

VFC Annual Report 2013

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Luther L. Santiful - President

At the outset, I express my thanks to all members who voted me in as VFC President. Also, I am grateful to VFC Board Members who agreed to continue serving in appointive positions following my election, as well as the new Board Members who assumed duties since April 25, 2012. I have had the good fortune to lead a productive administration based on collaboration and accountability.

I have made a conscientious effort to keep the Virginia Federation in the forefront of NARFE activities. In collaboration with the VFC Board, my primary focus has been on the core functions of NARFE: assisting chapters with membership recruitment and retention, and influencing national and state legislation as it pertains to federal employees and seniors.

We added resources to the membership committee in an effort to work closely with chapters when help was needed with recruitment and/or retention. To aid the Membership Chair and in an attempt to jump-start our efforts to reverse the declining membership trend and hopefully initiate a turn-around, I appointed B.J. Thomas McMillan of Northern Neck Chapter 1823 to spearhead hands-on workshops for members interested in the detailed mechanics of member recruitment. Betty Warren of Virginia Beach (Bayside) 974 will conduct similar workshops on member retention. Both are available to visit chapters, separately or jointly, as mutually convenient. Again this year, we had a membership recruitment contest with a starting point of April 1, 2012 and ending March 31, 2013. I appointed Dennis Martin, Membership Chair, as the coordinator of the VFC e-Division. This position is important because the number of Virginia e-NARFE members has reached 1072 in a very short time and we need to stay abreast of the implications of this phenomenon.

It is of significant concern that some members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation do not vote to support NARFE issues while others vote to support us 100% of the time. We suspect part of the reason for this lack of support is the dearth of knowledge about our concerns. Accordingly, our congressional district liaisons and other VFC leaders have made a determined effort to educate members of Congress on the interests of federal employees, retirees and spousal annuitants in their respective districts. Redistricting added challenges for us, first, to find out where the new district lines are and, second, to have the affected chapters make the contact with the new Congressional members.

Similarly, we worked with members of the Virginia General Assembly to improve the plight of senior citizens in the Commonwealth. Our VFC 2013 State Legislative Plan was made available in October for chapters' use in meeting with state legislators. The Plan covered advocacy for (1) Transfer on Death Deeds, (2) Protection of Incapacitated Adults, (3) Geriatric Training & Board Certification and (4) Public Transportation Needs of the Elderly/Handicapped. I mailed a copy of our plan to all members of the General Assembly and sought their support.

We were fortunate to have 42 members of the VFC attend the 32nd NARFE National Convention in Sparks, Nevada as delegates August 26-30. The few chapters not represented by voting delegates assigned their proxies to registered delegates from other chapters. All chapters had the opportunity to review the Bylaws, Standing Rules & General Resolutions booklet forwarded from the National Office to advise their delegates or proxy carriers of their desired wishes.

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The 2013 Legislative Training Conference was held March 9-12, 2013 at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel in Arlington, VA. The VFC had a delegation of 40 members attend. On Tuesday, March 12, members went to Capitol Hill and met with all members of the Virginia congressional delegation except Congressmen Goodlatte and Griffith. We were not able to arrange appointments with those two. Those visits served as an excellent vehicle to put faces on active and retired federal employee concerns.



VFC Attendees at Legislative Training Conference

During the year, we completed the VFC Strategic Plan for implementation at all levels. Included in the Plan are emphases on dues-withholding, registration in the Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS) and outreach to active employees.

Congress is still in the throes of determining how to address the nation's fiscal issues, which leave federal employees, active and retired, vulnerable. Accordingly, we have used what influence we have to ameliorate the potential damage to us. In tracking the calls and message traffic to members of congress, we saw the need for improvement and encouraged more participation. More members saw the need to contact congress and express their views. This was especially important in districts where the congressmen have not been supportive. We are pleased that we have gone through the recent chapter elections and found that all of our 59 chapters are still in existence, although some may be teetering. Fortunately, there is a nucleus of dedicated members in each affected chapter on which to build for the future. These few cases are not due to a lack of members in the chapters but a lack of individuals willing to assume leadership positions.

The 2013 NARFE VFC State Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Koger Center, Richmond (Midlothian), Virginia, April 21-24. The convention committee has planned an exciting program covering national and state legislation, chapter officer training and chapter recognition for outstanding performance. I look forward to participating in the convention with other members, new and old.

Richard R. Giangerelli – 1st Vice President
1st Vice President's Report

Where has the year gone!! It seems like only yesterday that we had the 2012 VFC Convention, and now we are holding the 2013 VFC Convention. Some things have changed and some of the same problems remain. Chapters continue to struggle to get members to step up to assume leadership responsibilities and membership numbers continue to decline, though not as much as last year. I have not been able to visit all of the VFC Areas this past year; but I have been able to attend Area and Chapter meetings in Areas III, IV, V, IX, and X.

However, on the positive side, there are a number of new Chapter officers this year, as well as five new Area Vice Presidents (AVP's), the most recent of which is John Bails, who stepped up recently to take over as the AVP of Area X from Vicky Duarte. Debra Laughon also stepped up in January to take over as the AVP of Area V from Jesse Barksdale. The other new current AVP's that were elected at the 2012 VFC Convention are Alex Adkins in Area II, Carolyn Wilson in Area III, and Wanda Ware in Area VI. I have enjoyed working with all of the AVP's this past year, even though there were times of controversy. I also want to thank Jessie Barksdale and Vicky Duarte for the time they were able to devote as AVP's. The position of AVP is not an easy one. I entreat the Chapters to support their AVP to the maximum extent possible. Remember, they are your voice on the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Board.

On the negative side, declines in membership continue to be a problem for most of the Virginia Chapters, though the number of Virginia members in the NARFE National E-Chapter has grown significantly. As I said in some of my previous articles in the VFC Notes, perhaps now is the time to ask why Virginia Federation Chapters are having this problem. New approaches and ideas are needed. More discussion is needed about what seems to work and what doesn't seem to work. And we need to find more ways to let current and retired federal employees who are not currently NARFE members know about NARFE, and the mission and activities of NARFE. And, we need to encourage them to join and participate.

The VFC Chapter Officer Training sessions that occurred in four locations around the Commonwealth in 2012 were not held in 2013. The VFC policy is to hold this training on a two-year cycle to keep costs down and to prevent conflicts with the NARFE National Legislative Training Conference. However, this year, the VFC is going to try something a little different. Training sessions will be incorporated into the 2013 VFC Convention. This resulted from your comments on the 2012 VFC Convention and comments made at Chapter and Area meetings around the State. This training, however, will not just be for Chapter officers; but it will include training in information distribution by such means as web pages, social media, and newsletters. It will also include training the trainer in Service.

When you receive this VFC Annual Report, the 2013 VFC Convention will be occurring. It has been a very busy time preparing for this event. As the VFC Coordinator for this Convention, I have enjoyed working with Carolyn Wilson, the Convention Chair, and the other Convention Committee members from Area III, which is hosting this Convention. We will have a few proposed VFC Bylaws Amendments and a proposed Resolution to consider. A dedication will be included for Oscar Honeycutt and recommendations for two candidates for the R David Smith Award have been submitted and are being evaluated. Candidates for the position of Virginia Commonwealth Governor have been invited. And, besides all of the

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activities supporting Alzheimer's research, there will also be information provided about the activities of the Federal Employees Education and Assistance Association (FEEA). And to encourage attendees to stay through the end of the Convention, there will even be entertainment during the final session of the Convention. I hope that you will be able to participate in the Convention.

Kathy Arpa - 2nd Vice President

Welcome to the 2013 VFC Convention. After all the news lately about Sequestration and Furloughs, it is time to take a break to see old friends and make new friends at the 59th VFC convention. They say time goes fast when you are having fun. I don't know if I can say the past year was all fun but it sure did go fast. As 2nd Vice President, I am the primary contact person with VFC committee chairs. These committee chairs are all voting members on the VFC board and fortunately for me they all continued in their positions in 2012-2013. I have enjoyed working with them since last April and I want to thank them for their hard work on behalf of the Virginia Federation. They are:

- Connie and John Bails of Clifton, who served as co-service officers,
- Gene Brown of Vienna, who served as our state legislation chair,
- Gaston Gianni of Dumfries, who served as our public relations (PR) chair,
- Tom Hatfield of Chesapeake, who served as our national legislation chair,
- Dennis Martin of Springfield, who served as our membership chair, and
- Donna Shackelford of Centreville, who served as our Alzheimer's chair.



Here is a picture taken at our July 2012 Board Meeting.

Left to right -

Tom Hatfield, Donna Shackelford, Jim Bradley (VFC State Legislative Representative), John Bails, Gaston Gianni, Connie Bails, Stan Palen (VFC Webmaster), Dennis Martin and Gene Brown.

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Connie and John visited many chapters near and far this year and as a result of their enthusiasm more chapters now have service officers. Once Connie and John explained what a service officer did, members realized they could actually do what was required. John is wearing two hats now as he recently volunteered to take over the Area X Vice President's position until the Convention.

