

NARFE Chapter 1116 Newsletter

Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116
1708 Palm Springs Drive
Vienna, VA 22182-2330



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

Next Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Vienna Community Center
120 Cherry Street, SE
Vienna, VA 22180

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, January 27, 2022
1:30 PM
Vienna Community Center

2022 Board Chapter Officers

President
Kathy Arpa 703-205-9041
mkarpa@hotmail.com

1st Vice President & Programs
Ralph Dantine 703-938-9757

2nd Vice President & Membership
Jayne Seidman 703-938-2274

Secretary
Chris Gieseler 703-849-0008

Treasurer
David Graf 703-938-2962

Board Members
Alzheimer's and Photographer
Mark Arpa 703-205-9041

Hostess Shirley Martin
703-938-6580

National & State Legislation
Chris Gieseler 703-849-0008

Newsletter Team
Kathy Arpa, Chris Gieseler,
Dave Graf, Mary Margaret McGowan

Public Relations
Pec Chan 703-930-3596

Service Officer Mary Margaret McGowan
703-281-5123

Social
Marian Reeves 703-698-0436

Sunshine
Harriet Epstein 703-560-4137

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KATHY ARPA

It is finally **2022**. Many of us were glad to see 2021 end so we can move into a new year with hopes for a brighter, healthier, and a better year. I hope you had an opportunity to spend some time with family and friends during the holidays.

Chapter 1116 had a lovely holiday party in December, installed our officers for 2022, presented awards, and enjoyed the company of our members and guests. See details in the December report on chapter meeting on pages 2-4.



We started off the first week of January with our first snow of 2022. It was beautiful. Fortunately, most of us didn't have to travel to work or be stranded on I-95 and could enjoy the winter wonderland.

Many NARFE chapters have decided to cancel chapter meetings this month because of the rise in omicron cases. Although most of our members have been vaccinated and had a booster shot, due to safety concerns, and the potential for lingering bad weather, we have decided to cancel our January 11th meeting with our guest speaker, John Palguta. The program will be postponed to April 12. I will let you know if there are any further developments for next month. In the meantime, stay safe!

Kathy

NOTE: If Fairfax County schools are closed because of weather, Chapter 1116's meeting will be cancelled.



Happy New Year
2022

COMING UP

January 11, 2022 – Chapter Meeting – Vienna Community Center – 1:30 p.m. – CANCELLED

February 8 – Chapter Meeting – Vienna Community Center – 1:30 p.m. – Guest speaker - Maddy White, Fairfax Outreach Representative, Office of Congressman Gerald E. Connolly

March 8 – Chapter Meeting – Vienna Community Center – 1:30 p.m. - Guest speaker - Angela Barker on “Need to be Neat” – (rescheduled)

April 12 - Chapter Meeting – Vienna Community Center – 1:30 p.m. – Guest speaker - John Palguta, former HR Manager at Office of Personnel Management (OPM) - rescheduled

May 11 – Chapter Meeting – Vienna Community Center – 1:30 p.m. – Ice Cream Social

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JAYNE SEIDMAN

I would like to welcome our two newest chapter members: Christine Schaefer of Fairfax and Denise Sheehan of Vienna. We hope to see them at a chapter meeting soon.

As of January 4, 2022, we have 182 total chapter members, including our two new members, 157 total National members in the chapter area, for a grand total of 339 NARFE members in our area. Three members were dropped for non-renewal, and we have one prospective member.

REPORT ON DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING/HOLIDAY PARTY – CHRIS GIESELER

Although Chapter 1116 did not have a business meeting in December 2021, we did have a festive Holiday Party but did some official business during the party. The party was held at the Pan Am Family Restaurant, Fairfax, VA, with guests arriving around 11:30 a.m. There were approximately 20 guests, including Ted Pasek, NARFE Area X President.

