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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings and welcome to the VFN Fall Newsletter. The members of the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) are excited that things are getting back to normal in Virginia. Members are meeting again and enjoying the joy of seeing fellow members in person. The NARFE election is over and we will have new leadership in 2023. Members are using FEDHub to communicate with chapter members throughout the United States. I have signed up for several communities such as NARFE Newsletter Exchange, HQ Announcements, Members Recruitment, Engagement and Retention, Open Forum, Open Season and Virginia Federation (which has over 11,000 member) including YOU. The Open Season Community was very active during the past few weeks. I hope you will sign up for communities that interest you. FEDHub will be a terrific way to communicate with your peers in other states.



I hope to see you at the VFN Conference in April 2023 in Hampton , Virginia!

*Kathy Arpa*  
VFN Newsletter Editor  
[mkarpa@hotmail.com](mailto:mkarpa@hotmail.com)

## FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Virginia members of NARFE!

The Virginia Federation of NARFE is beginning to return to normal. Chapters are starting to meet in person and the VFN Board is meeting in person as well. In July 2022, the Board met in person in Charlottesville for the first time since March 2020. At that time the Board selected Hampton, Virginia as the site for the VFN 2023 Conference. In October 2022, the Board met in person at Hampton to review the venue for the Conference, as well as conduct other business. The VFN Board will be collaborating with Areas I, II and IV to develop and staff the Conference.

It is a joy to see chapters returning to meeting in person! Several chapters returned by first holding outdoor picnics and other summer events. With the availability of a third COVID booster vaccine, many felt better equipped to return to meeting in person, indoors.



In August NARFE held its annual Conference (FEDCON22), that had previously been cancelled due to COVID restrictions, in Scottsdale, Arizona at the Westin Kierland Resort (pictured).



The Virginia Federation was represented by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Doris McAdams, Immediate Past President Dr. Constance Bails, Area VIII Vice President Leslie Ravenell, Newsletter Editor Kathy Arpa, Sergeant-at-Arms/Network Coordinator John Bails and President Bob Martin, who also attended the Federation Presidents' Meeting. Fifteen members from Virginia attended, including the current Federation President Bob Martin and five past presidents (pictured). Left to right - Ann Collins, Bob Martin, Kathy Arpa, Leslie Ravenell, Connie Bails and Bill Shackelford.

The Conference offered a number of excellent workshops and amazing inspirational speakers. Virginia received awards for second place in two categories from the Alzheimer's Chair for contributions to Alzheimer's Research. (See Alzheimer's report on page \_\_.) FEDCON24 will be in St. Louis, Missouri on August 18-20, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency.

In June we were saddened by the loss of Bill Martin. Bill had served NARFE and the VFN as a Chapter president, VFN President, Region X Vice President and most recently as the VFN Treasurer. He has been sorely missed.

The 2023 Conference Site Committee considered and visited several sites to hold the 2023 Annual Conference. After much consideration, they recommended that the 2023 Annual Conference be held at the Embassy Suites Hampton, Hampton, Virginia on April 2-5, 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to participate in your VFN Conference. I want to remind you that there will be nominations taken from the floor for the offices of President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Areas will also be holding elections for their Area Vice President. If you are active in your chapter, I also encourage you to consider serving on the VFN Board in an appointed position.



Finally, we were very pleased to learn that Region X Vice President William "Bill" Shackelford (pictured) had been elected NARFE National President and begins his term of office January 1, 2023. Bill is a member of Chapter 737 Fairfax and has served as the Chapter's Service Officer, Vice President, and President. He has also served as the Virginia Federation 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and President.

I look forward to seeing you in Hampton in April!

*Bob Martin*

President  
Virginia Federation of NARFE

### 2021 VFN Management Award

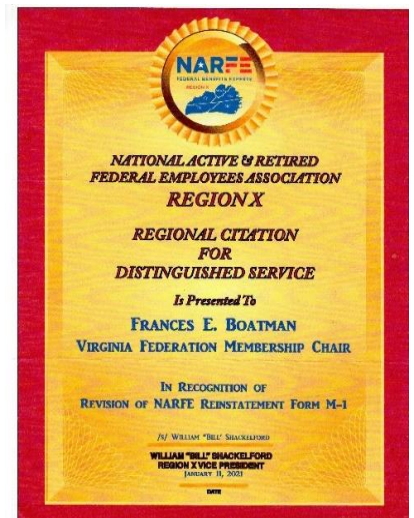
Accidentally omitted from our last newsletter was the highest award issued at the 2021 Virginia Federation of NARFE Conference. Ms. Frances Boatman, Roanoke Chapter 111 (pictured) was awarded the Virginia Federation Management Achievement Award for outstanding leadership as the VFN Second Vice President, and Membership Chairperson for the Virginia Federation of NARFE, and Legislative District Chairperson in Roanoke, Virginia. The award was presented by VFN President Dr. Constance Bails at the 2021 VFN Annual Conference.

Frances serves as an elected Officer and two appointed officer positions simultaneously without error or difference. She provides exemplary leadership for the program chairs under her charge, including monthly meetings to assess all needs and provides advice to execute each of the six unique programs. She is constantly engaged in VFN meetings and sponsored public activities. She is a true advocate of what it means to be a leader and a great team player. She consistently strives to excel in her advocacy and support for the NARFE Mission.

She also delivers the highest quality product as the VFN Memberships chair. She prepares and delivers monthly reports throughout the organization and answers all field data inquiries and related questions in a timely manner. In addition, she attends Chapter meetings to educate members about membership, recruitment, and retention. The VFN recognized her significant leadership and management activities and contributions to the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) as an Executive Team Member, Board of Directors member, and Chapter President! She supports the VFN over and beyond expectations. She is constantly engaged in VFN meetings and sponsored public activities. She is a true advocate of what it means to be a leader and a great Team player. 77



In addition to her exemplary service at the Federation Level, Ms. Boatman was presented, by William Shakelford Region X, Vice President of NARFE, a Citation for Distinguished Service in recognition of her revision of the NARFE membership reinstatement form that is being used at NARFE National. Jobs Well Done!! Thank You!