Gene hosted the State Legislation Planning Meeting last June which resulted in four issues on the 2013 State Legislation Plan. In his report, you will hear about one of our success stories this year. We still need donations to the Virginia Political Action Fund and have designated October as State PAC month.

Gaston visited several chapters and had a busy year with many matching funds projects and ensured that chapters had sufficient supplies for recruitment at health fair and festivals. We need more PR chairs. Less than 50% of our chapters have a PR chair, not an ideal situation.

Tom worked very hard to fill the vacancies for Congressional District Liaisons and Senate Legislation chairs in areas that were affected by the redistricting and the election last fall. I know he was pleased to join the large delegation from Virginia that attended the NARFE Legislation Training held in March in Crystal City/Arlington.

Dennis kept us up to date with monthly reports on state-wide membership data, dues withholding, and non renewals. He is also the coordinator for the Virginia e-NARFE Division which is designed to provide eNARFE members in Virginia with some of the news they would receive if they opted for membership in one of our chapters in Virginia. Our membership contest was a popular event again this year and it will be interesting to see who the winners are. To help in the recruitment effort, NARFE headquarters has designed a new attention grabbing membership form.

Donna also visited several chapters during the past year and has important information in her report about Alzheimer's research going on. During the last few months, I reviewed several newsletters and read comments about the popularity of the piggy banks that Donna gave away last year at the convention.

Detailed reports from each committee chair can be found later in this annual report.

I was honored to represent Region X as the chair of the membership committee at the 32nd National Convention in Sparks, NV last August. Several NARFE members from Virginia were also selected to serve on committees.

I produced a colorful ½ page recruitment ad which was published in three editions of the Fairfax Times. The ad was a matching funds project which was partially funded by seven Fairfax County chapters in Areas IX and X.

I worked on the VFC Strategic Plan with Bob Brady, Dick Giangerelli, Gaston Gianni, and Pierce Johnson, (all from the VFC Board) and Kitty Price, from Chapter 1757, Middle Peninsula-Gloucester. The Plan will be presented at the VFC Convention.

I coordinated a recruitment training workshop for Areas IX and X which was held at the Vienna Community Center in March. The workshop, led by B.J. Thomas McMillan, brought these

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chapters together to share information and success stories. It is apparent that chapters should try to get new members to attend chapter meetings by publishing newsletters that provide valuable information and come up with programs that are educational, interesting, and enjoyable.

In other activities during the past year, I served as 1st Vice President, Program Chair and Newsletter Editor for Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton); participated in a Health Fair sponsored by Congressman Gerry Connolly; served as a member of the 2014 and 2015 Convention Search Committee; attended the 2013 National Legislation Training; attended Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters Meetings; attended VFC Board Meetings in July, October and January; visited Chapters 7, 893 and 2358 in Virginia and Chapter 259 in Clearwater, FL; attended a Congressional forum with Candidate Tim Kaine; represented NARFE at Congressman Gerry Connolly's Ninth Annual Celtic fundraising event; and became a life member of NARFE.

I enjoyed meeting members throughout the state and appreciate their encouragement and support. I hope you enjoy the convention, visit the Silent Auction Table, attend some of the new training and recruit a new member!

William A Schmidt - Secretary

As the Secretary of the VFC my duties require that I take minutes at board meetings and distribute them before the next meeting for review; and to keep the official records of the VFC. Preparing and submitting the minutes is straightforward and has been done. We use two methods of recordkeeping. The Secretary keeps a hard copy of all records and we try to capture the minutes and other important documents in the electronic archives so that they are available on the VFC web site. The difficulty is to avoid keeping too much and not to lose the important items in bulk storage. Also the Secretary received the reports submitted by the elected and appointed officers of the Federation for the 2013 Annual Report. These reports were compiled by the Secretary and used to prepare this 2013 Annual Report.

The Virginia Federation of Chapters 2012 Voting Strength and the Federation Dues, were determined using the NARFE M 112 report as of December 31, 2012, and distributed to Chapters and to the VFC President, Treasurer and the 2013 Convention election committee in advance of the 2013 Annual VFC Convention. The Secretary will compile a record of the Area Caucus elections of the Area Vice Presidents, and the Area elections to the Nominating Committee for 2013-2014. A meeting of the members of the Nominating Committee will be held to choose the Nominating Committee Chair. Draft ballots will be prepared to be available in the event of nominations from the floor for one of the elected positions or for more than one nominee for an Area Vice President. As required, I will forward the required reports on the 2013 Convention to NARFE Headquarters.

The VFC Secretary received proposed resolutions for By Law changes and Resolutions submitted by chapters for inclusion in the Call to Convention.

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Samuel Harris - Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 1, 2012 – MARCH 31, 2013

Samuel R. Harris, Treasurer

Description	Budget (\$)	Actual (\$)
<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>ANNUM</u>	<u>07//01/2012-03/31/2013</u>
NARFE 10% Funds	\$ 62,000	\$ 43,198
Chapter Dues	\$ 35,300	\$ 21,060
Reimbursed Expenses	\$ 200	\$ 54
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 500	\$ 22
Interest	\$ 2,000	\$ 854
Convention Reimbursement	\$ 1,000	\$ 0
NARFE Matching Funds	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,587
Prior Year Carryover	\$ 20,450	\$ 0
Total Revenues	\$127,450	\$ 68,775
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Executive Committee	\$ 19,055	\$ 8,192
IPP and Appointees	\$ 8,275	\$ 2,934
Field Operations	\$ 25,100	\$ 13,501
Program Operations	\$ 31,520	\$ 11,145
Convention Advance	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Award/Gifts	\$ 1,000	\$ 0
State Legislative Meeting	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,139
Membership Contest	\$ 1,000	\$ 0
Hotel	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,368
Donations	\$ 500	\$ 0
Member Recruitment	\$ 4,000	\$ 295
Newsletter	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,136
WEB Site	\$ 300	\$ 72
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,000	\$ 189
National Convention	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,500
Matching Funds	\$ 6,000	\$ 9,082
National Legislative Training	\$ 8,500	\$ 3,647
Total Expenses	\$127,450	\$ 64,200 50%
Net Gain/Loss		\$ 4,575

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Account Balances

Description	Balance June 30, 2012	Receipts	Disbur. 7/1/2012- 3/31/2013	Balance 7/1/2012- 3/31/2013	Balance 3/31/2013
<u>General Fund</u>					
General Fund Savings	\$ 5		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5
General Fund Checking	\$60,432		\$68,390	\$64,200	\$ 64,622
General Fund Reserve	\$24,922		\$ 250	\$ 0	\$ 25,172
General Fund Contingency	<u>\$ 9,418</u>		<u>\$ 126</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 9,544</u>
Total General Funds	\$94,777		\$68,766	\$64,200	\$99,343
<u>Convention Fund</u>					
Convention Savings	\$ 5		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5
Convention Checking	<u>\$ 52</u>		<u>\$26,332</u>	<u>\$ 1,975</u>	<u>\$24,409</u>
Total Convention Funds	\$ 57		\$26,332	\$ 1,975	\$24,414
<u>Political Fund</u>					
Political Savings	\$ 5	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 5	
Political Checking	<u>\$ 6,242</u>		<u>\$ 1,802</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 8,044</u>
Total Political Funds	\$ 6,247		\$ 1,802	\$ 0	\$ 8,049
<u>License Plate Escrow</u>					
License Plate Savings	\$ 5		\$ 0	\$ 5	\$ 0
License Plate Checking	<u>\$ 870</u>		<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 870</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Total License Plate Funds	\$ 875		\$ 0	\$ 875	\$ 0

Pat Taylor – Area I Vice President

I was elected Area I Vice President at the 2010 Convention. Since that time, I sit down and reread the duties and responsibilities of an Area VP as stated in the Federation By-Laws at least once a year. I have the responsibility of providing leadership and guidance to four chapters in Area I: 682 (Peninsula), 685 (Williamsburg), 1757 (Middle Peninsula/Gloucester), and 1823 (Northern Neck). In an abbreviated form, below are *some* of the pertinent points of the job.

- ◆ Act as liaison between the VFC and Chapters.
- ◆ Visit chapter and executive committee meetings when feasible and/or appropriate.
- ◆ Assist chapters with programs for meetings when appropriate.
- ◆ Pursue legislative objectives on the National, State, and local levels.

I sincerely believe that we've achieved these points and more during the past year! I have attended all of the VFC Board's quarterly meetings where I've shared my chapters' concerns and problems – communication is vital from both perspectives. After the Board meetings I've prepared a brief summary of the agenda items discussed at the meetings for the chapter officers' information. I've attended chapter meetings, special events, and holiday functions for each of the four chapters. And I must add several members have visited other Area I chapters which has resulted in more interaction and improved communication.

There's that word "communication" again. All four chapters have newsletters that keep their members informed and encourage participation, and their respective publications are being posted on the VFC website. Chapter 682's PR Chair/Newsletter Editor Charlotte Mitchell has gotten more members interested in *Facebook* through creative use of the media, announcing meetings, welcoming new members, expressing thanks to speakers for excellent programs, etc. There is also an active exchange of ideas with other chapters and federations which is interesting and informative. I hope to see expansion of this media even more in the coming year. Two of the chapters (682 & 685) are now selling ads to help defray the cost of their printed newsletters as well as making distribution online for members who prefer that version. Newsletters are a vital part of communication among members, chapters, and federations so innovation is vital with changing times.

