



NARFE Chapter 1116 Newsletter

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

FEBRUARY 2023

Next Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, February 14, 2023
1:00 PM
Vienna Community Center

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2023
1:00 PM
Vienna Community Center

2023 Board Chapter Officers

President
Kathy Arpa 703-205-9041
mkarpa@hotmail.com

1st Vice President & Programs
Ralph Dantinne 703-938-9757

2nd Vice President &
Membership
Jayne Seidman 703-938-2274

Secretary
Chris Gieseler 703-849-0008

Treasurer
David Graf 703-938-2962

Board Members
Alzheimer's and Photographer
Mark Arpa 703-205-9041

Hostess Jayne Seidman
703-938-2274

National Legislation
Daad Pierce 571-274-9334

State Legislation
Chris Gieseler 703-849-0008

Newsletter Team
Kathy Arpa, Dave Graf, Mary
Margaret McGowan

Public Relations
Pec Chan 703-930-3596

Service Officer
Susan Larson 703-915-2566

Sunshine
Harriet Epstein 703-560-4137

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KATHY ARPA

We started out the new year with good attendance at our January 10th Chapter Meeting. Members and guests were interested in learning how to navigate UBER and LYFT to get or schedule a ride. See more details in the Secretary's report on page 2.

Our next meeting will be on February 14th (Valentine's Day), so wear your red or pink shirt or blouse and join us.

On Friday, February 3, you should have received an email from Robert Martin, President of the Virginia Federation, announcing the 2023 VFN Conference in Hampton, Virginia. We hope several members from the Chapter are able to attend. The Chapter will help defray some of your expenses as indicated in the 2023 budget which will be presented at the February 14th Chapter Meeting. 'Early Bird' registration forms will be available at our February 14th meeting.

Kathy

COMING UP

February 14 – Chapter Meeting – Vienna Community Center – 1:00 pm – Guest speaker - Maddy White, Deputy Director of Outreach, Office of Congressman Gerald E. Connolly

March 14 – Chapter Meeting – Vienna Community Center – 1:00 pm – Guest speaker – Linda Colbert, Mayor of Vienna

April 2-5, 2023 - VFN Annual Meeting/Conference – Embassy Suites, Hampton, Virginia – (See details on pages 5 and 6.)

April 11 - Chapter Meeting – Vienna Community Center – 1:00 pm

NOTE: If Fairfax County Schools are closed because of inclement weather, our Chapter Meeting is cancelled.

SECRETARY'S REPORT ON THE JANUARY MEETING - CHRIS GIESELER

Chapter 1116 held its most recent Membership meeting on January 10, 2023, at the Virginia Community Center (VCC). Chapter President Kathy Arpa called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm, then led the assemblage in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. She also greeted some new members and guests in attendance. Then we acknowledged attendees who had January birthdays.

Dave Graf then introduced our speaker, (pictured here) Derrick Cowles, Recreation Program Coordinator for Youth and Camps with the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department, who gave a presentation entitled "How to Use Uber and Lyft to Get a Ride". Derrick provided information on how to access Uber's and Lyft's service: you need to go to the App Store on your cell phone, load each app and set up an account (user name and password in each app). When you need a ride, open the app and enter the address or distance that you need to go to. Uber and Lyft driver(s) will respond by indicating who they are and when/how far they are away. Derrick also explained the process by which each company hires drivers and described other services provided by the company: food delivery, reserving a driver for future appointments, grocery delivery, etc. He also mentioned some safety measures that the company provides and some information about tipping. He then answered some questions from the audience and assisted some members in setting up an account.



Following the program, we took a break. (Hostess Jayne Seidman and several other members provided some delicious treats for us). Reports were given by the Chapter's Secretary, Treasurer, Chairs of the State and National Legislation Committee, Membership Chair, Service Officer, and Sunshine. Updated information regarding all these activities appears in this newsletter.

The meeting then turned to the schedule of upcoming Chapter meetings (Board and membership), and an update to the Virginia Federation of NARFE 2023 Conference and annual meeting, set for April 2-5, 2023 in Hampton, Virginia. Kathy reminded us that the next Membership meeting will be on Valentine's Day (February 14, 2023) at 1 pm at the VCC.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm upon motion and unanimous vote of the attendees.