SECRETARY'S REPORT



Virginia Federation of NARFE (VANARFE) is happy to announce anniversaries of the following chapters:

***Arlington Chapter 7***

***November 25<sup>th</sup> - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

**President Patricia Meyers**

**Area Vice President X Theodore "Ted" Pasek**

***Dulles Chapter 1241***

***June 1<sup>st</sup> - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

**President Jeffery D. Sargent**

**Area Vice President X Theodore "Ted" Pasek**

***Metro Northern Virginia Chapter 1665***

***September 1<sup>st</sup> - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

**President Judith Willis**

**Area Vice President X Theodore "Ted" Pasek**

***Richmond Chapter 60***

***November 19<sup>th</sup> - 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

**President Judith G Brantner**

**Area Vice President III Winfred "Wynn" Hasty**

***Tidewater Norfolk Chapter 66***

***May 1<sup>st</sup> - 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

**President Margie Mitchell**

**Area Vice President III Winfred "Wynn" Hasty**



The close of another year is nearly upon us. We have assumed our near normal activities; shopping without masks, visiting family and friends, enjoying the warmth of the sun and maybe with a hello, a smile. Some may have even ventured out; taking a vacation, hiking in the mountains, relaxing on the beach or maybe a drive across the country. As long as it felt good inside then all is well.

**We have two new VANARFE Board Members:**

Marilyn Riddle – Area Vice President, Area I and

Graylin Taylor – Area Vice President, Area IV

Graylin Taylor being installed at October Board Meeting by VFN  
President Robert Martin >>

The Virginia Federation of National Active and Retired Federal Employees (VANARFE) has resumed full board meetings. The Executive and the Board held meetings on July 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> at Doubletree by Hilton, 990 Hilton Heights Road, Charlottesville VA and on October 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> at Embassy Suites Hampton Roads, 1700 Coliseum Dr., Hampton, VA. We are looking forward to the upcoming event, the 2023 VANARFE Conference scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> 2023, at the Embassy Suites, Hampton, VA 23666. We hope to see you there.



Participating in the monthly meeting with the Program Chairs, which meet under the leadership of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Ms. Frances E. Boatman; I continue to enjoy the program information shared and comradeship within the committee chairs and their dedication to the membership. Being a part of this experience is rewarding.

The VFN Bylaws 2022 were approved by NARFE Headquarters, this was accomplished through the dedicated work of Jim Little and his committee. This is one of the documents that is the backbone of our organization. Robert Martin, President, established a committee headed by Dr. Constance J. Bails, Immediate Past President who was directed to take action on the VANARFE website. Membership is always welcome to access the website which contains a wealth of up-to-date information. The nomination committee is diligently working on the 2023 election.

I am here to serve not only the Board of Directors but you the Membership. Feel free to contact me at [ladyone191@gmail.com](mailto:ladyone191@gmail.com) or (540) 848 – 1777.

*Esther Nash*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

<b>VA Federation of NARFE - As of 10/31/2022</b>	
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
1 InFirst Checking #5783	\$ 50,786.22
1 InFirst Savings #5783	<u>100,021.03</u>
<b>TOTAL Bank Accounts</b>	<u>\$ 150,807.25</u>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<u><u>\$ 150,807.25</u></u>
<b>VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF NARFE THRU 10/31/2022</b>	
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	
1 NARFE HQ 10% Funds	\$ 13,121.40
2 Chapter Dues	2,112.25
5 Other Revenue	(50.59)
6 Interest Revenue	<u>27.37</u>
<b>TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<u>\$ 15,210.43</u>
<b>USE OF FUNDS</b>	
<b>TOTAL A EXECUTIVE USE OF FUNDS</b>	<u>\$ 13,989.41</u>
<b>TOTAL B LEGISLATIVE USE OF FUNDS</b>	1,742.07
<b>TOTAL C PROGRAM OPERATIONS USE OF FUNDS</b>	2,967.28
<b>TOTAL D FIELD OPERATIONS USE OF FUNDS</b>	695.77
<b>TOTAL F APPOINTEES USE OF FUNDS</b>	3,932.65
<b>TOTAL H CONFERENCE USE OF FUNDS</b>	<u>3,694.32</u>
<b>TOTAL USE OF FUNDS OUTFLOWS</b>	<u>\$ 27,021.50</u>
<b>OVER TOTAL FUND DEFICIT</b>	<b>\$ (11,811.07)</b>

The Treasurer's Report reflects the period of July 1, 2022, through October 31, 2022. As the reports indicates, the VFN's Funds in the bank totaled \$150,807.25.

A deposit has been made to hold the Embassy Suites in Hampton Virginia for the April 2 – 5, 2023 VFN Conference. All bills and vouchers that were received were processed during this reporting period.

All bank accounts (InFirst Credit Union) have now been completely consolidated into two accounts, a checking, and a savings account.

The CPA firm has received all the financial data and information to complete the 2022 VFN IRS Tax return. The Form 8879-TE (IRS e-file for a Tax-Exempt Entity) was electronically transmitted submitted on November 21, 2022 and accepted by the IRS.

Chapter dues were billed late (that late billing was my fault for not having the proper and correct information to effectively calculate and send the dues statements out), but most of the Chapters paid within thirty days of the billing date (received during June and July, 2022). There are 13 Chapters that have not paid their VFN Dues bills totaling \$2,392.25. The amount due range from a low of \$75.25 to a high of \$582.75.

*Thomas A Rachele*

## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During this time period I visited the Fredericksburg, Midlothian, Dulles, Fairfax, Annandale, Arlington and Colonial Beach Chapters. I attended the National Conference in Arizona. I attended the Northern Virginia Caucus meetings and the VFN Board meetings in July and October. I continue to try to visit all chapters at least once. While some chapters still are not meeting, I am delighted that most are and have enjoyed visiting with the chapters and meeting new members. I participated with the Manassas chapter in the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

As you read the reports from the Area Vice Presidents, you will see what the chapters have been doing. Many of these activities are shown on Facebook. I urge you to visit our FaceBook page and see the various activities they have participated in.

[\(7\) NARFE - Virginia Federation | Spotsylvania VA | Facebook](#)

Mark your calendars, our annual conference will be April 2-5, 2023 in Hampton, VA.

*Doris McAdams*

## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a busy six months, beginning with visiting Virginia Beach, Norfolk, and Hampton with the Conference Site Selection Committee in May. I also participated in training, board meetings and the VFN State Legislation Committee Planning Meetings.

During this period I met monthly with the Program Chairs via Zoom to discuss development of program plans, establishment of goals and objectives, and any assistance needed in meeting those goals. The Program Chairs reports in this newsletter highlight their individual accomplishments for the past six months. I am very proud to serve with these dedicated and hardworking individuals – please extend a well-deserved 'Thank you' to each of them.

Future plans are to continue with the monthly Program Chairs Meetings via zoom, continue interaction with the individual Chapter counterparts, and to plan further training for Chapter Program Chairs and anyone interested in participating.



As 2022 draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone who has served as an officer or committee chair, as well as members who worked behind the scenes for your chapters. Your hard work is much appreciated. If I can be of assistance in any way, feel free to contact me at [feboatman@live.com](mailto:feboatman@live.com). I look forward to seeing you all at the VFN Conference on April 2-5, 2023 at the Embassy Suites in Hampton, Va.