Health Fairs continue to serve chapters in Area I since we have access to so many government agencies. Chapter 682's extraordinary membership recruiter Marie Collins coordinated a total of five events where members assisted with staffing at NASA, Ft. Eustis, VA Hospital, TSA/Newport News Airport, and Sup Ship. Williamsburg Chapter members worked a new health fair at a community center in their area. Lots of contacts, materials handed out, and a couple of members added to the lists! By the way, Marie was the top recruited again this year!!!!

Other Area I achievements involved the appointment of Chapter 1823's President B.J. McMillan Thomas as the point of contact for a special Membership Recruitment task. B. J. made her initial presentation at an Area I meeting with 19 members in attendance. The presentation was excellent and utilized scenarios of two people meeting, talking, discussing NARFE and then discussing membership! There was great group participation with B.J. adding notes to her ever growing presentation. She gave a presentation at the January VFC Board meeting and is now starting to speak to chapters across the state. Kitty Price, Chapter 1757, was appointed to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee which also gave our area more visibility.

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Visibility and Advocacy rolled into one big PROJECT for Area I in the fall. As AVP I contacted incumbents and candidates for Congressional District 3 (Scott/Longo), District 2 (Rigell/Hirschbiel), and District 1 (Wittman/Cook/Parker) through their Campaign Managers and requested that they participate in three debates to be held over a 3-4 week period in October. After many conversations, e-mails, letters, etc. I finally got all three to agree to appear. I contacted Dr. Quinton Kidd, Director of the Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University, to help with the coordination. He agreed to serve as moderator, and he arranged for a free venue on the CNU campus. Together we convinced the Daily Press Editorial Page Editor and one of her fellow editors to serve as our panelists. And, perhaps one of the best points, the Daily Press provided all of the PR through numerous display ads and columns and follow up articles without any cost. The Area's total expense was under \$300 for a banner prominently displayed at each of the debates. Special thanks to Marie Collins and Area II AVP Alex Adkins, and VFC National Legislation Chair Tom Hall for their dedication and support as I worked through this project. Best visibility we could have gotten with the general public, potential members, and elected officials and their opponents. Next project will probably be a state office debate!! By the way, questions were submitted in advance from citizens, reviewed by the panelists, and NARFE was assured that at least four of the questions would pertain to their specific issues – which they did!

Also advocacy efforts were pursued through letters to the editors of local publications. Charlotte Mitchell and Ed Prior, Chapter 682 members, have been diligent in sending letters to the Daily Press editors – with great success getting them published. Jim Landrum, Chapter 1823, had a great suggestion of getting a VFC Officer to respond to a letter published in the Richmond Dispatch. I contacted VFC President Luther Santiful who followed up on Jim's suggestion and got a letter submitted and published. Team work, communication, visibility, PR, advocacy, etc. - it all came together to achieve a goal. .

During the year Chapter 682 member Ray Whipple served as CDL for District 1 and Wanda Hewlin served as CDL for District 3. With redistributing most of the chapter was moved into District 2 so Ray may be serving as Vice CDL for Congressman Rigell in the coming months. Chapter 1823's B.J. McMillan and Chapter 682's Tom Yager and I attended the National Legislative Conference in DC in March. We attended meetings with our own representatives and sat in on meetings with other members as they met with their respective members of Congress. Great way to learn and to promote NARFE's mission!

State Legislation hasn't gotten as much emphasis during the past few years as I would like us to pursue. Harriett Verberg, Chapter 1823, has great interest and knowledge of state legislation, and I sincerely hope she will become more involved with this task during the coming year. Chapter 682 has 1st District State Senator John Miller among its members, and he has offered his assistance at numerous times. Please be thinking about your own interest in state legislation and how much it affects each of us, and then consider stepping up to promote this program in your respective chapter. We need to get more state officials on our meeting program schedules and to get them more involved in our advocacy efforts.

Another area which I feel needs more emphasis is training. With this goal in mind, I had B. J. McMillan Thomas give her presentation on Membership Recruitment at our fall Area I meeting. The Area I spring meeting will be held in April with Co-Service Officers Connie and John Bails, making a presentation. I have requested that elected chapter officers, current service officers, membership chairs, and potential service and membership chairs attend. This is a great time to

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learn from each other, to learn what materials Headquarters provides, and to have discussions with the VFC Board program chairs who are willing to visit and teach us! I'd like to continue this training approach at future area meetings.

Area I continues to raise money for Alzheimer's Research through raffles, silent auctions, collections in front of stores, and "Miles of Pennies" which Marie Collins (682) has been collecting for several years. Baskets for the VFC Convention Alzheimer's auction are being prepared by the chapters. It is anticipated Area I the four chapters will have approximately 20+ members in attendance and at least three of the chapters have purchased ads in the program book along with an AVP ad.

Finally I'd like to mention that I attended the National Convention in Sparks, NV in August and served on the Credentials Committee for the first time. While working on this committee, I met members from several states and had opportunities to discuss how they deal with certain problems, what works in their part of the country, etc. Another great learning experience! I also worked the Suffolk Peanut Festival in October where approximately 250,000 visitors are anticipated each fall. Working with folks from other areas and chapters is always fun!

As you can tell, I'm proud of the members of Chapters 682, 685, 1757, and 1823 and their many accomplishments during the past year. It's a pleasure working with them, and I hope they will give me the opportunity to continue serving when the Area I caucus is held at the 2013 Convention.

Alex H. Adkins - Area II Vice President

I was elected to serve as the Area II Vice President during the 2012 VFC Convention. Since my election, I have attended the National Convention in Reno-Sparks, Nevada and the VFC Board of Directors meeting in July. I have also attended meetings of all Area II Chapters, including Eastern Shore Chapter 1175, and installed chapter officers for 2013.

On the 27th of September, Chapter 974 hosted a "Meet the Candidates" forum at the Bayside Presbyterian Church. Almost all of the candidates for the Virginia Beach City Council gave a 5-minute speech followed by questions from members of Metro Chapter 5, Seaside Chapter 1827, and Chapter 974. Originally, candidates for the 2nd Congressional District 2 were invited. However, they cancelled when President Barrack Obama held a campaign rally in Virginia Beach on the same day as our event.

During October and November, I joined NARFE members from four local chapters for a series of Health Fairs at federal agencies. We set up booths at the fairs to promote NARFE and recruit new members. During the health fairs, we meet a large number of current federal employees and had an opportunity to explain the benefits of becoming a NARFE member.

On the 1st of October, I attended a NARFE Chapter 682 sponsored debate for the 3rd Congressional District held at Christopher Newport University (CNU) in Newport News. The debate was well attended and included a NARFE recruiting table. I brought one of three Zap banners to advertise the NARFE presence at the debate. Betty and Donald Warren of Chapter 974 also attended the debate. A second debate was held on the 9th of October for the 1st Congressional District. I attended this debate and also brought a Zap banner for the NARFE

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booth. The final debate for the 2nd District was scheduled for October 29th, but was cancelled because of Tropical Storm Sandy.

Eastern Shore Chapter 1175 and Metro Chapter 5 have elected new officers. Chapter 5 has resumed monthly meetings and Chapter 1175 has resumed meeting twice a year. Virginia Beach Chapter 974 and Tidewater Chapter 66 continue to have monthly meetings.

Unlike chapters in Virginia Beach and Norfolk, the Eastern Shore chapter is located in a rural part of the state and its membership is spread out over a much larger area. There is a single country road that runs the entire length of the Eastern Shore. This makes the commute to meetings much more difficult than it is for anyone on the Southside of the Chesapeake Bay. My own chapter is within walking distance for some members and no more than a few miles for most of the membership. Aside from rural post offices, the only concentration of active federal employees is at NASA's Wallops Island Flight Facility and the Navy's Surface Combat Systems Center (SCSC), which is co-located at Wallops Island.

Chapters 5 and 974 had a Holiday Luncheon in December. I attended the luncheon at the Chef's Table on Independence Boulevard in Virginia Beach.

Carolyn Wilson- Area III Vice President

This report covers the last six months of calendar year 2013. I became Area III VP on July 1, 2013 and have enjoyed working with my seven chapters: Petersburg, Richmond, South of the James, Colonial Heights, Imperial Plaza, Tuckahoe and Midlothian.

All of the chapters are doing well except in getting new members. The problem with members being assigned to the E-chapter is creating headaches for at least three of the seven chapters. Presidents and membership chairs have to be on their toes to make sure members are not transferred into Chapter 2363. Even with renewals there is a problem retaining the members in the chapter. This is a problem that must be taken care of at HQS, NARFE. In the coming months, I plan to have the VFC Membership Committee give some special training on the new reporting system.