TREASURER'S REPORT – DAVE GRAF

Since the January Newsletter, the Chapter received \$77.88 for membership dues collected by NARFE's National Headquarters for December. The only expense was \$65.00 for the Chapter's ad to be published in the Program Book for the VFN 2023 Conference to be held in Hampton, VA.

The 50/50 drawing for Alzheimer's Research raised \$45.75 at the January 10th Membership meeting. These donations will be sent to the VFN Coordinator for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund. Also, drawings were conducted for three spring flowers that were donated by Ralph Dantine.

I drafted the Chapter Budget for Calendar Year 2023 and submitted it to the Board of Directors at their meeting on January 26, 2023. After a few changes were made, the Board approved the revised budget which will be submitted for adoption by the members at the February 14th Membership meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JAYNE SEIDMAN

Total Current Chapter Membership – 181; Total National Members in Chapter Area – 144; Grand Total - 325.
We welcome Phyllis McLaughlin and Cornelia Newbold who have joined Chapter 1116.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT – SUSAN LARSON

Happy 2023 -- Tax season is here once again! You need to be on the lookout for important tax documents you should be receiving in the mail within the next few weeks. Anything you see that states “**Important Tax Return Documentation Enclosed**” on the outside of the envelope you will need to prepare your taxes. Since April 15 falls on a Saturday, and Emancipation Day falls on Monday, April 17, 2023, the tax deadline is moved to April 18, 2023. For state taxes in Virginia, the deadline is May 1, 2023.

NEWS FROM OPM:

1099-R tax forms have been mailed to everyone who had selected the paper option. Many members have received the forms. For everyone else, the tax forms are ready and available on your online account. You can view, download, print, or request by mail your annual 1099-R tax form that reports how much income you earned from your annuity by following the steps below:

Sign into your online account at OPM Retirement Services

- 1) Click 1099-R Tax Form in the menu to view your most recent tax form.
- 2) Select a year from the dropdown menu to view tax forms from other years. Five years are available to you online, if needed.
- 3) Click the save or print icon to download or print your tax form.

To request your 1099-R tax form by mail, you need to:

- 1) Sign into your online account at OPM Retirement Services
- 2) Click on Documents in the menu, and then click the 1099-R file. OPM will send your tax form to the address they have on file. You can verify or change your mailing address by clicking on Profile in the menu and then clicking on the Communication tab.

If you want a duplicate 1099-R sent to a different address or if you have questions about your 1099-R, contact OPM’s Retirement Information Office for further information. OPM’s nationwide toll-free number is 1 (888) 767-6738. When you call, you need to have your CSA/CSF claim number available; it will speed up your call.

NEWS FROM TSP:

All 2022 1099-R tax forms should be in the mail by January 31. Annual statements will be sent by mail in early February. You will be able to view your statement in My Account by the end of February.

LEGISLATION REPORTS

National Legislation – Daad Pierce

- Welcome to the 118th Congress! Newly elected representatives’ and senators’ terms of office began on January 3rd, but members of the House of Representatives were not sworn in until January 7th.
- On January 9th, H.R. 82 (The Social Security Fairness Act), a bill that would fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) was reintroduced and submitted by Representative Garret Graves, R-LA, a new lead sponsor. He is joined by Representative Abigail Spanberger, D-VA, as the lead Democratic sponsor.
- On January 9th, Representative Virginia Foxx, R-NC, reintroduced H.R. 159 (the Chance to Compete Act,) which, would improve cross-agency hiring, expand use of subject matter experts in the hiring process, and primarily focus on an individual’s relevant experience and skills rather than self-ratings and degrees.

- On January 13th, NARFE National President Shackelford sent a letter to President Biden, requesting the Administration’s support for specific policies with his fiscal year 2024 budget request to Congress including:
 - Protecting earned federal retirement and health benefits.
 - Repeal or reform of the WEP and GPO.
 - Adequate funding and prioritization of technology and process improvements for OPM’s Retirement Services Division.
 - Full and fair cost-of-living adjustments for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuitants.
 - Market-rate pay increases for federal employees.

- On January 19th, the outstanding U.S. debt reached its statutory debt limit, and the Treasury Department announced it would use “extraordinary measures” to continue obligatory government payments. Intense negotiations are underway in Congress to resolve the issue.