*Frances E. Boatman*



## REPORTS FROM PROGRAM CHAIRS

### ALZHEIMER'S REPORT

#### Latest from Alzheimer's

As I analyze the contributions for this past fiscal year, I find that Maryland had 35% of the total donations and Virginia collected 25%. The two Federations combined for 56% of the total gifts during FY 22. Along with Kathy Siggins, I am very proud of such an accomplishment. Our Federation Coordinators and Chapter Coordinators work hard to promote educational materials and keep members apprised of the latest research and are also very innovative in fund raising projects.



I continue to promote the semipostal stamp and the passage of the bills in congress. I have requested all of my Chapter Coordinators to also be proactive. I am delighted that our efforts resulted in the passage of the bills and that the stamps went on sale again.

I believe it is very important to express appreciation when people donate to our cause, and I believe we are more likely to get repeat donations when we are openly thankful. I try to seize any opportunity to send a note or card to donors of large amounts of money.

I have been contacted by NARFE members in at least two of my federations inquiring how members can make regular periodic donations. These instances seem to occur with the desires for estate proceeds to be given to the Alzheimer's Association. I am very grateful to the Association for making information available to all Coordinators to make this step an easy one. Goodness knows, the Research projects can and will utilize the proceeds. I would be happy to share the contact information for the program known as Planned Giving. Just give me a call.

I am so excited to have the stamp of approval from FDA concerning the new medication Aduhelm and the newest treatment lecanamab. I have discussed this with each group I have addressed (mostly by Zoom) since the announcement from Harry Johns, the CEO of the Alzheimer's Association. I think this is a great step, even though we still have a long way to go admittedly. It is especially encouraging that we are now medicating the cause of the disease, not just treating the symptoms. **This is progress!!**

During this past year when the pandemic prevented most of the chapters from holding in person meetings, I did a Zoom meeting with my chapter chairs and their assistants for the purpose of discussing ways to raise money, and to keep members interested in our cause. I had approximately 30 people on the meeting, and a lot of exchange of ideas occurred. I am also planning another one of those meetings soon.

After FEDCON22, I learned that NARFE members had donated approximately \$600,000 towards Alzheimer's Research. The following information was shared at FEDCON, and awards presented as appropriate.

Federations with Highest Amounts Raised July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022

FIRST PLACE WINNER - Maryland \$213,158.63,

SECOND PLACE WINNER - Virginia \$150,927.62

THIRD PLACE WINNER - Oregon \$15,076.41,

FOURTH PLACE WINNER – West Virginia \$13,123.62

FIFTH PLACE WINNER – Pennsylvania \$12,665.10

Federations Per Capita Dues Highest Amounts

FIRST PLACE WINNER - Maryland \$39.35,

SECOND PLACE WINNER - Virginia \$30.33

THIRD PLACE WINNER - West Virginia \$27.40



FOURTH PLACE WINNER - Oregon \$ 15.59

FIFTH PLACE WINNER - Mississippi \$14.05



At the October Board Meeting in Hampton, I was presented with an award from VFN President Bob Martin for my work handling the Alzheimer's contributions from members of the Virginia Federation.

*Donna Shackelford*

Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator  
Region X Coordinator  
14429 Round Lick Lane  
Centreville, VA 20120

## PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

During this period, I continued to update our social accounts with articles submitted by the chapters and relevant information I found. This included information on the Social Security COLA, TSP and various seminars being offered by NARFE Headquarters.

It's been refreshing to provide promotional materials to chapters for their promotions. So glad we can get out again and promote the VFN. I have restocked my supply of promotional materials.

I also visited the Fredericksburg, Midlothian, Dulles, Fairfax, Annandale, Arlington and Colonial Beach Chapters.

I am here to help you promote your events on social media and in person. Please contact me for assistance promoting your events. Look for Bulletin No. 1 announcing our VFN Conference soon.



Please visit our Facebook page and share it with your friends.

[\(7\) NARFE - Virginia Federation | Spotsylvania VA | Facebook](#)

**VFN Conference**

**April 2-5, 2023**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Convention Center**

**1700 Coliseum Drive Hampton, VA 23666**

***See you in Hampton in April 2023!***

*Doris McAdams*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

In the 1980s, NARFE had nearly a half-million members nationwide. National membership is now around 150,000. There are over 4 million Federal employees and retirees in the Nation, and they all need NARFE, even if they don't realize it. Virginia Federation has 4,815 Chapter members and 6,259 National members for a total of 11,074.

It has been a busy six months with attending the monthly Program Chairs Meetings, compiling and issuing monthly Membership Gain/Loss Reports, training and board meetings.



**Recruitment** – In June, I set up a recruitment table at the Virginia United Postmasters and Managers of America State Convention in Charlottesville. In July, I visited Midlothian Chapter 2265 and gave a Membership presentation. Each attendee was given a VFN membership kit and asked to distribute to active or retired Federal employees in their community. In October, I assisted Roanoke Valley Chapter 111 with their recruitment table at the Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Event in Vinton. Plans are to visit Suffolk Chapter 1743 in

November for a Membership presentation. Let me know of any opportunities in your area and I will be happy to assist.

**National Incentives for Recruiters** - During NARFE's Annual Membership Drive (September 1 - December 31), recruiters are awarded \$10 for each new member they recruit. To receive the incentive, the recruiter's membership ID number must be included on the new member's application. (I.D. is located on magazine address label.)

**VFN Incentives** – Free Registration to the VFN Conference April 2 – 5, 2023 at Embassy Suites, Hampton to:

- Member recruiting highest number of new members July 1, 2022 – April 2023.
- Membership Chair whose chapter recruits largest percentage of Prospects as new members.
- Membership Chair whose chapter reinstates largest percentage of members.

**Our VANARFE.org Membership** page contains helpful information and resources. (Go to VANARFE.org, click on Board of Directors, scroll down to Program Chairs, and click on Membership. There you will find:



- Who Can Join NARFE?
- NARFE Chapters – Your Local Connection
- Help in Sharing Good News (Elevator Speech)
- Recruitment (F-135 Membership Brochure and an Application)
- Retention and Sample Letters (M-1 Reinstatement Form, F-84 Transfer to another Chapter, and
- Sample Letters to Prospective Member, Lapsed Member, and a Letter of Condolences)
- Monthly Membership Gain/Loss Reports

Tell prospective members your story – how has NARFE benefited you? Let them know that each NARFE magazine contains a Bill Tracker listing legislation that NARFE is following – listing the Issue, bill number, name of sponsor, what the bill would do, and latest actions. Consider a Gift Membership to an eligible family member or friend.



