

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
2011 Annual Report Cover, VFC Areas and Chapters	Front Cover
Ten things the Virginia Federation of Chapters Does for You	Inside Front Cover
Table of Contents	1
President's Report	2-5
1st Vice President's Report	6
2nd Vice President's Report	7-8
Secretary's Report	9
Treasurer's Report	10-11
Area I Vice President's Report	12-13
Area II Vice President's Report	13
Area III Vice President's Report	14-15
Area IV Vice President's Report	16
Area V Vice President's Report	17
Area VI Vice President's Report	18
Area VII Vice President's Report	19
Area VIII Vice President's Report	20
Area IX Vice President's Report	21-22
Area X Vice President's Report	23-24
National Legislation Chair's Report	25-27
State Legislation Chair's Report	27-28
Membership Chair's Report	28
Service Co-Chair's Report	29-30
Public Relations Chair's Report	31
Alzheimer's Chair Report	32
VFC Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Other Appointees	Inside Back Cover
The Virginia Federation of Chapters	Back Cover

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

William Shackelford - President

There are usually changes made to the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) leadership at our annual convention and 2010 was no exception. The VFC Executive Board welcomed Pat Taylor to her new position as Area Vice President (AVP) for Area I replacing Sharon Rose. While Pat was assuming new duties as an AVP, having previously served on the Executive Board as VFC Public Relations Chair, it was my pleasure to appoint Carolyn Wilson as the Public Relations Chair. It also seems that every year there are changes made in our organization that are unfortunate due to the fact that valuable persons need to step down for many different reasons. In Area IV, Joseph Lee stepped down as AVP and was replaced by Bobby Whittington and in Area V, Jim Nobles was replaced by Jesse Barksdale who returned as AVP for a second tenure. I want to express my thanks to both Joe and Jim for their service to the VFC and also for identifying top-notch replacements for their respective AVP positions.

In addition to the AVP changes there were other VFC Executive Board changes. Carolyn Wilson resigned as the VFC Public Relations Chair and I appointed Gaston Gianni from Chapter 1270 (Woodbridge) to replace her. Shirley Keyes, after doing an excellent job, resigned as Alzheimer's Committee Chair and was ultimately replaced by Donna Shackelford. Also, Dick Edwards resigned as VFC Net Coordinator after many years of exemplary service. The primary purpose of the VFC Net Coordinator was to work with AVPs and Chapter Presidents to support the effort to get all internet members on Global Electronic Message System (GEMS) and these efforts were very successful as the VFC currently has over 5,700 members receiving important information from both NARFE HQ and the VFC leadership electronically. GEMS is an excellent way to keep members up to date on a variety of issues at very little cost. We will continue to encourage everyone to sign on. One "complaint" has been that members' e-mail addresses are shared with others - THIS IS NOT TRUE. E-Mail addresses are confidential and will be held in total confidence. Sign up for GEMS today at www.narfe.org.

VFC STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECT: The VFC Executive Board initiated this project to develop a strategic plan for the VFC which will cover a three year period 2011-2014. Area IX Vice President Pierce Johnson was designated as the project leader and will be assisted by Public Relations Chair Gaston Gianni. The project team identified and reviewed three NARFE State Federations strategic plans—North Carolina, Washington and Florida. The plans primarily focus on the following areas: Membership and Retention (3); Legislation (3); Communications (1); Public Relations (3); Education/Training (2); Service (1) and Organization (1). The team will continue its search for other VFC plans.

While the VFC is actively working in most if not all the areas, the VFC Executive Board will take a longer look (three to five years) at where the VFC and VFC Chapters should be in terms of an organization and work backwards to identify goals, objectives and tasks for accomplishing the desired state three years out. With this type of information, the VFC can establish priority areas and targeted outcomes which it wishes to achieve over the three to five year period. These yearly goals and objectives would be established which would help the VFC should have greater accomplishments and stronger linkages with its Chapters and members.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION: During 2010, the VFC was very successful under the leadership of Jim Brewer in increasing the awareness of the need for contributions to the national political action committee, otherwise known as NARFE PAC. Our contributions in Virginia exceeded the original goal set by the VFC Executive Board and as a result most of the NARFE-PAC sponsored candidates in Virginia kept their Congressional Seats.

William Shackelford - President (continued)

Goals for the 112th Congress were discussed at the Virginia Federation of Chapters April, 2010 Convention in Virginia Beach. All VFC members are encouraged to contact their representatives and senators to urge their support of the NARFE Legislative program for the 112th Congress. At the July VFC Board meeting, Jim presented information concerning the vast responsibility of the Congressional District Liaison's (CDL's) with regard to huge geographic areas to cover, crossing VFC areas due to Congressional District overlap and the sheer amount of time required to be successful. Following his presentation, he proposed a CDL change to the Executive Board to establish a Vice-CDL position.

With VFC Board approval, Jim moved forward to seek candidates for Vice-CDL positions which will allow enhancement of CDL responsibilities by assisting them with meetings in adjacent VFC areas; candidate/Congressman research; training and mentoring; covering huge geographic areas, filling in for the CDL when there is a schedule conflict and to streamline efforts to fill CDL vacated positions should a CDL position become vacated unexpectedly. I am sorry to report that Jim Brewer will be leaving the VFC Board after the convention. He has done a wonderful job and will be missed.

STATE LEGISLATION: The State Legislation Committee of Chairman Bill Schmidt, Senior Legislation Representative J. Carroll Graham and Legislation Representative Jim Bradley have also been very busy this year. With input from all ten areas within the VFC, the committee developed a meaningful legislative program which was sent to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and all members of the General Assembly. Additionally, during 2010, the VFC State Legislation Committee was very successful, under the guidance of Carroll Graham, in increasing the awareness of the need for contributions to the VFC State Political fund. Unfortunately, I am sorry to report that Carroll will be leaving the VFC Board after the convention. He has done a wonderful job and with all 140 seats up for election in November 2011, he will be missed.

MEMBERSHIP: Unfortunately, the VFC membership for 2010, unlike last year's increase was down 266, or 1.1%. The bright spot is Dues Withholding which continues to increase and currently 11.6% of VFC members are having their dues withheld. We will continue to place emphasis on dues withholding. We have increased our support to the membership program, by identifying a Membership Coordinator for each of the ten VFC Areas across the Federation. These coordinators will work directly with VFC Membership Chair Dennis Martin in tracking membership trends within the VFC, as well as developing methods to energize all members to do what can be done to maintain and increase membership.

Another bright spot came, through the efforts of Area II Vice President Betty Warren, when NARFE National Headquarters formally chartered two new Chapters in the VFC of are mostly Active Federal Employees. Chapter 2361 (Monticello) is located in the U.S. Federal Building in Norfolk. Chapter 2362 (Joint Expeditionary Base) is located in the Fort Story and adjacent areas of Virginia Beach. With these new charters, the number of VFC Chapters increased from 57 to 59.

SERVICE: As Co-Service Officers, Constance and John Bails have been very active this past year, continuing to attend chapter and board meetings and sharing their wealth of knowledge on Service issues. They are in great demand inasmuch as they make a terrific presentation on Service issues to members at Chapter meetings.

William Shackelford - President (continued)

PUBLIC RELATIONS: As 2010 began Pat Taylor was working with chapters, helping them on Matching Fund initiatives in which NARFE Headquarters and the VFC will match chapter funds when the expense is directed towards expansion of NARFE's name through recruitment activities designed solicit memberships during festivals, health fairs, conventions, etc. where active and retired federal employees attend. Additionally, she was very active in promoting NARFE License Plate Program and along with John Elkins worked on this program for over a year and it has been presented at several Area and Chapters meetings and a special table is set up at the current VFC State Convention. With Pat's election to the position of Area I Vice President, the VFC Public Relations effort was carried on by Carolyn Wilson through the end of 2010 when she resigned for personal reasons. The new VFC Public Relations Chair Gaston Gianni will continue to push all PR initiatives forward in order to increase the awareness of NARFE.

ALZHEIMER'S: Even though the Chair of the Alzheimer's Committee has changed several times, the generosity of members of the VFC has not diminished. As a national organization, NARFE, exceeded the \$9 million level shortly after the first of 2011. At the National Convention in Grand Rapids, the VFC was recognized for its efforts during the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, as Alzheimer's Research #1 NARFE contributor. Our members contributed \$66,270 to combat this dreaded disease. The VFC continues to reign as the top NARFE Federation contributor and our 2009-2010 totals was more than double the total of the second place Federation. – Congratulations are due to everyone who has supported this great cause over the years - Thank You!

VFC CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM: A new initiative is the VFC-CRT. The purpose of the CRT is to visit chapters who are having difficulty finding individuals willing to serve in the chapters. Members of the Executive Board and along with other VFC members from other Chapters visit these "troubled" Chapters in an effort to insure their viability and to revitalize the members who are considering closure of the chapter. The VFC-CRT has experienced success in Chapter 401 (Falls Church), Chapter 1727 (Tuckahoe) and Chapter 1175 (Eastern Shore).

2012 VFC CONVENTION: Planning has already started on the 2012 VFC Convention. It will be held April 23 – 25, 2012 at the Holiday Inn - Koger Conference Center and will be hosted by members of the six chapters in Area VII. Please mark your calendars now.

