



NARFE Chapter 1116 Newsletter

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



JUNE 2022

Next Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, June 14, 2022
12 noon

10500 Hunting Hills Place, Oakton, VA

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, September 1, 2022
Location: TBD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KATHY ARPA

The calendar may say June, but lately it feels more like July or August.

We had a visit from Linda Colbert, Mayor of Vienna, at our May Chapter Meeting. She brought us up to date on the latest developments in Vienna. See his report on page 3. Everyone was excited to hear that a new restaurant will be moving into the location where Amphora used to be. During the break, members and guests enjoyed the ice cream social. Special thanks to Margaret Murphy, who purchased three flavors of ice cream, and Jayne Seidman, who brought our favorite toppings. Also, thank you to Daad, Bill and James for serving the big scoops of ice cream! Kudos to Dave Graf, who did a great job taking the minutes of the meeting.



See info on page 2 to sign up for the Chapter picnic at Jayne Seidman's home on June 14.

We will take a break in July and August, so our next Chapter Meeting will be in September with special guest Debbie Fisk, who is the Chair of NARFE's Virginia Legislation Committee and also chair of the Electronic Communications Committee. She is wearing many hats for the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN), and we are fortunate to have her join us.

In the August NARFE magazine you will receive information on how to vote for the National Officers and a new Region X Vice President. Be sure to vote in this year's election; voting opens on July 15. While you will receive a paper ballot in the August issue of NARFE Magazine, voting online is a simple and secure alternative method. Look for an email from our election company with your customized link to vote, and learn about the candidates and the issues by checking out our election resource page at www.narfe.org/2022election.

Our next newsletter will be in September. Just a reminder that our meeting time is back to 1:00 p.m. in September.

Kathy

SUNSHINE REPORT – HARRIET EPSTEIN



Our members who were sick are now recovering, and I hope to see them at our Chapter picnic on June 14th. If you know of someone who needs a little sunshine, please let me know. You can call me at 703-560-4137.

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
Daad Pierce 571-274-9334
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

Sunshine
Harriet Epstein 703-560-4137

COMING UP



June 14 – Chapter Picnic - 12 noon – Hostess: Jayne Seidman. Members and guests welcome. RSVP by no later than June 12. (See below for details.) 10500 Hunting Hills Place, Oakton, VA. Phone: 703-938-2274

June 14 – Flag Day

June 19 – Father's Day

August 21-23 – NARFE FEDcon22 Conference at the Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale, AZ. For information, see pages 42 and 43 in the May NARFE Magazine or visit fedcon.narfe.org

September 13 – Chapter Meeting – 1:00 p.m. – Vienna Community Center – Debbie Fisk, State Legislation Chair

October 11 – Chapter Meeting – 1:00 p.m. – Vienna Community Center

November 8 – Chapter Meeting – 1:00 p.m. – Vienna Community Center

Let's Picnic - June 14 - 12 noon

Chapter 1116 members will get together for a picnic at the home of Jayne Seidman on June 14 at 12 noon. The Chapter will provide fried chicken and beverages (lemonade, iced tea, and water). Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share (such as a salad, vegetable, or dessert) or give a \$5.00 donation. Several members signed up at the May Chapter Meeting. If you did not attend the May meeting and would like to attend the picnic, there is still time to sign up. Please call **David Graf**, Picnic Coordinator, at **703-938-2962**, by no later than **Sunday, June 12.** **The picnic will be held outside, weather permitting, otherwise, it will be inside.**

Directions from Tysons Corner/Vienna: Take Maple Ave./Route 123 South. Turn **right** onto Hunter Mill Road (VA 624) -- go 0.6 miles. Turn **left** on Marbury Rd. -- go 0.3 miles. Take **1st left** on Hunting Hills Court -- go 0.1 miles. Take **1st left** on Hunting Hills Place -- go 0.09 miles. **10500 is on the left.** Parking is available in the driveway and on both sides of the street. GPS works great.

Jayne's telephone number for last-minute contact only is 703-938-2274. Look for balloons!



TREASURER'S REPORT – DAVID GRAF

Since the May newsletter, the Chapter received \$123.96 for membership dues collected by National for April. \$10.00 was donated by two members at the May Membership meeting in support of the June Chapter picnic.

The only expense was \$22.79 to reimburse Margaret Murphy for the purchase of ice cream and paper goods for the Ice Cream Social at the May Membership meeting.

The 50/50 drawings for Alzheimer's Research raised \$28.00 at the May Membership meeting. Additionally, \$10.00 was donated by various meeting attendees and \$13.50 was donated by one of the winners, for a total of \$51.50. I also received a \$100.00 donation from a chapter member. All donations have been sent to the VFN Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Research Fund. The total contribution this year is \$297.50. If you would like to donate to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research, please mail your check to: David Graf, Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116, 1708 Palm Springs Drive, Vienna, VA 22182-2330. Make the check out to NARFE Alzheimer's Research. On the memo line, write Chapter 1116.

