



NARFE Chapter 1116 Newsletter

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

JUNE-JULY-AUGUST 2023

Next Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, June 13, 2023
12 noon

10500 Hunting Hills Place, Oakton, VA

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, August 24, 2023
1:00 PM
Location TBD

2023 Board
Chapter Officers

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

1st Vice President & Programs
Ralph Dantine 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 & Photographer
Mark Arpa 703-205-9041

Hostess Jayne Seidman
703-938-2274

National Legislation
Jim Hathaway 703-255-7135

State Legislation
Chris Gieseler 703-849-0008

Newsletter Team
Kathy Arpa, Dave Graf

Public Relations
Pec Chan 703-930-3596

Service Officer
Susan Larson 703-915-2566

Sunshine
Harriet Epstein 703-560-4137

Stay informed – visit www.narfe.org and www.vanarfe.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KATHY ARPA

June is here along with a taste of summer weather. Mark and I attended the Memorial Day Services at American Legion Post 180 in Vienna. See photo on page 6. The weather cooperated for most of the weekend for outdoor events, picnics, and graduation parties. Congratulations to all of the graduates and maybe future NARFE members!

I hope everyone voted in the recent Virginia Federation election. We should hear the results soon. I recently appointed Susan Larson and Chris Gieseler to the 2024 Chapter Nominating Committee. We will have some vacancies on the board.

We had a very informative Membership Meeting in May with our guest speaker Peggy James, Executive Director of the Vienna Business Association (VBA). (See report on meeting beginning on page 2.) We also enjoyed our annual Ice Cream Social hosted by Margaret Murphy and assisted by Judy Hathaway, Dolores Inch and Jayne Seidman. This month we are looking forward to our annual picnic, which will be at the home of Jayne Seidman on June 13. I hope to see you there. If not, I will see you in September!

COMING UP

June 13 – Annual Chapter Picnic – 12 noon - 10500 Hunting Hills Place, Oakton, VA

July 16 – 18 – VFN Board Meeting – Location TBD

July – August – No Chapter Meetings

September 12-14 – 2023 Region X Conference – Capital Plaza Hotel located at 405 Wilkinson Blvd. in Frankfort, Kentucky

September 19 – (note change of date) - Chapter Meeting – 1 PM – Vienna Community Center Auditorium



Let's Picnic – June 13 12 Noon

Like last year, Chapter 1116 members will gather for a picnic at the Oakton, VA home of 2nd Vice President Jayne Seidman on **Tuesday, June 13 beginning at 12 noon**. Depending on the weather, we will either use Jayne's outdoor patio or spacious indoors. There is ample street parking in her quiet neighborhood. The Chapter will provide fried and baked chicken and beverages (lemonade, iced tea, and water). Each member and guest may either bring a dish to share (such as a salad, vegetable, or dessert) or give a \$10.00 donation. If you did not sign up at the May Membership Meeting and want to attend the picnic, please call **Jayne Seidman at 703-938-2274** or **David Graf at 703-938-2962** no later than **Sunday, June 11** to sign-up and indicate what you will bring to the picnic. All members (potential members) and guests are welcome!

Directions from Tysons Corner/Vienna: Take Maple Ave./Route 123 South. Turn **right** onto Hunter Mill Road (VA 624) -- go 0.6 miles. Turn **left** on Marbury Rd. -- go 0.3 miles. Take **the 1st left** on Hunting Hills Court -- go 0.1 miles. Take **the 1st left** on Hunting Hills Place -- go 0.09 miles. Jayne's house number is **10500 Hunting Hills Place - on the left**. Parking is available on the driveway and on both sides of the street. GPS works great.

Jayne's telephone number for last-minute contact is 703-938-2274.

Let the Party begin! Hope to see you there!

TREASURER'S REPORT – DAVE GRAF

Since the May Newsletter, the Chapter received \$107.96 for membership dues collected by NARFE's National Headquarters for the month of April. Also \$20.00 was donated by two members at the May Membership Meeting in support of the June Chapter Picnic and \$5.00 was paid by Margaret Murphy for the unserved ice cream from the Ice Cream Social.

The first expense was \$75.00 to reimburse five Board members who attended the NARFE Northern Virginia Caucus Meeting on April 28, 2023, in Fairfax City, VA. The second expense was \$20.78 to reimburse Margaret Murphy for the purchase of ice cream and paper goods for the Ice Cream Social at the May Membership Meeting.

The 50/50 drawing for Alzheimer's Research raised \$63.00 at the May 9th Membership Meeting. These donations will be sent to the VFN Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Research Fund. The total contribution for calendar year 2023 is \$219.50.