MY ACTIVITIES: Between the 2009 VFC Convention (Reston) and the 2010 VFC Convention (2010), I served in both the 2nd and 1st Vice President positions as well as coordinating the 2010 VFC Convention. I knew by assuming the job of VFC President my work would really get started. While I believe that I was prepared, I especially appreciate the outstanding guidance provided by Immediate Past President William "Bill" Martin. Following are some of my activities for the year:

- Led the VFC Delegation to the 2010 NARFE National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan where I participated in the National Federation President's Conference.
- Chaired three VFC Executive Board Meetings.
Attended 2011 National Legislative Training Conference and spoke with Legislative aides about the issues that are facing VFC members in a time when we are challenged as never before in defending our earned benefits.

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

William Shackelford - President (continued)

- Attended and spoke at the Chapter 1665 (Metro-Northern Virginia), Chapter 180 (Winchester), Chapter 232 (Alexandria), Chapter 1549 (Warrenton-Fauquier), Chapter 2112 (Caroline County), Falls Church (401), Chapter 2080 (Piedmont), Chapter 7 (Arlington), Chapter 1823 (Northern Neck), Chapter 1159 (Annandale) and Chapter 2065 (Louisa County).
- Attended and installed officers in Chapter 893 (Springfield), Chapter 685 (Williamsburg), Chapter 2358 (Shenandoah County) and Chapter 1159 (Annandale).
- Attended Chapter 1665 (Metro-Northern Virginia) to present Benny Parker his Certificate of Recognition as a nominee for the 2010 R. David Smith Memorial award, Chapter 180 (Winchester) to present a Certificate of Recognition to Paul Comisarow on behalf of Immediate Past President Bill Martin, and Chapter 1293 (Churchland) to present of Certificates of Recognition to former Area IV AVP Joseph Lee and Norma Lee.
- Attended various chapter/area meetings which were also attended by several members of both the Virginia General Assembly and the U.S. Congress: Chapter 682 – Peninsula (Virginia State Senators John Miller and Mamie Locke), Chapter 28 - Petersburg and Chapter 2265 – Midlothian (Randy White, aide to Congressman Randy Forbes Colonial Heights Office and Virginia Delegate Roz Dance), Chapter 2065 – Louisa (Floyd Bayne, candidate in the 7th Congressional District), Winchester – 180 (10th District Congressman Frank Wolfe and two candidates), Area VII Meeting (6th District Congressman Bob Goodlatte and Virginia State Senator Mark Obenshain).
- Attended a meeting with Anthony Sudler, CEO, Alzheimer’s Association – National Capital Area Chapter for the purpose of establishing a strong relationship between the Alzheimer’s Association and the VFC.
- Attended the Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk at Washington Nationals Ballpark. Set up a NARFE Recruitment Table jointly with the Maryland Federation of Chapters.
- Participated in the annual State Legislation meeting in Richmond which was held for the purpose of the 2011 VFC State Legislation Plan.
- Attended the 11th Annual Northern Virginia Aging Network Legislative Breakfast where I spoke with Delegates David Bulova, Mark Keam and Tom Rust about the 2011 VFC State Legislation Plan.
- Attended the Area IV, Area VII and Area X Chapter Presidents’ meetings.
- Presented the “This Is NARFE” power point at the Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield meeting attended by HR personnel from agencies with offices located west of Fairfax City.
- Participated in Federal Aviation Administration Health Fair in Warrenton, Virginia in an effort to recruit new NARFE members.

I am anticipating a wonderful convention in April and am looking forward to meeting with many old friends and meeting new ones. The Convention Committee has put together a very exciting program that I hope to be able to report on this event in the next VFC Notes as I begin my second term as the President of the Virginia Federation of Chapters.

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

Luther L. Santiful – 1st Vice President

This is my first annual report as VFC 1st Vice President following my election during the 2010 convention. I want to thank all of you who expressed confidence in me to help lead your VFC. I have done my best to honor the professed tenets of a grassroots organization. Since the convention, I have visited the Tuckahoe, Louisa, Charlottesville, Staunton/Augusta/Waynesboro, Roanoke Valley, Colonial Beach, Warrenton/Fauquier, Harrisonburg, Page Valley, Peninsula and Eastern Shore Chapters. Each visit added to my to-do list for follow-up assistance to the respective chapters in some way. Additionally, I gained unique perspectives on how chapters function based on geographic location and membership diversity.

At the July 2010 VFC Board Meeting, all AVPs agreed to “Lead by Example” in recruiting new members. It was agreed that they would encourage all, at that time 57, VFC chapters to try to recruit at least one member per month. We realize that some of the small chapters may find the goal more difficult than some of the larger chapters, but surely, we should be able to average, over all current chapters, 60 members per month. Data from the monthly Inventory Recruiting Report (M-260) were used to track our progress. In January, we experienced an increase from 20 new members recruited last July to the current 71, significantly over the goal of an average of 1 per the 60 chapters. The challenge is to maintain or improve on this progress as we go. Chapter presidents are working cooperatively with their respective AVP as we attempt to stem the steady decline in VFC membership as well as improve the effectiveness of chapters.

Unfortunately, NARFE lost a lot of supporters in the November election which will require us to work hard on acquainting their successors with our mission. I was heartened at the VFC member attendance at the Leadership Training Conference held in March where we learned new techniques for appealing to members of congress.

It was a pleasure working with the 2010 VFC Convention Committee comprising representatives of Area VIII and capably lead by the Convention Chair, Leslie Ravenell. The intent was to plan and organize a successful convention that members could participate in and go home inspired to do more. I sincerely hope we succeeded in our efforts.

As this was the second year of an annual R. David Smith Memorial Award, VFC members saw fit to nominate seven individual members who have made outstanding contributions to the VFC over the years. Award criteria and the timeline for submitting nominees are listed on the VANARFE website. Any member could nominate any other VFC member who was thought to have met the award criteria through performance.

Recruit a member!

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

Richard R. Giangerelli - 2nd Vice President

Later in this Annual Report you will see reports from each of the following VFC Committee Chairs:

- Jim Brewer, VFC National Legislation Chair,
- Bill Schmidt, VFC State Legislation Chair,
- Gaston Gianni, VFC Public Relations Chair,
- Dennis Martin, VFC Membership Chair,
- Connie & John Bails, VFC Co-Service Officers, and
- Donna Shackelford, VFC Alzheimer's Chair.

I have asked each of them to address the following in their annual report:

- What your responsibility is as a member of the VFC Board;
- How it relates to the VFC Chapters;
- What your major accomplishments were since the last VFC Convention; and
- What you plan to accomplish during the 12 months following the 2011 Convention.

Hopefully, these reports will provide you some insight on what has been done and what to expect in the future. I will try to use the same guidance in writing my annual report, as well.

The VFC 2nd Vice President's position is essentially the second back-up for the VFC President, following the VFC 1st Vice President. In addition, the 2nd Vice President is the primary contact person for the VFC Committee Chairs, and provides guidance and support in the development and implementation of their plans and programs. Further, the 2nd Vice President is responsible for coordinating the training of the officers and chairs of the Chapters, which normally occurs on a biennial basis. The two VFC vice presidents, at the direction of the VFC President, develop and implement special projects for the administration and operation of the Virginia Federation. One of my projects was to develop the database for and implement the distribution of the quarterly VFC Notes to all Virginia Federation Chapter officers and chairs, all NARFE Federations, all NARFE District Vice Presidents, all NARFE National officers, and all incumbents in Virginia Federal Congressional and State General Assembly positions.

You will note from the following reports that this has been a very busy year, though it is the off-year for the biennial training. I asked the VFC Chairs to attempt to visit at least one Chapter in each of the VFC Areas, and they have done a tremendous job in accomplishing this task. I also asked them to prepare a list of short-term and long-term goals and identify ways in which the accomplishment of these goals could be measured. This second item is still a work in progress, further along for some Chairs than others.

During this past year, three members stepped up to assume responsibilities as Chairs for departing members. They are Carolyn Wilson, Jim Brewer, Gaston Gianni, and Donna Shackelford. Jim Brewer has been a lightning rod in the organization of the structure of political district liaisons, both Congressional and Senatorial, and their training; and the Virginia Federation is already reaping benefits from Jim's work. Jim has also not been bashful about presenting the NARFE position on issues to the Virginia Federal Congressmen and Senators. Carolyn Wilson became the VFC Public Relations Chair at the beginning of this year and was followed in that position by Gaston Gianni. Gaston has only been on the VFC Board for a short period of time; but you will be hearing more from him in the future. Donna Shackelford has taken up the cause of Alzheimer's where Shirley Keyes and Wilton Ward left off; and has continued, with your help, to place the Virginia Federation in the first place among the NARFE Federations for contributions for Alzheimer's Research.

