

**NARFE** - Celebrating **100** years!



**VIRGINIA FEDERATION of  
NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED  
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
(NARFE)**

**Annual Report  
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

**“ZOOMING INTO THE FUTURE”**

*President  
Constance Bails  
Ph.D.*

*1st Vice  
President  
Robert Martin*

*2nd Vice  
President  
Frances Boatman*

*Acting  
Secretary  
Esther Nash*

*Treasurer  
William Martin*

*Immediate  
Past  
President  
Leslie  
Ravenell*

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# Introduction

The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) (originally known as the Virginia Federation of Chapters) was established on April 9, 1955, by NARFE members living in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Sixty years later, the Virginia Federation is an integral part of NARFE and Region X, which also includes Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia. The Virginia Federation shows its strength in leadership, membership, training opportunities, legislation, and the congressional advocacy. In our National Legislation Program, we have 11 Congressional District Liaisons (CDL's), one for each of Virginia's 11 Congressional Districts and two Senator Legislative Leaders (SLL), one for Senator Tim Kaine and one for Senator Mark Warner. The State Legislation Team is a robust marketing tool for the Federation.

It was an unprecedented year in our organization with NARFE members member participating in virtual meetings and training on Zoom on a consistent basis. Thus, our theme "Zooming into the Future" was apparent throughout the year.

This annual report emphasizes how NARFE members adapted through the pandemic. We had many positives during the past year using virtual platforms as our members embraced technology to continue holding meetings and moving our organization forward. This report highlights activities by the executive board, area vice presidents (AVPs), program committees and ad hoc committees throughout the year.

As we celebrate 100 years of NARFE this year, we look forward to the continuation of NARFE's mission to support legislation and regulations beneficial to federal civilian employees and annuitants.

*Kathy Arpa*

VFN Newsletter Editor  
Past President, VFN



# VFN President's Report

The Virginia Federation of NARFE continues to fulfill our 2021 Theme: Zooming into the Future. We are grateful to the members of the VA Federation for continuing to stay engaged in our activities, support, and dedication to safeguarding our Federal Benefits.

During this past 2020/21 pandemic year, the VFN has maintained and, in many cases, expanded our VFN initiatives. We have conducted all board meetings in person and virtually. Our July 2021 Summer Board meeting was conducted in person and most of the board members were able to attend.



We offered numerous virtual training sessions including zoom to keep our membership engaged and up to date. We developed a successful Zoom license program that made Zoom available to every chapter and member throughout the state with weekly classes available for every member of the VFN to learn the mechanics and usage of the Zoom program.

Our Electronic committee developed and implemented a new website, which is up and running. Please visit at [www.vanarfe.com](http://www.vanarfe.com) We are currently in the process of transferring the new site into our existing website [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org) We are so excited for our many accomplishments this year and encourage all Virginia members to take advantage of the new initiatives. You can also visit us on Facebook @virginia federation of narfe, twitter and Instagram.

We are still receiving concerns that many chapter members are listed as National only. Therefore, we are planning a 2<sup>nd</sup> review of the membership status to see if there are still national only members that may have requested or believe they are chapter members. During this past year, we were successful in reassigning almost 100 members, who were erroneously placed in National only status, back to the chapters of choice thanks to the partnership of VFN and the National Membership Team.

Our 2021 conference is shaping up very nicely and we hope to see all of you there. We are looking for supporters, exhibitors, speakers, and volunteers to help make this year a special time for Virginia. Please know that we have always put the health and safety of our members first! Revised Bulletin # 1 announcing the conference with the adjusted conference dates is available on our website [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org)

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the President of the VFN for the past two years. I worked with an outstanding Board of Directors that included an Executive Board, Area Vice Presidents and Program Chairs that exceeded all expectations. They all have supported our every effort and endeavor and they continued to produce new ideas and initiatives.

I would also like to mention the many committee members, chairpersons, and chapter members that sprang into action to help us maintain our goals, objectives, and programs. Thank you all.

Please continue to stay safe, wear your mask, maintain safe distancing, wash your hands, and continue to follow the latest CDC guidelines.

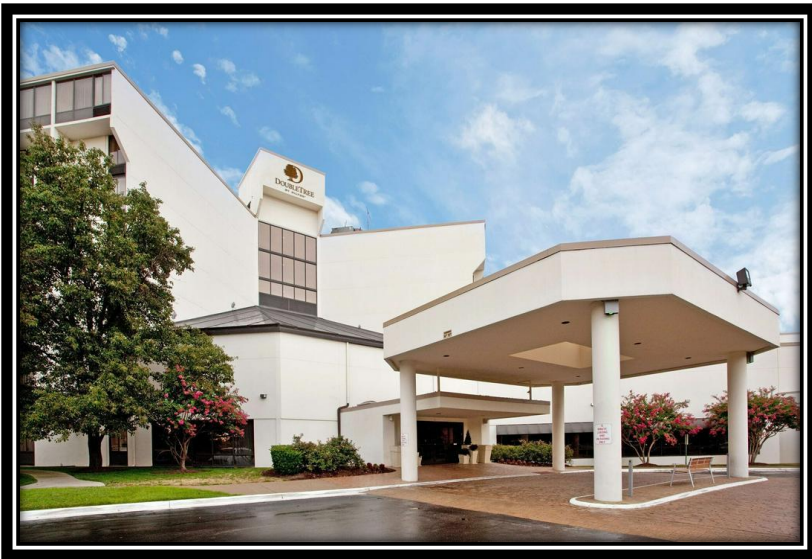
*Constance J. Bails Ph. D.*  
*President, Virginia Federation of NARFE*

# **VFN CONVENTION DATES: October 10-13, 2021**

**Please be there!**

**Registration Hours:** Sunday, October 10, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Monday, October 11, 7:30 am-9:00 am; Noon-1:00 pm; 2:00 pm- 5:00 pm  
Tuesday, October 12, 8:00 am-12:00 pm

**Opening Session:** Monday, October 11, 9:00 am  
**Welcoming Reception:** Monday, October 11, 7:00 pm  
**Banquet:** Tuesday, October 12, 6:00 pm  
**Closing Session:** Wednesday, October 13, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon



**HOTEL INFORMATION**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton,**  
**1021 Koger Center Blvd.,**  
**Richmond, VA 23235**  
**Telephone 804-379-3800**  
**Daily Rate \$99.00 + tax**  
**Deadline for discount reservations:**  
**September 9, 2021**  
**Group: Virginia Federation of NARFE**  
**Check-in: Sunday, October 10, 2021**  
**Check out: Wednesday, October 13, 2021**

# 1st Vice President's Report

The COVID-19 pandemic put all of us at risk and at home during July 2020 – June 2021. At first, the Virginia Federation of NARFE struggled with the shutdown, but in true “we can do it” mode, we came up with solutions and responses that we believe will make us stronger as we Zoomed (literally) into the future. “Go To Meeting” and ultimately, Zoom, have become an integral part of how we will be doing business and getting things done for Federal employees and retirees.

On April 1, 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Maureen (Moe) Nolet found it necessary to take a needed break from her position to take care of herself. We look forward to Moe returning to the VFN Board in the future. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, in accordance with the VFN By-Laws, I became 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and have attempted to keep things on the move.

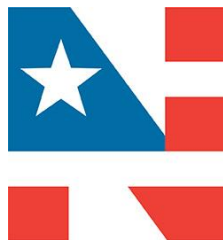
During the past year, 1st VP Nolet and I, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, held joint Zoom meetings with the Program Managers and with the Area Vice Presidents. After April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, I continued this practice with Acting Vice President Frances Boatman. These joint meetings have helped me move smoothly into the 1<sup>st</sup> VP role and ensure there is communication between the program chairs and the Area Vice Presidents (AVPS).

I have attended all VFN Board meetings in person and safely. Zoom meetings with the AVPs have been conducted on a regular basis. The AVPs have been facing challenges and have addressed them the best they could. I'm proud of the work they have done trying to keep the chapters involved and as active as possible.

As a result of assuming the position of 1st Vice President, I have also taken on the role of VFN Conference Coordinator. This has been a fast-learning experience and I am glad I have participated as a committee chair.

As we move into a new year, we will have to learn new ways of doing the business of NARFE. Blended meetings (in-person and by Zoom) will become common practice. Routine meetings will be conducted by Zoom which will save money and increase our productivity, thus providing better service to VFN/NARFE members. Major priorities for the coming year must be member retention and attraction of new members.