Regarding the installation of officers, Kathy introduced Mr. Pasek, (pictured here) who then swore-in the officers. The Chapter's Officers for 2022 are as follows:



President:	Kathy Arpa
First Vice-President & Programs	Ralph Dantine
Second Vice-President & Membership	Jayne Seidman
Secretary	Christian Gieseler
Treasurer	David Graf



Installation of 2022 officers by Ted Pasek – Left to right – Kathy, Ralph, Jayne, Chris, and Dave

The two individuals receiving the President's Certificates were Kay Dellinger and Shirley Martin. Each was recognized for the services that she had provided to the Chapter and/or to NARFE over the years. An appreciative round of applause followed.

Left to right –
Shirley, Kathy, and Kay

Following the official business, we had a gift exchange (bring a gift, take a gift), a 50-50 drawing for Alzheimer's, and drawings for door prizes. The door prizes consisted of lovely fresh poinsettia plants generously donated by VP Ralph Dantine. Throughout the party, the attendees did a lot of socializing. The party concluded at 2 p.m. A good time was had by all!



Other Scenes from Chapter 1116 Holiday Party



Stella and Chris Gieseler



Jayne Seidman with Arnie & Nancy Sanow



Margaret Murphy at the 50/50 table



Dave Graf, our only Santa



<<Members and guests in holiday attire

Following the party, the Chapter's Secretary for 2021, Kay Dellinger, presented her successor, Chris Gieseler, with a binder containing the minutes for the Chapter and Board meetings for the period December 2019 through November 2021.

TREASURER'S REPORT – DAVID GRAF

Since the last newsletter, the Chapter received \$186.22 for membership dues collected by National for the month of November. The only expense was \$125.00 for our annual donation to the Town of Vienna, Parks & Recreation for use of the Community Center meeting rooms.

The 50/50 drawing for Alzheimer's Research raised \$40.00 at the December 14th Holiday Party. In addition, \$20.00 was donated by one of the winners of the 50/50 drawing. I also received checks from two members that totaled \$150.00. These donations have been sent to the VFN Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Research Fund. The total contribution for 2021 was \$878.00.

Also, at the Holiday Party, donations were collected for Toys for Tots. Five members donated checks that totaled \$135.00 and other attendees made cash donations that totaled \$105.00. The total donation of \$240.00 was mailed to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation in Triangle, VA. Thanks to everyone for their generosity to these charitable organizations.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT – MARY MARGARET MCGOWAN



**Are Your Loved Ones Protected?
You Might Be Surprised to
Learn the Answer is “No.”**

FREE! –

Guide to Survivor Benefits for Federal Employees

Get the advice you need in this easy-to-follow *Guide to Survivor Benefits* for Federal Employees to ensure that your family is protected when you are gone. Go to www.narfe.org and log in to request a copy to download. You will need your eight-digit membership number which is on your monthly NARFE magazine. Look under Federal Benefits Institute. Then Resources and Information. Then White Papers and click on Survivor Benefits Guide.

“Be Prepared for Life’s Events” - What Your Survivors Should Know - F-100 (09/21)

I will be bringing a few “Be Prepared for Life” booklets to the meeting on January 11. The purpose of this guide is to help you organize your personal and financial information in one location so your survivors will have the information they will need to handle your affairs upon your death. While one’s death is a difficult topic to discuss, reviewing this information with your family will help them understand the steps they will need to take. Any questions that come up can also be addressed ahead of time. You should ensure that your family members review this guide with you and know where it is located. Additionally, you should review this guide periodically to ensure that the information is up-to-date.

State Legislation

Regarding the results of Virginia's November 2021 elections, the two recounts that occurred for contested House of Delegates seats affirmed the unofficial results of the elections that had indicated that Republicans would have a 52-48 majority in the Virginia House for the 2022 General Assembly. However, due to a recent resignation by a Democratic Delegate that became effective December 31, 2021, a special election will be held on January 11, 2022, in his district, according to the current district boundaries. Thus, there will be a vacancy in the House of Delegates until the results of that special election are determined. The Virginia Senate was not up for re-election, and the Democrats hold a 21-19 majority in that body. The General Assembly's regular session begins on Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

A troubling development affecting the General Assembly was a ransomware attack on certain of its systems. Included in those hacked systems is the one which legislators use to draft their respective bills. The attack is still under investigation, and users of the Legislative Information System still get warning messages regarding technical difficulties in using that system. Governor-elect Younkin indicated he may investigate the matter deeper and may invest more to protect against the risk posed by this type of attack.