Richard R. Giangerelli – 2nd Vice President (continued)

Bill Schmidt, with the help of Carroll Graham and Jim Bradley, has done a great job in the State Legislative arena. The recent additions and changes to the Commonwealth legislation that are based upon the 2010 VFC Legislative plan are detailed in Bill's report. Bill has scheduled a meeting in June 2011 to develop a proposed 2011 State Legislative plan; though, if Bill is elected as VFC Secretary, someone else will be responsible for this meeting and the development of a proposed 2011 State Legislative plan. Also addressed in Bill's report are the contributions for the VFC Political Fund. Relative to this, I have been working with the Newtek Business Services of the NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union and have arranged a way to accept contributions for the VFC Political Fund via credit cards, as well as the current methods of cash and checks. The credit card approach will be implemented in the near future, probably beginning with the 2011 VFC Convention.

Connie and John Bails have been the face of the VFC that most Chapters members have seen. And, you will be seeing more of them in the future. As Connie has said a number of times, NARFE fights for the rights and benefits of all Federal employees, retirees, and annuitants; but only NARFE members get the benefits and answers to their concerns from the Service Officers. Connie and John have also been helping a number of new Chapter Service Officers learn about the functions and responsibilities of that position.

Dennis Martin has watched over the NARFE membership in the Virginia Federation for a number of years. His approach to membership may seem tedious to some and excess to others, but it works. Of late, Dennis has been getting out to more Virginia Federation Chapter and Area meetings to explain the different approaches to keep members and increasing membership. And, it should be noted, of all of the NARFE Federations, the Virginia Federation is the leader for the number of new and retained members.

I am hoping that we can do better next year for NARFE members than we have this last year. However, I will need your help to better understand your needs and to improve meeting them.

Richard "Dick" Giangerelli

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

Charles W. Boning - Secretary

Following the unexpected resignation of the VFC Secretary elected at the 2010 Annual Convention, I volunteered to serve the 2010-2011 year in that position. I was sworn in as Secretary and as a member of the VFC Executive Committee at the July VFC Board meeting. During the year I have had the opportunity to meet and interact with other officers of the Federation.

A first duty was to submit the summary of the 2010 Annual VFC Convention to the webmaster for posting on the VFC website. This past year the Secretary took and compiled minutes of the July, October, and January Executive Committee meetings and meetings of the Virginia Board of Directors. The VFC Board minutes were distributed to the VFC Board members, or for the Executive Committee the minutes were distributed to that committee.

Also as required, the Secretary received the reports submitted by the elected and appointed officers of the Federation for the 2011 Annual Report. These reports were compiled by the Secretary and used to prepare this 2011 Annual Report.

The Virginia Federation of Chapters 2011 Voting Strength and Federation Dues, as of December 31, 2010, was distributed to Chapters and to the VFC Board members in advance of the 2011 Annual VFC Convention. Although the 2011 Annual Convention has not yet taken place, Secretary will compile a record of the Caucus' elections of Area Vice Presidents, and the Area elections to the Nominating Committee for 2011-2012. 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 2011 Convention to NARFE Headquarters.

The VFC Secretary received proposed resolutions for By Law changes and forwarded these to Chapter Presidents after insuring that the Chair of the Constitution and By Laws Committee had received them. The Secretary also insured that the Federation President had received these resolutions for inclusion in the "Call to Convention". Items received after the deadlines may be presented at the Convention for consideration by that body.

As a member of Chapter 1241, Dulles, I participated in most of the monthly luncheon meetings, and the Executive Committee meetings. As Service Officer for the Chapter, I contributed several reports to the newsletter editor for publication in the monthly newsletters, and distributed or mailed "Essential Information for Survivors" to interested members.

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

Darlene Myer Rhodes - Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET (\$)	ACTUAL (\$)
Revenues	Annum	Jul 1 - Mar 31
NARFE 10% Funds	\$52,000	\$39,625.41
Chapter Dues	\$35,000	\$21,101.00
Accounts Receivable	N/A	\$16,204.00
Reimbursed Expenses	\$120	\$120.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$148	\$147.50
NARFE Matching Funds	\$505	\$505.00
Interest	\$252	\$251.66
2010 Convention Advance	\$1,000	\$1,000.00
2011 CD6-Nat Leg Conf	\$8,517	\$8,516.89
Prior year Carryover	\$15,158	\$0.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$112,700	\$71,264

Expenses	Annum	Jul 1 - Mar 31
Executive Committee	\$15,625	\$9,738.68
IPP and Appointees	\$8,800	\$2,435.75
Field Operation	\$23,725	\$11,524.46
Program Operation	\$18,950	\$8,919.75
Convention Advance	\$1,000	\$1,000.00
Awards/Gifts	\$1,050	\$1,048.64
NARFE/FEEA	\$1,000	\$1,000.00
NARFE Leg Training Conf	\$15,600	\$4,805.64
Electronics Comte	\$200	\$0.00
Equip Rental/Repair	\$500	\$0.00
Hotel	\$2,300	\$1,695.50
Member Recruitment	\$7,300	\$7,292.88
Miscellaneous Expense	\$3,700	\$3,429.05
Newsletter	\$1,400	\$897.37
Pre-Retirement Activities	\$100	\$0.00
President's Spec Comte	\$1,250	\$264.55
President's Special Mtgs	\$10,000	\$6,700.02
Web Site	\$200	\$107.91
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$112,700	\$60,860 (54%)

NET GAIN/LOSS **\$10,404**

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

Darlene Myer Rhodes – Treasurer (continued)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

As of March 31, 2011

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
		30-Jun-10	Jul 1 - Mar 31	Jul 1 - Mar 31	31-Mar-11
1000	Wachovia Checking	30,669.65	77,446.17	108,115.82	0.00
1011	Contingency Fund	9,136.02	89.75	9,225.77	0.00
1044	General Fund CD5	6,363.58	4.36	6,367.94	0.00
1045	General Fund CD6	8,514.73	3.20	8,517.93	0.00
1030	General Fund MM	17,877.28	5.40	17,882.68	0.00
1006	NPFCU Savings-General	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
1005	NPFCU Checking	0.00	51,416.04	10,461.37	40,954.67
1035	NPFCU Reserve	0.00	24,306.49	0.00	24,306.49
1012	NPFCU Contingency	0.00	9,185.47	0.00	9,185.47
	Total General Funds	72,561.26	162,461.88	160,571.51	74,451.63
1000	Political Account Checking	4.00	4,988.10	4,992.10	0.00
1020	Political Account MM	3,191.95	776.15	3,968.10	0.00
1006	NPFCU Savings-Political (2)	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
1005	NPFCU Checking-Political (2)	0.00	4,343.56	20.25	4,323.31
	Total Political Fund	3,195.95	10,112.81	8,980.45	4,328.31
1005	Convention Checking	12.84	2,820.00	2,832.84	0.00
1006	NPFCU Saving-Convention	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
1010	NPFCU Checking-Convention	0.00	23,586.83	1,747.59	21,839.24
	Total Convention Fund	12.84	26,411.83	4,580.43	21,844.24

License Plate Escrow	360.00	260.00	620.00	0.00
NPFCU Saving-License(General)	0.00	5.00	0.00	5.00
NPFCU Checking-License (3)	0.00	665.25	15.25	650.00
Total License Plate Escrow	360.00	925.25	635.25	650.00

(1) All VFC bank accounts were transferred from Wachovia Bank to the NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union (NPFCU) this year.

(2) VFC State Political Accounts-Contributions from NARFE members are accumulated in the interest checking account until time for distribution to legislators' campaigns. At that time, checks are given to the respective VFC AVP who arranges for hand delivery to recipients. Maintenance of these accounts is in accordance with state laws and guidelines provided by the State Board of Elections (SBE). VFC State Political Account quarterly reports are required and transmitted electronically to SBE by the VFC Treasurer. The report for period ending March 31, 2011 was transmitted on 2 April to SBE ahead of the April 15, 2011 due date.

(3) A non-interest bearing escrow account holding pre-paid NARFE license plate registrations in accordance with Virginia law.

(4) The 2009 Form 990-EZ was filed with the IRS before November 15, 2010 due date.

(5) A review of financial accounts for fiscal year 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010 was conducted by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), who reported the VFC financial accounts to be presented fairly in all material respects.

Pat Taylor – Area I Vice President

When I was elected Area I Vice President at the 2010 Convention, I was both excited at the opportunity this position provided and a little frightened when I realized the work that was to be done. As the 2011 Convention is fast approaching, I've taken time to look back and assess what has been accomplished during this year.

Area I includes 682 (Peninsula), 685 (Williamsburg), 1757 (Middle Peninsula/Gloucester), and 1823 (Northern Neck). The chapters cover diverse areas in many ways – urban, a little rural, tourist Mecca, etc. But one thing is certain – each chapter has a core of members who believe in NARFE and work diligently to promote the organization and its mission. With that knowledge in hand, I was ready to tackle my task as the newly elected Area I VP!

I started the job by visiting “my” chapters, and I immediately knew that my tasks could be accomplished by encouraging the current officers, helping to identify potential officers, and providing more information to the officers and their members. The result – a terrific year from my standpoint! All four chapters had all offices filled in no time, and members started stepping up, offering to “assist” and some of those who stepped up are now officers or committee chairs!

