

2021 Chapter 2265 Officers

President: Cindy Graunke

Vice President: Don Utton

Secretary: Lynn Osborne (*temporary appointment*)

Treasurer: Ed Heflin

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Cindy Graunke

Have you had your vaccine? As of April 12, 2021 there have been 4,768,777 doses of the vaccine administered. That represents 36.6% of the population in Virginia and an average of 75,000 doses per day.

Who gave these vaccines? The local health departments put 1.4 million shots in arms. Closely following are pharmacies which recorded 1.2 million doses; hospitals administered nearly a million; medical practices 700,000 and other providers provided 500,000 doses.

What type of vaccines?

- **Pfizer** – 2,200,000 doses
- **Moderna** – 2,037,500 doses
- **Johnson & Johnson** – 236,000 doses

(Information from the Virginia Dept of Health Website)

I hope most of you have received your vaccine. We must keep up the good work of masks and social distancing to get through this current wave of virus.

I believe we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. At this point we may be able to meet face-to-face in the fall.

The VFN Conference is scheduled for October 10-13 and the Conference Committee is working on details of the Conference to assure a successful event.



Happy Birthday NARFE

This year commemorates NARFE's centennial, celebrating 100 years of representing and serving the federal workforce. Over the past century, NARFE has scored countless victories in preventing various proposals by many administrations and Congress to cut earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees, such as unfair Medicare increases. Ask your lawmakers to Cosponsor NARFE's Centennial Resolution. Reps. Gerry Connolly, D-VA and Brian Fitzpartick, R-PA, introduced a resolution in the House, H. Res. 131, to recognize this extraordinary achievement. Senate passes via unanimous consent, S. Res. 76, congratulating NARFE on the celebration of its 100th Anniversary on February 19, 2021.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Don Utton

US Postal Service Legislation

H.R. 695/S. 145 USPS Fairness Act

These bills repeal the requirement in the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA) of 2006 for USPS to pre-fund USPS employee pensions more than fifty years in advance. This requirement has caused the USPS to accumulate billions in debt annually in recent years.^[3] If the USPS Fairness Act were passed, the USPS could still continue to pay

benefits from the accumulated funding (about \$56.8 billion in 2020) until depleted, but the intended purpose of the Act is to remove the pre-funding requirements placed on the agency by the PAEA.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USPS_Fairness_Act#Background

PAEA was the first major overhaul of the United States Postal Service (USPS) since 1970.^[5] It reorganized the Postal Rate Commission, compelled the USPS to pay in advance for the health and retirement benefits of all of its employees for at least 50 years,^[4] and stipulated that the price of postage could not increase faster than the rate of inflation.^{[6][7]} It also mandated the USPS to deliver six days of the week.^[8] According to Tom Davis, the Bush administration threatened to veto the legislation unless they added the provision regarding funding the employee benefits in advance with the objective of using that money to reduce the federal deficit.^[2]

Between 2007 and 2016, the USPS lost \$62.4 billion; the inspector general of the USPS estimated that \$54.8 billion of that was due to prefunding retiree benefits.^[10] By the end of 2019, the USPS had \$160.9 billion in debt, due to growth of the Internet, the Great Recession, and prepaying for employee benefits as stipulated in PAEA.^[11] Mail volume decreased from 97 billion to 68 billion items from 2006 to 2012. The employee benefits cost the USPS about \$5.5 billion per year;^[12] USPS began defaulting on this payment in 2012.^[10] The COVID-19 pandemic further reduced income due to decreased demand in 2020.^[11] The latest quarterly financials of the USPS do not suggest the COVID-19 pandemic further reduced income due to decreased demand in 2020.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_Accountability_and_Enhancement_Act

Lawmakers gave USPS a \$10 billion loan in the CARES Act, which Congress then turned into a one-time appropriation under its latest COVID-19 pandemic spending package.

Because of this, USPS has more cash on hand than it's ever had in recent years. It ended 2020 with more than \$14 billion in cash, but USPS executives warn it's still

a matter of when — not if — the agency will run out of cash.

Mike Plunkett, the president and CEO of the Association for Postal Commerce, said USPS should have enough cash to keep operating through at least 2023, but warned it would be unwise for Congress to continue to delay action on postal reform until the last minute.

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/agency-oversight/2021/02/congress-reintroduces-usps-reform-bill-to-eliminate-pre-funding-mandate/>

H.R. 2382 (An earlier version of the Fairness Act) passed the House in the 116th Congress, but died in the Senate.

