Relations Chair





Service Officer's Report

Service Officers play a vital role in meeting the needs of chapter members and their families pertaining to annuities, health insurance, Social Security and other benefits. As Federation Service Officer I am here to 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.

The year 2020 will long be remembered by most of us. It has been the year of changes for many of our norms. We now practice social distancing, wear face masks in public, and cancel in-person chapter meetings. This year our Federation canceled its annual conference and replaced it with its first virtual annual meeting. Many of us have stopped participating in or have streamlined our normal activities. Vacations have been canceled. We've lost loved ones. It's been a challenging year.

Last year I strived to stay in touch with chapter Service Officers by email, to send updates or information that could be shared during chapter meeting or in chapter newsletters. As the year progressed I sent fewer, knowing that I would see many of you and have training sessions during our 2020 conference. I really missed that opportunity.

I enjoyed my visit to Chapter 232 Alexandria, where I was guest speaker in September. I missed my visit to Chapter 1270 Woodbridge in April due to corona virus restrictions. I'm hopeful that the invitation will be re-extended.

As VFN Service Officer one my greatest joys is helping chapter Service Officers assist their members. Assisting can be in the form of just providing helpful information and resources. I was happy to help a member resolve a benefits issue that she had been experiencing for several years. Two months after receiving my initial referral, the member informed me that after getting my assistance she had received the help that she had been seeking from OPM. I call that a win, win.

My second joy is training. As we go into another year it is my desire to engage more with the chapters and their Service Officers. Since we have been pushed further into this digital age it is time to take advantage of some of the benefits. I plan to hold frequent online meetings with chapter Service Officers to allow us to have group discussions of hot topics and areas of interest and concerns. After discussing with the officers, we will determine how frequently we wish to meet. This will also allow for Service Officers who are not too comfortable with technology to get over that learning curve and new officers will have an opportunity to become more comfortable in their positions.

Our Federation has 26 Service Officers on record. My goal is to have that number increase. Service Officers provide a valuable asset to their chapters. I believe that knowledge is power and Service Officers are in a unique position to gain and share knowledge about federal benefits with our many members. If your chapter doesn't currently have a Service Officer, consider stepping into that slot. It's a definite win, win.

Arlene Arthur
VFN Service Officer





State Legislation Chair's Report

Where did we land? Virginia State Legislation 2020

The 2020 General Assembly Legislative Session saw changes in the leadership of both houses of the General Assembly which caused many positions to be unclear until the new Speaker and the new President Pro-Tem of the Senate were officially elected by their memberships. This delayed the appointments of the various Committee Chairs in both Chambers. Add to the early confusion the desire of the new majority party to propose a whole raft of new legislation (proposed legislation, resolutions and joint resolutions) amounting to almost 4,000 proposals. Add to it the changes that were made during the veto session to address the corona virus pandemic emergency and it has been a very busy, difficult year.

Exempting Certain Federal Pensions from Virginia Income Tax: We originally thought there was some traction for this proposal but that turned out to be more a wish than a reality. There was never any legislation proposed for this proposal.

Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums: There was no legislation proposed for this proposal.

Minimum Nursing Home Standards: We have been suggesting that this is an issue that should be taken up administratively. Ironically, the corona virus pandemic makes it clear this is an extremely important that needs further discussion.

Redistricting Reform: Although the reform adopted by the 2019 General Assembly was not the language we preferred, the VFN Board decided to go along with the language passed as "better than nothing." With the change in majority control of both houses of the General Assembly, there was potential that the exact same language would not be approved and therefore not appear on the November ballot as a constitutional amendment. The exact same language was passed and the proposed amendment will appear on the ballot in November.

Absentee Voting (and election matters in general): This issue probably went beyond our wildest dreams when it comes to expanding the vote. House Bill 1 maintained the 45 day absentee voting period without requiring an excuse and that was passed. Also passed was legislation that removed the requirement that voters provide photo ID which impacted low-income individuals, racial/ethnic minorities, the elderly and individuals with disabilities. The November Election Day has now been designated as a state holiday. Individuals who access Department of Motor Vehicles services in person or online, will be automatically registered to vote. The receipt of mail-in ballots has been modified so that any ballots postmarked on the day of the election and received by noon of the third day after the election will be counted (as opposed to only ballots received by close of polls on Election Day being counted). And finally, the polling hours have been changed to 7:00 am to 8:00 pm (as opposed to 6:00 am to 7:00 pm).