New approaches to getting publicity have been identified. Jorge Lugo, President of the Williamsburg Chapter, approached a local radio station and convinced them to give him a few minutes every Monday (PSA) to talk about NARFE. The time given him has now become more of a weekly interview where he promotes NARFE and the Williamsburg Chapter. Charlotte Mitchell, PR Chair and Newsletter Editor for the Peninsula Chapter, has come up with new and innovative ways to promote the chapter – Facebook, composites of photos of speakers at the monthly meetings sent via e-mail to the respective speakers, etc. When Congressman Wittman spoke to the Chapter in October, his District Director said the photos Charlotte provided were the best they had received from any speaking engagement!! Jim Bradbury, President of the Gloucester Chapter, has recruited members who are now helping with the newsletter and with meeting notices. And Jim quickly identified and recruited a member who transferred in from MD to serve as their Secretary. The Northern Neck Chapter covers an extremely large area so they are currently assessing their approach to meeting locations and following up on ways to “get members out” to their meetings. Their Program Chair Kitty Price is working diligently to get a good mix of programs to appeal to their members to encourage them to travel the distances required to attend meetings.

Area I also identified and nominated two members who expressed interest in serving as Congressional District Liaisons. These two were then approved by the VFC President – Ray Whipple is the CDL for District 1 (Wittman) and Wanda Hewlin is the Vice CDL for District 3 (Scott). The interest and enthusiasm shown by these two members has motivated others in Area I to become more active – to make those phone calls, send those e-mails, and write those letters. As Ray and Wanda visit their respective Congressional offices and share information and knowledge with the chapter members, I think we'll see even greater interest in “making our voices heard” through the local congressional offices and on Capitol Hill.

With leaders and members like I have in Area I, my work has been easier than I initially thought. We had delegates from 3 of the 4 chapters at the National Convention, all 4 chapters have delegates attending the State Convention, and all 4 chapters purchased ads in the State Convention Program Book. To add to that participation, 3 of the chapters had members attend the National Legislation Training in March. All four chapters have seen some increase in their monthly attendance, and Williamsburg (which usually goes “dark” in the summer) held a breakfast meeting last summer for the very first time in their history – and attendance was outstanding.

Pat Taylor – Area I Vice President (continued)

I think you can read between the lines and see that it's been my pleasure serving as Area I Vice President this past year. I sincerely hope I will have the opportunity to continue serving because I know "the best is still to come"! Thanks to all the terrific officers and members of Chapters 682, 685, 1757, and 1823 for making this a successful and enjoyable year - and to the VFC Officers who have provided outstanding support and encouragement!!!!

Betty L. Warren - Area II Vice President

A highlight of the year, there was a change in Area II. Two new chapters, Monticello Norfolk and Joint Expeditionary Base Chapter Fort Story/Little Creek Virginia Beach were added to the Virginia Federation of Chapters. There are now seven chapters in Area II. Each of the five chapters has shown positive results in various areas such as evening and breakfast meetings. The two new chapters have not been operating long enough to provide feedback at this time.

I had a number of opportunities to promote NARFE and its objectives during the year at Federal Employees Health Benefits Programs Health Fairs for active employees and AARP meetings. NARFE recruitment material was distributed at various AARP meetings. At the 2010 National Convention in Grand Rapids, I served on the Ballot and Teller Committee. All VFC Board meetings were attended except the October meeting.

To assist the chapters, the Area Newsletter is published electronically. Paper copy is available upon request. Printing and mailing paper copies of the Newsletter created a financial burden on the chapters. A substantial cost savings in printing and mailing is realized by electronic publishing of the Newsletter. The Chapters reported they have received minimum request for paper copies and some had no request.

In June, members participated in the State Legislative Meeting in Richmond. During lobby month, the National Legislative Chair, Second Congressional District Liaison and Officers visited Congressman Elect Scott Rigell Second Congressional District. Each Chapter was represented at the 2010 VFC Convention and National Convention.

The chapters have excellent speakers and activities. A new President was elected at Eastern Shore and Metro Chapters. Virginia Beach, Tidewater and Seaside Chapter officers were all reelected for another year. Seaside and Virginia Beach Chapters had the Annual Spaghetti Luncheon and Silent Auction in support of Alzheimer's research during the months of February and March. These events are well attended and enjoyable. All donations are given to Alzheimer's research. Metro 5 Chapter changed their meeting place and time to a breakfast meeting, attendance and participation has increased. In spite of consistent recruiting, the Chapters continue to lose members primarily due to deaths and non-renewal of membership.

It is my pleasure to serve the chapters in Area II. I am pleased to be a part of such a great team and organization where the belief is that recovery is possible and real. If elected at the 2010 VFC State Convention, I look forward to serving another year as Area II Vice President.

Jack W. McMurchy - Area III Vice President

Five area coordinators agreed to serve again. They were Jim Bradley (service), Carroll Graham (state legislation), Bettye Thornton (membership), Marv Hecker (alzheimer's), and Larry Garelick (public relations/newsletter editor.) National legislation coordinator Barry Corson, sold his home and moved to North Carolina to be near his children and grandchildren. Winn Hasty, Petersburg national legislative chair agreed to assume the national legislation coordinators duties for the area. The Midlothian chapter publishes their newsletter separately but their coordinators furnished columns for the area publication. With the switch by the VFC to chairs and vice chairs for national legislation, Bill Branigan was appointed the seventh district chair and Barbara Nugent the vice chair for the fourth district.

As Area Vice President, I attended each of the chapter meetings at least twice during the year. I installed the officers of five chapters during the Christmas luncheons. I also attended the 2010 VFC Convention @ Virginia Beach, the State Legislative planning meeting in Richmond and each of the VFC Board meetings. I conducted three council of chapters' meetings during the year. The chapters made good progress on revision of bylaws, and all 7 are now current. Chapters are now updating their websites (to reflect 2011 chapter election changes), and all 7 now have service officers. Also, I have updated the Area 3 directory and provided copies to all chapter presidents and the 20 VFC elected and appointed officers. I am glad to see Area 6 is also issuing a directory and Areas 9 and 10 are continuing to issue notices of meeting times and locations.

Overall membership held steady, but there were variations within chapters. Both Midlothian and Imperial Plaza gained the most. Midlothian went over the 400 member number and is now designated as a large chapter. Petersburg finished the year with the same number as last year, and decreases were slowing in Richmond and South of the James. Colonial Heights had good numbers during most of the year but finished down, and Tuckahoe continued losing members. Numbers of deaths have dropped and initial recruitment is up. Drops due to dues nonpayment continue to be higher, but retention efforts by membership committees have prevented much larger decreases. Both Midlothian and South of the James have recruited members at Chesterfield TRIAD events. Petersburg is beginning lunch n'learn meetings in the Fort Lee EEO Conference room and is completing paperwork to conduct monthly meetings there.

There was a change of three elected offices in the Petersburg Chapter. Roy Beasley continued as vice president, but I was elected president, Kit Ericson - secretary, and Veronica Fountain - treasurer. A variety of programs were held during the year, and attendance continues to be good. In 2010, the chapter celebrated its 60th anniversary. Besides a good chapter turnout, guests included other area chapter presidents and members, VFC President and Mrs. Bill Shackelford, DEL Rosalyn Dance, and Mr. Ron Gray of the 4th District Congressional Staff Colonial Heights Office. Thanks for the success of the luncheon go to Elnora Perry, Kit Ericson, and Alice Gray. The chapter gave generously to the state and national PAC funds and Alzheimer's research.

All Richmond Chapter officers were reelected. The chapter continues to provide a variety of programs, and losses of members are slowing. In 2011 the chapter will be celebrate its 60th anniversary.

The South of the James Chapter is doing well. All serving officers were reelected. A variety of program speakers have helped meeting attendance to increase. Several new members were recruited from TRIAD, and younger members have joined.

Jack W. McMurchy - Area III Vice President (continued)

Colonial Heights chapter reelected their officers for 2-year terms, continues to have large turnouts at their meetings, with a good variety of programs. Former VFC public relations chair, Carolyn Wilson, was their delegate to the National NARFE convention. During their Christmas luncheon, the chapter also celebrated their 35th anniversary of founding with charter member, Walter B. Summers, in attendance and Region X Vice President, Bill Martin, presenting certificates from NARFE HQ.

Imperial Plaza reelected Betty Thornton president and Gwen Allen as vice president. Bernice White is the new secretary and Patricia Taylor the new treasurer. The chapter again gave generously to Alzheimer's research and had a good turnout at their Christmas luncheon.

The Tuckahoe chapter had an uncertain year after both the president and vice president announced early they would not run for reelection. A crisis team of Luther Santiful, Carolyn Wilson, and I met with them and discussed their options. In December, Sarah Harris, stepped forward to be president, and Margaret Seim to be vice president. Both secretary, Joan Lloyd and treasurer, Sam Harris were reelected. The chapter was active in state legislative activities and gave generously to the state PAC fund. Carroll Graham, Sarah Harris, and Sam Harris attended the national NARFE convention in Grand Rapids, MI. New national legislation and membership chairs were appointed, and the chapter changed their meeting place back to the Welbourne United Methodist Church in March.

Midlothian reelected Catherine Dorsett as secretary and Noel Boraski as treasurer. New officers elected included Lynn Osborne as president, Anthony Michalek as 1st VP, and Ann Simpkins as 2nd VP. The chapter was active in legislative activities at both the state and national levels and invited a variety of politicians to their September picnic. They again had a variety of programs and good turnouts at their meetings. They gave generously to the national legislative PAC and Alzheimer's research through a fall bake sale and a television raffle. Membership continues to grow.