**Robert Martin**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report

Since my appointment as VFN Second Vice-President on April 1, it has been a real learning experience, literally.

Attended monthly:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President meetings with AVPs

Electronic Communications Committee Meetings

- Training Committee Meetings

- Conference Committee Meetings

- April 10 VFN President Bails meeting with Chapter Presidents

- April 11 – 13 VFN Spring Board Meeting

- April 30 Training "Newsletters" by Newsletter Editor Kathy Arpa and Ellie Long, Roanoke Valley 111

- May 21 Training "Parliamentary Procedure" by VFN Parliamentarian Dr. Linda Smallwood

- May 29 Training "NES (NARFE's email system) part 2" by NARFE Net Coordinator John Bails

- June 16 State Legislative Pre-Planning Meeting

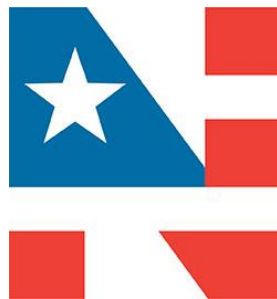
- June 30 Legislative Planning Meeting

Hosted monthly Program Chairs Meetings first Thursday of each month. All Program Chairs have completed videos for the Facebook page, articles for Spring Newsletters, proposed budgets for FY 2022, quarterly reports for the VFN Board meeting and annual reports. Their individual reports will highlight their accomplishments for the year. I am very proud to serve with these dedicated and hardworking individuals.

Plans are to continue with the monthly Program Chairs Meetings, to become more interactive with the individual Chapter leaders, and to plan training for their Chapter counterparts.

Together we will succeed.

**Frances E. Boatman**





# Secretary's Report



As Secretary for the Virginia Federation of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (VANARFE), being part of the executive board and interacting with the full board, I gained a wider berth of the vision and mission of the Federation. I have found this to be a challenging and rewarding experience.

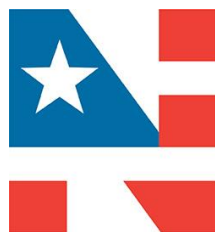
Due to the Coronavirus-19 Pandemic, some meetings were conducted in-person and virtually via Zoom. As secretary, it was my task to coordinate the identification of Area Zoom Coordinators and a Point of Contact for each chapter within the Federation. In addition to my responsibilities to the board, I attended the majority of committee meetings. By attending these meetings, I was able to

observe the dedication of the members and how each committee enhances the mission of VANARFE and supports the membership.

My primary responsibility is to ensure the minutes of the executive and board meetings are documented and preserved for the achieves of the organization; as well as special meetings held by the VFN President. Along with my other responsibilities of documenting and distribution of materials for special events, I also work with the Webmaster to ensure the vanarfe.org web page continues to be updated with the important dates of events, meetings, and official changes. The web page is imperative to the membership as it includes information provided by the Board of Directors on activities and special events that are happening throughout the Virginia Federation.

It is my pleasure to serve the membership as the Secretary of the Virginia National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. I continue to be available for the support of the Federation.

Esther L Nash  
Acting VFN Secretary





# Treasurer's Report

**FY 21 TREASURER'S REPORT SYNOPSIS ENDING June 30, 2021:**

Approved Budget	\$98,313
Income	54,647
* Expenses	18,415
Effect on FY 22 Budget	\$36,232 <u>NOT</u> required - Available for FY 22

**5-Year Comparison of VFN Finances (Income & Expenses) FY 2017 - FY 2021**

<b>Revenue:</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>
NARFE 10% Fund	\$46,693	\$57,418	\$49,933	\$48,018	\$45,074
Chapter Dues	20,540	13,522	13,577	11,234	9,573
Other Income	26,801	4,775	15,526	3,676	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$94,034</u></b>	<b><u>\$75,715</u></b>	<b><u>\$79,036</u></b>	<b><u>\$62,928</u></b>	<b><u>\$54,647</u></b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>* FY 2020</b>	<b>* FY 2021</b>
Executive Committee	\$10,292	\$11,164	\$14,091	\$10,954	\$8,798
IPP & Appointees	5,215	7,779	7,009	7,250	1,421
Field Operations	15,670	18,060	13,222	11,227	1,621
Program Operations	14,007	14,673	13,001	3,591	2,440
Administrative	49,844	23,988	36,578	12,728	4,136
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$95,028</u></b>	<b><u>\$75,664</u></b>	<b><u>\$83,901</u></b>	<b><u>\$45,750</u></b>	<b><u>\$18,415</u></b>
<b>Revenue - Expenses</b>	<b><u>(\$994)</u></b>	<b><u>\$51</u></b>	<b><u>(\$4,865)</u></b>	<b><u>\$17,178</u></b>	<b><u>\$36,232</u></b>

\* FY 2021 Expenses are very low due to the Pandemic with very little VFN activity all FY 21, and the Annual Conference cancelled

## Treasurer's Report (cont.)

### Summary of Operations Accounts ending June 30, 2021:

	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
Operation Fund (Checking)	\$63,701.97	\$104,261.80
Share Savings	5.00	5.00
General Reserve Fund	25,897.18	25,910.11
Contingency Fund	10,353.09	10,358.29
<u>Escrow Fund (from Closed Chapters)</u>	<u>58.88</u>	<u>60.51</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$100,016.12</u>	<u>\$140,595.71</u>

Bill Martin, Treasurer



# **FIELD OPERATIONS**

## **Area I Vice President's Report**

Throughout the past year I have attended in person board meetings and a few chapter meetings. I have participated in most Chapter board Zoom meetings and kept in touch with the boards through email or by phone. I did have two individuals willing to host Zoom meetings for the area chapters. One was able to work through the VFN license to host meetings and the other continued to use his personal Zoom account.

**Chapter 682 – Peninsula-Newport News** - The chapter lost a strong advocate, former Area 1 AVP and VFN Vice President, Pat Taylor in November. The last Newsletter was published in June 2020. There have been no meetings of the chapter or the executive board because of COVID. The secretary participated in a Zoom meeting of Chapter 685.

**Chapter 685 - Williamsburg** - The chapter president has held monthly board meetings via Zoom using the VFN license. Several members attended a meeting at restaurant outdoors last October. Since the regular meeting place was unavailable there were no chapter meetings until early 2021 when some meetings were held using the VFN license. The first in person meeting was held outdoors in June 2021. This was a luncheon at the site of the normal regular meetings. The participation was excellent, close to normal (about 30 attendees). The quarterly newsletter has continued and includes a photo album. There are negotiations with the management of the former meeting site and normal in person meetings are expected to resume in the fall.

**Chapter 1757 - Middle Peninsula-Gloucester** - In person meetings were suspended due to the COVID restrictions. The board chose to continue monthly meetings using Zoom hosted by the chapter membership chair. They were able to keep in contact with members through the monthly newsletter. In December the town of Gloucester held a virtual Christmas parade filmed using a variety of shoebox size floats. The chapter participated making its own mini float symbolizing NARFE. Although the chapter takes a vacation January – March, the board continued to meet and send information to the members. They had one Zoom meeting and returned to in person meetings in June.

**Chapter 1823 – Northern Neck** - Since the chapter meets at a variety of locations, they have worked hard to find available in person locations and had a couple of Zoom meetings. They were able to hold the annual picnic at Belle Isle State Park last September observing the Covid guidelines for outdoor meetings. Congressman Rob Wittman and his opponent for re-election were in attendance. In June, I attended a chapter meeting which was held at a local winery.

**Jeanne Garrison**  
**Area I Vice President**

# Area II Vice President's Report

Area II consists of four chapters: Metro Virginia Beach 5, Tidewater Norfolk 66, Virginia Beach 974, and Seaside-Virginia Beach 1827. The year has been unusually slow and innovative due to COVID19 restrictions. Face to face meetings were prohibited; ZOOM meetings were attempted to try to maintain contact with the membership, and a lot of time dedicated to training and rebuilding plans for the Conference planned for October 2021. I have been working on fresh instructions, magazines, membership applications, etc. and holding a training meeting with the presidents of chapters in Area II. These will facilitate more use by Chapters of AMS systems and webinars that are available to NARFE members and officers.

I have spent a better part of the year working on membership drives, membership contacts through phone calls and/or emails, and distribution of advertisements.