H.R. 695 has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and S. 195 has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES

Bob Zombron

CDL VA 7th Congressional District

SPANBERGER PROGRESS

Representative Abigail Spanberger recently cosponsored two bills that could be beneficial to a number of federal retirees. Most of it has to do with previous Social Security reductions or offsets from CSRS annuitants who didn't contribute to Social Security up to 1983; however, may have paid Social Security while working in private employment prior or in tandem to working for the federal government.

On January 4, 2021, H.R 82 - Social Security Fairness Act of 2021 was introduced by Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL-13) and Rep. Abigail Spanberger was the first to cosponsor the bill. Three of ten remaining Virginia representatives also cosponsored. The bill as of April 12 has 127 cosponsors. This bill when enacted will fully repeal both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The Fairness Act bill eliminates the government pension offset, which reduces Social Security survivors' benefits for spouses, widows, and widowers. Elimination of the WEP will more fairly

distribute average monthly earnings times a higher percentage formula which may increase monthly benefits.

On April 1, H.R. 2327 Rep. Spanberger cosponsored a bill introduced by Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA-1) – ‘To amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide an equitable Social Security formula for individuals with non-covered employment and to provide relief for individuals currently affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision.’ Two other Virginia congressmen cosponsored the bill. This bill has 139 cosponsors. (Sponsorship – House rules grant a floor vote when a bill reaches 290 cosponsors.)

Both bills were sent to the House Committee on Ways and Means for review.

Also, the April edition of NARFE Magazine on page 6 discusses the Bill to Repeal WEP and GPO reintroduced in House. This article sums up a little history on WEP/GPO and its impact on retirees.

NARFE’s ADVOCY POSITIONS

It is worthwhile for all members to take a look at NARFE’s Advocacy positions for the 117TH Congress (2021-2022). They are well noted in great detail in the NARFE website NARFE.org/advocacy. Headlines such as Retirement, Federal Pay and Workforce Policies, Health Care and U.S. Postal Service Reform are broken down into many paragraphs of specific interests. The position papers further check the areas NARFE supports and which items require legislation. The Advocacy Positions stated are easy to read; the four pages should not take up too much of your time – however it will be worth your time. If you require further study, various NARFE position papers and Issue Briefs are available on the Advocacy portion of the website for an explanation in greater detail.

THE FAIR ACT

H.R. 392 – Federal Adjustment of Income Rates – The Fair Act proposes a 3.2 percent pay increase for federal employees in 2022. Please note that retirees are not included in this act. The bill consists of a 2.2 percent across the board increase and an average 1 percent locality pay adjustment. The Federal Salary Council’s most recent data indicates that federal employees make

23 percent less on average than their private-sector counterparts.

Visit NARFE’s Legislative Center at www.NARFE.org to ask your Representative to sponsor the Bill. Thus far by April 15, 2021, four of eleven Virginia Representatives show support for this bill. Please write Reps. Spanberger, McEachin and Scott for your support.

NARFE BILL TRACKER

On p.12 of the April edition of NARFE Magazine six House bills and two Senate versions are reviewed. The Tracker explains the latest actions in regard to each Bill. They include Postal Reform, GPO/WEP, Federal Annuities, DC Statehood, Federal Compensation and Federal Personnel Policy.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Write, call, or email your Representative and Senator - if you agree with the proposed legislation. You can also use the www.NARFE.org website to state your support. NARFE will automatically send your support letter to the members of congress.

National Legislation is a slow process of persuasion and reason. That’s why it is very important for each of us to participate as best we can. Supporting and communicating to a member of the House or Senate is paramount to our success.

VIRGINIA REAL ID UPDATE

Deborah Fisk

The new enforcement deadline means that, beginning October 1, 2021, Virginians who want to use their state-issued driver's license or **identification** card to board a domestic flight will have to present a **REAL ID**-compliant credential, displaying a small star in the upper-right corner, when passing through Transportation Security Administration screenings. Several other forms of ID, including a U.S. Passport, a Passport Card, and some military IDs, will also be accepted for federal identification.