Tax Credit for Family Caregivers: HB 361, sponsored by Delegate Sam Rasoul, provided total support for our position on this issue. It passed through the House Finance Subcommittee, was successfully passed out of the House Finance Committee, but did not see the light of day out of the Health and Human Resources subcommittee. We have to follow up with the legislators on the H&HR subcommittee and determine the issues, particularly since the proposal passed through the Finance Committee. This is a proposal that should appear on our 2021 VFN Legislation Plan.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Martin
VFN State Legislation Chair





AD HOC REPORTS

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The Bylaws Committee met virtually and via email during the year and received two VFN Bylaws change proposals – one which would simplify and clarify the objectives of the Federation and another which would change the timing of the Federation’s Annual Meetings to Biennial Meetings. After discussion, the Committee recommended approval of the simplification and clarification of the Federation’s Objectives; and rejection of the Annual Meeting change to Biennial Meetings, given the fact that National NARFE Bylaws require Annual Meetings. Ultimately, the Virginia Federation of NARFE voted in favor of the Objectives change proposal and rejection of the Annual Meeting schedule change. Much appreciation goes out to the members of the Bylaws Committee.

Jim Little
Bylaws Committee Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

For the 2020 Officer Election Cycle, the Nominating Committee successfully recruited candidates for all offices except Treasurer before the February 6, 2020 deadline required by the bylaws and Handbook. Since the originally scheduled April conference was cancelled and elections postponed due to COVID-19, additional nominations were proposed from the floor during the Virtual Annual Meeting held in June. With the results tabulated in Midlothian by the Ballots and Tellers Committee, elected officers were declared as Constance (Connie) Bails, President; Maureen (Moe) Nolet, First Vice President; Robert (Bob) Martin, Second Vice President; Deanna Shepherd, Secretary (floor nominee); and Alex Adkins, Treasurer (floor nominee). Much appreciation goes out to the members of the Nominating Committee.

Jim Little
Nominating Committee Chair





VFN NET-COORDINATOR

After all the news lately about COVID-19, it is time to take a break from all the hype! They say time goes fast when you are having fun. I don't know if I can say the last eight months were all fun, but it sure did go fast. As a member of the VFN Board of Directors, my primary responsibility as the VFN NARFE Net Coordinator is working directly for VFN President, ensuring the effective distribution of official messages utilizing the National NARFE e-mail System. I distribute all official statements, as approved by the President, 1st Vice President, or 2nd Vice President. Official announcements include requests from the Executive Committee, Program Chairs, AVPs (for distribution within their respective areas), and Chapter Presidents (for distribution within their chapter membership). The following table shows some of the information disseminated this year.



VFN President - Open Rate E-mail Report prepared by VFN Net Coordinator
(NARFE e-mail System)

Sent E Mail Message Subject	Opened
We Care About You (Covid-19) Precautions	3,344
Economic Impact Payments for Beneficiaries	4,064
Important Revisions for 2020 Bylaws Amendment Proposals	3,227
Congress Passes Cares Act	4,079
Virginia Federation of NARFE 2020 Annual Electronic Meeting	3,118
Virginia Federation and NARFE Annual Meeting and Conference	3,536
Cancelled - Virginia Federation of NARFE 2020 Annual Meeting and Conference	3,485
To All Area Vice Presidents, Chapter Presidents and Officers	133
Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Adds New Funds	3563

This is a sample of the communications sent out electronically this reporting period and Covid -19 Pandemic, under the leadership of President Constance T. Bails, Ph.D.

Stay Safe, Stay Well →



John Bails, VFN Net Co-Coordinator





FROM THE WEBMASTER

Did you know that the VFN web page changes at least weekly? Chapter newsletters are posted very shortly after either of the two VFN webmasters receives them. Program Chairs submit changes as conditions change. The Alzheimer's page has five short videos. The first one gives a very understandable explanation of how the disease progresses. Others are things you might need to know if you are involved in supporting a person with Alzheimer's.