I appreciate the support of the Area III officers and members during the past year; it has been a pleasure to serve you as your Area 3 VP. If re-elected at the 2011 VFC State Convention, I look forward to serving as your Area VP another year.

Bobby L. Whittington - Area IV Vice President

VFC Area IV consists of five chapters located in three Hampton Roads cities in Southeast Virginia: Portsmouth (Portsmouth, Churchland and Brentwood chapters), Chesapeake and Suffolk. Membership remains at approximately 900-members within the Area.

Chapter 63 (Portsmouth) – President Paul Wilson
Chapter 1293 (Churchland) – President Bobby Whittington
Chapter 1682 (Chesapeake) – President Bill Swann
Chapter 1697 (Brentwood) – President John Horan
Chapter 1743 (Suffolk) – President Glen Musick

Leadership changes occurred this past year in Chapter 1697, where John Horan replaced Walter Broadnax, and in Chapter 1743 where Glen Musick followed Joe Silberholz as presidents of those chapters. Minor board changes occurred in almost every chapter. When Joseph Lee, AVP IV, announced he was ‘stepping down’ as the vice president early in the year, he recommended me for the position; and VFC President Bill Shackelford appointed me as Joe’s replacement.

Membership and Retention continue to be problems. Events like the Suffolk Peanut Fest and various Health Fairs provide an opportunity to spread the word about what NARFE is about and why it’s needed. Yet, our success is lacking. The absence of new members is magnified because several of our chapters have an older membership, and we experience declining attendance at meetings due to illness, reductions in numbers by deaths of members and members failing to renew, and a lack of ‘volunteers’ to serve within the chapter because they’ve ‘been there and done that.’

By far the most important topic for special attention this year has been our trying to counter the attacks of congressional legislatures on federal pay, annuities and health care programs. A goodly number of chapter members within the area have been exceptional diligent in contacting their senators and representatives by telephone, fax, and email to carry the NARFE message to those congressmen. Additionally, our ‘legislative liaisons’ have been active in meeting with congressmen, their representatives and other political figures. Chapter 1293 now boasts a Legislative Liaison for the House (Henry Stafford) and recently had another member (Thomas Hall) appointed by VFC as the Legislative Liaison for the Senate. Quite a coup for one small chapter. (Tom Hall also recently attended the Legislative Training Session in Crystal City/Washington.)

Our efforts to increase donations to the NARFE Alzheimer’s Fund have resulted in increasing the donations from the chapters. Chapter 1293 established a ‘modest monthly goal’ for donations. And, it worked. Whereas, before having an announced and publicized goal, donations were sporadic; once the group became aware of a goal, donations increased and word spread. Members would ask, “How’d we do this month?” If the total is less than the goal, members will throw in several more dollars to match or exceed the goal. Just ‘having an announced goal’ is important.

As I wind up my first year at Area IV, I’d like to thank everyone associated with the VFC who have patiently helped and guided me along the way. President Shackelford, IVP Luther Santiful, Margaret Yowell, Stan Palen, Bill Boning and others in the VFC upper cadre come to mind. Also, several Area Vice Presidents, notably Pat Taylor, who has been a tremendous source of information and guidance from my ‘first day’ on the job. And there are many others I’ve dealt with who have provided invaluable guidance. Thanks to all. I look forward to when I really know what I’m doing in the job (smile).

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

Jessie Barksdale – Area V Vice President

Area V - Chapters: Lynchburg 0110, Danville 1011, Bedford 1068, Martinsville/Henry 1882, Southside 2079, Piedmont 2080

Milestones:

- Encourage members to attend chapter meetings
- Develop a procedure for providing NARFE information to active and retired US Postal employees.
- Increase dues withholding
- Increase NARFE-PAC/State-PAC contributions
- Promote NARFE via chapter newsletters.
- Encourage members to support the 2011 VFC Convention

During the past year, we have emphasized membership, retention, and participation in chapter meetings. I don't want to paint a picture of doom and gloom, but it has not been our best year for recruiting new members. If not for the national recruitment efforts (OPM mailings, etc), membership in Area V would probably be significantly less. Attendance at chapters meetings has reached an all- time low. Thanks to the dedication, commitment, and hard work of the “faithful few,” no chapters are closing or consolidating. Chapters in Area V are small by comparison, and our main source of recruitment is the US Postal Service.

Just like everyone else, our membership dealt with the day-to-day social, economic, and health issues and concerns. All of these things have impacted recruitment and retention.

I have enjoyed my chapter visits in Area V. Our members are positive and very committed to NARFE. They recognize that without a strong NARFE organization, our earned benefits could be at risk. Some of the chapter presidents have been serving in their positions due to the fact that no one else is willing to serve in that capacity. To them I say, “thank you” for all that you have done for NARFE and specifically for the VFC. Working together, I'm confident that we will progress.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Area V Vice President. I thank each of you for your cooperation and support.

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

Delwyn A. ‘Del’ Dyer - Area VI Vice President

Area VI covers the geographic area from Roanoke west to the Tennessee/Kentucky lines’ The four Chapters and their meeting places are: Roanoke Valley 111 (Hidden Valley Country Club, Salem); New River Valley 1134 (Bull and Bones, Blacksburg); Wilderness Trail 1837 (Shoney’s, Wytheville); and Southwest Virginia Highlands 2330 (Senior Center, Abingdon).

As Area Vice President I attended each of the Chapters at least twice during the year. I also attended the 2010 VFC Convention in Virginia Beach, the State Legislative planning meeting in Richmond and each of the VFC Board meetings. In addition I met individually with new officers and or committee chairs at their request. I sent summaries of each VFC Board meeting to the Chapter Presidents and included suggestions for work they should be undertaking.

All Chapters have a full slate of officers and Chairman of recommended committees have been reappointed. Area VI V.P.’s emphasis this year has been on preparing Officers to do their very best. We held a day of “Sharing and Learning” which attracted 3-5 officers from each of the Chapters. Topics covered were, exciting meetings and programs,; increasing attendance at meetings; strengthening newsletters; recruitment and retention; and, making NARFE more visible in the community. Carolyn Wilson, VFC Public Relations Chair attended and was most helpful in all of the discussions. Each Chapter left the meeting with at least two things they were going to do.

Two Chapters have developed plans to host to recruitment events in 2011. The Roanoke Chapter (111) has Matching Funds to sponsor a pre-retirement Information Expo for ACTIVE employees in the 35 Federal Agencies and 10 Post offices facilities in the Roanoke Valley. The April 14th event will feature VFC Retirement Specialist Barbara Nugent and Financial planner Walter Kearns. The primary purpose of the event is to assist Federal employees with their plans for retirement and to help them understand NARFE POWER in PROTECTING their benefits during their active and retired years.

Chapter 2330 (S.W. Virginia Highlands) is planning a picnic for ACTIVE employees with similar intentions – to attract active employee to NARFE membership.

Membership has held steady. Recruitment has managed to keep up with non renewals and deaths. Chapters continue to encourage dues with-holding. Chapter meetings continue to be well attended. Program Chairs have found interesting programs with a good mix of “benefits” and “fun” information with topics like organ donation, civil war history, genealogy, fitness and health for seniors and so on. All Chapters have newsletters and Chapter 2330 has an active telephone tree.

Chapters have been active in the political arena. Congressman Boucher was a strong supporter of Federal employees and retirees and Chapter members were often given audience. Senator Warner’s local staff has actively sought input from our Chapters. Work is now underway to develop that same relationship with Congressman Griffith.

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 1370 in strength. The membership has remained fairly constant this past year, but with the new recruitment contest, members are vigorously attempting to recruit new ones, and bring back those that have lapsed. Our goal is to increase our number to over 1400 by the end of the 2011.

This has been an extremely busy year for me as Area VII VP. I have visited all 6 chapters (as President of the Shenandoah County, that's easy) multiple times and have tried to impart the knowledge that I've gained at the National and Virginia State Conventions. In addition, I have recently attended the NARFE National Legislative Convention that was centered on lobbying Congress and the White House to keep our pay & benefits in line with the rest of the Country, and to not single us Federal employees out for cuts.

In addition, last June I hosted the Area VII gathering that brought together the leadership from all 6 chapters. We discussed the principal topics of legislation, membership recruitment and retention, as well as chapter activity concerns. Just as important, I was able to get 2 of our elected officials, U.S. Congressman Bob Goodlatte (6th District VA) and State Senator Mark Obenshain (26th District VA) to exclusively address our members regarding issues of NARFE concern.

This past year, many members in Area VII have excelled in their duties. Two are especially noteworthy: Joe Beaudoin from the Winchester Chapter was elected NARFE National President, and Charlie Schuler from the Harrisonburg Chapter won the Virginia Federation of Chapters Service Officer of the Year Award. Well done, gentlemen. At the National Convention in August, the Shenandoah County Chapter was awarded National Second Place for Membership Recruitment.