The first of the year I was busy with completing the needed actions and paperwork to close Eastern Shore Chapter 1175. This took several months to hunt down officers and information but gave me an opportunity to go to four Military Installations on the Eastern Shore. We contacted Social Security, the Department of Agriculture on Chincoteague Island, the Coast Guard base on Assateague Island and Wallops Island on Chincoteague, all of which have several military and civilian employees who have not been contacted in some years.

Through the year I have, as AVP and chapter president, continued to send out letters to presidents and chapter members of all the latest news sent out including National elections results, legislative issues, as well as suggestions and encouragement for ways to entice people to attend ZOOM or face to face meetings. Our chapters have tried meeting at a local dairy farm with a deli and picnic tables along with live animal displays, a luncheon at a golf course's outdoor club house and they have been well received. Several Chapters have tried to facilitate ZOOM meetings with very little membership participation.

**Julia Hobbs**  
**Area II Vice President**

# Area III Vice President's Report

Area III consists of five chapters:  
Petersburg 28, Richmond 60, Tuckahoe-Richmond 1727, Piedmont 2080, Louisa 2065, and Midlothian 2265.

1. Other than attending Executive Board Meetings my goals for next year are:
  - a. Visit all Chapter meetings at least once
  - b. Hold one meeting with Chapter Presidents in September 2021 timeframe
  - c. Explore the use of Facebook to gain new chapter memberships
  - d. Continue to assess potential use of ZOOM for chapter meetings
  - e. Attract at least 5-10 new members using Facebook
  - f. Look into ZAP Banners
  - g. Contact Piedmont Chapter to assess their future as a NARFE Chapter

## 2. Summary Report of Chapter Activities:

### Chapter 28 - Petersburg

1. December 2020, Christmas Luncheon and in-person meeting held. They appointed and swore in a new Treasurer, Charlotte Seibert
2. January and February 2021 – no meetings held due to COVID19
3. March 2021: The husband of a chapter member spoke on the History of Tobacco in VA.
4. April 2021:
  - a. Chapter member spoke on the do's and don'ts of small flower gardening and provided each member with packets of seeds for Spring planting.
5. May 2021:
  - a. Deborah Fisk, VA Federation NARFE State Legislation Chair, informed the group that she was proposing legislation for the State Legislative bodies. Her proposal looks at how several current laws impact adversely on Federal Employees and Retirees.
  - b. I informed the group that our Chapter's bank account at a local bank had been closed and a new account opened with a Federal Credit Union.
6. June 2021
  - a. We met at a local restaurant for a luncheon as we are breaking for summer.
  - b. The Treasurer announced that we received \$1291.00 for Alzheimer's Research and the monies had been sent to the VA Federation Program Chair for Alzheimer's Research. The donations were the highest of all Area III Chapters.
  - c. Again, reminded each member attending that our State Federation Conference would be in October 2021 and members were encouraged to attend.
  - d. We entered our summer break on a high note.

### Chapter 60 - Richmond

1. No meeting during Pandemic
2. No new in-person chapter meetings
3. No use of ZOOM
4. No new meetings planned due to Delta Variant virus

### Chapter 1727 – Richmond

1. First in-person meeting since last year held in June 2021. Prior to that they had several ZOOM meetings and telephone meetings.
2. Stayed in contact with members through ZOOM, telephone, and emails. Shared all communications from Area III VP, as well as other sections of NARFE
3. Their Executive Committee continues to plan for next meeting in September 2021
4. ZOOM meetings they had were somewhat successful. There was not a lot of participation.

### Chapter 2065 - Louisa

1. Had some ZOOM meetings with guest speakers prior to June 2021. Since June, they have had in-person meetings. They will have Advocacy Meeting in August (Local politician running for office will participate).
2. They will take up banner issue in their September meeting. They are considering ZAP Banner at that time.
3. ZOOM meeting that they had did not attract many members. Turnout was generally low.
4. Chapter donated \$191.00 to Alzheimer's Research

#### Chapter 2265 – Midlothian

1. This Chapter has been most proficient in using ZOOM technology and taking technology training
2. In January 2021, through a ZOOM meeting they had a speaker on “Brain Health”
3. In March, they had a ZOOM meeting on Medicare, Medicaid, and Medicare Advantage
4. In April, State Delegate Roxane Robinson spoke on State Legislative issues. No May meeting
5. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Chapter held an outdoor meeting at Rockwood Park. They provided complimentary Subway sandwiches at the outdoor pavilion. Thirty-two people attended. This was the first in-person meeting in 15 months.
6. After socializing, the group had a short business meeting. They also collected \$325.00 to NARFE Alzheimer’s Research. The money was forwarded to the State Alzheimer’s Research.
7. At a previous meeting, they amended their Constitution to incorporate needed changes. All meetings up to June 2021 were by ZOOM.

Area III Chapters will resume meetings in September or October depending on the requirements for COVID Delta Variant Virus.

**Wynn Hasty**  
**Area III Vice President**

## Area IV Vice President’s Report

Area IV consists of three chapters: Churchland-Portsmouth 1293, Brentwood 1697, and Suffolk 1743. During this period, all the chapters in Area IV have strived to keep their members informed with newsletters and e-mails. There have been no in person meetings.

On several occasions, meetings were conducted via zoom. In October, a zoom presentation was led by Blue/Cross Blue/Shield (BC/BS). This presentation was well received. BC/BS delivered informational handouts to Suffolk Chapter president Dillard Horton. These handouts were distributed to chapter members by Dillard Horton and Ray Orland. In November, the Suffolk Chapter had a ZOOM meeting with Dr. Amal Patel (Epidemiologist with the VA Department of Health). He thoroughly covered COVID-19 and answered many questions. This presentation was well attended via ZOOM by several NARFE members from other areas.

In the last several months, the Suffolk and Churchland have had ZOOM meetings with no guest speakers. These meetings were to keep members informed.

All chapters in Area IV will resume in person meetings in September 2021.

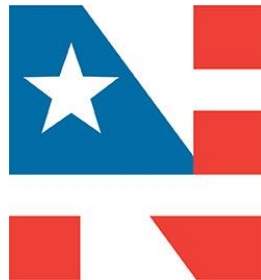
**Raymond Orland**  
**Area IV Vice President**

# Area VII Vice President's Report

All Area VII chapters, Roanoke Valley – 111, Charlottesville-Albemarle – 135, Harrisonburg -164, Winchester – 180, Page Valley-Luray - 1793 and Shenandoah County – 2358, are viable, productive and are not at risk of closure. The past year as a difficult time for most everyone but far more so for people of retirement age and older. With 33 million COVID -19 cases confirmed in the United States and about 605,000 deaths, most of our members survived and our organization is alive, if not totally well. Although as of June 30, just three Area VII Chapters have reinstated in-person meetings, all six maintained on-going communications with members through telephone trees, newsletters and Zoom meetings.

There is renewed vigor for getting out and about to regenerate interest in furthering NARFE business. It is the consensus of all with whom I have communicated to concentrate in the near term on recruiting more members. Fortunately, the VANARFE-wide effort is being led by one of our own: Frances Boatman, VANARFE Membership Chair and Roanoke Valley Chapter President, two of her many responsibilities. I hope her enthusiasm can become infectious throughout the state to the extent there is a surge in new members. Let's all begin the new VANARFE year with thanks for surviving the past year and a commitment to do our best in the coming year.

**Luther Santiful**  
**Area VII Vice President**





# Area VIII Vice President's Report

From July 2020 to April 2021 Mary Heck served as Area VIII Vice President. In April she decided to step down from her NARFE duties so she could focus on personal and family issues. In the meantime, until a new Area VP can be elected in October 2021, Immediate Past VFN President Leslie Ravenell agreed to temporarily fill in. As of June 2021, three of the five chapters in Area VIII had already conducted in person meetings and the other two chapters had made plans to resume in person operations.

**Chapter 90 - Fredericksburg** - The Chapter conducted two zoom meetings in the fall with health care companies during open season. Chapter President Moe Nolet is still on her journey of recovery from a life-threatening illness, but she is making progress every day. In the meantime, the Vice President stepped up and he communicated regularly with members by email. The meeting place for Chapter 90 is the Salem Church Library and the library reopened in June 2021. The executive board of Chapter 90 will resume meeting in July 2021 and the full chapter expects to be in operation by October 2021.