REPORT ON MAY 10TH CHAPTER MEETING – DAVE GRAF

The May 10, 2022 Chapter Membership Meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by President Kathy Arpa at the Vienna Community Center. Following the Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance, 1st VP Ralph Dantine introduced the guest speaker, Linda Colbert, Mayor of the Town of Vienna. The Mayor explained that the Town is doing well and did a wonderful job coping with COVID-19. Businesses were open and were supported by the citizens. The Meals Tax receipts are now back to pre-pandemic levels. Several new businesses (coffee shops, salons, and restaurants) have recently opened.



Mayor Colbert (pictured here) then discussed various current and planned construction projects. Specifically, the Amphora Restaurant is being completely renovated, to include an outside dining area, and a former Sun Trust Bank has been renovated as a new restaurant, also with an outside dining area. The new three-floor Sunrise Assisted Living building is being built on Maple Avenue and will include ground floor retail. Behind the Jiffy Lube, a new “cottage” style housing development consisting of a few small 1 ½ story homes each with a garage will be arranged in a horseshoe layout. At the corner of Nutley and Maple, a four-story building with 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartment rental units will be built. The new Vienna Police Station is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

One of the Mayor’s initiatives has been the “Beautification of Vienna,” especially focused on being environmentally friendly. Projects include new “Welcome to Vienna” signs, habitat restoration, use of non-invasive plants and trees, irrigation systems for Maple Ave planter boxes, mowing and edging of medians. A five-year plan to add sidewalks on both sides of most residential streets is proceeding. The Mayor also unveiled the next town holiday ornament.



Members then enjoyed an Ice Cream Social which was organized by Margaret Murphy and Jayne Seidman. Members enjoyed three ice cream flavors and multiple toppings. Fresh-cut strawberries were especially popular.



The business meeting was subsequently called to order. A Secretary, Treasurer, Membership, Legislation, future Programs and Sunshine reports were given. Kathy then welcomed guests and new members. She also announced that there would be a virtual training program on “Use of the Smart Phone Camera” on May 25th from 2-4 p.m.

Kathy and Treasurer Dave Graf discussed plans for the Annual Chapter Picnic which will be held at the home of 2nd VP Jayne Seidman on Tuesday, June 14th beginning at 12 noon. (See info on page 2.) Kathy announced that a meeting of NARFE Area X Northern Virginia chapters would occur on May 18th at the Fairfax City American Legion Post. Kathy also reminded everyone that there will not be chapter meetings in July and August.

Following the 50/50 raffle for Alzheimer’s Research, the meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.

The next meeting of the membership will be a picnic on June 14th.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JAYNE SEIDMAN

Welcome to Susan Larson, our newest chapter member. We currently have 179 chapter members, 149 National members in the area, for a total of 328 NARFE members in the area. In Virginia, there are currently 11,436 NARFE members.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT – MARY MARGARET MCGOWAN

You should have received an email from U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) notifying you that, as of May 26, 2022, annuitants will need to access their Services Online account using login.gov. Login.gov is a secure service used to sign in to participating government agencies. You may already have a login.gov account if you access your Social Security Administration documents online.

If you do not already have a login.gov account, you will need to create one. Go to login.gov and click on "[Create an account](#)." If you already have a login.gov account, you will need to link it to your existing Services Online account. OPM sent [step-by-step instructions](#) to complete this step. Once you link your existing Services Online account to login.gov, you will use your login.gov username and password to access Services Online. Your CSA number will no longer be used.

OPM is making these changes to provide heightened security protections for your Services Online account. Login.gov contains an added layer of authentication, known as multi-factor authentication or two-step authentication, and stronger passwords to protect your personal information.

LEGISLATION REPORTS – DAAD PIERCE & CHRIS GIESELER

National Legislation – Daad Pierce

NARFE-related

- On May 26th, the Senate confirmed employment lawyer Cathy Harris as the chair of the MSPB (Merit Systems Protection Board), giving Democrats a 2-1 majority on the key board hearing appeals of disciplinary actions against federal employees.
- On May 16th, with NARFE's support, Sen. Alex Padilla, (D-CA), introduced S. 4221, the Equal COLA Act, which is companion legislation to H.R. 304. S. 4221 would ensure that cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) to Federal Employees Retiree System (FERS) annuities match the measured change in consumer prices.
- On May 12th, the House passed H.R. 903, a bill to end the special personnel policies applying to TSA screeners.
- On May 11th, the House passed H.R. 2499, the Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2022, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employees' duty.
- According to the Congressional Research Service, the cap on General Schedule pay is now impacting pay raises in 30 different locality pay areas across the country.
- Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), Sens. Steve Daines (R-Mt.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) are asking their colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee to add at least \$300 million to the Technology Modernization Fund, a revolving fund designed to support IT modernization and cybersecurity projects.

