

## March 2023 Newsletter

### Chapter 685 Elected Officers for 2023



Hazel Braxton, President

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See chapter website for appointed program chairs and officers

## Reading the Chapter Newsletter Online

See the newsletter with color pictures at the VFN website ([vanarfe.org](http://vanarfe.org)) and on FedHub.

Go to <https://www.vanarfe.org> (VFN main page); Click on **Chapters**. Look for 685 in Area 1; or **Go directly** to our Chapter 685 web page; type in browser: <https://vanarfe.org/Chapter-685/>

You can also click on either link above.

## President's Message

Chapter 685 is making gigantic leaps to assist VA Federation of NARFE to have a successful Conference. The Conference is being held April 2-5, 2023 at the Embassy Suites, Coliseum Drive, Hampton, Virginia. Please consider making a supportive contribution to the Conference in the amount of \$5, 10, 15, or \$20.

Just as Chapter 685 is supporting VA State NARFE activities in an effort to fulfill the conference theme, "**Evolving to Remain Relevant**", we are hoping that our members will consider bringing "New" ideas to the Chapter by assisting current Officers and/or running for an Office in the future.

*Hazel Braxton, Chapter President*

## Secretary's Message

### NARFE Luncheons

We have had several successful luncheon meetings at Colonial Heritage this year with 30-35 participants and excellent speakers provided by Ginny Taylor. Our contract with Colonial Heritage is locked in \$21 for our lunch including dessert, tax, and tip. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at the clubhouse in Colonial Heritage at 11 AM for checking and 11:30

AM for lunch. The luncheon costs \$21 payable then in cash, check or credit card. I send the notice out including the entrée choices the week before the luncheon. The luncheon usually includes an entrée and dessert. It may also include soup or a salad. RSVPs along with menu selections are due the Thursday before the Tuesday lunch. No shows are charge \$21 because of our contract with Colonial Heritage.

Ginny Taylor has arranged for more excellent guest speakers. Last month we had John Sullivan of American Eagle Flags. He brought many different flags with him to explain how the flags have changed over the years and how the colors were selected. Our March 14 luncheon will have Gary Powers Jr. speaking about espionage and the events of the Cold War. Our public relations chair, Tom Kell, has been successful in getting our NARFE event pictures in the Virginia Gazette and getting us new members, too.

Please come and join us for socializing with your friends and meeting new ones. We have had several new members and some returning members at our last meetings.

*Penny Kell, NARFE Chapter 0685 Secretary*

### **Words From Our Treasurer** *By Larry Leiby, Chapter 685 Treasurer*

I drafted the Chapter Budget for Calendar Year 2023 and will submit it to the Executive Committee for their approval. Our Alzheimer's donations, for the first two luncheon meetings this calendar year, are averaging \$111 per member meeting.

Our average attendance in 2023, less Guest Speaker(s), is 34. Based upon our total Chapter membership, this equates to almost 25% participation coming out to enjoy camaraderie with their fellow, federal active and annuitants, experiencing a hearty lunch (with dessert), and hearing stimulating speakers on a variety of topics. Looking forward to seeing more members at future luncheon meetings!

Members who wish to make charitable, tax-deductible donations toward the treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure for Alzheimer and enable our Chapter to also get credit should make your check payable to NARFE Alzheimer's Research and include Chapter 685 on the memo line. Send your checks to NARFE #685, P.O. Box 74, Williamsburg, VA 23187-0074.

### **Membership News** *By Dave Riggs, Membership Chair*

#### New Members

During the previous year six persons came to Chapter 685 as new members. However, we lost more people than we gained, most of them deciding not to renew, so it's important to encourage any current or retired federal employees you know to join NARFE and, better yet, join both NARFE and Chapter 685.

We are pleased to welcome two new chapter members who joined since our last newsletter was published in December: **Charles Caldwell** and **Ann Greer**. Both are new national members of

NARFE, as well. Welcome to Williamsburg Chapter 685! Please be sure to greet these new members personally at our meetings.

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

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

### You Can Charge NARFE Membership To Your Credit Card

Last year in this column we discussed two types of membership that are convenient and economical, namely, life membership and dues-withholding membership. Perhaps the least publicized method of membership renewal is via credit card.

When we enter the NARFE website [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) most of us probably use “My Account” most frequently to update our contact information in “My Profile” or perhaps to sign up for webinars. But in addition to “My Profile”, “My Registrations”, and “My Invoices”, there is the less-explored option called “My Settings.” One of the many options you will find here is “Manage Credit Card for Automatic Renewals.”

First you provide the usual credit card information (type of credit card, number, expiration date, security code), then your name and address. You next will find a statement saying, “Payments Authorized by PayPal”. This means that NARFE does not save your credit card but instead authorizes it through the PayPal system.

You now have reached the line “Pre-authorize this credit card for renewals of,” and there are two options. One is “Membership” and one is “PAC & Contributions”. If you only want your credit card to be used for membership renewal, select “Allow” under the “Membership” option and select “Do not allow” under the “PAC & Contributions” option. Then select the tab “I agree to Pre-Authorize this card” and you’re finished.

From then on, NARFE will renew your membership when it’s due via your pre-authorized credit card usage and send you an email that serves as a receipt. There no longer is the concern that your membership will expire. If you later decide that you prefer to renew your membership by one of the more familiar methods, you can revoke the authorized credit card by returning to this form and selecting “Cancel” to negate your authorization.

If you have problems or questions remember that you can contact NARFE at [memberrecords@narfe.org](mailto:memberrecords@narfe.org) or call 1-800 456-8410.

## **Lunch Guest Speaker** *By Ginny Taylor, Program Chair*

Our speaker for March 14 will be Francis Gary Powers, Jr. whose father, Francis Gary Powers, Sr., was shot down while flying a reconnaissance mission over airspace in the Soviet Union in 1960. Here's some background about our guest speaker.

**Gary Powers Jr. is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of The Cold War Museum, a 501(c) (3) charity located at Vint Hill, VA, 45 minutes west of Washington, DC. He founded the museum in 1996 to honor Cold War veterans, preserve Cold War history, and educate future generations about this time period. As Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee for the Cold War Theme Study, he works with the National Park Service and leading Cold War experts to identify historic Cold War sites for commemorating, interpreting, and preservation. Recently, he consulted for a Steven Spielberg Cold War thriller, Bridge of Spies, about James Donovan who brokered the 1962 spy exchange between KGB spy Rudolph Abel and CIA U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, Sr.**

**Francis Gary Powers, Sr. was an American pilot whose Central Intelligence Agency Lockheed U-2 spy plane was shot down while flying a reconnaissance mission in Soviet Union airspace, causing the 1960 U-2 incident. He later worked as a helicopter pilot for KNBC in Los Angeles and died in a 1977 helicopter crash.**

**Editor's Note:** See the full newsletter at: <https://vanarfe.org/Chapter-685/>

## **Recent Chapter Events in Photos**



Last December, Bob Martin, VFN President joined us as our guest and lunch speaker.

Members heard wonderful, holiday songs from some rock'n Ukuleles, presented by the Colonial Heritage Ukulele Music Society.



Guests brought canned goods and other nonperishable food to donate to the Fish Food Pantry.



**Gwen Parker**, (left) AARP volunteer, spoke on brain health at our January Luncheon and was much appreciated by all in attendance.

In February, our guest speaker was **John Sullivan** of American Eagle Flag & Flagpole, Williamsburg. We learned a lot about brain health and the history of the U.S. flag.



We welcomed new members...



...and returning members.



...and as usual, we were engaged in fellowship and interesting conversation.

