



Midlothian Chapter 2265 NEWSLETTER

Serving Current and Retired Federal Employees Since 1921

Chapter e-mail: narfe2265df@gmail.com

November/December 2021

2021 Chapter 2265 Officers

President: Cindy Graunke

Vice President: Don Utton

Secretary: Lynn Osborne (*temporary appointment*)

Treasurer: Ed Heflin

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Cindy Graunke

Greetings! The holiday season is right around the corner and our Chapter will be holding its luncheon on December 8th at the American Legion in Midlothian, VA. The cost is \$20. The cost is a little higher than in past years. However, those who have attended in the past know that we not only get a delicious lunch but time to socialize.

Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) Conference

On October 11-13, our State-wide conference was held here in Midlothian at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center. Fifty-five NARFE members attended the conference, which included 9 members from Chapter 2265. Of those nine, all but one volunteered either as registrar, greeter, speaker, and/or participated in the planning of the conference.

Some of the breakout sessions I attended included a session on *Downsizing a Major Change, Transitioning into a Retirement Community*, and a committee meeting on Public Relations. Our chapter members also participated in a meeting with our Area III Vice President, Mr. Wynn Hasty.

Some of the general sessions included a presentation on the Opioid Crisis, COVID 19, Elder Scam, and presentation from the Federal Trade Commission and Better Business Bureau.

The conference also included a memorial service to remember those members who passed away since our last conference (which included two years of members). Eight of our chapter members were honored during the service.

At our banquet on Tuesday evening, Deborah Fisk was presented the President's Award for her work on the VFN website and Zoom training. Well deserved!! Deborah makes a positive difference both in our chapter and at the VFN level.

2022

As we begin a new year, I am hopeful that someone has stepped up to serve as your President and Secretary. I will continue to serve on the Executive Board in the capacity of Immediate Past President. Take care and have a wonderful new year.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Don Utton

Follow-up: H.R.3076 - Postal Service Reform Act of 2021

The Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 (H.R. 3076), is a bipartisan bill that aims to provide financial and operational stability to the Postal Service.

Key Provisions: If passed the legislation would:

- repeal the mandate that the Postal Service pre-fund decades' worth of health benefits for its future retirees, which was enacted through the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) of 2006
- maximize participation in Medicare once active postal employees (as of January 1, 2023) retire and reach age 65. Annuitants as of January 1, 2023, will be given the choice of whether to

remain in the existing FEHBP system or participate in the postal version of the program that requires enrollment in Medicare Parts A and B – and retirees over the age of 65 who have chosen not to enroll in Medicare Part B will be given a one-time opportunity to do so with no late-enrollment penalty.

- require the Postal Service to maintain an “integrated” network of both mail and packages six days a week.
- require the Postal Service to provide semi-annual reports to Congress on the implementation of its 10-year strategic plan; provide for a public dashboard using nationwide delivery metrics to track delivery performance; directs the Postal Service to use the most efficient means to transport mail, likely moving from air to ground;
- mandate a Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) review of competitive and non-competitive products and a study of nationwide processing efficiency of flats (magazines and catalogs)

[Bipartisan postal reform legislation introduced and advances in House | National Association of Letter Carriers AFL-CIO \(nalc.org\)](#)

Legislative Actions for H.R 3076:

- 5/11/2021 Introduced to House; Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means
- 7/16/2021 Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Oversight and Reform. H. Rept. 117-89, Part I.
- 9/30/2021 House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means committees Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Nov. 8, 2021.

[Actions - H.R.3076 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

Virginia HR member co-sponsors: Only Rep Connolly

Senate Action: A companion Postal Service Reform bill (**S.1720**) was introduced 5/19/2021, read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Senator Kaine is a co-sponsor.

[Text - S.1720 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): Postal Service Reform Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

DeJoy Announces 10-Year Reorganization of U.S. Postal Service

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy is calling for longer delivery times for some first-class mail, shorter hours for some post offices and more expensive postal rates — all part of a 10-year reorganization plan for the U.S. Postal Service he unveiled Tuesday March 23.

Kristin Seaver, the Postal Service's executive vice president, said the change in delivery times would affect only "the fringes of our network." She said 70% of first-class mail will still be delivered in two or three days under the proposal. Twenty percent of what she identified as coast-to-coast mail "might not arrive for five days."

DeJoy told lawmakers the postal system is "in a death spiral" and needs legislation to help restore it to financial stability.

On Oct. 3, the Postal Service temporarily began increasing prices on all commercial and retail domestic packages extending through the holiday season.

[DeJoy's Plan For Postal Service Includes Delivery And Rate Changes : NPR](#)

Other provisions:

The reorganization plan would have first-class mail ferried cross-country on trucks instead of airplanes and introduces new products to help commercial shippers move packages more efficiently.