Prior to this past November, the Winchester Chapter hosted a forum between U.S. Congressman Frank Wolf and his 2 opponents. I was able to witness their vigorous campaigning in action. Fortunately for us in NARFE, Representative Wolf was successful in his re-election.

This coming year will be a full one for all of us in NARFE. We here in Area VII will be doing our part in the steep climb to keep our existing Civil Service, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security benefits from being hit hard. It will take a concerted effort on everyone's part to keep the heat on both Congress and the White House. In addition, we should not forget that the State of Virginia has an eye on reducing our tax benefits. We are exempted in some areas, and it will be up to us to keep enough pressure on our legislators to not sacrifice us for the good of balancing bloated budgets.

Finally, I wish to thank all the members of Area VII for their kind support to me during this first full year as your VP. I enjoyed meeting and serving you all and hope to continue my service the coming year.

Leslie E Ravenell - Area VIII Vice President

2010 was my first full year as the Area VIII Vice President and what an exciting year it was! As you read this report you will most likely be in attendance at the 2011 VFC Convention in Richmond, VA. Last year at the 2010 VFC Convention in Virginia Beach, VA it was announced that Area VIII would host the 2010 Convention. So it has been a very busy year as each chapter in Area VIII has worked very hard on putting together this year's convention with the theme: "NARFE-Challenged as Never Before".

Area VIII is the third largest area in the VFC and consists of the following chapters: Fredericksburg Chapter 90, President: Maureen Nolet; Colonial Beach Chapter 595, President: Leslie Ravenell; Warrenton-Faquier Chapter 1549, President: Barbara Scott; Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885, President: Nick Duy; Louisa Chapter 2065, President: Ray Siewert; Caroline Chapter 2112, President: Judith Moore, and Falls Run Chapter 2343, President: Julia Alessio. Last year we only had one new chapter president in Area VIII. In the fall of 2010, four new presidents were elected including myself. So Area VIII had a 57% changeover in leadership. Thanks to all who served as chapter officers and committee chairs in 2010.

As you read this report at the 2011 Convention, you will note that there will be the presentation of R. David Smith Award for the second year. In 2010 at the Virginia Beach convention, this award was presented for the first time to one of Area VIII's long time members, Jackie Richards of the Falls Run Chapter 2343. What a pleasure it was to see her hard work and dedicated service of 30 years with NARFE rewarded with this special honor.

Area VIII has the full gamut of chapter sizes with Fredericksburg Chapter 90, the largest chapter of over 700 members, Caroline Chapter, the smallest with 50 plus members and all the others falling somewhere in between. Area VIII accepted the challenge of our VFC leadership and worked hard to recruit new members. For 2010 we saw an increase in membership of twenty new members over the previous year. Thanks to all our Area VIII membership chairs who worked so hard to achieve this increase.

At the 2010 convention, Area VIII was presented with two Alzheimer's award certificates, one for third place in total contributions and one for second place in per capita. For the calendar year 2010, Area VIII exceeded its contributions from the previous year and had the second largest dollar amount in the VFC. Again it was the dedication of the Alzheimer chairs and the total membership that made this happen. Thanks to everyone for these positive accomplishments.

Political activity was important in Area VIII during 2010. Chapter 90 along with Chapters 595 and 2343 sponsored an outstanding event with Congressman Rob Wittman. Louisa Chapter 2065 conducted its annual candidates' picnic with the independent candidate for Congressional District 7 in attendance.

Finally, despite our economic challenges, 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, 9/11 ceremonies, and the social activities with picnics and holiday celebrations. Thanks again to everyone. It's been a great year!

Pierce 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, Charlie Dane, President (continuing); Chapter 401, Falls Church, John Restall, President (continuing); Chapter 356, Manassas, Jack Shipley, President (continuing); Chapter 893, Springfield, Jim Delgado, President (new); and Chapter 1270, Woodbridge, Joyce Pieritz, President (new).

Area IX is the home of Darlene Myer-Rhodes (Chapter 893), who will be completing her sixth and final year as VFC Treasurer; Dennis Martin (Chapter 893), who serves as VFC Membership Chair; Joyce Pieritz (Chapter 1270), who serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee; and Margaret Yowell (Chapter 893), who serves as VFC Chaplain. I, Pierce Johnson (Chapter 1270), serve as the Chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee. Gaston Gianni (Chapter 1270) expects to become the Public Relations Chair at the 2011 Convention. Mary Lou Vroman (Chapter 1159) has served (and continues to serve) as a Congressional District Liaison (CDL) for Congressman Connolly, while Sharon Forrest (Chapter 893) serves as CDL for Congressman Wolf. Steve Ledford (Chapter 1159) has just volunteered to begin serving as a Senate Legislative Liaison (SLL) for Senator Warner.

Chapters in Area IX range in size from about 450 (Manassas) to nearly 1800 (Springfield). Area IX has the two largest chapters in Virginia (Springfield and Alexandria). Consequently, Area IX has over 28% of the membership of Virginia. However, nearly all Area IX chapters (except Manassas) experienced drops in membership, yielding nearly a 2% drop for the year 2010.

Again, I am very proud of the Area IX contributions for Alzheimer’s research this year. Area IX came in FIRST among all areas (\$21,133.30 total), nearly doubling the next 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 over \$10,426.30 donated. Their success is due in large part to their annual Fashion Show. This year they had to change location to a larger venue to accommodate more attendees.

Area IX was well represented at the NARFE National Convention in Grand Rapids, MI this past year. All attendees had a great time and enjoyed the city and its many tourist attractions. In addition to the business conducted, the talk by Mary Ellen Geist, author of Measure of the Heart, was especially touching as it related taking care of her father as he fought Alzheimer’s.

As the primary emphasis in NARFE is national legislation and informing our Congressional leaders, I am pleased that so many folks from Area IX signed up to attend the bi-annual NARFE Legislative Training Conference in Crystal City in early March. Members had the opportunity to visit offices of their Congressmen and Senators (or their staffs). Last June and again this June, members will be able to attend the VFC Legislation Committee meetings in Richmond to draft the VFC State Legislation Action Plans for the General Assembly.

Along those lines, Area IX chapters took full advantage of the “Grass Roots Advocacy Month” last August. Chapter 1159 had both Congressman Connolly and his challenger, Keith Fimian, join them, while Chapters 232 and 893 teamed up to invite Congressman Jim Moran and his challenger, Patrick Murray, as well as Connolly and Fimian also join them. Chapter 1270 also hosted Connolly as well as the District 1 challenger. NARFE-PAC disbursements included Rob Wittman (\$2,000), James Moran (\$10,000), Frank Wolf (\$10,000) and Gerald Connolly (\$10,000). Did they each win because they were incumbents or because of NARFE-PAC support?

Pierce Johnson - Area IX Vice President (continued)

Chapter 1270 celebrated their 37th anniversary in April, just before the VFC Convention. Four of their past presidents were able to attend and share their experiences. Chapter 1159 celebrated their 40th anniversary in October. Guests included two county supervisors, Penelope Gross and John Cook; and the newly elected Region 10 Vice President Bill Martin. Speakers included the VFC President, Bill Shackelford and Charles Timanus, NARFE National Public Relations Director.

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.

Chapters in Area IX are to be congratulated in their communication efforts. Each chapter produces a monthly newsletter and most maintain a website accessible from the VFC website. 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. Nearly every chapter celebrated a holiday social, which was well attended by their members and enjoyed by all. Due to scheduling conflicts, a couple VFC officers had to install chapter officers, but I was available to install a few.

The Caucus of Chapters (combining Areas IX and X) met on a regular basis during the past year (averaging quarterly). Members continue to exchange ideas and share information on programs that have been popular at chapter meetings. In October, Area IX Chapter Presidents met separately from Area X Chapter Presidents and discovered they enjoyed a more intimate setting for a change.

Gaston Gianni (past president of Chapter 1270) has taken the lead in developing a Strategic Plan for the VFC. It is coming along nicely, and we anticipate completion within the year. Everyone at every level of the VFC has been offered the opportunity to contribute.

I look forward to seeing many of the Area IX chapter members at our Area IX Caucus Meeting in Richmond.

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

Kathy Arpa - Area X Vice President

Area X of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) consists of seven chapters in Northern Virginia. New chapter presidents in 2011 are: Max Scruggs, Chapter 7 (Arlington), Dr. Constance Bails, Chapter 737 (Fairfax), Shirley Martin, Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton), and Bill Schmidt, Chapter 1241 (Dulles). Continuing as presidents this year are: Joseph (Dick) Spann, Chapter 489 (McLean-Great Falls); Matt Prisutti, Chapter 1133 (Loudoun); and Judy Willis and Jeanette Pelton, co-presidents, Chapter 1665 (Metro Northern Virginia).

Area X members are aware of the importance of volunteers to the NARFE organization and they have stepped up to the plate with several members serving on the VFC. They are: Bill Shackelford, President; Dick Giangerelli, 2nd Vice President; Bill Boning, Secretary; Dr. Constance and John Bails, Service Officers; Bill Schmidt, State Legislative Chair; and Donna Shackelford, Alzheimer's Chair. Chapters in Area X make up 23% of the membership in Virginia. Four chapters have over 500 members and two chapters (Chapter 7 and Chapter 737) have over 1,000 members.

