



Williamsburg Chapter 685

Summer E-newsletter (September 2022)

Chapter Officers

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Please visit the VFN website (www.vanarfe.org) to see our chapter web page and our newsletter with color pictures. Step-by-step instruction will be sent via the NARFE Email System.

President's Message *By Hazel Braxton, Chapter 685 President*

Chapter 685 has completed its programmatic plans and NARFE requirements for the 2021-2022 business year and is ready to begin another successful, program year. The Board is interested in continuously striving to meet the NARFE needs of our members. Please let the Board know of your needs or desires and we will do all we can to respond in a timely manner.

A Word from Your Treasurer *By Larry D. Leiby, Treasurer*

As of July 29, 2022, our bank balance was \$ 3,107.13. Of course, this amount will be reduced due to reimbursements for our Chapter Picnic that was held on August 9, 2022.

I'm sure there will more information about our annual picnic elsewhere in this newsletter. Even so, I would like to take this; opportunity to give a heartfelt, thank you to our Chapter President, Hazel Braxton, for making the event a wonderful time by all who attended.

September 13, 2022 Speaker *By Ginny Taylor, Program Chair*

Cynthia Stillman
Senior Consultant, Certified Senior Advisor
ChooseHome Riverside, Riverside Health System

Our guest speaker will speak on long-term care planning; specifically, care coordination and advocacy, access to quality care, and a little about financial coverage. She'll discuss options, such as continuing care retirement communities and continuing care at home. She previously worked in Northern Virginia for a similar program and presented from time-to-time to NARFE Chapters and enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the members there.

Alzheimer's Update *By Sandy Lee-Bilski, Alzheimer's Chair*

Nationwide, NARFE has supported the Alzheimer's Association for many years. For 6 years or more, NARFE Chapter 685 has participated in the Alzheimer's Association's worldwide fundraiser, Walk to End Alzheimer's. Last October, the Williamsburg Walk achieved 122% of its goal by raising \$188,088. There were 63 teams and 497 participants. The top team was Williamsburg Landing.

This year's walk, the [2022 Williamsburg Walk to End Alzheimer's](#) will take place soon and will be in person. Come out and take a morning walk with your fellow Chapter 685 members. It's an excellent way to start your day. The fresh air and camaraderie will be good for your health, too!

Here are the particulars:

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2022

Place: New Town Gazebo

5150 Main Street

Times: Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Opening Ceremony: 9:40 a.m.

Walk begins: 10:00 a.m.

Please come out to support this worthwhile cause. Maybe a friend or family member of yours has or had Alzheimer's. If so, you can walk in honor or memory of that person. Before the walk begins, go to the Memory Garden to select and carry a flower for your person or for yourself, as a supporter of the cause.

The different flower colors represent the following:

Purple = an individual who has lost someone to the disease.

Orange = a participant who supports the cause and the Association's vision of a world without Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Yellow = a person who is currently supporting or caring for someone living with Alzheimer's.

Blue = someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

You can register as a team walker online right now or in person on walk day. To register online, search [2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Williamsburg, VA](#). Along the top of the page, you'll see a TEAM link. Click on it and type in [NARFE 685](#). There's a DONATE link to make online donations on our team's page, too. (The money you donate to the walk is separate from the monthly amounts you give at our luncheons.) It's that easy or you can register and donate in person at one of the registration tables when you arrive at the Gazebo.

I'm looking forward to seeing and walking alongside you on Walk day.

Membership News *By Dave Riggs, Membership Chair*

New Members

We are pleased to welcome three new chapter members. Virginia Town and Sharon Tucker are both active federal employees; Virginia is already a NARFE member and Sharon is new to NARFE. Also new to both NARFE and the chapter is Betty Sluss, who is a retired federal employee. Welcome to Williamsburg Chapter 685! Please be sure to greet these new members personally at our meetings.

Names of new members are obtained from membership statistics and the chapter roster, which are on the NARFE website. Our apologies if we have additional new members and we have not recognized you. Please let us know.

This reminder to members who joined recently: We have been experiencing difficulty for more than a year with the chapter membership list provided by national headquarters, which also serves as our mailing list. Not everyone is being placed on both the membership list and the mailing list. If you do not receive monthly announcements about Tuesday meetings (September through May), the two summer events, or the newsletter please let us know.

The Numerous Advantages of Dues Withholding Membership

In the previous edition of this newsletter, we discussed the advantages of life membership in NARFE. Understandably, members often are deterred by the impact of paying the equivalent of years' worth of membership fees in advance. But there is another alternative to the cumbersome process of paying dues annually or every two or three years, and that's dues withholding membership.