Chapters continue working hard to meet their individual goals for Alzheimer's. Some chapters have auctions, both silent and active, some have 50/50's, and several are now using the piggy banks given out at last year's convention.

All of the chapters have full slates of officers, some committees don't have chairs but continue to function.

I swore in most of the officers at the chapter Christmas luncheons.

I visited all of the chapters at least once and held Council of Chapter (COC) meetings every quarter. We had some special training at the COCs. The seven chapters in Area III will be the host of the 2013 VFC Convention. The main purpose of the meetings since July have been working on the Convention. Hopefully, when we report on the convention next year in the Annual Report, we can declare it was a great success.

Two of our Chapter members, Carroll Graham and Jack McMurchy, are working on a presentation to honor Oscar Honeycutt, at the 2013 VFC Convention. Oscar was active in the

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VFC and NARFE for many years, especially in getting our concerns presented to the General Assembly. The Convention will be dedicated to Oscar.

Chapter state legislation chairs have met with several delegates trying to get their support for the VFC State Legislative Plan. Representatives of Area III and the VFC presented the Plan to our State Senator, Kirk Cox, and he said that he would talk to other committee chairs about it and help us set up meetings with pertinent delegates after the 2013 General Assembly session was over.

Midlothian Chapter is still publishing their own newsletter every two months. The other six chapters publish a newsletter four times a year, one is not published in the summertime. The newsletters are a great method of getting the chapters news out to the members who can't attend the meeting for one reason or another.

Chapters are having extremely interesting guest speakers. Plus they are recommending speakers to other chapters. I believe the meetings are getting better and better and it is a shame that they don't get more of a turn out. That is something that we will be working on, how to get members to the meetings.

In closing, I think Area III is doing just fine. We will just keep plugging along, trying to get new members and holding on to the ones we have.

Bobby L. Whittington - Area IV Vice President

VFC Area IV is nestled in a portion of the Southeastern part of Tidewater (aka Hampton Roads), Virginia. It consists of five chapters – Portsmouth (Chapter 63), Churchland (Chapter 1293), Chesapeake (Chapter 1682), Brentwood (Chapter 1697) and Suffolk (Chapter 1743). During the year, chapters have been visited, and officers installed, by the Area IV VP.

Significant Events Within Area IV:

During the past year, several of our chapters played host to visits by VFC Executive Board Officers - President Luther Santiful who visited both the Churchland and Chesapeake chapters; VFC Immediate Past President Bill Shackelford visited the Churchland chapter; and VFC First Vice President Richard Giangerelli met with three chapter presidents at our February Chapter Presidents' Breakfast in the Churchland area.

Several chapters were also visited by guest speakers from congressional staff offices, which spoke to chapter attendees and answered questions. Presidents of the Area IV Churchland, Brentwood and Chesapeake chapters attended the 2012 VFC Convention in Richmond. Several other chapter members from Area IV also attended – including the Vice Presidents of the Churchland and Chesapeake chapters, and the Churchland Alzheimer's Chairwoman. Many of our chapters participated in NARFE 'recruiting outreach' events. In June 2012, our Churchland chapter rented a table in Smithfield for the annual "Smithfield Olden Days." Three members manned the table, handing out NARFE bags of literature and brochures all day, although the actual temperature topped out at 103-degrees. In early October, the Churchland Chapter participated in two Federal Employee Health Fairs, one at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital & Medical Center; and, the other at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (located in Portsmouth). Again, bags of NARFE items and pamphlets were handed out to federal employees and

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retirees. The Suffolk chapter 'manned' a recruiting table at the annual Suffolk Peanut Festival during the fall season. That event covered four days, and the Suffolk members were augmented by members of other Area IV chapters. Our Chesapeake chapter rented a table at an annual Sheriff's event (in Chesapeake); where they met with active and retired federal employees and handed out brochures, applications, etc.

On-Going Actions:

Actions to support the 2013 VFC Convention are continuing in all Area IV chapters to include encouraging attendance by members, soliciting individual donations (Super Angel, Angel, etc.), selling advertisements for the convention program within chapters and commercial businesses, donating items to the VFC Alzheimer's 'silent auction,' etc. This was a main focus point at the Area IV Chapter President's Breakfast, along with other selected NARFE issues.

Each chapter has a methodology for raising and donating to the Alzheimer's Research Foundation via VFC and NARFE. Such actions include 50/50 raffles, collection of 'Pocket Change for Alzheimer's Change,' some auctions and 'passing the hat' at meetings, etc. In addition to the chapter visits by VFC Executive Board members, mentioned above, other guest speakers visiting with our chapters include staff members of congressional representatives, health care spokespersons, senior living representatives, lawyers addressing 'elder law' and other matters, member of the Virginia Attorney General's Office, investment advisors, entertainers, and others.

Upcoming Events:

The 2013 VFC Convention, Richmond, April 2013.

Chapter President's Breakfast, Chesapeake, May 2013.

Smithfield Olden Days, Smithfield, June 2013.

Suffolk Peanut Festival, Suffolk, October 2013.

Federal Employee Health Fairs, Portsmouth, November 2013.

The 2014 VFC Convention, Richmond, April 2014

Debra Laughon– Area V Vice President

Jessie Barksdale was re-elected Area V VP last April. He set goals to increase donations to Alzheimer's research by 5 % and sustain membership. Jessie was elected to the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors in November. He request someone be appointed to fulfill his term with the VFC NARFE. Luther appointed Debbie Laughon from Bedford Chapter 1068.

Let me introduce myself. I retired from the Bedford USPS in February of 2009 after 29 years and 2 months as a rural carrier. I am involved with the Bedford Professional Women's club, Little Town Players (local live theater), 4-H All Stars and also am very active with my Church. Since being appointed I have visited each of the 6 chapters in my area. They are having membership problems and I am working with them to overcome these issues and stay active. Each chapter has active members that very much want to stay active and continue the great work that NARFE does with legislation and other valuable services. I am also working with Wanda Ware, Area VI VP to start 2 new chapters in our area. One is at Smith Mountain Lake and the next one will be in Alleghany County. We are working hard to expand this organization and get more Federal workers involved. I look forward to meeting you at the convention.

Wanda Ware- Area VI Vice President

I accepted the nomination to be the VFC Area VI Vice President in April of last year. It continues to be a learning experience for me. I attended the 2012 VFC Convention; my plan is to attend the 2013 Convention, also. I have attended two of the three VFC Executive Board meetings. In March 2013, I attended the VFC Legislative Training Conference in Washington DC. This type of meeting was not new to me. As an active and retired employee, I have attended The League of Postmasters Legislative meetings many times, the last being in 2011. I visited Southwest Highland Chapter 2330 in May 2012. In June 2012, I visited the Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837. On June 14, 2012, the Chapter had a display table at the local, "Seniors in the Park" day in Wytheville. My visit to the New River Valley Chapter 1134 was in September. I am happy to report the New River Valley Chapter had several members to attend the 2012 VFC Convention. They have officers in place for 2013. The chapter is making some difficult decisions as to the future of the chapter.

Del Dyer, past Area VI VP, attended each of these chapter meetings to introduce me as the new Area VP. His advice has been very valuable. The common dominator among all Area VI chapters is maintaining and recruiting new members. Filling officers and committee chairpersons each year is becoming a task. In May, I am planning to have a membership training meeting for the four chapters. As 2012 President and 2013 1st VP of The Roanoke Valley Chapter 111, I have attend all of their meetings. Four members attended the 2012 VFC Convention. The Chapter has experienced some changes in officers. Due to moving out of state, the First VP and the Secretary resigned and those positions were filled. All positions have been filled for the current year. Forty to fifty members attend the chapter meetings. Membership has dropped since January, 2012. The Chapter is seeking ways to contact potential members. The Chapter had membership tables set up at the Roanoke Postal Credit Union annual meeting and at the League of Postmasters meeting.

A zap banner and a display board are available for the Area VI Chapters to use in promoting NARFE at special meetings.

Steve Dansker - Area VII Vice President

Area VII centers on the Shenandoah Valley in far Western Virginia. We are composed of 6 chapters: Winchester, Shenandoah County (meeting in Mt. Jackson), Page Valley (Luray), Harrisonburg, the combined Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro, and Charlottesville. We number approximately 1260 in strength. The membership has dipped a little over 3% this past year, but with the new recruitment contest, members are vigorously attempting to bring in new ones, and bring back those that have lapsed. Our goal is to increase our number to back over 1300 by the end of the 2013.

This report will cover the period from the 2012 VFC Convention to just before the 2013 VFC Convention. To begin with, I'm proud to announce that the 2012 VFC Convention hosted by Area VII was the most profitable in memory. Each of the Area VII 6 chapters received over \$1750 from the proceeds of the convention. In addition, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Convention Committee, the Convention received well over 95% positive evaluations. All of the suggestions made to better the convention were passed on to the 2013 VFC Convention Committee. We wish them well in their current efforts.

