



Williamsburg Chapter 685

Fall E-newsletter (December 2022)

Chapter 685 Elected Officers for 2023



Hazel Braxton, President

rbraxton7@cox.net

Penny Kell, Secretary

pzkell@cox.net

Larry Leiby, Treasurer

larrydavidleiby@gmail.com

Mary Grace Dorsey, 1st Vice President

dorseyspencer008@gmail.com

Will McElfresh, 2nd Vice President

Wmcelfre@usit.net

See chapter website for appointed program chairs and officers

Visit the VFN website to see full newsletter with color pictures in three easy steps...

Step 1: Type this link <https://www.vanarfe.org/avp> into your browser and hit return.

Step 2: Scroll down to **Chapter by Area – Area 1** and click on **Chapter 685 Williamsburg.**

Step 3: Then scroll down and on the right side, click on **Newsletter Fall 2022.**

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

On November 13th the Nomination Committee presented and the member approved our Chapter 685 Slate of Officers for 2023. The Elected Officers are as follows: President, Hazel Braxton; First Vice President, Mary Dorsey, Second Vice President, Will McElfresh, Secretary, Penelope Kell, and Treasurer Larry Leiby. Officers will be installed by Virginia Federation of NARFE Chapters (VFN) President Bob Martin at our December 13th Program meeting.

Jeff Fratter enthusiastically pitched the idea of getting a member to consider being a chapter WEBMASTER. We had no takers at the meeting. Hopefully someone will consider the opportunity and volunteer. I am sure that we will be able to get tutors to assist.

Please join us at our Chapter Holiday Program on December 13, 2022 at 11:00 am.

Secretary's Corner *By Penny Kell, Chapter 685 Secretary*

The December chapter luncheon will be a purely social affair celebrating the holidays -- and featuring entertainment by the Colonial Heritage Ukulele Club!

Please join us celebrate the holidays with great food, fellowship and festive songs of the season. More information is coming soon by email from me.

Chapter 685 will host its first luncheon in 2023 on January 10th - the second Tuesday of the month. The guest speaker to be announced. What a great time to start a good (new year's) habit of attending all Chapter 685 events - or at least as many you can!

Join Us for Lunch and Other Chapter Events

Chapter 685 has monthly, lunch meetings at Colonial Heritage on the second Tuesday of each month, September through May. A social gathering begins at 11:00 a.m. Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. with a guest speaker program and general chapter business meeting. There are two informal meetings at different locations during the summer, usually one breakfast and one lunch.

For details, contact Penny Kell, Secretary, at pzkell@cox.net. For all other inquiries contact Hazel Braxton, President, at rbraxton7@cox.net.

And show up to the luncheon with your new Chapter Badge....

Buy your chapter 685 name badge today...



...and other NARFE merchandise **ONLINE** at www.narfe.org/shopNARFE

Treasurer's Report *By Larry Leiby, Chapter 685 Treasurer*

Year-to-date Alzheimer's donations by our chapter amounted to \$ 797.10 which equates to \$99.64 per each of our eight (8) monthly member luncheon meetings. Our monthly member luncheon meetings average attendance, less Guest Speaker(s), for 2022 was 30.

Given our total Chapter membership of 140, this equates to more than 20% participation coming out to enjoy camaraderie with their fellow federal annuitants, experiencing a hearty lunch (with dessert), and hearing stimulating speakers on a variety of topics.

As an aside, our chapter arranged for a breakfast in June and sponsored a picnic in August. Both events were great opportunities to get to know each member in very nice settings. Hope you can join us next year!

Membership News *By Dave Riggs, Chapter 685 Membership Chair*

New Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members: **Timothy Warner**, who is retired, and **Randall (Randy) Lynch**, who is an active federal employee. Both are new national members of NARFE, as well. 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 having trouble 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.

An Alert About Dues Withholding Membership

In the previous edition of our chapter newsletter, I described the advantages of Dues Withholding Membership: It saves you the hassle of making renewals by withdrawing \$4.08 monthly from your annuity, it costs less, and it also includes payment of your chapter dues. The November issue of *NARFE Magazine* has an application form for Dues Withholding Membership, which it prints only periodically and makes it so convenient. Refer to page 63 for a copy of the form.

Membership Recruiting Season With Rewards

Each autumn there is a special membership recruiting season with rewards for members who obtain new members for NARFE. Perhaps you have seen the articles about it in *NARFE Magazine* and started already. This special season began September 1 and ends December 31.

For each new member you sign up, you receive \$10. Furthermore, there's a drawing for recruiters each month for an Amazon gift card worth \$25, and there's a drawing for a grand prize in January, which is a Kindle Fire.

You can recruit new members in person, by telephone, by email, or numerous other ways. But there are three things to remember:

1. This applies only for people you sign up who become new NARFE members; it does not apply to persons who already are members of NARFE and join our chapter via transfer.
2. To receive credit for obtaining a new member, be sure that the person completes the portion of the application form that asks for the name (**your name**) *and* NARFE

membership number of the person who encouraged them to join. (Your number is printed on your magazine label if you are unable to find it elsewhere.)