REAL ID also impacts access to secure federal facilities and military bases. Because these facilities have the ability to set their own entry requirements,

DMV advises Virginians to verify the identification needed for access prior to their visit. In order to obtain a REAL ID, customers must visit DMV in person with certain documents which show proof of:

- Identity and Legal Presence (e.g., unexpired U.S. passport, U.S. birth certificate or unexpired permanent resident card).
- Social Security Number (e.g., Social Security card or W-2 form displaying full nine digits).
- Residency – two proofs required and must display name and current Virginia residential street address (e.g., recent utility bills, mortgage statements, valid Virginia driver’s license); and
- Any name changes (e.g., marriage certificates or divorce decrees). Note: If the name on your identity document is different than your legal name, you must show proof of your name change. Multiple documents may be necessary if your name has changed more than once.

There are a variety of acceptable documents; a complete list is available at dmvNOW.com/REALID.

Our Current Representatives

VA Congressional District 7

Abigail Spanberger (D)
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

I miss seeing all of you! Hopefully, we will be able to socialize and catch up on the last year in the near future. In the meantime, join the meetings virtually and listen to the reports of the officers and committee chairmen, as well as an informative program for your enjoyment. If you or anyone you may know has a need for help with federal benefits 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. I hope all of you are well and staying safe AND getting your vaccine.

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.

NET COORDINATOR

Deborah Fisk

It's a social media world, and we're all just livin' in it. Yes, that is where we are at the moment. Social media is not just for the under 50 crowd.

While social media use has grown dramatically across all age groups, older users have been especially enthusiastic over the past year about embracing new technology tools. Although email continues to be the primary way older users maintain contact with friends and family, many users are beginning to on social media to help maintain their daily communications. Social media is an undeniable force in modern society. It gives us new ways to stay connected.

But while it feels like social media has become commonplace in our daily lives, the reality is that



social media, is still in its infancy. We still have so much more left to learn.

There are several VFN Facebook accounts that offer information weekly that may be of interest to you. Feel free to access the NARFE Facebook accounts, like them and share them. A few to mention:

- <https://www.facebook.com/narfe2265> (This is the Chapter 2265 page)
- <https://www.facebook.com/Virginia-Federation-NARFE-110056937030729> (This is the VFN page)
- <https://www.facebook.com/NarfeRegionX> (This is the Region X page)

We also have a new VFN webpage under development. The old site is still up but you can access the site that is under construction at: <http://www.vanarfe.com>. If you find errors, suggestions, etc. please let Deborah Fisk know (narfe2265df@gmail.com). Our target date to get the new site fully functional is May 31.

PROGRAMS

Verona McLeod

Although the pandemic has prevented us from meeting in our normal “in person” fashion, the board has been making our meetings available via ZOOM or telephonic links. Unfortunately, the efforts to provide our membership options to participate and be privy to the informative information provided, participation has been minimal. We’ll continue to offer training to avail you of opportunities to link with our meetings. If there is something we can do to assist you in participating, please contact someone on the board or another member. Every effort is being made to help you through these difficult times.

Most of our programs for the remainder of the year are still being coordinated, however, our speaker for May will be Ms. Altise Street, the Virginia Community Engagement Manager, from the United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg. She will be speaking on the Virginia 211 system, “Get connected Get help.” She will also present information on local agencies and resources available in Chesterfield County. Take just a few minutes of your time on the 2nd Wednesday of

each month to join us at 10:00 A.M. for a brief meeting and/or at **11:00 A.M.** for the guest presentation.

Great News, you should be getting a call or an email within the next few weeks about our tentative June/August program. How about a picnic in the park? The board is considering a day in the park with a boxed lunch, just so everyone can get out of the house and enjoy being in the presence of others. This will be possible if you’ve completed your vaccines and are still complying with the CDC guidelines.

As we confirm new programs, we’ll let you know through our mass communication system, email, etc. Continue to be safe and consider joining us as we continue to promote the chapter and what NARFE means for each of us.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MAY

1 David Wagner; **11** James Smith; **13** Ruth B. Scott, Janice Wilson; **16** Mary Lou Gorman; **21** Cathy Dorsett; **28** Dianne Diana

JUNE

1 Kathleen Kelton; **2** Russel Van Allen; **3** Joan Louth, Bob Boyd; **5** Ann Dillion; **7** Mary Fenner; **11** Brenda Cordle; **19** Harold White; **20** Charlotte Emerson; **23** Barbara Dance

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Lynn Osborne, Acting Secretary

NARFE Midlothian Chapter 2265

Monthly Meeting Minutes, April 14, 2021

The Monthly meeting of the Midlothian Chapter 2265 was held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. President Cindy Graunke called the meeting to order at 10:02 am and welcomed everyone to the NARFE meeting. Ten members and one guest logged onto the meeting (Guest-Shirley Wilson).