Area X members were busy with NARFE and community activities throughout the year. In May, we attended the Public Service Recognition Week event on the National Mall and visited John Clements at the NARFE booth. Also in May, members participated in the Fairfax County Senior Recognition luncheon. In June, members participated in a legislative meeting in Richmond with Bill Schmidt and drafted the 2011 state legislative action plan. In August, all chapters were represented at the NARFE National Convention in Grand Rapids. I represented Region X on the Membership Committee.

Three chapters in Area X meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month so holding area meetings provide an opportunity for all seven chapters to get together. At the area luncheon meeting held last September members discussed the recent National Convention, the upcoming chapter elections, the importance of member retention, legislation, communication and training and provided input for the VFC Strategic Plan.

In October, Chapters 7 and 1665 participated in the 11th Beacon Senior Expo at Ballston Mall in Arlington, VA. Before the event, 150 full packets were assembled containing the NARFE magazine, the self-mailer application, 10 Worst Mistakes Federal Employees Can Make, Look What NARFE Has Done for You Lately, and a copy of the September 25 Washington Post article "Federal Workers Becoming a Flashpoint in Midterm Elections."

In December, members from Chapters 737 and 1116, 1241 in Area X and Chapter 1270 in Area IX participated in a health fair sponsored by Gerry Connolly in Fairfax. I attended several holiday parties and installed officers at Chapter 7 and Chapter 1133. In February, while I was in Florida, I attended the NARFE meeting of Chapter 259 (Clearwater).

In March, 13 members from Area X attended the NARFE 2011 Legislative Training Conference in Crystal City and learned about NARFE's "America's Heartbeat Campaign". Also in March, John Elkins, Legislative Chair for Chapter 1116, and I represented NARFE at Gerry Connolly's 7th Annual Celtic Luncheon at Tysons Corner.

The Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters (Areas IX and X) met in November 2010 and March 2011. The November meeting featured Dan Adcock, NARFE National Legislation Chair, and VFC Service Officers Dr. Constance and John Bails. Legislative chairs and service officers were invited. The March meeting featured Dennis K. Martin, VFC Membership chair and Christine Lundeen (Area IX) and George Meek (Area X), area membership coordinators). Chapter membership chairs were invited. Attendance at

Kathy Arpa - Area X Vice President (continued)

the caucus meetings has been excellent and every chapter in Area IX and X was represented at the March meeting.

Chapter 7 is having a recruitment contest with \$100, \$75, or \$50 for the top three new-member recruiters this year. The awards will be made in December for the largest number of active or retired members recruited from January through September 2011. For the convenience of current federal employees and other working members, Chapter 7's March 2011 meeting was held on a Thursday evening. Cindi Jones, Director of Virginia Health Reform initiatives in the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, was the guest speaker. The initiative's purpose is to provide Governor McDonnell with a strategy for reforming health care in Virginia that goes beyond the federal health reform. Around 40 members attended the evening meeting including members from three local chapters.

Area X members helped NARFE raise \$9 million for Alzheimer's research through auctions, white elephant sales, raffles and 50/50 drawings as well as anonymous donations. Chapter 1665 recently had a silent auction which netted \$567.00.

Chapters 7, 737, 1116 and 1241 now have their monthly newsletters on the VFC website and Chapters 7 and 1241 are emailing newsletters to members in an effort to go green and cut operating costs for their chapters.

Chapter programs featured David Snell from NARFE, Gayle Nelson from Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Vanessa D. Lacey from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney, the Director of the Arlington County Public Libraries and a representative from the Social Security Administration. Other programs included political forums/debates, speakers on estate planning,

“Ways to Make Your Home Comfortable as Your Needs Change, How to De-clutter and De-stress”, Neighborhood Watch, and Dragon Races. One popular program featured three chapter members relating stories of their careers in the Federal Government. Other guest speakers were Dr. Constance and John Bails, Bill Schmidt and Donna Shackelford. Live entertainment at meetings was provided by the Kena Temple Musicians and the Chorus of the Old Dominion Group.

During the last year, two chapters in Area X lost their meeting places when two restaurants closed unexpectedly. Both chapters are now meeting at Italian restaurants. Chapter 1133 moved from the Dock Restaurant to Travinia Italian Kitchen in Leesburg and Chapter 1665 moved from the Alpine Restaurant to the Portofino Restaurant in Crystal City.

Area X members are proudly wearing their NARFE 90th Anniversary pins and their 2010 recruitment pins. Six of the seven chapters will have delegates at the VFC Convention in Richmond with Chapter 1133 sending a proxy.

I would like to thank all of the chapters in Area X for their support and all the volunteers for their time and expertise. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Caucus Meeting on April 26 in Richmond.

James Brewer - National Legislation

Like the U.S. Congress is now doing, I like to refresh with the NARFE Mission Statement and an excerpt of the NARFE Vision Statement:

NARFE Mission Statement

- 1. To support Legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests.**
- 2. To promote the general welfare of current and potential federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under retirement laws and regulations.**
- 3. To cooperate with other organizations in furtherance of these general objectives.**

NARFE Vision Statement

To insure that:

- 1. NARFE is recognized as the association devoted exclusively to serving and protecting the earned entitlements, rights and benefits of all federal retirees, employees and survivors.**
- 2. Great work is done to help preserve those rights and benefits.**
- 3. Members receive the highest quality services and products.**
- 4. All members are left with the knowledge and understanding that their needs and wants are being taken to the highest government levels of government for resolution.**

As the VFC National Legislative Chair and NARFE-PAC Coordinator, I have endeavored to apply the NARFE Mission and Vision Statements to my duties and responsibilities during this past year as follows:

1. Acted as the central point of national legislation activity within the VFC, to include oversight of the activities of the Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLL's), Congressional District Liaisons (CDL's), and vice-Liaisons;
2. Made personal contact, when possible, with Virginia US Representatives and Senators or their staff;
3. Empowered the CDL's and SLL's to coordinate legislative visits of VFC members;
4. Served as point of contact between the VFC and the NARFE National Legislation Director to ensure that the VFC National Legislative program was in consonance with the National Legislative Program;
5. Developed and coordinated the National Legislative Program, with input from the VFC Area Vice Presidents (AVP's), SLL's, and CDL's;
6. Provided National Legislative Training for SLL's, CDL's and Chapter Legislative Chairs, as needed;
7. Provided guidance to the AVP's, where appropriate, in developing National Legislative Plans, goals and budgets; and
8. Acted as NARFE-PAC coordinator for the Virginia Federation by:
 - Providing information to NARFE headquarters to aid in determining contributions to Representatives and Senators in Virginia;
 - Keeping VFC Board of Directors informed of the NARFE-PAC contributions to Virginia Representatives and Senators, and the contributions from Virginia Federation members; and
 - Coordinated attendance at NARFE-PAC events by Virginia Federation members.

Though this work does not represent all of the duties and responsibilities for this position, they did keep me quite busy over this past year.

James Brewer - National Legislation (continued)

My first major undertaking was to improve organizational structure National Legislation coordination within the Virginia Federation. The first step was to identify those Virginia Federation Chapters whose members resided in each Congressional District and what population of their members resided in each Congressional District. Based upon the results of this analysis, CDL's were appointed by the VFC President from the Chapters with the majority of members in the Congressional Districts and each CDL was informed of the locations of the NARFE members in his/her assigned Congressional District.

My second major undertaking was to develop a series of educational "quick reference" training aids for the CDL's and SLL's, and instructions for coordination between the CDL's and SLL's and the Virginia Federation Areas and Chapters that they represent. The second version of these documents was presented to the VFC Board in January 2011 and includes a strategic plan. It represents a plan that can be revised as necessary to meet future changing requirements.

While the above were being implemented, it became apparent that the positions of vice-CDL and vice-SLL needed to be incorporated in the organizational structure to address the following issues:

- Size of some of the Congressional Districts and the travel distance that resulted;
- Differing concerns of the Chapters and members within a Congressional District;
- Potential illness or injury of a CDL or SLL; and
- Training of potential future CDL's and SLL's

Some vice-CDL's and vice-SLL's have been appointed; but more are needed.

In addition, I have begun an initiative to provide business cards for the CDL's, SLL's and their vices, so that they will be better recognized as official representatives by the Virginia Congressmen, Senators, and their staffs.

I would like to thank the 6,653 Virginia Federation members who contributed to NARFE-PAC. The goal of the Virginia Federation for the 111th Congressional cycle of \$85,000 was exceeded by approximately \$15,000, for a total contribution of \$94,395.00. This amount, together with the contributions from the other four Federations that comprise the NARFE Region 10, made NARFE Region 10 the largest contributor to NARFE-PAC for the 111th Congressional cycle.

Congressmen recently approved to receive NARFE-PAC disbursements are as follows:

111th Congressional Cycle:

- CD-1, Rob Wittman, \$2,000 to his general campaign (GC);
- CD-3, Bobby Scott, \$2,000 to his primary campaign (PC) and \$2,000 to his GC;
- CD-8, James Moran, \$5,000 to his PC and \$5,000 to his GC;
- CD-9, Rick Boucher, \$3,000 to his GC;
- CD-10, Frank Wolf, \$5,000 to his PC and \$5,000 to his GC; and
- CD-11, Gerald Connolly, \$5,000 to his PC and \$5,000 to his GC.