The plan codifies slowdowns for nonlocal first-class mail, adding as many as two days to delivery timetables for items sent further than 930 miles.

[USPS chief Louis DeJoy unveils plan that will slow mail, cut post office hours - The Washington Post](#)

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES

Bob Zombron

CDL VA 7th Congressional District

On June 21-23 ten of the thirteen members of the NARFE Virginia Federation's legislative team attended the 2021 NARFE National Legislative Conference. The conference took place via ZOOM. After two days of preparation, on the next day we attended NARFE's virtual Advocacy Day in which Representative Abigail Spanberger of Virginia's 7th Congressional District attended with her legislative team member. Other Virginia Federation members also virtually attended. We also had an opportunity to attend meetings with other congressmen to witness their points of view.

The meeting worked out very well even though we did not meet face to face. In most cases the members of congress have previously received NARFE's Advocacy Positions for the 117th Congress (2021-2022), so they understood what we are proposing for our members – their constituents. One example of discussion was the Cost of Living (COLA's), the current Social Security cost index – CPI-W for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, suggesting a change to an index CPI-E more reflective of how seniors and the elderly experience the market. Seniors typically pay more than the general public for medical services, prescriptions and care services.

Please note the above proposal is not to be confused with the current 5.9% federal retirement and Social Security forthcoming pay increase for 2022. The 5.9% is bases for the CPI-W which is not adequate for the elderly. Other bills regarding Rep. Spanberger's sponsorship are HR 82 Social Security Fairness Act (repeal of WEP/GPO) and HR 2337 Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, advocates an alternative formula to calculate Social Security retirement benefits for those who receive pensions for certain non-covered employment. The existing formula is known as the windfall elimination provision (WEP). To my knowledge - Rep. McEachin has not yet sponsored HR 2337. His constituents need to contact his office for

verification. More sponsors are needed to qualify for a vote in the House.

Consider writing or visiting your member of congress to advise him or her of your current situation and needs for which they may be able to help. You are also encouraged to use NARFE.org / advocacy website to write your representatives and senator.

Our Current Representatives

VA Congressional District 7

Abigail Spanberger – 1239 LHOB, Washington DC
>DC Office: 202-225-2815

VA Congressional District 4

Donald McEachin – 314 CHOB, Washington DC
>DC Office: 202-225-6365

VA Congressional District 3

Bobby Scott – 1201 LHOB, Washington DC
>DC Office: 202-225-8354

U.S. Senators

US Senator Mark Warner (D-VA)
>DC Office: 202-224-2023
>Richmond Office: 804-775-2314

US Senator Timothy Kaine (D-VA)
>DC Office: 202-224-4024
>Richmond Office: 804-771-2221

SERVICE OFFICER

Virginia Bozarth

If you or anyone you may know has a need for help with federal benefits or the death of a loved one, please reach out and I will try to help. I may not know the answer to the question, but I can get in touch with those who do and find an answer for you or connect you to someone who can help.

What exactly does a Service Officer do?

- Becomes the face and voice of NARFE – helps members apply for benefits, life insurance, etc.
- Relays information as needed on Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, and retirement benefits.

- Writes notes to families of those who have passed to offer information and support.
- Offers the “Be Prepared for Life’s Events” to NARFE members

PROGRAMS

Verona McLeod

We moved back to “in-person” meetings in September. We had COVID safety measures in place and about 20 members were in attendance. October’s meeting was the 2022 update on BCBS Anthem presented by Kathy Bass. There were 32 members present. There will be an Alzheimer’s Fundraiser at the November 10 meeting. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for details. We will have the annual Christmas Luncheon on December 8 at American Legion Post 186 on Otterdale Road beginning at 11 am. There is a flyer in this newsletter with details. It is important that you sign-up and pay prior to December 1 so the Legion will have a valid head count.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER

1 Joanne Bagley; **7** Marietha Hoffman; **12** Bobbie Avery; **15** Frances Harrison; **17** Cliff Wolfe; **24** John Clark; **29** Pattie Powell

DECEMBER

3 Gerald Guerrein, Virginia Bozarth, Patsy Dockery; **4** Yvonne Webb; **8** Mary Crump; **11** Ann Reed; **12** Michael Kerwin; **18** Bob Schaefer; **25** James Hall; **27** Norma Smith