Remember, Membership is everyone's responsibility. To make certain Congress hears our voice to protect the pay and earned benefits of all current and retired federal employees, we need to strive to increase membership. Please get involved in this important effort. If you have suggestions, questions, or if I can help in any way, please contact me at [feboatman@live.com](mailto:feboatman@live.com). Together, we will succeed

*Frances E. Boatman*

## NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

**WOW!** The past six months have been very busy for the VFN National Legislative Team. These are the four primary areas where our time was spent: Advocacy of NARFE's legislative priorities, NARFE's August Advocacy Month, Outreach to the members of the VA Congressional Delegation and assisting in the development of NARFE's Advocacy Positions for 2023-2024.

Before giving an update on each, I want to thank all the Virginia NARFE members who took time to contact their Congressional Representatives and Senators on NARFE's legislative priorities. Your calls, letters and emails, especially during the August Advocacy Month, helped to advance NARFE's priorities. Please keep up the **great work** as we start the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress in January 2023.

**Legislative Priorities** – While NARFE had several priority legislative areas, much of the energy was focused on the repeal of WEP&GPO HR 82- Social Security Fairness Act. We needed to get 270 cosponsors of the bill to move the bill out of committee to be considered on the floor of the House. As this report goes to press, there were 305 cosponsors!! Eight of the cosponsors were from Virginia— Representatives Spanberger, Luria, Wittman, Connolly, McEachin, Scott, Beyer, and Wexton!



The bill was reported to the floor but got caught up in a procedural issue. It is on the Union Calendar 372 and needs a DISCHARGE PETITION. Like the cosponsor requirement and needs 218 Representatives to sign the petition. **Please contact your Congressional Representative as soon as possible.** If the bill is not moved before the end of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, we must start all over again!!!

**VFN Congressional Outreach**—With the help of NARFE-PAC funds, several of our Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) were able to attend events sponsored by the Representatives or had them come to Chapter events.



**1<sup>st</sup> District:**

- Congressman Wittman attended the Northern Neck Chapter 1823's September Labor Day Picnic.
  - CDL **Marilyn Riddle** attended (see picture)
  - CDL **Gaston Gianni** attended an event for Congressman Wittman in September (see Picture) (Gaston Gianni with Congressman Wittman)



**2<sup>nd</sup> District**

- CDL **Ray Orland** attended an event in August for Congresswoman Luria. Congressman Bobby Scott was also there (see picture). (Congressman Scott, Ray Orland, Congresswoman Luria)
- CDL **Ray Orland** attended an event in October where Congresswoman Luria spoke about the status of

GPO/WEP reform and the upcoming COLAS.

**4<sup>th</sup> District**

- CDL **Debbie Fisk** attended an event in June for Congressman McEachin. Senator Kaine was also in attendance.
- CDL **Debbie Fisk** attended another event in October for Congressman McEachin.

**7<sup>th</sup> District**

- CDL **Gaston Gianni** attended a social in June for Congresswoman Spanberger. He thanked her for her support of NARFE issues, especially the GPO/WEP reform bill HR 82.

**10<sup>th</sup> District**

- CDLs **Dennis Freedman** and **Judy Thorne** attended in June an event for Congresswoman Wexton



**11th District.**

- CDL **Judy Thorne** arranged for Congressman Connolly to speak at that Dulles Chapter 1241 monthly meeting. (see Picture)

(Bill Shackelford, Jeff Sargent Chapter President, Congressman Connolly, Judy Thorne, & Gaston Gianni)

- (CDL **Judy Thorne** attended in September an event sponsored by Congressman Connolly and Congressman Spanberger

**Senator Warner**

- CDL **Debbie Fisk**, Past VFN and current Area V VP President **Leslie Ravenell**, and NARFE Region X President **Bill Shackelford** attended Senator’s annual summer gathering. (see pictures)

(Senator Warner, Leslie Ravenell, Debbie Fisk and Ed Heflin >>



<< (Bill Shackelford, Senator Warner, Leslie & Richard Ravenell

**NARFE PAC FUNDS UPDATE**

January 2021-September 30, 2022— 1470 Virginia NARFE members contributed a total of \$100,580! **GREAT JOB!!** Chapter members contributed \$62,800 and VA national members contributed \$47,780. WE had a total of 37 SUSTAINER DONORS!! The final quarter report will be released in January 2023. The new PAC Cycle starts January 2023 and runs thru December 2024 and will cover the new 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

NARFE PAC Fund Distributions thru September 30 for the Virginia Congressional Delegation members totaled \$63,500. An additional \$40,000 was distributed at \$10,000 each for four individual congressional PACs sponsored by Congressmen Connolly and Beyer; and Senators Warner and Kaine.

Individual member contributions were as follows: Wittman-\$5,000; Luria-\$10,000; Scott-\$5,000, McEachin-\$3,500; Spanberger-\$10,000; Beyer-\$10,000; Wexton-\$10,000 and Connolly-\$10,000.

**NARFE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE:** I was privileged to represent NARFE Region X (Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee) on this committee. The committee’s work was presented and accepted at NARFE’s Conference in August. **NARFE’s Advocacy Positions for 2023-2024 (118<sup>th</sup> Congress)** are outlined in the paper. It provides extensive and specific information on NARFE’s member-endorsed positions on legislative and administration policies. NARFE defends the earned pay and benefits of federal and postal civilian employees and retirees. I recommend that NARFE members become familiar with the specific issues listed in this paper. It can be found on the NARFE website at: <https://www.narfe.org/wpcontent/uploads/>

**A LOOK TO THE FUTURE:** The recent Congressional District realignment for Virginia will have an impact on our CDL program. With the realignment several of our CDLs are now in different congressional districts and will not be represented by their former congressional representative. (A VFN requirement for being a CDL). I’ll be checking to see who on our current team members who will be willing to continue. If we have several vacancies, I’ll be seeking new volunteers to join the team. Please let me know if you have any questions or may be interested.

In addition, after several years as VA NARFE Senate Leader to Senator Warner, **Bill Briscoe** will be stepping down at the start of the new congress in January. So, if you are interested in becoming our Senate Leader to Senator Warner, **please contact me** at [gastongianni@aol.com](mailto:gastongianni@aol.com). The only requirement is that you a NARFE VA resident—be a member of a NARFE Chapter or a VA national member—and have an interest in NARFE’s issues and a willingness to reach out and establish relationships with the Senator and his staff.