**Chapter 595 - Colonial Beach** - The Chapter is meeting in person and has been since September 2020. The chapter has been meeting in the same Chinese restaurant since 2003. The restaurant does not have in person dining but allows the chapter to use the meeting room once a month and they are the only ones using the facility. All CDC protocols are observed. Chapter 595 serves Colonial Beach and King George County. Recently the chapter experienced some growth in membership going from 73 members to 78 members. The Chapter is a member of the Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce. Recently the Chamber revitalized the sign to the entrance of the town and the chapter was included. See photos below.



**Chapter 1549 - Fauquier** – In June the chapter had an impromptu lunch meeting with ten members present. The group made plans to return to full in person meetings in the Fall. Chapter 1549 has 100 members.

**Chapter 2112 - Caroline** - The Chapter is in the process of making plans to begin meeting in person again. They are currently looking for a new meeting place as the restaurant where they met before the pandemic has a relatively small meeting room. Even though they only have 14 members, they want to practice social distancing and the previous site will not allow this. As soon as a new meeting place is located, they will resume in person meetings.

**Chapter 2343 - Falls Run** - Falls Run is a gated community a few miles north of Fredericksburg. The chapter was established 17 years ago with members in a single zip code and has recently considered closing. However, the current president and vice president want to keep the chapter open. They have indicated that there are new federal retiree residents who have recently moved to the Falls Run community and that with some new members, the chapter with its current membership of 54 members, may attract some additional members to help revitalize the chapter. In June ten members came out to a meeting but no one stepped up to be an officer They are now working with a VFN Board Member on a plan to increase membership.

**Leslie Ravenell**  
**Acting Area VII Vice President**

## Area IX Vice President's Report

As Acting Area IX Vice President since May 7, 2021, I want to thank Pat Jack for the great work she did as Area IX Vice President after her election at the 2019 National Conference. While most of the past year was under the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Area IX continued to function effectively – albeit remotely on the most part. Of significant importance was the unfortunate closing of Alexandria Chapter 256. On the positive side, many of the former Alexandria Chapter and National Only members were transferred to the nearby Springfield and Annandale Chapters, combining their numbers, and sharing leadership opportunities.

Area IX has 2,654 members: 1,277-chapter members and 1,377 National-Only – a 48% - 52% split. It is the largest area in the Virginia Federation. Also, Springfield Chapter is the largest in the country, with a total of 1,153 chapter and National Only members located in its geographical area. Area IX is very fortunate for its many volunteers who continue to support their chapters. Despite the pandemic, all chapters were able to continue with officers in place, some chapters with and some without actual elections. In most cases, because of the pandemic and extenuating circumstances, bylaws rules were “suspended” to allow sitting Chapter Presidents to extend their terms beyond their stated term limits. Many thanks for the stalwarts who continued to play their roles in leadership. Annandale also resurrected a leadership position of Board Member At-Large. This is a position with no specific responsibilities but brings a wider range of experience and greater depth to the leadership team and allows the member to help on tasks as they arise.

Area IX remained vigilant in Alzheimer's Research fundraising. As of June 30, 2021, Area IX raised a total of \$8,570, with Annandale and Springfield ranking first and second in the State. Congratulations to all Area IX chapters! This fall Manassas and Woodbridge Chapters plan to participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, scheduled to take place at the Harris Pavilion in Olde Town Manassas on October 16.

During the pandemic, all chapters took advantage of Go-To-Meeting and ZOOM technologies to keep their membership engaged. This was facilitated by the VFN leadership which quickly contracted with ZOOM and weened us off Go-To-Meeting; the VFN also conducted extensive in-house training for all chapters on the use of ZOOM, including proper meeting etiquette. All four chapters continued to produce monthly newsletters, and all chapters are anxious to resume in-person meetings. Woodbridge had its first face-to-face meeting on July 15, and the other chapters are scheduling their resumption for the fall.

All chapters held virtual meetings and as mentioned previously, continued fundraising activities for Alzheimer's Research. Some highlights in Area IX include:

**Chapter 356 - Manassas** – The Chapter held regular virtual meetings and has already scheduled Kathy Bass for their October Chapter Meeting for an update on the upcoming Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Benefits Program. Alzheimer's fundraising was \$870 for the fiscal year.

**Chapter 893 - Springfield** – The Chapter has held regular virtual meetings and is working on a speaker for the September meeting. Alzheimer's fundraising was \$2,895 through June, the second highest in the state.

**Chapter 1159 - Annandale** - Speakers included updates on FEHBP; tax tips; local legislative updates; spotting and stopping strokes; and the story of women who served as spies and soldiers during the Civil War. Annandale even held its Annual Holiday Party via Zoom with live entertainment, games, raffles and singing; and they continued their Adopt-A-Road program, practicing social distancing and wearing masks until the restrictions were lifted. Alzheimer's fundraising totaled \$3,980.00 through June, the highest in the state.

**Chapter 1270 – Woodbridge** – Speakers included Dave Bowman, Senior Director, Membership Development at NARFE Headquarters; Marsha Padilla-Goad, Grassroots Advocacy, NARFE Headquarters; a nurse practitioner who spoke on coronary heart disease; Arlene Arthur, VFN Service Officer who spoke on the duties and responsibilities of the chapter service officer; Congressman Gerry Connolly who gave an update on Virginia District 11, and Rob Wittman who gave an update on Virginia District 1. Alzheimer's fundraising totaled \$1,410.00 through June, fourth highest in the state.

Community outreach has been a center point for all the chapters, although the pandemic hampered most of the chapters from their usual activities, especially during last year's holiday period. However, the Annandale Chapter teamed up with the Mason District Police Station to help sponsor three food collections at the station and collected 3,313 pounds of non-perishable food and \$400 for a local food pantry.

Area IX is active within the VFN and participated in the 2021 Annual Meeting; the 2021 LegCon, both for the regular sessions and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; and the Legislative Day Zoom Meetings. Area IX is also active with the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters which includes chapters in Area X.

**Jim Little**  
**Acting Area IX Vice President**

# Area X Vice President's Report

**Chapter 7 – Arlington** – This chapter has been dormant since their last in-person chapter meeting in March 2020. The board met in September 2020, and they did put out a newsletter in October in time to alert members of the November Zoom program on the changes in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance benefits for 2021 hosted by Fairfax - Chapter 737. Fairfax has continued to share their newsletter with the Chapter 7 board each month and some board members have attended the Fairfax virtual meetings.

Several board members attended multiple VFN training sessions held via ZOOM. The ones on the NES (NARFE Email System) and the preparation of newsletters were especially useful.

The Executive Board met in June 2021 to discuss the status of the chapter and our next steps. Over the summer, they are conducting surveys of chapter members to help determine future directions of their chapter, including meetings, programs, member participation etc. They are planning to produce a newsletter in September and hold their first in-person meeting of 2021 as a luncheon in December.

**Chapter 489 – McLean-Great Falls** - No meetings were held due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) making all residents to stay at home. Members had no interest in having a Virtual Meeting, it was decided that members will be notified of any virtual meetings taking place in Area X.

Going forward in 2021, the President is polling members on their interest in conducting in-person meetings. This is still in process currently.

**Chapter 737 – Fairfax** - The Fairfax Chapter has conducted Zoom/virtual Board and member meetings from September 2020 to May 2021. They had an in-person picnic for the June meeting and have collected food for "Food for Others" to distribute in Fairfax County.

Several of the presentations were recorded and/or the presentation material has been/will be made available on the [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org) web site. These include Scams, Honor Flights and Congresswoman Wexton.

The 29 Diner has supported the Fairfax Chapter with a fundraiser for Alzheimer's Research for several years. Although COVID-19 reduced the turnout, 29 Diner John Wood presented the Chapter a check for \$500 in support of Alzheimer's Research.

Pictured are John Wood, 29 Diner Owner; Annabelle Linden, Alzheimer's Chair; and Ted Pasek, President Chapter 737.





Ronnie Hart (L) and Donna Shackelford handle drawings and Alzheimer's Research collections.

Chapter 737's "First Annual" Picnic was held on June 8, 2021, with a good in-person turn-out.

Enjoying the picnic: Ralph Thompson; Daniel Thompson, Annabelle Linden; Melanie Willis.



Chapter President Ted Pasek is Co-Chair of the VFN Training Committee. Monthly presentations since January 2021 have included topics from How to Run a Meeting, the Legislative Process, Chapter Presidents/Vice-Presidents Duties, Parliamentary Procedures, Facebook and social media and Chapter Newsletters.