A NARFE chapter newsletter is one of the most effective means of keeping chapter members informed. It is particularly important to members who are unable to attend meetings regularly, but want to maintain an interest in chapter activities. The newsletter can be distributed by U.S. Postal Service mail service, email (such as the NARFE Email System) or both. Many chapters have eliminated their newsletter and chosen to do an electronic newsletter which is much more efficient than a printed newsletter because of

the significant savings in time, printing and mailing costs. This requires someone to maintain an up-to-date listing of all chapter members with email addresses on file or download them from NARFE.org. Another option is the VFN website www.vanarfe.org. Newsletters should be emailed to Stan Palen or Sid Sachs [stan@vanarfe.org or chapterwebmaster@vanarfe.org]. One of them will add the newsletter to the Virginia Federation's website. Posting a newsletter on the VFN website means that members can access it from anywhere. That means they can keep up on what is happening in their chapter, upcoming programs, fundraisers, activities in another chapter in their area, etc. when they are traveling or even on vacation. All current newsletters that have been submitted within 30 days can be viewed on the vanarfe.org site on the left hand side. Take a look at other chapter newsletters.

Each chapter has a web page. You can always see your latest version. Go to:

www.vanarfe.org/Chapternumber/Chapternumber.htm. A few chapters have elected to do their page outside the VFN. I have a link on the VFN hosted page that takes you to the other chapter page. Updates should be emailed to either of the webmasters. Please review your chapter's web page to see if it needs updating. Potential members may be turned off if they see a posting that is many years old. We have plenty of space and can add pictures, upcoming events or most anything of interest to the members. There is a link on the VFN Web to the VFN Facebook page. Just click on the Facebook logo. Some chapters also have a Facebook page and I have a link to them on their page.

My preference is to get information in a Word document for text and have the pictures separate. You can also include the pictures in the Word document, so I know about where you want them. It is easier for me to handle them in web page language that way. I will put them together for you.

Stan Palen
VFN Webmaster





2020-2021 VFN EXECUTIVE BOARD



Constance T. Bails, Ph.D.
President
Virginia Federation of NARFE
(VFN)

Leslie Ravenell
Immediate Past President



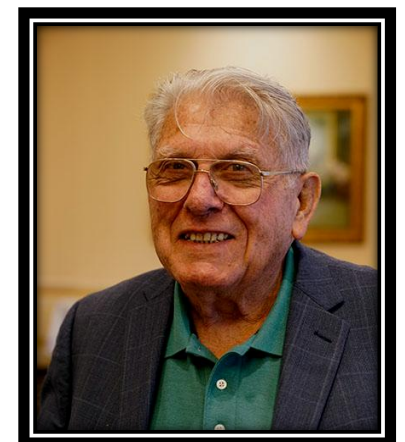
Maureen (Moe) Nolet
VFN 1st Vice President

Robert (Bob) Martin
VFN 2nd Vice President



Deanna Shepherd
VFN Secretary

William (Bill) Martin
VFN Treasurer





2020 CHAPTERS

VFN Chapters (as of June 30, 2020)

Area I

Peninsula–Newport News 682
Colonial Williamsburg 685
Middle Peninsula-Gloucester 1757
Northern Neck-Warsaw 1823

Area II

Metro Virginia Beach 5
Tidewater Norfolk 66
Virginia Beach 974
Eastern Shore 1175
Seaside-Virginia Beach 1827

Area III

Petersburg 28
Richmond 60
Tuckahoe-Richmond 1727
Piedmont-Farmville 2080
Louisa 2065
Midlothian 2265

Area IV

Churchland-Portsmouth 1293
Brentwood 1697
Suffolk 1743

Area V – (CLOSED)

Area VI

Roanoke Valley 111
New River Valley - Blacksburg 1134 –
closure pending

Area VII

Charlottesville 135
Harrisonburg 164
Winchester 180
Page Valley-Luray 1793
Shenandoah County 2358

Area VIII

Fredericksburg 90
Colonial Beach 595
Warrenton-Fauquier 1549
Caroline 2112
Falls Run-Fredericksburg 2343

Area IX

Alexandria 232 – closure pending
Manassas 356
Springfield 893
Annandale 1159
Woodbridge 1270

Area X

Arlington 7
McLean-Great Falls 489
Fairfax 737
Vienna-Oakton 1116
Dulles 1241
Metro Northern VA 1665