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As you can imagine, after the flurry of activity of the VFC Convention, it was time for a pause. However, because of the upcoming primaries & elections, that was not to be. I immediately began to become involved in political campaign appearances and election preparations. Since I am an Election Official here in Shenandoah County, I attended training and was present at the polls for the electoral activities. The National Candidates came to our region in vast numbers, holding fundraisers as well as numerous indoor & outdoor activities. Our chapters hosted a few during the summer. We were privileged to see all of our Congressional incumbents and candidates hold court. Also, the Presidential and Vice-presidential candidates themselves came to several events. It seemed that Western Virginia was a hotbed of activity because we were considered a "state-in-play". Much attention was given to us and we appreciated it. And as before, all through the year, nationally, I have been very vocal in writing and speaking directly to our 6th District Congressman, Bob Goodlatte, and our two Federal VA Senators to keep our pay & benefits in line with the rest of the Country, and to not single us Federal employees out for cuts. I'm not sure that was totally successful, however the cuts could have been a lot worse. Individually, as in the past, I visited all 6 chapters multiple times during the year. Being the president of the Shenandoah County Chapter meant that I would be absent there a few times a year to attend other chapter meetings that had conflicting schedules. Our chapter officers carried out their duties well without me. Plus, we have the advantage of having the VFC President, Luther Santiful, as a member of our chapter.

In June, Area VII held its annual conclave at the Traditions Restaurant in Harrisonburg. As has been the practice, all 6 chapters sent their officers to get together among equals and share experiences. In addition to voicing their concerns and relating their successes, chapter officers received training conducted by Gaston Gianni, the VFC Public Relations Chair.

During the year, I have outlined the accomplishments of the Area VII individual chapters in the Quarterly Notes. However, since the last Quarterly Notes, there have been a few noteworthy occurrences. The most joyous was the honoring of Mary Fulton of the Winchester chapter. She attained the age of 100 in February of this year. She was applauded by all & given recognition by our National President (and Area VII member) Joe Beaudoin.

Secondly, at the March meeting of the Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro chapter, VA State Senator Emmitt Hanger came to thank NARFE personnel for their support in passing the "Transference upon Death Deed" Legislation.

Thirdly, was my attendance at the NARFE National Legislative Training Conference just held in March. The conference is held on off-years from the NARFE National Convention. It brings together all of the National NARFE Regions in order to bolster our knowledge of the National Legislative process and allows us to directly lobby our Congressionally-elected members. After 2 intensive days of training, and appearances by elected officials, members are able to effectively spread the mission of NARFE throughout the Country. I was a willing participant at this year's Conference, and am further able to breathe fire into our causes.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all members of Area VII Chapters for your support. This has truly been a wonderful year for our Area and me in particular. Thanks to all of you, we had a glorious year. If elected, I'm looking forward to serving you again this next year as your Area VP.

Leslie E Ravenell - Area VIII Vice President

At the April 2012 Convention Area Caucus I was elected to serve as Area VIII Vice President for a fourth year. I am now one of the senior Area Vice Presidents as out of the ten Area VPs, only one other has served as long as I have. But in August 2012 at the National NARFE Convention in Reno, Nevada, I was the new kid on the block! The National Convention was truly an eye-opener for me. It was so interesting to hear so many different opinions from the chapters outside of Virginia. The National Convention is an experience I recommend for all NARFE members.

Area VIII has seven chapters with the full gamut of chapter sizes from Fredericksburg Chapter 90, the largest chapter with about 700 members to Caroline Chapter, the smallest with 50 plus members and all the others falling somewhere in between

Area VIII is the third largest area in the VFC. During the past year we followed the normal pattern, third highest in membership, third highest in Alzheimer's contributions, etc. Area VIII consists of the following chapters and the following leadership: Maureen Nolet who served during the past reporting period has agreed to step up to another year of leadership as President of Fredericksburg Chapter 90. I am now in my third year as chapter president of Colonial Beach Chapter 595. Warrenton-Fauquier Chapter 1549 has a new President: Jerry Rosenfeld who has succeeded Barbara Scott. Jerry was Vice President the previous year. Thanks to Shirley Cornwell who is still going strong as President of Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885. Louisa Chapter 2065 also has a new President, Kate Killam. Thanks to Ray Siewert who served as President during this past year. Judi Moore is now back as president of Caroline Chapter 2112. She has rotated between Vice President and President with Annette McDonald who served this past year. Finally, Mike Anderson who served as Vice President for many years is now President of Falls Run Chapter 2343. Thanks to past President Julia Alessio for her work with Chapter 2343. So during this reporting period we have had a true balance of leadership with three new presidents, three returning presidents, and one former president returning. It was my privilege to install officers at four chapters in December and with the help of Luther Santiful, VFC President and Bill Martin, Region X Vice President, the other three chapters had their installations. Thanks to all who served as chapter officers and committee chairs in 2012 and to all those who are serving now.

As everyone knows, this was an election year. Chapters in Area VIII took their role in the legislative process seriously and sponsored a number of political activities. Louisa Chapter 2065 sponsored two political picnics one in July and one in August 2012. They invited both federal and state candidates. It is noteworthy that Congressman Eric Cantor sent VA State Senator Bryce Reeves to represent him at the picnic held at President Ray Siewert's house on Lake Anna. Colonial Beach Chapter 595 hosted the 1st Congressional District candidate, Democrat Adam Cook in September. Then on his way to a debate in Williamsburg in October, Republican Congressman Rob Wittman stopped off in Colonial Beach to meet with the Chapter. Falls Run Chapter 2343 hosted Democratic Candidate for the 1st Congressional District, Adam Cook at their October meeting. Area VIII was also impacted by re-districting. Reggie Sykes, Congressional District Liaison (CDL) for the 1st Congressional District, woke up one morning to find out that his house was no longer in the 1st District! Thanks Reggie for the work you did during 2012.

In February 2013 Area VIII held its annual meeting in Fredericksburg, VA. All seven chapters were well represented with two or more members. 1st Vice president Dick Giangerelli gave a

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presentation on membership and dues. Gaston Gianni, VFC Public Relations Chair, gave a presentation on matching funds. And Region X Vice President, Bill Martin, gave us the view from the top.

At my first VFC Board meeting as a brand new Area VP in July 2009, I listened intently as others discussed activities with TRIAD. Finally I whispered to my neighbor: "What's TRIAD?" Of course I was subsequently enlightened about this very important program. On July 31, 2012 Westmoreland County had its initial meeting to set up a TRIAD Chapter for the county and I was excited to attend. Juanita Ballenger, our 2011 VFC Convention Speaker and 2012 Convention Exhibitor was there to provide the guidance on setting up a new chapter. In February 2013, I was elected as Chair of the Westmoreland County S.A.L.T. Council. I am looking forward to promoting NARFE through this important alliance with the community.

Finally, it has been a busy, fun-filled year with the Area VIII chapters offering the full myriad of activities for their members: speakers, trips, tours, boat trips, fund raising with silent auctions, soup mixes and flea markets, wreath laying ceremonies, and the social activities with picnics and holiday celebrations. Once again, many thanks to all members of Area VIII who made this a wonderful year!

Pierce J. Johnson -- Area IX Vice President

Area IX includes the following six "southern" chapters of Northern Virginia: Chapter 232, Alexandria, Nick Andrus, President (continuing); Chapter 1159 Annandale, Doug Jones, President (continuing); Chapter 401 Falls Church, John Restall, President (continuing); Chapter 356 Manassas, Dave Doliber, President (continuing); Chapter 893, Springfield, Pat Harahan, President (new); and Chapter 1270, Woodbridge, Jim Little, President (new).

Area IX is the home of Dennis Martin (Chapter 893), who serves as VFC Membership Chair, Gaston Gianni (Chapter 1270), who serves as Public Relations Chair and, of course, Pierce Johnson, who serves as the Area IX Vice President. Mary Lou Vroman has served (and continues to serve) as a Congressional District Liaison (CDL) for Congressman Connolly, while Rita Jensen (Chapter 232) serves as CDL for Congressman Moran, and Linda Bywaters (Chapter 232) serves as Congressman Moran's Vice CDL. Steve Ledford (Chapter 1159) serves as the Senate Legislative Liaison (SLL) for Senator Warner.

Chapters in Area IX range in size from 412 (Manassas) to 1545 (Springfield). Area IX has the two largest chapters in Virginia (Springfield and Alexandria). Consequently, Area IX has over 26% of the membership of Virginia. However, all Area IX chapters are continuing to experience drops in membership, yielding over an 8 % drop in Area IX for the year 2012.

Again, I am VERY proud of the Area IX contributions for Alzheimer's research this year. Area IX came in FIRST among all areas (\$25,876), nearly doubling the next closest Area. Over 30% of the total contributed in Virginia was donated in Area IX. Woodbridge (Chapter 1270) again came in FIRST among all chapters in Virginia, with nearly \$15,000 donated. Their success is due in large part to their annual Fashion Show, which had great support from not only the local community, but also from VFC leadership. The Virginia Federation was recognized at the NARFE National Convention in Sparks NV for being the top federation contributing to Alzheimer's Research during the past fiscal year. Congressman Connolly entered Virginia in the

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Congressional Record for their achievements and presented a copy to Woodbridge Chapter 1270.