**Closing Quote:** “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit!”  
Aristotle

*Gaston Gianí*

## VIRGINIA STATE LEGISLATION TEAM MEMBER REPORT

I would like to continue to ask for support from all VFN members. Whether you are a board officer, chapter officer, or member, your support is important as we complete our work for the 2023 Virginia Legislative Plan. Please share our ideas with friends, neighbors and most importantly, your legislators.

The brochure was published in July 2022, and you should have at least one copy. If not, please contact me, [valeg@vanarfe.org](mailto:valeg@vanarfe.org), and I will send copies or you can download a digital copy from the website, <https://vanarfe.org/state-legislation/>

The team continues to collect data and make contacts with important representatives who may be sponsoring bills that align with our legislative agenda.

- A. We have been corresponding with members of AARP and the Virginia Voices for Nursing Home Residents team to collaborate on nursing home standards. In talking with staff from Delegates Watts and Carr's office, we believe there will be a substantial bill entered into the record in December/January. In addition, there seems to be support from Delegates Dawn Adams, Kenneth Plum, and Mark Sickles.
- B. Exempting a Segment of CSRS Pensions Equivalent to Social Security Retirement is also a main focus for the team. We are comparing segments of the Military Exemption from the last congress as we complete our research. Delegates Roxanne Robinson and Patrick Hope are currently working on possible bills.
- C. An important contact was made recently in Senator Chap Peterson's office. We expect to be able to have a direct line into the General Assembly in January which should prove to be very helpful.

A quote from Walt Disney – “The best way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.” The legislative team will forward bills as they are filed and we challenge each of you to reach out and make a personal contact today.

*Deborah O. Fisk*

## **SERVICE OFFICER REPORT**

Much of my interactions with members during the year came as the result of referrals. Referrals came from chapter service officers, other chapter officers, online inquiries and VFN members. I always feel good when I can help members, or their family members. Even though every person's needs are different, my years as Virginia Federation's Service Officer have given me the opportunity to learn a lot about annuitant federal benefits. And that is humbling considering that I am an annuitant spouse, with no prior federal benefits knowledge.

The chapter service officer's primary duty is to be responsive to members' questions and needs, particularly in the area of federal benefits. The position exists for the purpose of having an individual nearby in the community who is knowledgeable about federal benefits and procedures, who can assist members who may be having difficulty trying to contact federal agencies for help with a particular problem.

In addition to assisting with Service Officer referrals, I was invited to be the guest speaker for the August monthly meeting of Chapter 1270 Woodbridge. It is always fun to visit chapters, to put faces to names, to see old friends and to make new ones. But, I especially love to share knowledge and in so doing I always learn from our members, so please continue sharing your experiences with me.

For Chapter 1270's visit I decided to have a fun, informative and interactive presentation. I created a NARFE trivia game where we covered areas such as NARFE history, VFN structure, benefits, recent OPM login changes and online services. Handouts were provided that also gave the members reference guides to every topic that we covered.





I have to thank Chapter 1270 members: President, William “Bill” Lidell, VP Fred Rash and Service Officer Linda Force for their invitation. Also I had my “15 minutes of fame” as VFN’s 1st Vice President and Public Relations Chair Doris McAdams live streamed the entire presentation.

<<<< Arlen, Linda and Bill

*Arlene Arthur*

## FIELD OPERATIONS

### *Area I*

As my first report in the newsletter, I would like to remind you that this is the area that extends from the lower peninsula to the Northern Neck. I am pleased to represent this area, especially because all four of the chapters have more members who have chosen to be in chapters, than not. According to a recent dashboard Chapter 682, based in Newport News has 51% in chapters, Williamsburg has 53%, Gloucester has 60%, and the Northern Neck has 62%. This gives a 54% ratio for Area I. That compares with 44% for the VFN. It is my goal to increase that to 58% by the spring of 2024. Like most organizations the local unit is invariably where more enthusiasm exists due to meeting regularly. Three of the four chapters also eat each time they meet which enhances the social aspects and, thus, more enthusiasm for the organization results. It is my goal to grow membership, but realistically, that is not likely to happen unless we become known as the group, through its legislative efforts, which is successful in the repeal and/or reform of both Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. I also recognized the Gloucester chapter for having an attendance of 60% of their membership. I will be working with the other seven areas, but I will be regularly reminding “my” team in Area I that they are outstanding for capturing more chapter members. I also noticed that Chapter 682 (Newport News) and Chapter 685 (Williamsburg) were organized about the same time in comparison with Chapter 1757 (Gloucester) and 1823 (Northern Neck). This gap is more than 20 years. That data makes me look for common issues in the first two and then common ones in the last two in order to offer assistance when needed.

The chapter that concerns me most is the Newport News one because they made a recovery from past significant deaths, only to have to deal with the death of their longtime leader and President Tom Yager this summer. With more revitalization efforts by members, the vice president stepped forward and a new vice president, and relatively new 7 member, filled the other void. I attended their September meeting on fire safety, which was excellent. This chapter also had two members, both current officers, attend FEDCON 2022 which is a very good sign. In fact, they were the only two to be in Arizona from



Area I. However, this newly elected president will be moving to Florida soon and plans to continue from afar. Hopefully, that will be a satisfactory solution until their next regular election.

I have attended meetings for all four chapters and provided them with their copies of the state legislative plans. They are also aware that we will be one of the three areas hosting the conference in April. Meetings have ranged from presentations by candidates from the two major parties prior to the election, to the discussion of health care plans, to a local county employee's discussion of the services available to all.

They had a member step up to the presidency quickly and she has been installed...but she will be moving out of state soon.

All of my chapters have their state legislative plans in their hands. I have visited all four chapters although one was for the memorial service and the reception, where I was able to share information with the widow and other members. I especially enjoyed hearing the candidates for the two major parties who spoke at the Labor Day picnic, hosted by the Northern Neck chapter.

*Marilyn Riddle*



### *Area IV*

Let me introduce myself. I am Graylin Taylor. My wife Mary and I were married in 1982. We have one daughter. I am the new Area IV Vice President for the VFN, as of October 04, 2022 and the current President of Chapter 1293. I joined NARFE on August 8, 2014. I am the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of the Board of Deacons at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Portsmouth Va. I started my career as an apprentice at Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) in 1976. I completed a four-year apprenticeship in three and a half years. I graduated from Tidewater Community College with and A.A.S in Industrial Management. During my career at the NNSY, I held the positions as work leader, inspector, supervisor, inspector supervisor, and as Mechanical Branch, Quality Assurance Manager (nonnuclear). I retired with 37 years of service.

Area IV takes every opportunity to introduce NARFE to current and retired Federal workers. We participate in several local events in areas that are near federal facilities.