### Chapter 1116 - Vienna-Oakton

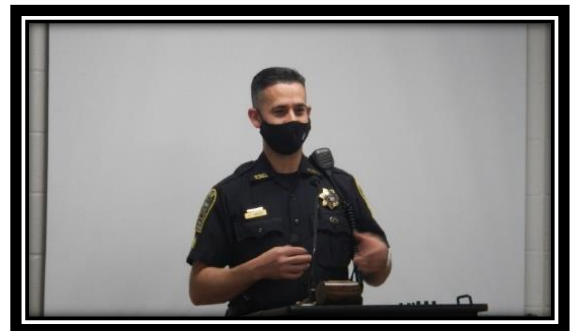
The Chapter held meetings each month since September 2020 at the Vienna Community Center. Speakers during the year were: Linda Colbert, Mayor of Vienna, Mark Keam, Delegate for the 35<sup>th</sup> District in the Virginia House; and Juan Vazquez, Public Information Officer for the Town of Vienna Police Department. (Pictured below).



Mayor Linda Colbert



Delegate Mark Keam



Officer Juan Vasquez



Other speakers were Bill Shackelford, Region X Vice President, Marlon Dubuisson, District Director, and Maddy White, Fairfax Outreach Representative, from the Office of Congressman Gerald Connolly (VA-11), Chapter member Chris Gieseler and Nate Salisbury, Sunrise Senior Living Regional Director and Cynthia Shannon, Director of Sales at the Sunrise facility in Hunter Mill. (NARFE members receive a 5% discount on room rates at Sunrise.) Programs included a slide presentation by Mark and Kathy Arpa on their travel to Ireland and Scotland and ZOOM training presented by Debbie Fisk. Members enjoyed the variety of programs despite social distancing and masks.



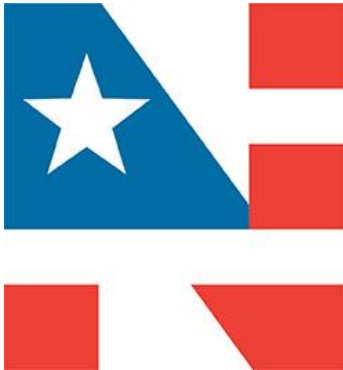
As members received their COVID-19 vaccines, they slowly began to return to chapter meetings in the spring. In June, the Chapter celebrated NARFE’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Chapter’s 52nd anniversary at American Legion Post 180 in Vienna with NARFE memorabilia for each member. Chapter President Kathy Arpa gave a short history of the hundred years of NARFE. Membership awards were given to Marian Reeves (25 years), Curtis Turnbow (25 years), and Harriet Epstein (20 years).

### **Chapter 1665 - Metro Northern Virginia**

Chapter 1665 has not been meeting because of the COVID shutdowns, including the restaurant that is their meeting location. They have kept in touch and plan to resume in-person meetings in the fall.

Area X is active with the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters which includes chapters in Area IX. The Caucus meets quarterly and has been active for over 25 years! Most chapters in Area X are represented at the Caucus Meetings and the members enjoy the friendships they have developed over the years.

**Theodore Pasek**  
**Area X Vice President**



# PROGRAM AREAS

## Alzheimer Chair's Report

Welcome to a new year in the land of the United States. We are starting to resume "normal" activities and all of us are looking forward to having our meetings face to face instead of screen to screen. It has been quite an experience.

Virginia has maintained its generous gift-giving reputation, with a slight decrease in funds from the previous year. Our calendar year donations for 2020 totaled \$37,873.29, as compared to Calendar Year 2019, which was \$61,495.68. This drop is attributed to the COVID and restrictions which did not allow in person meetings and is very understandable. However, we are still out front, and for that I am very grateful to all the members in the Virginia Federation. You have again responded to the call, and you have realized that one day you may need the care our research supports.



During this past year, I have identified most of the chapter Alzheimer's coordinators and we held a ZOOM meeting to brainstorm how we could raise funds in such a restricted atmosphere. I have since communicated with these coordinators to keep open discussion and share items that might be of interest. I hope they have shared the experience and information with the chapter members as well. It is very important that you are advised how your contributions are being spent. Who would want to continue giving to an entity without any feedback?

If you are unsure of how NARFE relates to the Alzheimer's Association, I encourage you to watch my short video in which I discuss that relationship. You can find it on [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org), look under the title Board of Directors, and follow my webpage there. I think you will find it interesting.

Last year in my report I begged all of you to notify your congressmen and senators of our interest in the passage of bills to support the postal stamps. Well, it paid off and the HR 3113 and S1728 were passed, and the stamps went on sale again in October. This is one of the best fundraisers and you can participate with just a little at a time. Be sure when you go to the Post Office for your stamps that you specify that you want the commemorative stamp for Alzheimer's awareness. Each one that you buy will produce one dime for research at the National Institute of Health toward the ultimate cure of this devastating disease.

As you return to your Chapter meetings, please remember to donate to Alzheimer's Research and help us reach a treatment at the minimum by 2025.

**Donna Shackelford**  
**Alzheimer's Program Chair**





# Membership Chair's Report

**Fiscal Year 2021** ended with 11,723 Virginia Federation members consisting of 5,551 Chapter members and 6,172 National members. Membership decreased by 1,964 (14.35%) - Chapter members decreased by 799 (12.58%) and National members decreased by 1,165 (15.88%).

**Membership page on VFN website** was updated with Recruitment and Retention materials, as well as sample letters to send to prospective and lapsed members. We welcome feedback on additions or changes you deem will be helpful in your Membership recruitment or retention.

**Reinstatement Form M-1** was revised to include the choice of reinstatement as a Chapter or National Member and was accepted and endorsed by NARFE Headquarters – thank you to Region X VP Bill Shackelford. The online version is posted on National website, as well as on VFN website Membership page – thank you to VFN Webmaster Stan Palen.

**Monthly Membership Gain/Loss Reports** were prepared, posted on the VFN Membership web page, and sent to AVPs and Membership Chairs with recommendations to contact prospective new members and non-renewals. Due to requests, a column was added to include total chapter members for each chapter.

2020 Membership Drive **ended in December with four new members signed by Recruiters – Carol Sawyer (Brentwood 1697) signed one National member, Jeffrey Shaffer (Dulles 1241) signed one National member, and Kenneth W. Candell (Winchester 0180) signed two Chapter members. Thank you to those Recruiters**

**Membership Goals and Sharing of Ideas** – Hosted two virtual Chapter Membership Chairs Meetings covering:

- Membership Chair Responsibilities
- Membership Recruiting and Retention Ideas
  - a. Who can join NARFE?
  - b. NARFE Member Benefits
  - c. Membership Marketing Manual (FH-19)
  - d. Membership Prospecting, Recruiting and Retention (F10)
- Brainstorming and individual successful ideas
- Membership Reports from AMS
- Monthly Gain/Loss Report
- Planning Recruitment Events – Dates to be posted on VFN website

**Attended:** All VFN Board Meetings as scheduled.

Monthly Program Chairs Meetings

Monthly Zoom Training

Monthly Conference Committee Meetings

Monthly Electronic Communications Committee Meetings

Alzheimer's Chairs Meeting by Alzheimer's Chair Donna Shackelford

NOVA Caucus Meeting with David Bowman, Senior Director of NARFE Membership Development

Chapter 737 Fairfax Meeting

Chapter 1757 Middle Peninsula-Gloucester meeting

Chapter 1270 Woodbridge Meeting with David Bowman, NARFE Membership Development  
April 23 National Executive Board Meeting  
“How to Conduct a Successful Meeting” Training by President Bails  
Legislation (National and State) Training by National Legislative Chair Gaston Gianni, State Legislative  
Chairs Bob Martin and Deborah Fisk  
Officer Portal Training Webinar  
“Duties of Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents” Training by Past VFN President Leslie Ravenell  
“NES (NARFE’s email system) Part I” Training by NARFE Net Coordinator John Bails  
Facebook Training by Public Relations Chair Doris McAdams

Responded to numerous requests from Membership Chairs regarding access to the M-112, transfer of members, reinstatement of Life members, dues, listings of deceased members, errors in transfers, Membership Gain/Loss Reports, etc. Reached out to Headquarters when needed to resolve a situation.

Membership Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2022 was prepared and submitted with explanations for Expenditures.

**Membership Outreach** – As a result of President Bails’ letter to VFN members regarding erroneous transfer to National only, 284 responses were received, with 191 asking to be verified as chapter members, 16 wishing to remain National Only, and 77 members (27%) requesting to be reinstated into chapters. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of President Bails and John Bails, the 77 have now been reinstated.