In June, Area IX members participated in creating the State Legislative Plan, resulting in a tri-fold to publicize and emphasize our efforts. At the national level, Area IX members have made a number of calls on Capitol Hill, some “push” and some “pull.” Area IX donated over 20% of the VFC-PAC contributions. In every effort, Capitol Hill has become well aware of NARFE’s “Protect America’s Heartbeat” Campaign.

In recognition of “Grassroots Advocacy” month, President Nick Andrus and CDL Rita Jensen (both of Alexandria 232) set up a very successful political forum between Congressman Jim Moran and his Republican challenger, Patrick Murray for the 8th Congressional District. Julie Tagen, then leader of the NARFE legislative office, moderated. Over 100 people attended the event. Further several chapters hosted Congressional members or staff members during the past year: Manassas (356) hosted Congressman Wittman in February; Woodbridge (1270) hosted Gerry Connolly in August and Virginia Delegate Rich Anderson in June. Finally, 25 percent of the Virginia participants in the Legislative Training Conference in early March 2013 are from Area IX!

Annandale 1159 was not quite so successful, although Mary Lou Vroman (CDL for the 11th Congressional District) and Steve Ledford (1159 Legislative Chair) worked tirelessly to also set up a political forum between Congressman Gerry Connolly and his Republican challenger, Chris Perkins, who was not able to commit until it was too late. This was also the case where Steve Ledford, one of the Virginia Federation’s Senatorial Legislative Liaisons, tried early, but unsuccessfully, to set up a forum between Virginia’s two former governors, Tim Kaine and George Allen.

Again, members from Area IX joined members from Area X to participate in a membership drive at the Health Benefits Fair sponsored by Congressman Connolly at the Fairfax County Government Center this year. We enjoyed recruiting new members, as well as greeting long-time NARFE members. Nick Andrus (Alexandria 232) was at the Headquarters of the Millenium Corporation in November in downtown DC handing out NARFE membership applications, magazines and other promotional literature at their health and CFC Fair.

Highlights from the Chapters this past year include: Annandale’s (1159’s) publicizing the NARFE brand by adopting a highway (a sign erected in return for picking up litter four times a year); the continuing participation in the Fourth of July Parade in Dale City by Woodbridge (1270) as well as their annual Fashion Show to benefit Alzheimer’s Research; Jana Bennett, Manassas (356) winning the Membership contest and a week at a Myrtle Beach timeshare; Falls Church (401), Springfield (893) and Annandale (1159) teamed together to publish a NARFE Ad in the Fairfax County Times. Robert “Bob” Miller (232), Legislative Chair, participated in the Annual George Washington Birthday Parade in Olde Town Alexandria, riding in an antique car that displayed the NARFE Banner. Annandale (1159) continued to participate in the Annandale Fall Festival Parade. Woodbridge also sponsored a “Take-Me-Out-To-The-Ballgame” night out with the Potomac Nationals minor league ball club, two document shredding fund raising events, and two restaurant-sponsored fund raising events.

Area IX had good representation at the National NARFE Convention in Sparks, NV, with Bob Miller (232), Jim and Katie Delgado (893), and Joyce Pieritz, Darwin Ransom, Brenda Ford,

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Gaston Gianni and I (1270) attending. Gaston and I served on the By-Laws Committee and the Resolutions Committee respectively.

Chapters in Area IX are to be congratulated in their communications efforts. Each chapter produces a monthly newsletter and most maintain a website accessible from the VFC website. A couple of chapters even have Facebook pages! Monthly programs run the gamut from entertainment to information to legislative updates. I have been privileged to visit each chapter a number of times during the past year and have thoroughly enjoyed their programs. Every chapter celebrated a holiday social, which was well attended by their members and enjoyed by all. I was also able to install chapter officers in three of the chapters (232, 356 and 1270), while Gaston Gianni covered for me with 401 and 1159. National NARFE Secretary Elaine Hughes did the honors for 893.

The Caucus of Chapters (combining Areas IX and X) under Gaston Gianni's leadership met on a regular basis during the past year (averaging quarterly). In July they prepared for the National NARFE Convention and discussed the proposed changes to National By-Laws. In October, they discussed better methods of communicating through advances in Information Technology. Yeoman's work was accomplished by inter-chapter task force co-chaired by Chapter 1159 members Anne Trotter and Joyce Bounds. End results of their efforts will be special IT training at the VFC Convention. In January, Fred Hamidzada from NARFE Headquarters gave an excellent presentation on the "Online Activities Module" or OAM, emphasizing how much easier it is to use. Finally, in March Areas IX and X received the energizing presentation on Recruiting by BJ Thomas McMillan.

I would like to thank all of the chapters in Area IX for your strong support and all the volunteers for their time and expertise. To build on the representation of five of our chapters at last year's VFC Convention, I look forward to seeing many of you at this year's convention and our Caucus Meeting in Richmond.

Victoria Duarte - Area X Vice President

Area X includes the following seven chapters of Northern Virginia:

- Chapter 7, Arlington, Mark McLachlan, President (new);
- Chapter 489 McLean-Great Falls, Raphael Wong, President (continuing);
- Chapter 737 Fairfax, Annabelle Linden, President (new);
- Chapter 1116 Vienna/Oakton, Norm Fisette, President (new);
- Chapter 1133 Loudoun/Leesburg, Victoria Duarte, President (new);
- Chapter 1241, Dulles, William Schmidt, President (continuing);
- Chapter 1665, Metro No. VA, Jeanette Pelton & Judy Willis, Co-Presidents (continuing)

Area X is the home of Dick Giangerelli (Chapter 1241), who serves as VFC 1st Vice President, Kathy Arpa (Chapter 1116), as VFC 2nd Vice President, VFC Secretary Bill Schmidt (Chapter 1241) and, Victoria Duarte (Chapter 1133) who until Jan 1st served as the Area X Vice President. Connie & John Bails (Chapter 737) continue this year to serve as the VFC Service Officers and Gene Brown (Chapter 1116) continues this year to serve as the VFC State Legislation Chair. In addition, Donna Shackelford (Chapter 737) serves as the VFC Alzheimer's Chair for the VFC, and Bill Shackelford (Chapter 737) is the VFC Immediate Past President.

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In June, Area X members participated in creating the State Legislative Plan, resulting in a tri-fold to publicize and emphasize our efforts. At the national level, Area X members have made a number of calls on Capitol Hill. In every effort, Capitol Hill has become well aware of NARFE's "Protect America's Heartbeat" Campaign.

Again, majority of members from Area X assisted at the NARFE Membership Recruitment table set up at the Health Benefits Fair sponsored by Congressman Connolly at a local Fairfax high school this year.

Area X had good representation at the National NARFE Convention in Sparks, NV, with Bill & Donna Shackelford (737), Kathy Arpa (1116), Jeannette Pelton (1665), Dick Giangerelli (1241), and I (1133) attending. Kathy served as the chair of the Membership Committee, Dick Giangerelli served as the chair of the Secretary's Committee, and Bill Shackelford served as the time-keeper..

Each chapter in Area X produces a monthly newsletter and a couple maintain a website accessible from the VFC website. I installed chapter officers in two of the chapters (489 and 1116).

The Caucus of Chapters (combining Areas IX and X) under Gaston Gianni's leadership met on a regular basis during the past year (averaging quarterly). In July they prepared for the National NARFE Convention and discussed the proposed changes to National By-Laws. In October, they discussed better methods of communicating through advances in Information Technology. An inter-chapter task force co-chaired by Chapter 1159 members Anne Trotter and Joyce Bounds developed an information document on how to develop chapter web pages.

I would like to thank all of the chapters in Area X for your strong support and all the volunteers for their time and expertise.

Tom Hall -VFC National Legislative Chair,

National Legislative Training Conference : About 40 VFC members attended the conference March 10th through March 13th in Washington DC. Topics discussed in training sessions were NAFRE-PAC, Congressional Meeting Practices, Grassroots Advocacy, and Federal Budget Process and Threats. After lunch on Sunday we had a panel discussion with 3 Congressional Staff members. A staff member from Chris Van Hollen's (D-MD) office, a staff member from Gerry Connolly's (D-VA-11) office and a staff member from the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. Monday morning we heard from Representative Donna Edwards (D-MD), former Representative Tom Davis (R-VA) and Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA). After a morning breakout session we heard from former Representative Steve LaTourette (R-OH). The afternoon had us going to the last breakout session then a presentation from G. William Hoagland, Vice President at the Bipartisan Policy Center and former Senate staff member. Tuesday was Visit the Hill and talk to Congressmen day. Three busloads of NARFE members went to Capitol Hill at 0830 to participate at a rally at the Capital Visitors Center with speakers Gerry Connolly (D-VA-11), Jim Moran (D-VA--8), Frank Wolf (R-VA-10), presidents of the Nation Treasure Employees Union, Letter Carriers Union, Rural Letter Carriers Union and Nation Federal Employees Union. Meetings were scheduled until 5:00 PM. I personally visited with Scott Rigell's (R-VA-2) staff, Bobby Scott's (D-VA-3) staff, and with Randy Forbes (R-VA-4) and his staff.