MEMBERSHIP

Verona McLeod

The current chapter membership, as of October 17, is 213. There are also 129 non-chapter members or National Members in the area. We need to strengthen our membership through retention and recruitment. During the month of September our chapter activity was: 3 members dropped for non-renewal, 2 new

perspective members, and 3 members who renewed their membership. As a chapter we need to focus our membership efforts on reducing our dropped for non-renewal to zero and encouraging new membership from the perspectives, as well as retention of existing membership through renewal. This effort is a chapter wide effort. We should become engaged through communicating with family and friends who are current members, those in the membership area but not a chapter member, and those who are eligible but don’t belong. Remember membership is open to any Federal Retiree as well as Active Federal Employees.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Lynn Osborne, Secretary

NARFE Midlothian Chapter 2265

Monthly Meeting Minutes, October 20, 2021

The Monthly meeting of the Midlothian Chapter 2265 was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at the Hopewell UMC. President Cindy Graunke called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and welcomed everyone to the NARFE meeting. There were 32 members present and 1 guest.

Pledge of Allegiance: Members repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Introduction of Guests: There was 1 guest present, Sandy Powell.

Birthdays/Illnesses: President Graunke announced the birthdays.

Thought of the Day: Ann Simpkins brought Thought of the Day.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Ed Heflin gave the financial report.

Secretary: The minutes from the September 8 meeting were approved as corrected.

Vice President: No Report

President: President Graunke gave an overview of the VFN Conference. Chapter 2265 had 9 members attend. The Memorial Service honored 8 chapter members.

Debbie Fisk received the President's Award for her work on the VFN Website and Zoom training.

Committee Reports:

Alzheimer's: The basket Cathy Dorsett prepared for the chapter brought in \$75 for the Alzheimer's Silent Auction at the VFN Conference. The auction raised over \$1,400 for Alzheimer's Research. NARFE overall has surpassed the goal of \$14 Million raised for Alzheimer's Research. The VFN overall has contributed \$1.3 Million.

Membership: No Report

Net Coordinator: Deborah Fisk reported the Area VP, Wynn Hasty, would like for his chapter, Petersburg, to team with Midlothian to have a workshop to learn how to effectively use a Smart Phone. This would be open to all members and most likely a day workshop.

NARFE-PAC: Bob Zombron encouraged members to donate to the NARFE-PAC. He also wants everyone to be aware of what your Senators and Congressmen-women are doing and supporting. Let them know how you feel about their support or non-support of bills.

National Legislation: No Report

Programs: No Report: Program for November is pending. On December 8 we will have the annual Christmas Luncheon at the American Legion Post 186 building on Otterdale Road. See Lynn Osborne to sign-up.

Special Activities: Lynn Osborne – Trips are still on hold.

State Legislation: Debbie Fisk discussed the 2022 State Legislative Plan in length so members will understand the proposals. She also discussed the State-PAC Fund.

Hospitality: Cathy Dorsett thanked everyone for their donations to the Refreshment Fund.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: The committee of Bob Zombron, Steve Stastny and Cathy Dorsett does not have a slate at this time.

The next membership meeting will be November 10, 2021, at the church.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Why I Volunteer

Deborah Fisk

I have been a member of Chapter 2265 for about 2 ½ years. My husband, Edward, has been a member of NARFE both in Maryland and in Virginia for many years, even before he retired from active service. I have served as Secretary of our Chapter and Net Coordinator and remain Net Coordinator today. Some people will say "Well, she's committed," which is true, but it is more than a commitment. I serve because I believe in what NARFE stands for.

When my husband signed me up, I had no earthly idea what lay ahead. I have found that a journey was about to open that would, sometimes, take me far beyond my comfort level.

I knew little about NARFE, but I knew my husband believes in it. I also knew that it was all about our government benefits. Well, now I realize that while I did know a few things, I did not know as much as I thought I did. It is a fact that you do not know as much when you are on the outside looking in as you do when you get involved. You get exactly out of an organization, what you put into it. Nowhere is that truer than NARFE and the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) in particular.

Only when you are on the inside, do you realize how much work volunteers do to keep our association running. When you have never planned a conference or been an officer, you have no idea how much work and time is required. Most annual conferences enter serious planning stages way before you actually take office and then the planning continues and escalates into its final format.

I have had the pleasure of serving the VFN as the Chair of the ECC (Electronic Communications Committee), the State Legislation Chair and most recently, the CDL for 4th District Congressman Donald McEachin. Our accomplishments have been substantial. We launched "the new face of the VFN" our website

www.vanarfe.org, we have developed the 2022 Virginia State Legislative Plan and through the leadership of National focused on making everyone aware of National Legislation that will further benefit each of us as active or retired federal employees.

As the dust has settled and our Annual 2021 Conference is in the books, I feel like so many of my goals were achieved, only because of the team that was assembled who work diligently together and behind the scenes. If you have time and interest in any of the areas I participate in, please reach out. To serve your Chapter as an Officer or the VFN in a legislative or technology effort can be extremely rewarding and certainly does not go unnoticed.