Here is the link to the Virginia Federation's 2022 Legislative Plan

<https://vanarfe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2022-VA-Legislation-Plan.pdf> Open link. Please review the Plan and contact your local Delegate or State Senator to let them know of your support for the Plan and urge them to support the Plan. Please contact me if you would like further information on which member(s) of the General Assembly to contact. Governor Northam's budget for the Commonwealth's fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, has been proposed. The proposal is subject to amendment by the General Assembly. Time will tell whether any of the proposals therein will affect the topics contained in the 2022 Legislative Plan.

National Legislation

Congress has passed an increase in the national debt of \$2.5 trillion; see Senate Joint Resolution 33, which was approved on December 16, 2021, by the President. Also, the National Defense Authorization Act, 2022 has been enacted. NARFE noted the Act's provisions regarding (1) two weeks of paid bereavement leave for federal employees due to the death of a child and (2) a 2.7% pay increase for military service members. Meanwhile, the Build Back Better Act is still under consideration by the Senate. Moreover, appropriation acts for many federal agencies and programs still need to be passed; the current "continuing resolution" expires COB February 18, 2022. (Note: this is the correct date; my report in the December 2021 Chapter Newsletter contained the wrong date.)

The Bill Tracker Information in the January/February 2022 NARFE Magazine is accurate as of December 29, 2021, although the number of cosponsors has increased for many of the bills listed. Of note, HR 3076, the Postal Service Reform Act, had an increase of 10 cosponsors from the Bill Tracker information. NARFE opposes this bill because of its potentially adverse effect on FEHB premiums.

NARFE's continuing focus is on bills that would eliminate or modify current laws regarding the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), which reduce the number of federal pensions for certain federal retirees. More information about these bills and the other bills on the Bill Tracker can be found in the December 2021 "NARFE Voices Grassroot Newsletter" at advocacy@narfe.org. Again, please contact your U.S. congressman or senator to voice your support for NARFE's positions.

A bill that is not on the Bill Tracker that would, among other things, repeal WEP and GPO is HR 5723, Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust. Hearings were held on this bill on December 7, 2021.

Lastly, on December 10, 2021, the House passed the Protecting Our Democracy Act, which contains a variety of provisions of interest to federal employees, including protections for whistleblowers and Hatch Act reforms. The bill also would require presidential candidates to release their income tax returns and contains protections for federal inspector generals.

Administratively, the President signed an executive order on December 22, 2021, approving federal employee pay scales, including locality pay, throughout the country. See [opm.gov](https://www.opm.gov) for the related pay schedules. The Washington-DC-Arlington locality zone will receive a 3.02% increase for 2022.

In January 2022, the increases in Social Security benefits and the cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for Civil Service and FERS pensions will be 5.9%, while the FERS COLA will be 4.9%. NARFE supports legislation, HR 304, sponsored by Rep. Gerry Connolly, that would eliminate the unfair disparity between the CSRS and FERS COLAs.

Regarding federal regulations over Covid vaccinations, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments on January 7, 2022, regarding regulations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that require certain employers to mandate that their employees be vaccinated or tested for Covid. In general, the arguments center around whether those federal agencies had the statutory authority to issue such regulations.

SUNSHINE REPORT – HARRIET EPSTEIN

I hope everyone had a happy holiday and is looking forward to 2022. I celebrated my birthday on January 5, and we have two more special birthdays to celebrate this month. Our new secretary and Legislation Chair, Chris Gieseler, will celebrate on January 15, and Marion Reeves, our Social Chair, will be 97 years young on January 23!! Mark Arpa will celebrate on February 10. Best wishes to everyone.

Get well wishes to Marion Reeves, who has been under the weather.

If you know of anyone who needs a little comfort or support or has a special birthday coming up, please let me know and I will send a card.

Stay safe!