Congressional District Liaisons: The changes caused by redistricting have been difficult, especially in Northern Va. Chapter areas and Congressional Districts are not in any way aligned which has frustrated some CDL's. We are continuing to work on getting more CDL's/ACDL's for the strange shaped Districts and trying to get the CDL's aligned with the districts they represent. We have approved a New CDL for the 6th Congressional District, Ed Masker. We are still in the hunt for a CDL for the 1st Congressional District, an ACDL for the 3rd, a CDL for the 10th and a ACDL for the 4th district. Additionally we are looking for a Senate Legislative Liaison for Senator Warner.

F. Eugene Brown, Jr., - State Legislation Chair

Jim Bradley (Midlothian Chapter 2265) and Joe Gresko (Louisa Chapter 2065) continued to serve as the State Legislation Representatives for 2012.

The VFC State Legislation Committee met at the Koger Center Holiday Inn on June 13, 2012 to prepare a draft of our 2013 State Legislative Plan. The VFC State Legislation (SL) Committee consists of the SL Chair, the two SL Representatives, the ten Area Vice Presidents, and their Area SL Coordinators, and the VFC President and the two Vice Presidents.

2012 Legislative Outcome

The **Eminent Domain Amendment**, which we supported in the 2012 Legislative Plan, was listed on the November 2012 ballot and was overwhelmingly approved. This amendment requires that the government take private property only for a public use and not give it to another private landowner, such as a developer, even in the case of job creation. Exceptions would include utilities or the elimination of a public nuisance. This amendment ensures that property owners whose land is taken are properly compensated and guarantees that no more property is taken than is necessary.

2013 Legislative Outcomes

The 2013 Session of the General Assembly saw two of the four issues listed in the 2013 VFC State Legislative Plan pass both the House and Senate and at this writing are waiting the Governor's signature:

- (1) SB 1093 **Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death Act**; was introduced by District 24 Senator Emmett Hanger. This Act, when properly executed and recorded, passes title directly to named beneficiaries without probate upon the transferor's death.
- (2) SB 706, introduced by District 28 Senator Richard Stuart and HB 1682, introduced by District 58 Delegate Rob Bell (identical bills) **Financial Exploitation of Incapacitated Persons; Penalty**. This bill provides that it is unlawful for any person who knows or should know that another person suffers from mental incapacity to, through the use of that other person's mental incapacity take, obtain, or convert money or other thing of value belonging to that other person with the intent to permanently deprive him thereof. A violation is punishable as larceny.

The other two items listed in the 2013 VFC State Legislative Plan were (1) **Geriatric Training & Board Certification** and **Public Transportation Needs of the Elderly/Handicapped**. These items, and others, will be discussed at the VFC State Legislation committee meeting in June as possible issues to be included in the 2014 VFC Legislative Plan.

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The annual VFC State Legislation Committee meeting will be held at the Koger Center Holiday Inn on June 12, 2013 to prepare a draft plan for the 2014 General Assembly Legislative Session.

October 2013 is designated as State PAC month. The VFC Political Contribution Form is listed below and can also be found on the VFC link: www.vanarfe.org

These contributions are used to support the campaigns of members of the General Assembly who support the issues listed by the VFC.

VFC State Political Contribution Form

Required Contributor Information:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, & Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

VFC Area & Chapter: _____

Currently Working: Yes _____, No _____

If Currently Working:

Employer's Name: _____

Employer's Address: _____

Contribution Information:

Amount of Contribution: \$5 _____, \$10 _____, \$25 _____, \$50 _____, Other _____

Date of Contribution: _____

Form of Contribution: Cash _____, Check _____

If Check:

Make payable to VFC State Political Account

Send this form with the contribution to:

James Bradley

VFC State Legislative Representative

4150 Round Hill Drive

Chesterfield, VA 23832-7842

Dennis K. Martin - Membership Chair

There was good news and bad news in past year. The good news was a successful VFC membership contest which concluded with the drawings of winners at the 2012 VFC Convention. Jana Bennett, Manassas Chapter 356 was the first place winner and has selected a week at Myrtle Beach, SC in 2013 where she will take her grandchildren and their parents with her. (Note: This time-share prize was provided by Past VFC President Ann Collins and her husband, Charles.) Second place (\$100) went to VFC Board's very own Pat Taylor. Third place (\$25) went to Kenneth Gimbert, Seaside Chapter 1827. Unfortunately the bad news outweighed the good news. Over the past year, only 877 new members were recruited. While this was one of the larger state recruitment numbers in the nation it fell below past year numbers. The VFC lost more transferring out than transferred in to the Federation. And, unfortunately, over 465 members passed away during the year. The biggest membership loss was in the "non-renewal" area and totaled slightly under 3,000. The number of members participating in Dues Withholding decreased slightly. However, there are 2287 members or over 13% of the VFC membership with dues withholding.

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The good news is that the Virginia Federation “division” of e-NARFE significantly increased its membership and ended up the year with nearly 1072 members. It should be noted that a significant number of those members “transferring out” simply transferred into the e-NARFE chapter. The Membership Chairman has been assigned the duty of the Federation coordinator for the “division”. Responsibilities include keeping the Web Page current and coordinating information about the VFC for the e-NARFE members who reside in the VFC.

Through the efforts of chapter Membership Chairmen and others, the reinstatements totaled 814 members. This effort is to be commended! The VFC also picked up 26 members through the transfer of deceased memberships.

The VFC Board is increasing its support to the membership program by adding two persons to the Membership Committee. One person, Betty Warren, will focus on retention by attempting to determine why members didn't renew and at the same time to soliciting them to reinstate their membership. The second, B.J. Thomas McMillan, will focus on adding new retiree and current federal employee members to the Federation. Betty and B.J. have already started making presentations to groups put together by the Area Vice Presidents.

A membership contest was initiated this year. The VFC chapters were divided into three groups based on size. Each group will have a first place and second place winner based on the number of new members recruited by that member.

John & Dr. Constance T. Bails Ph.D. VFC Co-Service Officers

As Federation Service Officers we **continue** to strongly encourage every Area VP to appoint a service officer and, in medium size and large chapters, a service committee. Federation Service Officers assist all chapter Presidents and Service Officers in developing strong, responsive service programs. There *will be* an Area Coordinator (AC) for service in each of the ten VFC areas in the state. The Area VP appoints this person from the membership of chapters in the area. The ten Area Coordinators for Service, plus the VFC Service Chair, comprise the VFC Service Committee. The AC's work with the chapter service committees, assisting them with service program efforts in the chapters of each area. The chapters should provide input through their respective AC's to the VFC service efforts since the AC is a member of the VFC Service Committee. A properly operated service program is an excellent recruiting (and retention) tool when the benefits are widely publicized. It may be one of the main attractions for nonmember retirees, survivor annuitants and potential retirees deciding to join NARFE and a local chapter. Thus, the Federation Service Officer will work with all AVP's and the Service Officers of every Chapter in the Federation in continually seeking ways to improve the program, while informing nonmembers of its benefits.

Major Accomplishments Since Last VFC Convention

- ✓ Attended Area X Caucus meetings
- ✓ Contacted New Service Officers, mailed them Service Officer Pins and Mugs
- ✓ Attended VFC Board Meeting January 2012
- ✓ Submitted Articles for Winter 2012 VFC Notes February 2012

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- ✓ Held Service Officer Training Richmond VA February 2012
- ✓ Held Service Officer Training Roanoke VA February 2012
- ✓ Held Service Officer Training Manassas VA March 2012
- ✓ Chapter visit Wytheville Wilderness Chapter 1837
- ✓ Chapter visit South Hill Chapter 2079
- ✓ Chapter visit Shenandoah County, Woodstock Chapter 2358
- ✓ Attended VFC Board meeting April 2012
- ✓ Attended 58th VFC Annual Convention April 23-25 2012
- ✓ Attended VFC Summer Board Meeting July 15-17 2012
- ✓ Submitted Articles for Summer 2012 VFC Notes August 2012
- ✓ Submitted Articles for Fall 2012 VFC Notes November 2012
- ✓ Attended Winter VFC Board Meeting January 2013

Services provided to VFC Chapters

- ✓ Responded to inquiries from various Chapter Presidents
- ✓ Mailed out Survivor Benefit packages to members without emails
- ✓ Visited Headquarters to obtain F-100's for distribution at Chapter visits
- ✓ Sent fillable VANARFE Convention registration form to Chapter Service Officers
- ✓ Sent Life Events and Your Retirement and Insurance Benefits (For Annuitants) OPM R1 38-126 to Chapter Service Officers

Short Range Plan For The Next 12 Months Following 2013 VFC Convention

Goal 1 – Establish a VFC Service Committee

Objective 1 – Continue to contact area VP's to develop a plan of action to acquire AC's

Objective 2 – Establish Area Coordinators

Objective 3 – Meet with Area VP's and AC's to discuss plan of action to establish Chapter Service Officer (s)/ committees

Goal 2 – Coordinate and deliver Service Officer Training for all AC's, AVP's and Chapter Service Officers/Committee's

Objective 1 – Establish Location

Objective 2 – Schedule date and duration

Objective 3 – Training, Group discussion for input and plan of action as VFC service committee

Gaston Gianni-Public Relations Chair

“BREAKING NEWS, FLASH, NEWS ALERT, YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST” all phrases we have come to expect from today's news media. They use them to get your attention. So how do you get the attention of your local community to inform them about NARFE and news about your Chapter? Are you making enough “noise” so that potential NARFE members in your area know you are there? How do you attract new members? What activities does your Chapter sponsor or participate in so that helps bring in new members? Have you asked for help from the VFC? If not, you are missing a great opportunity.