**Churchland-Portsmouth, VA. Chapter-1293:** We resumed meeting after summer break in September. We continued to hold Alzheimer raffle drawings to raise money for research. After COVID-19, we are trying to figure out what is going to be normal. We need to get members to step up and take leadership positions. We have three new members in attendance. The following leadership positions will be open for election in January of 2023: President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**Brentwood-Chesapeake Chapter-1697:** Our chapter members impressively continue to actively participate and support NARFE events and recruitment efforts and provide guest speakers to stay up to date on senior issues. We were honored to attend the 75th Birthday Gala in tribute of Congressman Bobby Scott on April 30. Several members of the chapter attended the 32nd annual Sheriff Senior Support Services Seminar held on August 23 and 24, 2022 at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Chesapeake Virginia to express NARFE concerns and learn about the city's focus on senior issues. We were honored to host Congresswoman Elaine Luria (VA-02) on the 11th of October. Our members engaged in a lively discussion with her on federal pay parity, migrant problems at the southern border and senior technology issues and challenges. Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) consultants provided updates on the 2023 BCBS FEP plan at our October meeting. Our chapter sponsors two NARFE recruitment events annually: BCBS and FBI Open Season Health Fairs.



**Suffolk Chapter-1743:** We resumed our meetings in September after a three-month summer break. Our speaker in September, a Doctor from Sentara Obici Hospital, gave an excellent presentation on Alzheimer. We decided not to participate in the Annual Peanut Fest due to lack of member support. Fifteen members attended our October meeting, and our speaker was a representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield. In November we will have a special meeting with a presentation from Ms. Frances Boatman, the VFC Membership Expert. She will speak on ways to increase chapters' membership. We invited the Portsmouth and Chesapeake Chapters to attend the November meeting. Increasing chapter membership is a priority for our chapter.



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*Graylin Taylor*

## Area VII

Area VII comprises the following chapters, Roanoke Valley – 111, Charlottesville-Albemarle – 135, Harrisonburg -164, Winchester – 180, Page Valley-Luray - 1793 and Shenandoah County – 2358. All are meeting again in person and have chosen their officers for next year.

All chapters are holding very informative meetings with interesting guest speakers. Attendance in Chapters 111 and 180 is mostly back to normal. Chapter 1793 held its annual Alzheimer's picnic in September with a Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative as guest speaker.



Chapter 2358 conducted some interesting outings (winery tour and cavern tour with guest speaker) where prospective members were invited to participate. Indications are that some will join. The Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Representative, Morgan Canterbury, attended the October meeting.



We held an Area VII Meeting on Zoom with all chapters participating except Winchester Chapter 180 where the agenda included a report of significant chapter activities, VFN Officer nominations, 2023 VFN Conference, and membership recruitment discussed fully by the VFN Membership Chair, Frances Boatman.

*Luther Santiful*

## *Area VIII*

At the July 2022 VFN Board Meeting, I was sworn in to serve another term as Area VIII Vice President. In August 2022 I was happy to attend FEDCON22, our National NARFE Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. We had some great speakers, some interesting workshops, and a fun time catching up with our friends in other Federations since we hadn't seen them since FEDCON18. In October my husband and I attended Senator Warner's Pig Roast at his farm in King George on the Rappahannock River. Our NARFE delegation had the opportunity to speak with the Senator about WEP/GPO.

I am happy to report that all four chapters in Area VIII are doing well, meeting in person, staffed with chapter officers, and have money in the bank.

**Fredericksburg Chapter 90:** This chapter continues to flourish under the leadership of Chapter President Moe Nolet and Vice President Dennis Cole. In August they held a luncheon at the local IHOP. In October Kathy Bass from Blue Cross/Blue Shield briefed the members on changes to BC/BS medical plans.

**Colonial Beach Chapter 595** held a great summer picnic at Ebb Tide Beach near Colonial Beach at a private picnic pavilion plus beach and dock. The chapter supplied the fried chicken and the members brought the sides. The food was overflowing. This year the chapter decided not to invite political speakers as the chapter is now divided, half in Congressional District 1 and the other half in Congressional District 7. The annual Harvest Supper to support Alzheimer's was held on November 5, 2022. Over 50 people were in attendance including the National NARFE President-Elect. We had over 30 door prizes and we raised \$3,000. I want to thank the chapter leadership team: Jim Lynch, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Ann Mills, Second Vice President, Maria Wendt, Secretary, and Stan Palen, Treasurer.

**Fauquier Chapter 1549:** Under the leadership of President Pat Maderis along with her executive board, Jerry Rosen, Ray Blankenship, and Ed Cameron, Chapter 1549 is in good shape. They meet every other month at Northside 29 restaurant.

**Caroline Chapter 2112** The chapter continues to meet at the Timbers in Ruther Glen with Myrna Satterwhite, President, Linda Gray, Vice President, and Joyce Tignor, Secretary/Treasurer. In August they held a summer luncheon at Wilkerson's Sea Food Restaurant to Colonial Beach. Spouses were invited and a great time was had by all. At the October meeting the Timbers restaurant had no water so we couldn't have lunch but we had a lively discussion about our NARFE issues, Open Season, legislative updates, etc. I also gave them some tips on de-cluttering that I learned at FEDCON22.

*Leslie Ravenell*



## Area IX

All Area IX chapters resumed their pre-Pandemic activities in September with Manassas having its first in-person chapter meeting since early 2020. Informative newsletters are once again filling up email in-boxes and some postal boxes for those without email. Also, speakers are covering timely and informative speakers, including VFN's own Arlene Arthur talking about the important service the Chapter Service Officers provide and Kathy Bass and Michelle Nesbit-Johnson, Blue Cross Blue Shield Account Executives, about the 2023 Open Season. Other topics included WWII Prisoner of War facilities and activities located in the Washington, DC area, many still standing; historic Belvoir Manor located downstream from Mount Vernon; Prince William County's 911 call centers and public communications; latest drone technologies used in Fairfax County to improve public safety and emergency response; crime prevention and scam alerts in Fairfax County; and George Mason University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's programs, especially for seniors. We were also pleased to have presentations by local politicians, Prince William County Supervisor Victor Angry and

Virginia Delegate Danica Roem, and several local officials attended Woodbridge Chapter's Annual picnic, including Virginia Delegates Briana Sewell and Elizabeth Guzman; Supervisor Angry, and Prince William County Supervisor at Large Ann Wheeler. In attendance at the picnic were also NARFE President-Elect Bill Shackelford, Donna Shackelford, VFN President Bob Martin, and First Vice President Doris McAdams.

(Doris and Bob pictured here).