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

Introduction of Guests: President Graunke introduced and welcomed the guest.

Birthdays/Illnesses: President Graunke announced the birthdays.

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

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Ed Heflin reported financial reports are in order.

Secretary: Minutes from the March meeting were approved as corrected.

Vice President: Don Utton – No Report

President: President Graunke reported that she sent a report on the Greeter ideas for the VFN October Conference to the Program Chair, Bob Martin. Continue conversations with our Area III VP, Wynn Hasty about sharing information between Chapters.

Committee Reports:

Alzheimer's: Faye McKay – No Report

Net Coordinator: Deborah Fisk shared that the VFN is encouraging all members to go to NARFE Legislation page (narfe.org/legislation) and use the TAKE ACTION Button to support legislative initiatives that benefit all Federal Active and Retired members.

NARFE-PAC: Bob Zombron – No Report

National Legislation: Don Utton – Update on the Postal Service proposed legislation, current legislation with the GPO/WEP and Equal pay, Cost of Living legislation has been reintroduced. As far as the August program with one of the Congressional or Senate offices, a zoom meeting with 10 participants may not be beneficial.

Programs: Verona McLeod – The May meeting will be a program by Virginia 211 and there are plans to schedule an in-person meeting in June. Careful consideration will be made for a safe and fun fellowship event. We have a speaker for July from the Chesterfield Library and they will speak about programs they offer that you can do remotely as well as content on You Tube.

Special Activities: Lynn Osborne – No Report

State Legislation: Steve Stastny – No Report

Hospitality: Cathy Dorsett – No Report

Unfinished Business: Nothing to Report

New Business:

- Alzheimer's Research fundraising is lower than normal for the 1st quarter. If there are any ideas for fundraising or if any member would like to send a check to the treasurer for Alzheimer's, please do so.
- Ideas for community projects that we could involve members in such as collecting can food goods for a shelter or school supplies for needy children. Community involvement is great exposure for the Chapter.
- Verona expressed a need to reach out to our membership base, specifically members who routinely came to in-person meetings and see how they are doing and let them know we are going to cautiously resume in-person meetings.
- Cindy will contact the Church to see if it is possible for us to bring in-person meetings in the future.

Program:

Steve Stastny introduced Delegate Roxann Robinson, State Delegate. Elected to the House of Representatives for the 27th District, southern suburbs of Chesterfield County, in 2010.

The next membership meeting will be May 12, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.

“I believe our flag is more than just cloth and ink. It is a universally recognized symbol that stands for liberty, and freedom. It is the history of our nation, and it's marked by the blood of those who died defending it.”

– John Thune

On the Road with Lynn

We are still in a hold pattern for trips. Until everyone is vaccinated, and people begin to mingle in groups, I will not be planning any trips. I realize some trips are going with some groups and travel organizations. The numbers are limited on the coach and they are adhering to the latest CDC guidelines.



Continue to wear a mask, wash your hands often, and stay socially distanced. Schedule your vaccine shots, if you haven't already received them. Help those who are having problems registering or in need of transportation to the location. I'm sure they will appreciate your help.

Stay safe and well!

Lynn - 804.275.2102 or jcolmo68@comcast.net



Alzheimer's Research NARFE Alzheimer's Fund

Through its partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, NARFE supports research into the cause, prevention, and treatment of Alzheimer's disease as well as a cure for Alzheimer's and related disorders. Public education and the need for research - our only tool for conquering the disease - also is an important focus.

Since 1985, NARFE members have played a major role in seeking a cure for Alzheimer's disease. In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, NARFE members have donated more than \$12 million to the NARFE Fund. 100% of NARFE donations to the Fund are allocated to research.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

May 2-8, 2021 is Public Service Recognition Week. Public Servants across the country will be recognized for their commitment to ensuring our government continues to fulfill the needs of Americans and the country moving forward in unprecedented times.

This year, the observance takes on additional meaning, with so many public employees continuing to serve the country, often while risking their health, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are grateful and thankful for your dedication and valuable contributions to the country.

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



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

Dated Material

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
May, 2021						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Public Service Recognition Week – May 2 nd through May 8 th						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day			Membership Meeting, 10am			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Tax Day					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	30	31			
	Memorial Day					