- Virginia has scheduled a special election on February 21st to fill the U.S. House seat for the 4th Congressional District (Richmond area) held by the late Representative A. Donald McEachin.

Virginia Legislation – Chris Gieseler

Status of Virginia General Assembly Regular session. The Virginia legislative session began on January 11, 2023. The deadline for filing bills was January 20. There was action on bills to be completed by respective houses by February 7, COB, then the bills (including revenue bills) “cross over” to the other House. The budget bills and revenue bills in each House have deadlines which differ from other types of legislation. For example, the deadlines begin on February 5, when Budget Committees have to complete their work; after the amendment process, the Budget bills cross over on February 9. Tax/revenue bills from the other house are to be completed on/by February 14. Revenue bills and Budget amendments must be addressed by the other house by February 15 and the appointment of conference committee members to resolve differences must also occur.

The 2023 Regular Session of the General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on February 25, but I have heard that the Session could be extended for 15 days.

Status of VFN Legislative Priorities.

I am not aware of any last-minute bills that would address the top legislative priority of the Virginia Federation of NARFE, namely, having Civil Service Retirement System benefits excluded from Virginia state income tax. So the VFN State Legislation Chair has taken some preliminary steps to have this issue addressed by the 2024 General Assembly.

Some of VFN’s other legislative priorities deal with increasing the standard deduction or old age deduction. There are bills before the General Assembly that would change the amount of Virginia’s standard deduction, but these bills have not been successful. However, the issue can be revisited during the amendments process in early-to-mid-February.

On the brighter side, legislation is proceeding that would address VFN’s Legislative priority regarding nursing home standards. For example, the House Appropriations Committee is considering a substitute version of a bill which, as introduced, would require nursing homes with inadequate staffing levels to be subject to administrative sanctions by the Virginia Health Commission, namely, to file a corrective action plan to improve their staffing levels. Failure to do so could be subject to civil monetary penalties imposed by Virginia district courts.

Other legislation of interest. The Governor proposed his Budget for the 2022-2024 Biennium. It includes a 0.25% reduction in the tax rates for individuals, a 1.0% reduction in prior corporate tax rate from 6% to 5%, and a tax break for small businesses. Other bills would address pollution issues, allow a casino near the Silver Line, bolster mental health, contain stricter gun controls, abortion, allow \$1 billion in the state's 529 Fund to be used for scholarships to certain Virginia-based colleges, and make the state's earned income credit fully refundable. And there have been discussions to allow state backing for a stadium for the Washington Commanders NFL Football Team, provided that prior traffic issue would be dealt with regarding I-95 near the potential stadium site in Prince William County.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – KATHY ARPA

In an effort to reach out to potential new NARFE members, I joined the Vienna Business Association (VBA) at the end of January. The VBA is considered the Greater Vienna Chamber of Commerce. They promote greater business opportunities and growth through professional development, networking and marketing opportunities. Our next meeting notice should be included in their calendar.



As a member I receive notices of upcoming events hosted by the members. I am looking forward to the opportunity to network with some of the local organizations. I have been invited and will be attending their annual meeting at American Legion Post 180 in Vienna this week.

SUNSHINE REPORT – KATHY ARPA

Our past Chapter Secretary Anne Shea is recovering at home after a stroke in early December. She is doing well and enjoying her daily walk, weather permitting. She hopes to see us at our March meeting.

Our Sunshine lady Harriet Epstein has been under the weather. She is improving and expects to be able to drive again in a few weeks.

Our former Service Officer Nancy Linn is in the hospital. We are sending her "get well" wishes. You can send her a card at: 11314 Westbook Mill Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030 5664.

If you know of someone who needs a little sunshine, please call Harriet at 703-560-4137.

VFN CONFERENCE – APRIL 2-5, 2023 – KATHY ARPA

The VFN Conference is coming in less than two months. It is open to all NARFE members in Virginia and will be held at the Embassy Suites Hampton Conference Center in Hampton, Virginia from April 2-5, 2023. Some very interesting speakers are scheduled to speak, including newly elected NARFE National President Bill Shackelford, Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger, who is leading the charge to repeal WEP/GPO and a NARFE HQ staff member speaking on getting the most out of FEDHub. Conference events also include the VFN Annual Meeting, which includes the nomination and election of executive board members, an evening reception and a banquet. You will have an opportunity to personally meet our new National President and share your thoughts on the future of NARFE!