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As VFC Public Relations Chair it is my job to help in number of ways. First we have built a network of

Chapter PR Chairs to ensure that important information gets out to your Chapter. Does your Chapter have a PR Chair to participate in this effort? Second, I manage the Matching Funds process by which Chapters can extend their limited funds for recruiting events. You can get reimbursed for 75% of the cost of these projects—50% from NARFE National and 25% from the VFC. Has your Chapter taken advantage of the program? Third, the VFC has a number of PR items that can be used to attract and inform potential new NARFE members. Have you use any of the “goodies” to help obtain new members?

PR CHAIRS—With the Chapter elections for 2013 we saw several changes/vacancies in the Chapter PR position. As of March 1, the OAM reports for chapter officers showed that there were only 32 Chapters with a designated PR Chair. Chapters without a PR person are missing out on an opportunity to have someone focus on getting the word out about your chapter.

MATCHING FUNDS—Since last years’ VFC Convention, we have had 8 matching funds projects, 5 less than 2011! The 8 projects—5 involving Chapters and 3 VFC projects—had a total cost of about \$10,500. Chapters had NARFE tables at local fairs and festivals, community parades and ran a NARFE ad in a local county paper. All these events helped Chapters sign up new members. This coming year I hope more Chapters use matching funds to accomplish their recruiting goals. Revised guidance on how to apply for matching funds has been posted on the VFC website under the Public Relations section. In addition, the VFC used matching funds to buy NARFE banners and table clothes and to replenish its PR goodies. Now all our Area Vice Presidents have a banner and a table cloth for use by their Chapters. These are especially good for use at recruiting events. During the year, Area Vice Presidents and Chapters used over 2,500 NARFE bags, 2,000 pens, 1,500 each of letter openers, tape measures and sticky note pads at various events. We have resupplied and I’m open for business!

PR CHAIR ACTIVITIES—This has been a busy year with NARFE’s National Convention as well as the quarterly VFC Board meetings. The specific are summarized in my quarterly reports in the VFC Notes which are posted on the VFC web site www.vanarfe.org . So I’m not going to repeat everything here. I will note that we terminated our License Plate Project due to insufficient support and returned monies to those who had signed up. Finally, I was privileged to be invited to attend several Area Vice President Meetings to talk with Chapters about VFC public relations issues. I hope that I get additional invites during the coming year!

CLOSING QUOTE-- People become really quite remarkable when they start thinking that they can do things. When they believe in themselves they have the first secret of success.
- Norman Vincent Peale

CONTACT INFORMATION—Email: gastongianni@aol.com, Phone: 703-508-4339, and mailing address: 3816 Mulberry Point Court, Dumfries, VA 22025. I can’t help unless you contact me! Let me hear from you if you have any questions or thoughts for improving the VFC public relations or if you would like some assistance with Chapter PR issues.

Donna Shackelford - Alzheimer's Chair

Many things have happened during the past year in the world of the 59 projects that the Alzheimer's Research people are doing with the NARFE money. You may know that we met our goal of \$10 million before the end of November. We are now working on our \$11 million by the end of 2014. As of the end of January, 2013, our total was \$10,174,465.65 as reported by the Association personnel in Chicago. The VFC total for the calendar year 2012 was

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\$84,574.63. We have to work very hard this year because the federation in Illinois had two bequeathments, and they now have a total of \$53,473.79 as compared to the VFC \$40,415.23. . We can do this if everyone can pitch in an extra \$2 before the end of June!!

Let me describe a few of the studies that are currently under way.

A new clinical trial is being sponsored by a company called Functional Neuromodulation. It is an exploration of deep brain stimulation for mild Alzheimer's disease using 20 people at research facilities in the U.S. and Canada. This particular procedure has been tried numerous times on people with Parkinson's Disease and Essential Tremor, but until now it has never been cited for mild Alzheimer's patients.

The study is researching a surgically implanted device that delivers mild electrical pulses to specific areas of the brain to treat Alzheimer's. The stimulation will be given in the fornix, a place in the brain that plays a central role in memory. The system includes a neurostimulator, similar to a heart pacemaker, that is implanted beneath the skin in the patient's chest, and two attached wires that deliver electrical pulses directly to a specific area in the brain.

Hopefully the public interest generated by news coverage of these trials will spark interest in the TrialMatch program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association. Anyone who has the disease at this time, caregivers, families and physicians who would like to participate in the TrialMatch can connect with Alzheimer's clinical trials based on personal criteria and location. For more information, visit alz.org/trialmatch or call 800-272-3900, or contact your local office for Alzheimer's Association as listed in your yellow pages.

There is definitely an urgency to find a cure and/or treatment for this monster disease. With the budgetary issues facing the nation at this time, we cannot afford to spend the vast amount of money this disease costs the American public. Long-term care services for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias amount to \$183 billion annually, with Medicare and Medicaid making up the overwhelming majority of the costs. If those programs are cut by the Congress, what will become of the patients?

Researchers believe there is a connection between Alzheimer's disease and Down syndrome. In addition to early physical and intellectual challenges, individuals with Down syndrome are at a high risk for developing the symptoms characteristic of Alzheimer's. People with Down syndrome develop the two hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease -- amyloid plaques and tau tangles -- in their 30s and 40s. Due to improved clinical care, people with Down syndrome are now regularly living into their sixth decade of life, causing many to develop dementia due to Alzheimer's.

Research projects and studies as described above, as well as all the other research events currently being pursued on the part of the Alzheimer's Association are a wonderful facet. Coupled with the NARFE fundraising efforts, we are all contributing to making the dream of the Association come true--A World Without Alzheimer's. The sooner, the better. Below you can see how the ten areas in Virginia have worked so hard during the past calendar year:

NARFE ALZHEIMER'S CUMULATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS
from Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC)
for 2012

Area	Area Vice President	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year
1	Patricia A. Taylor	\$659.62	\$797.83	\$529.34	\$1,893.50	\$3,880.29
2	Alex Adkins	\$968.50	\$440.00	\$175.00	\$410.00	\$1,993.50
3	Carolyn Wilson	\$2,642.04	\$279.00	\$880.16	\$2,209.46	\$6,010.66
4	Bobby L. Wittington	\$750.00	\$99.00	\$100.00	\$232.00	\$1,181.00
5	Debbie Laughon	\$270.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$351.00	\$731.00
6	Wanda Ware	\$604.50	\$375.25	\$427.00	\$509.00	\$1,915.75
7	Steve Dansker	\$2,640.00	\$1,686.29	\$3,453.41	\$5,859.43	\$13,639.13
8	Leslie E. Ravenell	\$4,800.50	\$1,077.00	\$3,435.10	\$4,133.75	\$13,446.35
9	Pierce J. Johnson	\$4,122.47	\$4,794.43	\$2,821.00	\$14,138.96	\$25,876.86
10	Vicky Duarte	\$2,109.06	\$1,911.50	\$513.00	\$3,042.53	\$7,576.09
VFC		\$15.00	\$8,154.00	\$5.00	\$150.00	\$8,324.00
Totals		\$19,581.69	\$19,664.30	\$12,399.01	\$32,929.63	\$84,574.63

NARFE ALZHEIMER'S PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTIONS
from Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC)
for 2012

Area	Area Vice President	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year
1	Patricia A. Taylor	\$0.46	\$0.57	\$0.39	\$1.42	\$2.82
2	Alex Adkins	\$0.93	\$0.44	\$0.18	\$0.43	\$2.02
3	Carolyn Wilson	\$1.94	\$0.21	\$0.68	\$1.76	\$4.60
4	Bobby L. Wittington	\$0.95	\$0.13	\$0.13	\$0.32	\$1.55
5	Debbie Laughon	\$0.67	\$0.13	\$0.17	\$0.99	\$1.96
6	Wanda Ware	\$0.79	\$0.50	\$0.59	\$0.71	\$2.60
7	Steve Dansker	\$2.04	\$1.31	\$2.72	\$4.64	\$10.67
8	Leslie E. Ravenell	\$2.91	\$0.67	\$2.19	\$2.68	\$8.44
9	Pierce J. Johnson	\$0.78	\$0.93	\$0.56	\$2.86	\$5.06
10	Vicky Duarte	\$0.47	\$0.44	\$0.12	\$0.73	\$1.76
VFC		\$0.00	\$0.45	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$0.47
Totals		\$1.06	\$1.09	\$0.71	\$1.91	\$4.74