**Membership Video** was prepared and submitted for posting on VFN Facebook page.

**Save on Dues** – NARFE members voted to increase dues to \$48/year, effective January 1, 2021. Dues Withholding increased to \$42/year or \$3.50/month. Recommend signing up for Dues Withholding to save money. Received and answered questions regarding increase and possible reduction of Chapter dues. Chapter dues are established by each individual Chapter based on their by-laws.

#### **Membership Committee Chair Goals for 2022:**

- Conduct regular electronic Membership Chairs Meetings to establish needs and goals, as well as to share suggestions and ideas. (Scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM.)
- Develop and conduct in-person Membership training. Work in progress
- Establish Incentives to encourage recruiting and maintaining members in Chapters and the Virginia Federation
- Act as liaison with National regarding Membership issues and assist Chapters with resolving AMS issues
- Improve and increase NARFE Membership Recruitment and Retention in the Virginia Federation of NARFE
- Participate and assist in Chapter and Area Membership events and drives whenever possible
- Recognize Recruiters and Chapters for membership achievements at the October 10-13 VFN Annual Conference

Remember - Membership is Everyone’s Responsibility – To make certain Congress hears our voice to protect the pay and earned benefits of all current and retired federal employees, we need to strive to increase membership and retention.

Please get involved and participate in this important NARFE effort. If you have suggestions, questions, or would like help with membership, please contact me at feboatman@live.com.

**Together we will succeed!**

**Frances E. Boatman**  
**VFN Membership Chair**

## National Legislation Chair's Report

The Virginia Federation is one of NARFE's leaders in congressional advocacy. This is accomplished through the Federation's National Legislative Team consisting of a Chair, 11 Congressional District Leaders (CDL), one for each of Virginia's 11 Congressional Districts, and two Senator 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 in Virginia), and coordinating the process for seeking Chapters and Area Vice Presidents input to the NARFE PAC's decision-making process for allocating funds to VA's congressional delegation.

### NEW CDLs

Our Advocacy work, like everything else, was affected by the pandemic, especially during the first half of the fiscal year. However, with the National elections over and the new 117<sup>th</sup> Congress sworn in, we got active! We welcomed newly elected Congressman Bob Good and introduced him to NARFE and Joanne Hirsch, our Congressional District Leader for the 5<sup>th</sup> District. In addition, we filled two CDL positions when our current CDLs stepped down. Tom Hart (Fairfax Chapter 737) replaced John Tolleris as the District 8 CDL for Congressman Don Beyer and Deborah Fisk (Midlothian Chapter 2265) replaced Dillard Horton as the District 4 CDL for Congressman Donald McEachin. Our thanks go out to John and Dillard for their faithful service to the Virginia Federation.

### NARFE National Legislative Conference

NARFE's 2021 National Legislation Conference which was held on June 21-23, 2021. With financial support of the VFN, 10 members of our 13 person VFN National Legislation team were able to attend this year's virtual conference and participated on June 26 in NARFE's virtual Advocacy Day with 12 of VA's 13 Congressional Delegation Offices. Representatives Cline (District 6) and Spanberger (District 7) attended the virtual. Virginia had a total of 18 NARFE members attend the conference, most of whom participated in the Advocacy Day zoom hill meetings. I believe we were successful in carrying NARFE's 2021 Legislative priorities to our VA congressional delegation and in thanking

those who had already signed on as sponsors or cosponsors to the bills supporting the NARFE legislative priorities **and asking** the others to sign on as cosponsors to the bill if they had yet to sign on.

### **NARFE's Advocacy Day Priorities**

These are the NARFE Priorities we carried to the Hill and the members of the VA congressional delegation who had signed on as cosponsors before the conference.

1) **Repeal of WEP &GPO HR 82- Social Security Fairness Act, Introduced by Rep Rodney Davis (R) MA.**

**VA cosponsors: 4-- REPs Spanberger; Luria, Wittman, and Connolly.**

48,700 Federal annuitants in Virginia are impacted by WEP!!

**S 1302-Social Security Fairness Act Introduced by Senator Sherrod Brown (D) No VA Cosponsors**

2) **Reform WEP & GPO HR 2337-Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, Introduced by Richard Neal (D) MA,**

**VA Cosponsors: 5—REPs Beyer; Spanberger; Luria; Connolly; Wexton**

3) **Postal Service Reform Act of 2021**

**HR 3076 Issue: Need to determine what impact the bill would have on Federal Employees Health Benefits BEFORE considering to passing this bill.** Introduced by Rep Carolyn Maloney (D) NY; **VA cosponsor 1; Rep Gerry Connolly**

**S 1720- Introduced by Senator Gary Peters (D) MI, No VA Cosponsors**

**Issue: Need to determine what impact the bill would have on Federal Employees Health Benefits BEFORE considering to passing this bill.**

4) **Fair COLA for Seniors Act (HR 4315) Issue: Use CPI-E (Which better represents cost of the elderly)**

**NEW Just** Introduced by Rep Garamendi (D) CA, **NO Virginia Cosponsors**

5) **HR 304 Equal COLA Act (Treat FERS fairly and equally with other COLA recipients**

Introduced by Gerry Connolly (D) VA, **NO Virginia Cosponsors**

6) **House Resolution 131- To recognize NARFE's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Introduced by Rep Gerry Connolly (D) VA; Virginia **cosponsors 4: Reps Wexton, Wittman, Luria, and Beyer****

**Please reach out to your Representative and Senators to ASK for their support in cosponsoring these bills.**

**Don't forget to THANK those who have already cosponsored!!**

### **PAC Fund Update**

January 2021 started a new 2-year cycle for NARFE PAC. I would like to encourage everyone to contribute 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 2021. VA chapter members (446)) have contributed about \$25,198 and VA NARFE National members (394) have contributed about \$17629 for a VA state total of \$42,827. **THANK YOU to all that have contributed!!** We have 44 sustaining members (36 from chapter members and eight 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 \$8,500 has been given to five members of the VA congressional delegation (Luria, Scott, Beyer, Wexton, and Connolly). All this information is detailed on the NARFE web site under the ADVOCACY section where you can find the PAC information link [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org)

In addition, there is information specific to all the NARFE Chapters in Virginia. Check it out!!

### **National Legislative Plan/Goals 2020-21-- How did we do?**

#### 1) NARFE August Advocacy Month 2020

- Get the SLLs and CDLs fully activated---**MET**
- Continue the push to get five more Virginia Reps to cosponsors of HR141 WEP& GPO reform—**Still in Process.** New Congress means the process starts all over.
- Send out email to all VFN members updating them on Advocacy month, encouraging them to call/ write their Congressional members on NARFE legislative priorities. Also update on VA NARFE PAC and encourage participation. **Carry over for August 2021 Advocacy month.**

2) After November elections, assess who wants to continue the National Legislation Team and work to fill any vacancies. ---**MET**

3) Have a team meeting to provide training and get ready for the next Congress. **Delayed due to Pandemic. However, a Virtual meeting was held to prepare for Advocacy Day**

4) Obtain VFN funds for team members to attend the NARFE National Legislative Training Conference. -- **MET**

5) Develop and provide training on National Legislative issues at the VFN training Conference. **Conference moved to 2021**

6) Encourage team to attend VFN conference **Moved to 2021 VFN Conference**

7) Raise awareness of NARFE PAC and host a PAC table At VFN training Conference. **Moved to 2021 VFN Conference**

8) Provide periodic reports and articles on National Legislative Team actions/ accomplishments. **MET**

9) Have CDLs work to improve relationships with Area VPs and chapters with members in their Congressional Districts. **In process, more still needs to be done.**

10) Prepared Video on VFN National Legislative Committee for VANARFE face book page. **Met**

### **National Legislative Plan/Goals 2021-22**

1) Continue to work on the above in process goals

2) Support the 2021 VFN Training Conference

3) Continue to push NARFE's legislative priorities with the VA Congressional delegation

4) Increase VFC National Legislative team outreach to Chapters

5) Do additional videos and emails to inform VA NARFE members (National and Chapter) of actions needed to advance NARFE's legislative agenda.