On May 13th I filed the Chapter's Calendar Year 2022 IRS Form 990-N tax return for tax exempt organizations.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – CHRIS GIESELER

The Chapter's May 9, 2023, meeting was called to order by Chapter President Kathy Arpa at 1:05 pm., at the Vienna Community Center (VCC). Kathy inquired about May birthdays among the attendees, and Kay Dellinger indicated she had a May birthday. We all sang Happy Birthday to Kay. Kathy presented some information about Memorial Day, describing it as a very momentous day; then she admonished us all to be good citizens by being involved with the military, voting, volunteering, and offering help to our fellow man, etc.

First Vice President and Program Chair Ralph Dantine led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and then introduced our speaker, Miss Peggy James, Executive Director of the Vienna Business Association [(VBA) and of the Merrifield Business Association], saying that our Chapter wanted to have someone from the business community as a speaker.



Miss James (pictured here) began her presentation, which included a slide show depicting pictures of VBA members and their activities, as well as information about VBA itself. She gave a little bit of information about herself, including that through her work with VBA and Merrifield BA, she has contacts and sponsors, so if anyone needs to network, she would be willing to help. You can contact Peggy James at info@viennabusiness.org

The VBA was founded in 2012. The VBNA works with the Town of Vienna and the Mayor and serves the needs of smaller businesses, by networking, marketing, and donating to nonprofit organizations. Thus, the VBA has a different focus than the Chamber of Commerce. The VBA holds frequent social events for its members (e.g., “mixers” and brown-bag lunches) and distributes a newsletter. Anyone can sign up to receive it at www.ViennaBusiness.org.

The VBA has also established the VBA Foundation (the philanthropic arm of VBA), which supports Vienna activities through grants and sponsorships. These grants help fund Octoberfest, the Halloween Parade, Taste of Vienna, and the Liberty Amendments Observance (mid-June to July regarding the Equal Rights-related U.S. Constitutional Amendments).

Following the presentation, including a question-and-answer period, Kathy presented Miss James (pictured here) with a NARFE coffee cup.



We then proceeded to the break and the Ice Cream Social. The social was organized by Margaret Murphy (who brought the ice cream). Members brought a variety of toppings. Several members helped Margaret serve the ice cream. Hostess Jayne Seidman also brought homemade cookies.



The meeting then resumed with reports from the various Chairs. Updated versions of those reports appear throughout this newsletter. Updated information on the chapter picnic was provided. See details on page 2.

Kathy reported that five members from the chapter attended the Northern Virginia Caucus Meeting held at the American Legion Post in Fairfax on April 28. Candidates for President of the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) - Frances Boatman and Doris McAdams - were in attendance and shared their visions for the VFN.

Kathy also mentioned that Fairfax County is looking for Election Officers for the upcoming election. These officers work from 5 am to 9 pm. and get paid \$250 for their efforts.

Margaret Murphy reported that we collected \$63 for Alzheimer’s research in the 50/50 raffle.

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

(Photos by Mark Arpa.)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JAYNE SEIDMAN

We would like to welcome our newest member, Jose Ramos. We hope to see him at a future meeting. Total Current Chapter Members 175; Total National Members in Chapter Area 139; for a Grand Total of 314 members in our area.

SUNSHINE REPORT – HARRIET EPSTEIN

We are sending well wishes to Dolores Inch, who fell at her home on May 30 and fractured bones in both feet. As a result, Dolores and Bill had to cancel their planned trip to Spain and Ireland this month.

Sympathy to the family of Stephen Ledford, a former member of Chapter 1159 (Annandale) who passed away in March. Steve had served as NARFE VFN National Legislation Chair.

I hope you have a good summer and stay healthy. I will see many of you at the Chapter Picnic on June 13th.

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

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT – SUSAN LARSON

FEDERAL LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM (FLTCIP)

Notice: 2024 Contract extension and Premium Increase

If you are enrolled in the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP), administered by Long Term Care Partners, LLC on behalf of John Hancock Life and Health Insurance Company, you should have received a letter within the last couple of weeks informing you of the extension of the current contract and upcoming premium rates increase. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has extended the contract with John Hancock, effective May 1, 2023, to continue providing insurance coverage to all FLTCIP enrollees for another seven-year term. There will be no disruption in coverage or services for FLTCIP enrollees as long as your premiums are paid and remain current, and you have not exhausted your benefits.

Under the extended contract, premium rates will increase for many enrollees effective January 1, 2024. In September 2023, you will receive a letter with personalized options for each enrollee impacted by a premium rate increase. These options will include accepting the premium rate increase to maintain current coverage or adjusting coverage to reduce the impact of any increase. Currently, no additional details regarding the amount of the rate increase or personalized options are available.