You will qualify for the "Early Bird Special", if you register by March 1, 2023 on the VFN's website or your registration is postmarked before March 1, 2023. Each completed registration form together with a check for the cost of registration and banquet must be mailed to the Data Base Manager, James R. Little, 11759 Buckley Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192-5725. Registration forms will be available at our February 14th Meeting.

NEW THIS YEAR: You will be able to fill out your form, pay by credit card, and send your registration directly from the website. <https://vanarfe.org/conference2023/> It is very easy!

Registration desk hours (for pick-up of badge and banquet ticket): Sunday, April 2: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm; Monday, April 3: 7:30 am – 9:00 am and 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm. Opening Session: Monday, April 3 at 9:00 am, Welcome Reception: Monday, April 3 at 6:00 pm, Banquet: Tuesday, April 4 at 6 p.m. and Closing Session: Wednesday, April 5 from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

<u>Early Bird Registration</u> Before March 1, 2023	<u>Regular Registration</u> March 2 - March 15, 2023	<u>Late Registration</u> After March 15, 2023
Conference & Banquet	Conference & Banquet \$75.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Conference & Banquet \$85.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Single \$ 70.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Conference Only \$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Conference Only \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Couple \$130.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Banquet Only \$50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	Banquet Only \$60.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

Please note that banquet reservations received after March 15 may not be honored due to Hotel deadlines.

Banquet - Select one: Pork Loin Cavatteli pasta (vegetarian) Chicken rossioni (grilled chicken breast & mushroom madevie)

This year we will be staying at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Hampton 1700 Coliseum Drive, Hampton VA 23666. Telephone (757) 827-8200 (local) (844) 208-9319 (national registrations). The room rate for one Person: \$98 per night plus tax, two People: \$108 per night plus tax. Deadline for Discount Reservations is March 3, 2023. Use the Group Name "Virginia Federation of NARFE". Use Room Block Code "NRF." Subject to Availability. Check-In Sunday, April 2, 2023. Check-Out Wednesday, April 5, 2023. Rooms at the NARFE rate are limited so check with the hotel quickly. You can call the hotel directly or register via Hilton.com. If you have trouble making a reservation, there are other hotels in the area including Hyatt, Marriott, Holiday Inn Express and others.

For those staying at the Embassy Suites Hampton Conference Center, there is a Cooked to Order/buffet breakfast (from 6 am to 9 am) and a daily happy hour (included in the room rate. The VFN Board Members have discovered great seafood and international restaurants nearby as well as national favorites such as Olive Garden, Cracker Barrel, Outback, Longhorn Steak House, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Mission Barbecue, and First Watch. If games of chance interest you, the newly opened Rivers Casino is located in nearby Portsmouth.



**AN INVITATION TO CHAPTER MEMBERS
for 2023 VFN Conference as an Individual Supporter**

As a VFN member, you are invited to display esprit de corps, by having your name published with other Chapter contributors in the 2023 Conference Program Book. Contributions will be used to defray general Conference expenses that indirectly benefit our entire membership. It is easy to contribute, and you do not have to attend the Conference to have your name published, as a Conference Supporter. Just complete the form below, print this page only and attach your check made payable to 2023 VFN Conference and bring it our chapter meeting on February 14. This form will be available at the meeting. We will accept cash or check.

(Cut here)

2023 VFN CONFERENCE SUPPORTER

(To be listed by Chapter 1116 in Conference Program Book)

Print your name as you would like it to appear in the Conference Program Book. This form is to be used for each Conference Supporter.

Conference Supporter's Name: _____

Check applicable category: Platinum (\$100) ___ Gold (\$75) ___ Silver (\$50 ___ Super Angel (\$25) ___
Angel (\$20) ___ Cheerleader (\$15) ___ Booster (\$10) ___ Supporter (\$5) ___

Chapter # 1116 Chapter Name Vienna-Oakton

Please made check payable to 2023 VFN Conference for total amount indicated.
On the Memo Line, please write "VFN 23 Conference Supporter".