The following are the names and contact information for **VFN'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](mailto:whbriscoe@comcast.net))

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

### **Congressional District Leaders**

1<sup>st</sup> CDL Gaston Gianni, Woodbridge 1270, Email: ([gastongianni@aol.com](mailto:gastongianni@aol.com)) —Rep. Rob Wittman  
2<sup>nd</sup> CDL Marilyn Riddle, Williamsburg 685 Email: ([mriddle@cox.net](mailto:mriddle@cox.net)) —Rep. Elaine Luria  
3<sup>rd</sup> CDL Ray Orland, Suffolk 1743, Email: ([raymondngail@aol.com](mailto:raymondngail@aol.com)) --- Rep. Bobby Scott  
4<sup>th</sup> CDL Deborah Fisk, Midlothian 2265, Email: ([narfe2265df@gmail.com](mailto:narfe2265df@gmail.com))—Rep. Donald McEachin  
5<sup>th</sup> CDL, Joanne Hirsch, Charlottesville 135 Email: ([cprinstr@verizon.net](mailto:cprinstr@verizon.net))--Rep. Bob Good  
6<sup>th</sup> CDL Frances Boatman, Roanoke 111, Email: ([FEBoatman@live.com](mailto:FEBoatman@live.com)) -- Rep. Ben Cline  
7<sup>th</sup> CDL Bob Zombron, Midlothian 2265, Email: ([bobjudyz@verizon.net](mailto:bobjudyz@verizon.net)) —Rep. Abigail Spanberger  
8<sup>th</sup> CDL Tom Hart, Fairfax 737, Email: ([thart7@cox.net](mailto:thart7@cox.net)) Rep. Don Beyer  
9<sup>th</sup> CDL, Del Dyer, Roanoke Valley 111, Email: ([ddyer@vt.edu](mailto:ddyer@vt.edu))—Rep. Morgan Griffith  
10<sup>th</sup> CDL, Dennis Freeman, Fairfax 737 Email: ([deepfreeze2548@me.com](mailto:deepfreeze2548@me.com)) —Rep. Jenifer Wexton  
11<sup>th</sup> CDL Judy Thorne, Dulles 1241, Email: ([thornemusick@aol.com](mailto:thornemusick@aol.com)) —Rep. Gerald Connolly

Please send me an email at [gastongianni@aol.com](mailto:gastongianni@aol.com) if you have any questions about this report or wish to have a speaker at your chapter meeting.

**Closing Quote: “All great things are simple, and many can be expressed in single words: Freedom, Justice, Honor, Duty, Mercy and Hope.” Winston Churchill**

**Gaston Gianni**  
**VFN National Legislative Chair**

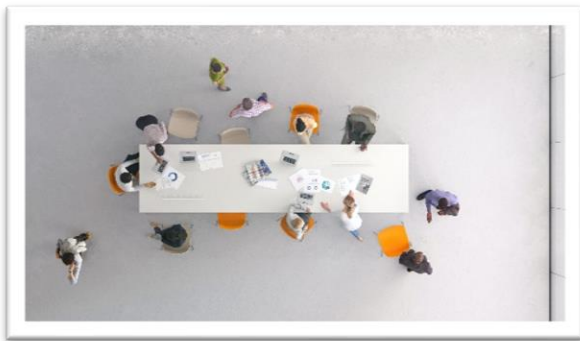


# Public Relations Chair's Report

The Public Relations Committee soft promoted the VFN conference on Facebook and Instagram. We did not want to hard promote the conference until a decision was made to reschedule or have a virtual conference.

The Public Relations Committee has posted and promoted any chapter activities that were sent to us. We have posted program chair videos and a CDL video on social media. We need short videos from each program chair, CDLs and SLs. We need one a month talking about one area of your program or responsibility. President Bails made a video talking about the benefits/what the VFN does for its members. Over 500 people viewed this video. This has been our best performing post on Facebook to date. Please visit our Facebook page, like and share our content. This will increase our presence on social media.

Please send us videos/pictures with write ups of your chapter's activities. Pictures must be either jpeg or png format.



I have attended all program chair meetings, ECC meetings and training meetings. We have promoted each training session on social media.

I attended the Colonial Beach Chapter's celebration on NARFE's 100 years. I provided the Colonial Beach and the Vienna-Oakton Chapters promotional materials to be used at their 100-year celebrations.

I lead a training session on social media for the training committee. I attended the VFN Spring Board meeting.

If we can be of service to your chapter, please contact us.

**Doris McAdams**  
**VFN Public Relations Chair**





# Service Officer's Report

If we have learned nothing else from 2020, it has been the value of electronic technology. Between early 2020 and now we have all been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our normal ways of interacting have been severely challenged. In-person meetings ceased and many of us learned to communicate by ZOOM and used ZOOM a lot more than we ever wanted to. For many of us that was the main means of communicating to large groups at the same time. Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) chapter meetings slowly started back up but virtually. Training was conducted virtually. Conducting VFN business online became our new norm. This change also made us become more creative.

In September I started issuing monthly newsletters titled "Service Officer Connection". This was my way of offering training and of staying connected with VFN's chapter members and Service Officers. The monthly newsletter is distributed to every Service Officer and chapter president or chapter representative.

In November I conducted a virtual Service Officer's Meet and Greet. The purpose was to allow Service Officers an opportunity to meet one another and just have an opportunity to exchange ideas. The Meet and Greet was not intended to be a training session. While attendance was low it was agreed that we should have more meetings like that one. So far that has been the only meeting but I'm hopeful that we will have a few more before the end of this year. One thing that I learned was that even though we know that we will continue to be technologically driven going forward, we have a lot of members for whom virtual platforms like ZOOM will continue to be obstacles. A special thanks to **Esther Nash, Service Officer Chapter 90 Fredericksburg** and the awesome duo, **Ray (and Peggy) Gillich, Service Officer Chapter 180 Winchester** and **Frances Boatman, President Chapter 111 Roanoke Valley** for their attendance. None of that would have been possible without the Zoom hosting ability of **Bob Martin, Chapter 90 Fredericksburg** (current VFN 1st VP).

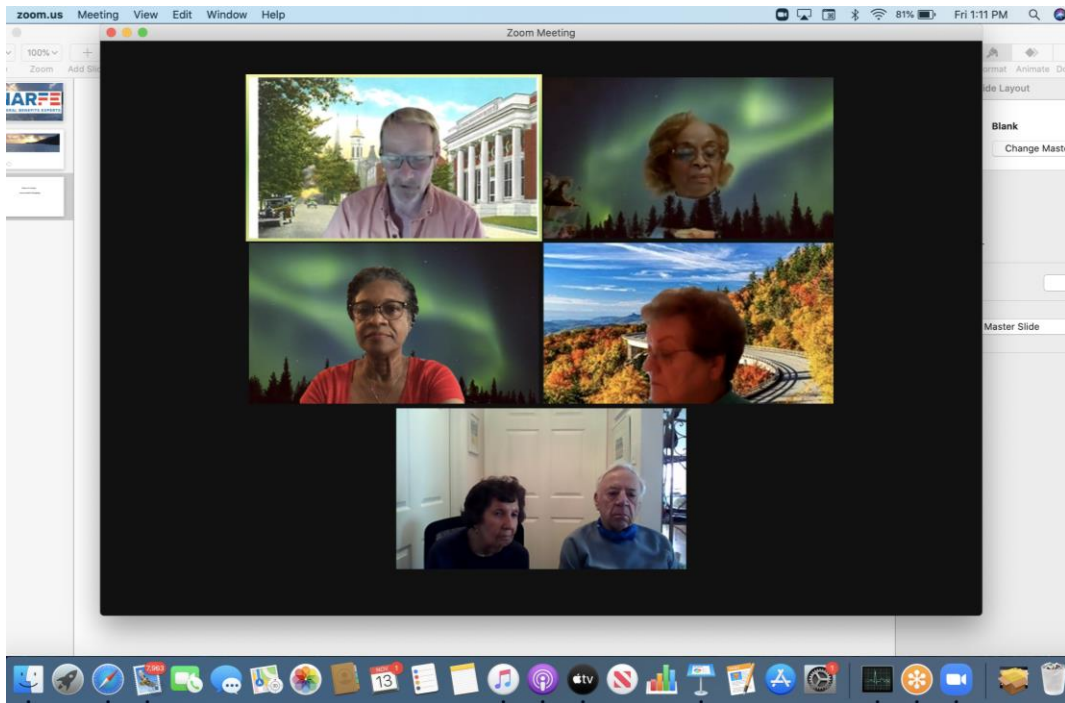
In January I gave a presentation (virtually, of course) to the members of **Chapter 1270 Woodbridge**. My presentation was on Life's Events. According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), there are life changes that can affect annuitants, their spouses and/or their children. OPM calls these changes "Life Events". These life changes can affect anything from the amount of state taxes that annuitants pay, to health insurance coverage, to death benefits. I decided to incorporate these Life Events into my monthly Service Officer Connections.