3. Be sure that the applicant completes the section of the form where you can designate the chapter you wish to join, Chapter 685.

For complete details about the recruiting program, and to obtain forms, publications about NARFE, sample magazines, or anything else you might need, you have two sources:

Sign In at www.narfe.org

Select: For Members

Select: Member Quick Links

Select: Membership Materials

Select: NARFE Membership Recruitment Resources

Or, you will find most of this information in two recent issues of *NARFE Magazine*:

September, p. 56, “2022 NARFE Fall Membership Drive – Tools You Need To Get A Yes”

October, p. 66, “NARFE 2022 Fall Membership Drive Is Underway”

You will find a printed membership application form in every issue of *NARFE Magazine*. In the November issue it’s on page 73. Be sure to provide new members with this form, which states that dues are \$48. New members may only join at this rate, using this form or an online application form; dues withholding and life membership rates are for current members only, not new members.

If you have questions after reviewing this information, contact the NARFE membership telephone number 1 800 456-8410 or email memberrecords@narfe.org.

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

Alzheimer's Update *By Sandy Lee-Bilski, Chapter 685 Alzheimer's Chair*

This bears repeating for those of our members who don't attend meetings on a regular basis. Did you know that nationwide NARFE has been donating to Alzheimer's since 1983? We are going

into our 30th year supporting Alzheimer's research. This year we reached our goal of \$15 million after just having reached our goal of \$14 million in September 2021. What an achievement for NARFE members nationwide.

Since 2016 NARFE began participating as a national team in the Alzheimer's Association's worldwide fundraiser, Walk to End Alzheimer's. On October 22nd, NARFE Chapter 685 participated in the 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Williamsburg, VA. The weather was perfect for walking the 3-mile route instead of the shorter 1-mile route. Thanks to Larry Leiby and Walt Bilski for carrying our NARFE banner so the other teams and attendees could see what NARFE is all about. Thanks also to those who participated in the walk, Chapter President, **Hazel Braxton**; Larry Leiby, Treasurer; **Frances McElroy**, Service Officer; **Sandy Lee-Bilski**, Alzheimer's Chairperson; **Cheryl Leiby**, chapter member; **Walt Bilski**, chapter member; **Connie Matthews-Harshaw**, chapter member; and last but not least, **Janet Braxton**, team member.

To date, our team has raised \$1,110. Donations can still be made through December 31st. Checks can be made out to Alzheimer's Association with a notation on the Memo line NARFE 685, so that our chapter's team receives credit for your donation. Checks should be mailed to the Alzheimer's Association at 358 McLaws Circle - Suite 1, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

If you prefer, you can donate online by going to 2022 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Williamsburg, VA. There, you will find a link at the top of the page DONATE. Hit on it and fill in the form to make your donation. Thank you to all who donate to the Walk, which is separate from the monthly collections made at our meetings.

Did You Know?

NARFE FEDHub has been in place for just under a year. It has made a difference in how chapters are able to communicate with each other. Please sign on – with your ID and Password and follow your “community” of choice. Virginia Federation is on FEDHub as a statewide community of all VA chapters.

Upcoming Chapter Events

December 13, 2022 **Chapter Holiday Luncheon** (Note: we gather at 11:00 a.m. as usual)

No December Executive Committee Meeting

January 10, 2023 **Chapter Luncheon**

Recent Chapter Events



Cynthia Stillman of the Riverside Health System spoke at the Sept. 13 luncheon. She discussed long-term-care coordination and advocacy, access to quality care, financial coverage and various options including continuing-care retirement communities and continuing care at home.

Cutting the Clutter, Topic at NARFE's October Lunch



Tuesday, October 11, Gretchen Moen (left) and Lynda Reider, Clutter Cutters with Cut the Clutter RVA, explained how they help clients organize their homes into functional spaces that fit their lives.

Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season Discussed



Program Chair Ginny Taylor (left) introduces our November lunch guest speakers. Michele Griffin (middle) of Blue Cross Blue Shield and Patricia Wright (right) of Aetna presented timely FEHB open season information at our November 8th luncheon.



See newsletter article listing our Chapter 685 walkers this year. Many thanks to Sandy Bilski (holding orange flower) for doing yeoman's work raising funds throughout the year!

September Chapter Luncheon



Betty Mae telling Frank “heads-up...here’s Sandy again asking ALZ donations!” Too late.



Always lots of energetic conversations at our monthly luncheons; a good reason to attend.

October Chapter Luncheon





If you attended the October lunch, did you take the good advice to “cut the clutter?”



November Chapter Lunch

The staples of our monthly chapter event, our regular attendees...



reciting the Pledge of Allegiance...



engaged in meaningful conversations with fellow chapter members, and...



always great smiles in the crowd.

Photo Credit: Tom Kell, Public Relations Chair and Chapter Photographer