As outlined in your benefit booklet, your FLTCIP premium is not guaranteed. However, it is important to note that Long Term Care Partners, LLC cannot raise your premium because of your advancing age, declining health, claim status, or for any other reason related solely to you. They may only increase your premium if you are among a group of enrollees whose premium is determined to be inadequate. While the group policy is in effect, OPM must approve any increase in premiums.

You are encouraged to view the resources to prepare for the mailings of personalized options this September. You should consider your options carefully when making decisions about your coverage.

Visit www.LTCFEDS.com/about-premiums for information and insight into the premiums, investments, and FLTCIP experience fund, and create or log into your My LTCFEDS account to review your current coverage, contact information, and email and mailing addresses to ensure you receive all updates about the personalized options that will be available this fall.

Please Note: When personalized options are mailed, trained customer service representatives and online educational resources will be available to assist you in making an informed decision.

LEGISLATION REPORTS

National Legislation – Jim Hathaway

Two NARFE priorities in this year’s Congress are adequate funding for and continued oversight of the Office of Personnel Management’s (OPM) Retirement Services Division’s customer service to federal annuitants, and authorization of a minimum 5.2 percent average federal pay raise for federal employees in 2024.

There are two congressional committees that are the most important in seeing these priorities happen. The newly named House **Committee of Oversight and Accountability (COA)** and the Senate **Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (HSGAC)**. Changes in control of the House and retirements in the Senate have brought fresh faces to leadership positions for these two critical committees, making it important to know who these lawmakers are, along with a bit about their background.

The new chairperson of the House COA is Rep. James Comer (R-KY). Comer represents Kentucky’s 1st Congressional District. First elected to Congress in 2016, Comer has a background in agriculture. His listed priorities as the new chairperson include “reducing waste, fraud and abuse in government, along with reducing burdensome regulations and boosting government transparency and accountability”. **Comer had a 44 percent NARFE voting record in the last Congress and has a 30 percent lifetime NARFE voting record.**

The COA also has a new Ranking Member in this Congress. Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) represents Maryland’s 8th Congressional District, located north of Washington, DC. Raskin enters his fourth term in Congress, representing his district since 2017. Prior to serving in Congress, he was a Maryland state senator and a constitutional law professor at the American University Washington College of Law. Raskin has served on the COA since entering Congress and was previously chairperson of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. **He had a 100 percent NARFE voting record in the last Congress and has an 87 percent lifetime NARFE voting record.**

In the Senate, Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI) remains the chairperson of the HSGAC. Peters was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2008 and made the jump as Michigan’s junior senator in 2014. Before coming to Congress, Peters served in many positions, including time in state government, the Navy Reserve, the Michigan Senate, and the private sector. Per the HSGAC website, Peters is focused on fighting for a “stronger economy, good-paying jobs, affordable health care, a secure retirement and an opportunity for everyone to succeed.” **Peters had a 100 percent NARFE voting record in the last Congress and has a 95 percent lifetime NARFE voting record.**

While the chairperson position of HSGAC stayed the same, the committee has a new Ranking Member, with Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) taking on the position from retired Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH). Paul was first elected to the Senate in 2010. Prior to coming to Congress, Paul was a practicing ophthalmologist in Bowling Green, KY. Per his website, Paul describes himself as “an outspoken champion for constitutional liberties and fiscal responsibility” and fights to “return government to its limited, constitutional scope.” **Paul had a 0 percent NARFE voting record in the last Congress and has an 11 percent lifetime NARFE voting record.**

Virginia State Legislation – Chris Gieseler

The Governor of Virginia had until May 12, 2023, to act on legislation that the Virginia General Assembly sent him following its April 12 Reconvened (“Veto”) session. He had sent 87 bills back to the General Assembly with recommendations at the end of the legislature’s Regular Session. The General Assembly adopted the recommendations for 62 of those bills. He vetoed five bills, including SB 1035, dealing with funding to keep bridges in good repair. It is not clear what happened to the remaining bills—they either became law or not.

I have heard two radio reports (same station) that there might be a Special Session of the General Assembly to consider what to do with Virginia's budget surplus, e.g., tax cut and/or additional spending. Any such Special Session would not occur until after the federal debt limit issue is resolved. I have not heard any other reporting on this issue. Thus, the prospects of any such Special Session are unclear.

Elections or voting conventions are going on in the Commonwealth, including a Democratic primary that will be held on June 20, 2023, for certain voting districts. State Senator Chap Peterson is being "primaried" on that date for the revised district that now includes Oakton, the Town of Vienna, Dunn Loring, and parts of Tysons.

NOTE: There are no chapter meetings in July and August. Our next newsletter will be in September 2023. Look for info on our September 19th Meeting in that newsletter.



Memorial Day Service at American Legion Post 180 in Vienna, VA

Happy Father's Day – June 18th

Happy 4th of July!