Newsletters issued between January and June covered eight of 11 OPM's Life Events. The remainders were scheduled for the inclusion in the July newsletter. Each topic covered the life change and actions that either the annuitant, the annuitant's spouse or representative payee would need to take.

Between December and June, I had seven direct Service Officer referrals. I normally receive referrals when a chapter has a member in need and there is no chapter Service Officer to assist the member. Many times, the referral was the result of the passing of a member or a member's spouse. Times like those can be extremely challenging for loved ones. For me there are few things more rewarding than guiding members and their families to and sometimes through the federal benefits resources that they need. I encourage each chapter to find someone in their membership to become a Service Officer. I am here to assist the chapters and NARFE's Federal Benefits Institute is always available to assist all of us.

As of the end of June the VFN had 24 Service Officers. I am pleased to welcome **Mary Margaret McGowan of Chapter 1116 Vienna-Oakton** as our newest Service Officer. I am looking forward to meeting her in-person at VFN's 2021 Conference in October.

The Virginia Federation of NARFE normally conducts its annual meeting and conference in April but since our normal has changed due to COVID-19 restrictions, so has our meeting and conference. The 2021 Conference will be held in Richmond VA, October 10-13. I am looking forward to a lot of in-person meeting, greeting, training, and socializing. I am also looking forward to knowing your concerns so that we can grow together, as we Zoom into the Future.



Stay healthy.

**Arlene Arthur**  
**VFN Service Officer**

# State Legislation Chair's Report

COVID dominated the norm and possibly progress. Virtual sessions were held for the House and socially distanced sessions for the Senate. The 30-day short session was extended to 45 days by Governor Northam and the 2021 session concluded on February 27, 2021. During the sessions, 1,940 Bills were introduced in the Regular Session with 77 completed and 1,033 Bills were introduced in the Special Session with 773 completed.

The pandemic also dominated our normal Virginia Federation of NARFE policies and procedures for 2021. We were not able to assemble and collaborate on the 2021 State Legislative Plan. Our former State Legislative Officer, Robert "Bob" Martin reviewed and selected approximately 15 potential bills to present to the Board of Directors at the Winter 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. With board consensus, six bills were selected, and a digital brochure was quickly created and sent out to all Chapters.

We ended up with two of the six bills passing through both Houses and signed by the Governor. Aging Services (economic and social need for Aging and Rehabilitative Services shall prioritize providing services to older personas with the greatest economic or social requirements), and The Virginia Human Rights Act (added discrimination based on disability as an unlawful discriminatory practice under the Virginia Human Rights Act) both passed and will become law as of July 1, 2021.

We are pleased with the victories but disappointed in the lack of support for Nursing Home improvements. This will not deter our committee from continuing to pursue Nursing Home legislation as well as any Virginia Tax Code legislation that is proposed or encouraged.

We participated in one online legislative training session in 2021. State Legislation in collaboration with National Legislation gave a program to at least one Chapter together. Chapters who want information about State Legislation at a monthly meeting, contact D. Fisk [narfe2265df@gmail.com](mailto:narfe2265df@gmail.com) or (804) 748-8722.

Determined to begin fresh for 2022, we met online in mid-June with members interested in state legislation. The meeting was well attended with about 20 or so participants. On June 30<sup>th</sup> we met in person and there were 12 members in attendance and about eight on a ZOOM call. Unfortunately, the bandwidth was not sufficient to keep a solid connection. Out of those two meetings and many email conversations a solid 2022 State Legislation Plan was developed and will be presented to the Board of Directors at the July 2021 meeting. More time will be devoted to identifying State Legislative Officers in each Chapter and help fill vacancies where it is practical.

The State Legislation Team is being developed into a robust marketing tool for the Federation. If you are interested in joining the team, contact D. Fisk [narfe2265df@gmail.com](mailto:narfe2265df@gmail.com) or (804) 748-8722.

**Debbie Fisk**  
**State Legislation Chair**



South entrance of capital in Richmond, Virginia

# AD HOC REPORTS

## Audit Committee Annual Report

Audit of the Virginia Federation of NARFE Treasurer's books for Fiscal Year 2020 was delayed due to COVID-19.

On July 8, 2021, the Audit Committee examined the Virginia Federation of NARFE Treasurer's books for the Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020) in compliance with the procedures set forth in the bylaws.

All receipts, deposits, vouchers, and disbursements have been accounted for and validated.

All bank statements have been reconciled and found to be in order.

IRS Form 990-EZ for 501(c)(5) Virginia Federation of NARFE was completed and filed.

The Audit Committee finds the books for the Fiscal Year 2020 to be accurate and in order as of July 8, 2021. The PAC audit was completed July 13, 2021 and found to be accurate and in order.

### **Audit Committee:**

**Frances E. Boatman**

**Mark Fisher**

**Luther Santiful**

## Electronics Communications Committee (ECC)

The "ECC" continues to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm. Our committee is divided into basically five areas of interest:

Training – VFN Training and ECC Training - A. Arthur, T. Pasek & J. Bails

Website – S. Palen & D. Fisk

Social Media – D. McAdams & P. Wolfe

Newsletters – K. Arpa w/Pat Wolfe - Reviewer

Miscellaneous – C. Bails, E. Nash, F. Boatman, B. Martin

Training - Successful training was accomplished by the VFN Training Team for Parliamentary Procedures, How to Prepare Effective Newsletters, How to Conduct Chapter/Board Meetings, and Facebook and social media. EEC Training continued each Wednesday at 2:00 pm from June 2020 until June 2021. The emphasis of ECC training is on Beginning and Intermediate Zoom as well as the NES Email System.



Website – A new WordPress website was developed under an assumed domain (vanarfe.com) and was approved by the Board of Directors in April 2021. We are in the process of establishing a hosting relationship and migration with HostGator where the legacy site and the new site will be hosted for a 3-year period, and possibly renewed thereafter. Most of the initial design work is complete on the test site (**vanarfe.com**) and the migration and integration phase has begun. Stan Palin, webmaster, is familiarizing himself with the new platform and will supervise the change. VFN branded email addresses are currently being evaluated and more information is forthcoming as to how they will be handled in the future. We continue to research and review electronic communications platforms that will be useful tools for the VFN.



Social Media - All are encouraged to send content especially short video clips to Doris McAdams as she maintains our Virginia Federation Facebook and Twitter Accounts. It is preferred that content be refreshed every 30-days.

Newsletters – The 2019 – 2020 Annual Report as well as the Fall and the Spring Newsletters were created and are available on the [vanarfe.org](http://vanarfe.org) website.

Miscellaneous - This area is usually reserved for support items. Usually, documentation falls under this category and will become more active in the future after systems are defined.

“It’s a social media world, and we’re just livin’ in it!”

Respectfully,

*Deborah O. Fisk*

***NARFE***  
***VIRGINIA FEDERATION EXECUTIVE BOARD***



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

*Leslie Ravenell >>  
Immediate Past President*



*<< Robert (Bob) Martin  
VFN 1st Vice President*

*Frances Boatman >>  
VFN 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*



*<< Esther Nash  
VFN Acting Secretary*

*William (Bill) Martin >>  
VFN Treasurer*





# 2021 NARFE CHAPTERS

## 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  
Seaside-Virginia Beach 1827

## Area III

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

## Area IV

Churchland-Portsmouth 1293  
Brentwood 1697  
Suffolk 1743

## Area VII

Roanoke Valley 111  
Charlottesville-Albermarle 135  
Harrisonburg 164  
Winchester 180  
Page Valley-Luray 1793  
Shenandoah County 2358

## Area VIII

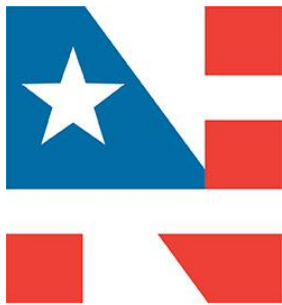
Fredericksburg 90  
Colonial Beach 595  
Warrenton-Fauquier 1549  
Caroline 2112  
Falls Run- 2343

## Area IX

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



[www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org)