Currently, Area IX has a total of 2,667 Chapter and National Only members located in its vicinity, with chapter members as follows: Manassas, 132; Springfield, 497; Annandale, 285; and Woodbridge, 220. While overall chapter membership did decrease by 89 since the last report, according to the OAM, Area IX recruited 33 new members since the beginning of the calendar year. This is commendable. Area IX continues to be active and keenly aware of the challenges NARFE faces, especially the viability of chapters. Recruitment will continue to be a cornerstone of our 2023 strategic plan.

Community service is a cornerstone of each of our chapters, especially during the holidays when they all collect food for local food banks. During this reporting period Annandale Chapter sponsored three food collection and clothing drives in cooperation with Giant Food and the ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action), and the Mason District Police Department. During the period they collected a total of 1,236 pounds of food and personal items and \$1,203 in cash. This is an amazing increase over last year's Food Drive donations by 22% in food and 55% in cash.





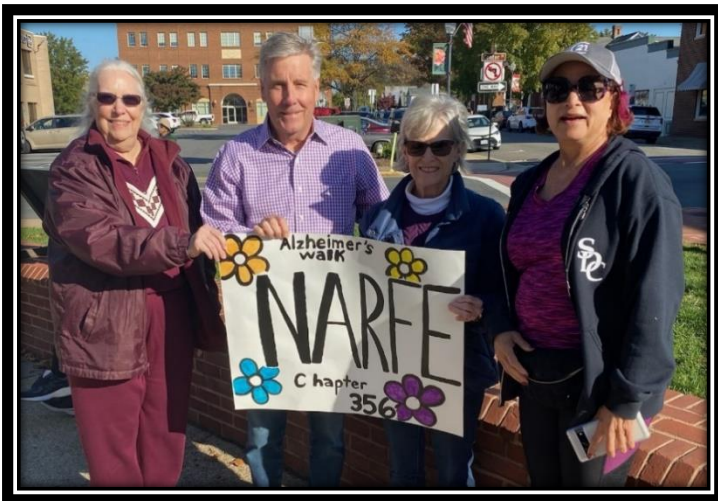
<<< Annandale Food Pickup: Officer Dicker and Annandale Chapter President Kim Rendelson, Jack Bagnulo and Mary Lou Vroman at their Nov 3rd Food Drop-off

Annandale has also continued their sponsorship of the Adopt-A-Road program, having adopted a roadway in Annandale to keep tidy and clear of trash and debris. In addition, Springfield Chapter has partnered with GrandInvolve ([grandinvolve.org](http://grandinvolve.org)), a nonprofit program that facilitates volunteer opportunities in 25 of Fairfax County's Title I Elementary Schools! GrandInvolve is

currently recruiting adult volunteers who are interested in providing classroom assistance with math, reading, and other simple educational tasks to fulfill teachers' needs and requests, and Springfield is hoping to help fulfill these requests. Springfield and Woodbridge Chapters are also continuing their support for the local arts by sponsoring outings to local theatre groups. Springfield's next outing is coming up in December at the Little Theatre of Alexandria with Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol. Woodbridge's is still-to-be-scheduled.

Raising funds for Alzheimer's Research is another cornerstone with each chapter, and Annandale, Woodbridge, and Springfield were second, third, and fourth highest fundraisers in earlier statewide

reports. All four chapters have exceeded their fundraising goals for the year. In addition, Manassas and Woodbridge Chapters participated in the Annual Walk to End Alzheimer' in Manassas, Virginia.



<<< VFN Vice President Doris McAdams, Jim and Bonnie Little, and Manassas Chapter Alzheimer's Chair Marilyn Markham participate in the Manassas Walk To End Alzheimer's Walk

All four chapters participate in the quarterly Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters' meeting. This year as in past years, the Caucus will be

setting up a recruitment table at the December 3 Annual Gerry Connelly Open Season event. In the past Congressman Connelly's event has had a huge turnout of both active and retired Federal employees and been a great venue for recruiting new members, advertising NARFE's benefits, and publicizing its brand.

Delegates Sewell and Guzman pose with the Shackelford's and Woodbridge Member Mickey Chapman >>





<<Springfield:

Marcy Stennes with Fairfax County Police Officers Tony Capizzi and Liam May who spoke on crime prevention

*Jim Little*

## AREA X

### Area X Summary

Six chapters encompass Area X. Most are still dealing with the poor response to in-person meeting since Covid. Vienna-Oakton is the exception. They have been meeting and having good attendance. Arlington is resurrecting itself with meetings as well as planning for its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in December. Fairfax Chapter is 'suffering' from low participation at the in-person meetings. Officers were elected but still no new members have stepped up. Dulles chapter had a great 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and are slowly growing meeting attendance. We welcome Dulles for their return to the Virginia Federation. McLean and Metro NOVA chapters are having a difficult time re-starting after Covid.



Caucus Meeting >>

Members of chapters in Area X have attended the quarterly Caucus meetings and some are members of the Federation Board. At the October Caucus meeting, Caucus members celebrated the election of President-elect William (Bill) Shackelford (pictured here with Caucus Chair Patricia Wolfe) as the next President of NARFE. Bill is a member of Chapter 737 (Fairfax), which is part of the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters.



**Arlington Chapter 7** conducted its first meeting of 2022 with their annual June luncheon at the Italian Café in Falls Church, VA. Delegate Patrick Hope of the Virginia General Assembly was the featured speaker, discussing the happenings at the 2022 legislative session.



Left to right – Doris McAdams, Delegate Hope, Ed Weiler and Pat Myers (Chapter President)

The chapter does not meet in July or August except for a Board meeting to begin plans for the fall general membership meetings and our December luncheon.

The chapter met for their first in-person regular meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> at their new location at Lubber Run Community Center in north Arlington. An outstanding presentation was given on the Virginia Ombudsman Program that they recommended to other

chapters in northern Virginia. The October meeting featured a program on Stronger Memory, Confronting Mild Cognitive Impairment presented by the Brain Health Program Manager from Goodwin Living, Goodwin House which was well-received by attendees. In November, a representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield will present a program on the 2023 changes to the FEHBP and election of officers for 2023 will be held. Newsletters have been sent to our membership on a monthly basis again. They collected for Alzheimer’s research at the June Luncheon and monthly fall meetings to date; as of the date of this report, contributions have slightly exceeded \$250. Since Chapter 7 will mark its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November, a December luncheon celebration has been in the planning stages over the summer and fall. Plans include their basket raffles to benefit Alzheimer’s research. Special guests scheduled to attend include Congressman Don Beyer, Delegate Patrick Hope, NARFE President-elect, Bill Shackelford and Area X VP, Ted Pasek.

Various board members have participated in on-line VFN training sessions as well as other meetings, including the October NOVA caucus meeting and the monthly meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation.