Advocacy Positions for the 118th Congress

To develop its advocacy positions for the 118th Congress, which convenes on January 3, 2023, NARFE has established a committee of representatives from NARFE's ten Regions. Mr. Gaston Gianni represents "our" region, Region 10. NARFE members and organizations are invited to offer suggestions for NARFE-related issues that the committee can bring to NARFE's Executive Board for approval.

Members wishing to propose an issue for the committee's consideration should go to www.narfe.org/advocacy-positions. Proposals should be submitted by July 15, 2022, via this webform or via hard-copy. You may request a hard-copy form by calling NARFE's advocacy department at 1-800-456-8410, option 3, or by sending a message to advocacy@narfe.org. To be considered, an individual proposal should get the support of at least 10 other NARFE members via recommendations on the FedHub website, which will be important in collecting information.

Alternatively, Chapter 1116 members wishing to make proposals for National-legislation advocacy points should contact Gaston Gianni, National Legislation Chair, VFN, by **July 1, 2022**. His email address is gastongianni@aol.com.

State Legislation – Chris Gieseler

I. VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Virginia General Assembly resumed its 2022 Special Session on June 1, 2022, and has passed budget amendments for the current budget and the two-year budget that commences on July 1, 2022. Presumably, the General Assembly will also consider the other bills that were pending when the Special Session began and recessed April 4, 2022. According to media reports, under the approved budget amendments, the standard deduction would rise to \$8,000 for individuals/\$16,000 for joint filers. Also, the 1.5% grocery tax would be repealed, but there would be no gas tax reduction/suspension. Further, teachers would get raises and a bonus.

Separately, the fate of legislation for a state-financed stadium for the Washington Commanders NFL team has grown murkier in light of opposition by some state senators, including Chap Petersen.

II. STATE LEGISLATION TEAM/VFN STATE LEGISLATION CHAIR

2023 Legislation Plan. The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) has begun its efforts to develop a legislative plan for next year's Virginia General Assembly. To do so, the 12-member State Legislation Team met with VFN State Legislation Chair, Debbie Fisk. She provided the team an initial set of points for possible inclusion into the plan. After some discussion and revisions, the following points were selected:

- Exempt a segment of CSRS pensions from Virginia income tax, to be equivalent with the current exclusion of Social Security benefits from Virginia income taxes;
- Require the State Board of Health to develop staffing and care standards in nursing homes (e.g., minimum staffing-to-patient direct care hours; quarterly staff training on first aid, medication, and so forth); and eliminate protocols for visits by clergy to nursing home residents during health emergencies;
- Create a nonrefundable Virginia income tax credit for family caregivers; the credit would equal 50% of eligible expenditures by the caregiver up to \$1,000. The credit would not be allowed if Federal Adjusted Gross Income is \$100,000 (\$200,000 for joint filers). Any unused credit can be carried forward for five years.
- Amend the state income tax code to allow a \$12,000 deduction for all individuals 65 years old and older, without "means testing", as required under current law; and
- Double the current Virginia standard deduction (currently \$4,500 [individual filers]/\$9,000 filers]).

Note that the nursing-home standards proposal in the 2022 General Assembly's Regular Session was carried over to the 2023 Regular Session. Also, the doubling of the standard deduction mentioned in the last bullet point is moot given that the budget amendment was adopted by the legislature.

Debbie asked that the Team consider comments by our respective chapters on the five points expressed above. Therefore, if any member of Chapter 1116 has comments on these points or proposes additional points to be considered, please contact me at 703-849-0008 or email me at cagieseleresq@gmail.com, as soon as possible. Any such comments will be considered by the Team as we work to finalize the draft plan for presentation to the VFN President Bob Martin. Second, in connection with Windfall Elimination Provisions (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), a May rally was held in Washington, D.C. to bring the matter before the public.

In addition, Debbie will be looking into the “A Sacred Trust” legislation that has been introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. This legislation would limit WEP and GPO. It is not clear why the legislation has not yet received much “traction” before the Congress.

Debbie Fisk will be our speaker at our September 13th Chapter Meeting.

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NEWS FROM NARFE HEADQUARTERS



As you’ve undoubtedly heard, Barb Sido’s contract as executive director of NARFE ended on May 15; we wish her well in her future endeavors. In the meantime, Johann De Castro has been selected to fill the interim position of NARFE’s acting executive director. De Castro will perform the job functions of the acting executive director as well as continuing to function as NARFE’s staff vice president of finance and administration. He will work closely with his fellow staff vice presidents, John Hatton (programs and policy) and Helen Mosher (marketing, communications and membership) to keep everything running smoothly at headquarters.

Ken Thomas, NARFE National President