As board members of the VFN or our Chapter we steer the course that will benefit our members, keep pace with advancements, and try to second-guess the future.

Why do we do it? There are many answers to that question. Possibly there are as many answers to that question as there are people who have held these offices now and over the years. The main one for me is pride. Pride in our association, pride in my work and pride in my colleagues. When you feel good about

what you are doing, you want to do what you can to make it even better, not only for yourself but for others. In order to successfully “make it” you have to want to make things better.

Speaking only for myself, I feel that having been “on the inside” of the Virginia Federation of NARFE has made me a better person, a more informed citizen. I believe that during my tenure, the Board of Directors has acted wisely and made significant improvements for the benefit of all members of the VFN. We have tried to stay in touch with all members to make sure that the Association continues to serve the needs of everyone. And while I am happy with what was accomplished, I know there is more to do as we work with our newly elected VFN President, Bob Martin.

So, I am grateful for having had the opportunity to become active with the VFN and our Chapter 2265. It has helped me to grow personally and professionally, and the benefits far outweigh the time and effort required. I recommend service to our Association for anyone who is interested in further promoting the goals of our Association.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
December, 2021			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 Holiday Luncheon, 11am American Legion Post #186	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

Virginia Federation of NARFE Conference



Front Row: Helen Willis, Ann Simpkins, Cindy Graunde, Brenda Cordle
Back Row: Keith Willis, Virginia Bozarth, Lynn Osborne, Debbie Fisk, Edward Heflin



Opening Session, Presentation of Colors, Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard
(In front of head table)



Connie Bails, Cindy Graunke, Ray Orland dancing.



Incoming VFN President, Robert Martin



Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard



VFN NARFE-PAC Table

RE-GIFT FOR ALZHEIMER'S

Do you have items you received and can't use or have too many?

1. Look for items that are new or gently used.
2. Put suggested purchase price on a piece of paper or 3x5 card to place near the item.
3. Bring item to the November meeting for someone to purchase for holiday shopping.

SALE ON NOVEMBER 10, 2021

AFTER THE BUSINESS MEETING

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ALZHEIMER'S

50/50 Raffle Tickets will also be available for purchase.

Want to send a donation in memory of a loved one? Yep. We can do that. Make checks payable to NARFE/Alzheimer's Research and put "Chapter 2265" in the memo space. Mail to NARFE Chapter 2265, P.O. Box 565, Midlothian, VA 23113

Chapter 2265

Holiday Party

Reservations by December 1, 2021

\$20.00 by Check or Cash

Checks payable to NARFE Chapter 2265

Bring to the November meeting or mail to:

Lynn Osborne, 8201 Indian Springs Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23237

804-275-2102

MENU: Turkey, Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Dressing,
Green Beans, Beverages & Dessert

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

WHEN

DECEMBER 8, 2021
11am

WHERE

American Legion Post #186
901 Otterdale Road
Midlothian, VA 23113

On the Road with Lynn

I think we need to change the caption to "Off the Road!" These past 18 months have been very trying and unpredictable for everyone.

Hopefully, 2022 will bring some trips at some point. With the cost of fuel going up, trip cost will be higher. By the January newsletter, I'll try to have at least one trip scheduled for spring.

As the holidays approach, I wish for each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year!

Stay safe and well!

Lynn - 804.275.2102 or jcolmo68@comcast.net



Chapter 2265 Committees

Alzheimer's:

Faye McKay
804-378-0826

Audit:

Shirley Alexander
804-275-8405

Chaplain:

In memory of
Charlie Wilson

Greeter:

Pat Warhurst
804-658-1208

Hospitality:

Cathy Dorsett: 804-674-4039
Ann Simpkins: 804-379-3631

Membership:

Pat Warhurst
804-658-1208

National Legislation:

Don Utton
804-896-1804

Net Coordinator:

Deborah Fisk
804-748-8722

Newsletter:

Lynn Osborne
804-275-2102

Parliamentarian:

Lynn Osborne
804-275-2102

Programs:

Verona McLeod
804-744-4589

Public Relations:

Norma Smith
804-379-6712

Service Officer:

Virginia Bozarth
804-275-0820

Special Activities:

Lynn Osborne
804-275-2102

State Legislation:

Steve Stastny
804-271-8690

Sunshine:

Pat Warhurst
804-658-1208

Telephone Tree:

Vacant



FEDERAL BENEFITS EXPERTS

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NARFE Chapter 2265
P.O. Box 565
Midlothian, VA 23113

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Dated Material

Calendar grid for November 2021 with columns for days of the week and rows for dates. Includes events like Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.