Dues withholding membership is similar to life membership in many ways, except that you do not pay dues in advance. Instead, you give OPM permission to deduct your NARFE dues from your monthly annuity, which is the equivalent of paying 1/12 of your annual dues each month. You never receive a membership renewal form again! Also, you won't have to make a separate payment for your chapter dues; NARFE will deduct 1/12 of that amount each month, too.

Convenience is a major incentive. Never again do you have to worry about losing a renewal form or deleting an email notice to renew – your membership is paid. If you sign up and decide later that this is not for you, just notify NARFE national headquarters to change your payment method.

Plus, there are financial advantages: You receive a discount on your national membership dues. Instead of paying \$48 per year, you pay \$42. That's almost like paying your dues at the membership rate we had before the dues increase that took effect in 2021. By combining your reduced national membership fee with your chapter membership fee and paying 1/12 of them monthly, you will have only \$4.08 deducted from your annuity each month.

This is almost like being a life member. The main difference is that a life member, with full membership paid in advance, does not have to pay an increase in membership fees when the cost changes. However, when you consider that dues withholding members pay a reduced membership fee, they never are paying as much as annual members and therefore negate part of the increased membership fee.

Because deductions are made from an annuity, only retired federal employees are eligible for dues withholding (OPM will not deduct NARFE dues from active employees' salaries). Spouses who are NARFE members also can participate in dues withholding, as can annuitant survivors.

To request dues withholding you must send an application form to NARFE national headquarters via US Mail. In order for NARFE to match your records with OPM, you need to provide standard information such as name and address, plus your Social Security number, Civil Service annuity number, and NARFE membership number. The form occasionally is printed in *NARFE Magazine*, and it always is available at the NARFE website:

Sign in at www.narfe.org

Select "NARFE Home Page"

Select "Member Quick Links" (in small black-and-white print at the top or in a drop-down menu)

Select "Dues Withholding"

Or the following link should take you directly to the form:

<https://www.narfe.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/f-86.pdf>

We currently have 32 members who use dues withholding. That's 22% of our chapter. Consider joining us, save money, and enjoy the convenience of never having to renew your membership again.

[Keep Your Records Up-To-Date With NARFE](#)  

Remember: If you move, change your email address, or change your telephone number, notify NARFE. This enables you to receive *NARFE Magazine* and email communications from both national headquarters and Chapter 685. The three ways to notify NARFE are:

- 1) Online, at the NARFE website www.narfe.org – log in and click "My Account"
- 2) Email NARFE at memberrecords@narfe.org
- 3) Telephone toll-free 1 800 456-8410

How To Obtain NARFE Name Badges

If you haven't done so already, get or update your chapter name badge. The new design includes the new NARFE logo, your name, chapter number and your chapter city and state. Go for it!



Name badges and other NARFE merchandise may be purchased online by searching for:

narfe.org/shopNARFE

Board Members Zoom in on Chapter Issues *By Tom Kell, Public Affairs Chair*

Members of Chapter 685's Executive Committee met via Zoom Thursday morning, August 25.

Attending were (top row, left to right) Program Chair Virginia (Ginny) Taylor, Public Affairs Chair Tom Kell, Newsletter Editor Jeff Fratter, and Alzheimer's Chair Sandy Lee-Bilski.

Middle row left to right: Membership Chair Dave Riggs, Service Officer Frances McElroy (square with YouCam5 visual), Secretary Penny Kell, and President Hazel Braxton.

Bottom row left to right: Treasurer Larry Leiby, Parliamentarian Mary Swain, First Vice President Mary Grace Dorsey, and Congressional District Liaison Marilyn Riddle.



NARFE Chapter 685 Summer Events Sizzled with Pancakes and Chicken

Our chapter held two social events this summer. These two events have no speakers or business meetings. The chapter's regular luncheon series begins September 13. The first summer event was a breakfast at Sandy's Pancake & Waffle House on Richmond Road on June 14. The rain didn't dampen the success of the breakfast at all.



Members lining up for a great buffet, while others waiting patiently for their turn...





Although no official chapter business was discussed at the picnic, some debated current NARFE issues and shared thoughts about the upcoming election of national officers...



Perhaps some were working the membership for a position as an elected officer in the chapter or even at the federation or national level of NARFE? (Others replied..."who me?")



And yes, there were games to challenge and exercise the mind....



The second event was an indoor picnic lunch at Williamsburg’s Quarterpath Recreation Center on August 9.

It was a hot day. The rec center’s large room was comfortably cool. Those attending enjoyed socializing, fried and baked chicken as well traditional side dishes.

Setting up the foodstuff was easy with lots of helpers...



Time to eat and enjoy some “pic-a-nic” food – in a climate control environment!



And the food, paid for by the chapter, was awesome for this year's picnic event.



Great smiles were found everywhere, proof that the picnic was a great success.