**McLean-Great Falls Chapter 489** plans to resume in-person meetings at the McLean Community Center for 2022-2023. They will assess how the membership responds to the in-person meetings but have yet to meet.

**Fairfax Chapter 737** resumed in-person meetings with the Annual Picnic in June of 2022. The turn-out was about 21 members and families but was an enjoyable group with fun conversations and music.

<< Daughter and granddaughter of former secretary Maurita Washington enjoying nice weather and friendly members.



The September meeting after a summer vacation, was Fairfax County Sheriff Stacy Kincaid. She spoke of scams and what to be wary of whether in the mail, on the phone or on your computer. Unfortunately, the October membership meeting was cancelled due to conflicts with other NARFE meetings.



With the election of Bill Shackelford as NARFE National President, the Chapter was looking for a new newsletter editor. Jim Mays has volunteered to assume the Newsletter Editor duties for 2023. Thank you, Jim!

Members of Chapter 737 were pleased to learn that their long-standing member Bill Shackelford was elected national president of NARFE. He will take office on January 2023.

Chapter 737 donations to “Food for Others” in Fairfax County totaled nearly 300 pounds since September. This was less than previous years because of low attendance.

**Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116** has been meeting in person since February 2022 with guest speakers each month. Guest speaker in May was the Mayor of Vienna.



The chapter held an indoor picnic in June with members and guests, including Ted Pasek, Area X VP.



Kathy and Mark Arpa attended FEDcon22 in Scottsdale in August. Debbie Fisk, VFN Legislation Chair was the guest speaker at the September meeting. Members from local chapters attending that meeting were Pat Myers and Ed Weiler from Chapter 7, John Bankson and Mary Ann Munley from Chapter 1159, and Jim Little from Chapter 1270.

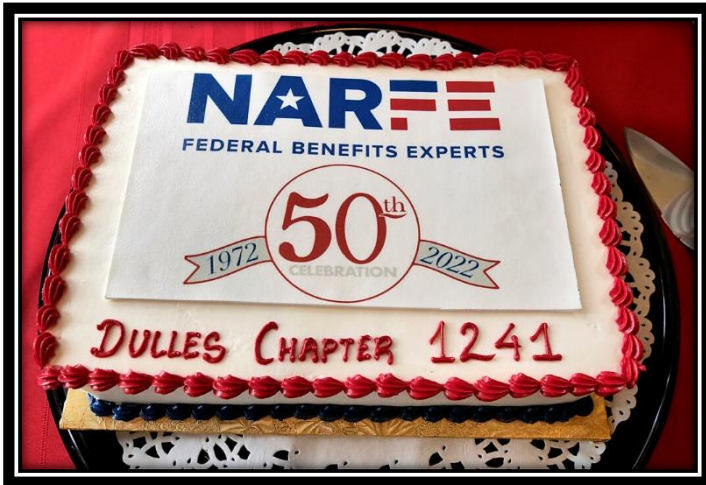
Pictured John, Pat, Ed, Mary Ann, Debbie and Chris Gieseler, Chapter 1116 >>



In October, President Kathy Arpa attended the VFN Board Meeting in Hampton, Va. Kathy is the VFN Newsletter Editor. The October Chapter meeting featured guest speaker Courtney Arroyo, Engagement Manager, Department of Emergency Management and Security, Fairfax County Department of Family Services.

Kathy is serving as Nominating Committee Primary for Area X and prepared a message along with Ruby Harney Alternate that went to all chapters in Area X soliciting candidates for officers for the VFN for 2023. They are still seeking a candidate for Treasurer. Thirty percent of NARFE members in Virginia are in Area X.

**Dulles Chapter 1241** has continued to hold monthly luncheon programs at the Herndon Amphora Diner with attendance still below the pre-pandemic numbers but growing. The chapter has had interesting programs and speakers with the chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration in June being the biggest.



Some of the programs:

May - AAA with Travel Tips; No meetings in July and August; September - U.S. Representative Gerry Connolly (D-11); October - Morgan Canterbury, Anthem/BCBS, with 27 attendees (our best turn-out other than 50th Anniversary Celebration with 44 attendees).

The chapter publishes an electronic newsletter every other month and sends a meeting announcement in between. The chapter is strong but is in need of more volunteer leaders.

Looking ahead: Dulles Chapter will hold its first Legislative Brunch on Saturday, November 12 to give active employees an opportunity to attend and will elect 2023 officers. The Holiday Party is set for December 12th.

**Metro Northern Virginia Chapter 1665** has yet to find a new meeting place and to solicit membership to attend. President Judy Willis has attended the Caucus meetings of Area IX and X and the Area X meeting.

*Ted Pasek*



## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Deborah Fisk [valeg@vanarfe.org](mailto:valeg@vanarfe.org) or (804) 748-8722

Electronic communications support quick transmission – it provides wide coverage. Our world has become a global village and electronic communications saves time and money. For this reason, the VFN Board of Directors continues to support development in this area.

An Action Team was established in October to strategically define goals and standards. The team meets every week and progress continues to meet the lofty goals set by the board.

The website is under full review and there will be substantial changes made in the coming months. Standards are under development for all social media platforms and training will be provided once the strategic plan is approved by the board.

An archival platform is under development to archive important photos. You can review the site by going to <https://vanarfe.smugmug.com/>. If you have images, you would like archived on this site, please send them to [valeg@vanarfe.org](mailto:valeg@vanarfe.org) and they will be added to the site. If you would like to download any full resolution files, right click on the image and copy or save the file. There is no charge for this service.

There is an application that can be downloaded to your smart device (apple or android) that is very helpful. It will help you with your advocacy activities. The search engine is quite good and certainly worth reviewing, in our opinion. The name of the app is “Connected Communities”. Take a look and let us know what you think. The search engine is powerful and you can find information quickly. I look at it as a pre-cursor to FEDHub which is also helpful but a bit harder to navigate.

There is room on our team. If you are interested in technology and would like to serve on the Electronic Communications Committee, please contact us. If you have comments, suggestions, or need more information on a technology related item, give me a shout out.

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*Deborah O. Fisk*

## BY LAWS COMMITTEE

On November 3, 2022, the Bylaws changes voted upon by the VFN membership in December 2021 were officially approved by National Secretary Kathryn Hensley. The approval, which brings the VFN Bylaws more into compliance with National guidelines, marked the culmination of a year-long effort by the Bylaws Committee. Secretary Hensley indicated that her approval was under the condition that additional changes are also required to bring the bylaws into full compliance with the National template. The Bylaws Committee is in the process of documenting those changes for presentation to the membership at the Annual Meeting next April in Hampton.

*Jim Little*