112 Congressional Cycle:

- CD-2, Scott Rigell, \$1,000 to his GC;
- CD-10, Frank Wolf, an amount to be determined to his GC; and
- CD-11, Gerry Connolly, an amount to be determined to his GC.

James Brewer - National Legislation (continued)

The Virginia Federation NARFE-PAC goal for contribution for the 112th Congressional cycle has been lowered to \$50,000, due to the expected downturn in the economy. It is believed that this amount is attainable.

And lastly, I have set the following planned activities for the future:

- 3 months – Re-evaluate overall operation and distribution of CLL's and SLL's.
- 6 months – Re-evaluate the effectiveness of the current Virginia Federation National Legislative operating plan.
- 9 months- Re-evaluate the mentoring process for CLL's, SLL's, and the vices and identify needed changes.
- 12 months – Re-evaluate overall process and report recommended changes to the VFC Board.
- 18 months – Initiate a CDL-SLL questionnaire to determine actions needed to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the operation.
- 24 months – Solicit information from Virginia Federation members on issues of National interest and develop a plan of action for Congressional District.

Bill Schmidt - State Legislation

In November the voters of the state approved a constitutional amendment, which was part of the 2010 VFC Legislative plan, that permitted all localities in the state to provide reduced real estate taxes to disabled persons and residents over 65. Several localities have already held hearings to establish the local conditions for the reduction.

We have distributed over 1500 copies of the 2011 State Legislative Plan, with many of our chapter members discussing it personally with their representatives. The plan identified five issues that our membership felt strongly about.

1) Aging issues in the state are still a concern. Many issues identified in the JLARC10 study as well as issues more recently identified need addressing. This is a difficult area to achieve progress as most of the issues require increased funding from the state. One success was SB976, a bill submitted by Senator Whipple, HB1818 by Delegate Hope, and HB2388 by Delegate Torian that requires more openness by institution administrators along with members of the family council of that institution. Del O'Bannon's bill, HB1643, provides an addition of up to 10 nursing home beds for certified nursing homes licensed for less than 60 beds, which are operated not for profit, and located in Planning District 15 which accepts patients from areas of the Commonwealth outside of the planning district, and provides care for patients regardless of ability to pay. Del Merricks bill, HB1917, requires that the administrator of every licensed assisted living facility shall report to the Department of Health Professions any information indicating that a health professional may have a substance abuse or mental health problem.

2) Encourage VDOT to alter transportation policies to accommodate the needs of the rapidly increasing senior's population: No specific legislation directed at making these accommodations was passed during this session.

Bill Schmidt - State Legislation (continued)

3) The General Assembly's freezing of funds for the Judicial segment of the state government has led to a shortage of judges with the continuing retirement of senior judges. The GA needs to find Funding for replacement Judges. The Adopted budget contains 26 specific provisions to protect funding for various district court, circuit court and higher court judicial positions that would have been lost with the budget language adopted in 2010.

4) State Board of Elections Voter lists should be made available only to those persons who need it to perform the function of electing office holders in the State. Outside organizations no matter their lofty goals should not have access to voter lists and voter histories. The desire by some to harass voters to encourage increased voter turnout can only result in less registered voters. While the carryover bill, SB624, from the 2010 session, which made the lists available was defeated in a December 2 committee meeting of the House Privileges and Elections committee; the state court issued a consent decree that requires the State Board of Elections to provide voter lists to various nonprofit organizations for the purpose of increasing voter turnout.

5) The GA supported our request in 2007 to protect property rights in Virginia by limiting the ability of localities to take private property for non public uses. (HB2954, SB781, SB1296) We strongly urge that the current law be adopted as a constitutional amendment, so that a future legislature will have to seek approval of the voters of the state to overturn these protections.

Delegate Johnny Joannou's bill HJ 693 was adopted by both the House and the Senate. It will require passage again in identical form next session before it can be placed on the ballot.

This was a disappointing year for our efforts to raise funds for the VFC Political Fund. This is particularly disturbing as 2011 is an election year and there will be 140 seats up for election. During the 2009 election where only the 100 seats in the House of Delegates were up for election we were able to make donations of \$500 each to 8 candidates for the House. We barely have \$4,500 in the fund at this point to support a 40% larger field of candidates.

Dennis K. Martin - Membership Chair

The membership contest, started in August, is off to a good start with 145 new members recruited by VFC members in the first five months of the contest. In all of 2010 the number of new members recruited by VFC members totals 290, or 16.2% of the total of new VFC members recruited for the year. These numbers encouraging and hopefully the results of the membership contest will show even better results in the future.

Unfortunately, the VFC membership for 2010, unlike last year's increase was down 266, or 1.1%. Transfers, in and out, continue at a slower pace than last year undoubtedly reflecting the poor economy and the downturn in housing prices.

Another disturbing fact is that second renewal notices were ahead of last year. However, through the good work of the chapter officers, non-renewals were behind last year. Unfortunately reinstatements were less than last year and it's apparent that more effort needs to be done in the retention of members.

The dues withholding continues to increase with an additional 6% of members signing up. Now 11.6% of VFC members are having their dues withheld.



John & Connie Bails : VFC Co-Service Officers



As VFC Board Members Our Responsibilities are:

Federation service officers should strongly encourage every Area VP to appoint a service officer and, in medium size and large chapters, a service committee. Federation service officers should also assist all chapter Presidents and Service Officers in developing strong, responsive service programs. There *should 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; to assist 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 should work with all district officers 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

- ✓ Area VII Annual Meeting June 2010, gave presentation on the New F-100 and held a Question and Answer session
- ✓ Chapter Visit presentation to 90 Fredericksburg
- ✓ Chapter Visit presentation to 28 Petersburg
- ✓ Attended VFC Board Meetings Jan, July & Oct., 2010 & 2011 Richmond VA
- ✓ Chapter Visit presentation to 2343 Fredericksburg - Duties of a Service Officer/ F-100/ TAGS
- ✓ Presentation Area X Caucus meeting – Duties of a Service Officer / F-100/ TAGS
- ✓ Chapter Visit presentation 893 Springfield Duties of a Service Officer/ F-100/ TAGS
- ✓ Chapter Visit presentation 356 Manassas Duties of a Service Officer/ F-100/ TAGS
- ✓ Chapter presentation 737 Fairfax Duties of a Service Officer/ F-100/ TAGS
- ✓ Chapter Visit to Fauquier 1549, June 2010 received this note from Pres. Ray:

Dear Connie and John,

Thank you for visiting our Chapter today and giving a great presentation on the duties and responsibilities of Service Officers. As you know, we have had difficulty in finding a new Service Officer. When I asked for your help at the VFC Convention, you generously volunteered to come to our Chapter. As a result of your visit, we all are better informed, we have a new Service Officer, and we have a Service Committee. As I mentioned, you are always welcome and you were a tremendous help in our time of need.

Thanks,

Ray Brandenburg

President, NARFE Fauquier Chapter 1549

Attended the NARFE 2011 Legislative Training Conference, March 5-8 Arlington Virginia



John & Connie Bails : VFC Co-Service Officers (continued)



Short Range Plan For The Next 12 Months Following 2011 VFC Convention

Goal 1 – Establish a VFC Service Committee

Objective 1 – 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

The 2010-2011 year was a year of change for the VFC Public Relations Chair. At the start of the year, Pat Taylor, after serving as PR Chair for three years, became a VFC Area VP. Pat had devoted much time and energy to help advance the NARFE message among our Chapters, including bringing life to the NARFE License Plate Project. To fill the vacancy, Carolyn Wilson agreed to step in and fill the position. Carolyn had served as PR Chair before Pat Taylor and stepped right in and carried on. Unfortunately, Carolyn found it necessary to resign at the end of the year. During her brief time as Chair, she visited many Chapters, helped with getting matching funds and continued advancing the NARFE message. We will miss their leadership and thank them for their past efforts in serving as PR Chair.

Just completing two years as the President of the Woodbridge 1270 Chapter, I agreed to assume the PR Chair. This is a new experience for me and I'm rushing to get up to speed as fast as I can. The change, however, has meant some gaps in service to our Chapters. This is something I plan to deal with in the coming year as I learn more about my responsibilities and develop a plan of action. I look forward to working with the Chapter PR Chairs as well as the VFC Officers and Board.

The VFC PR Chair serves on the Board and manages the broad spectrum of PR responsibilities, including assisting the VFC President and Officers achieve strategic goals; advancing NARFE's name recognition and mission in the Commonwealth of Virginia; coordinating with and helping the VFC Membership and Legislative Chairs and Area VPs; and training and assisting Chapter PR Chairs with various local PR issues.

A major goal during the coming year will be to establish a network of communication and coordination with and among all the VFC Chapters so as to better understand and meet their needs. This will enable me to be available to answer questions and provide timely assistance. Also, I plan to reach out to other Federation PR Chairs to obtain and share information on best practices. During the year, I will assist Chapters with obtaining matching funds for their PR projects.

Other goals for the coming year include completing our first VFC Strategic Plan, developing a VFC brochure which provides information on the mission and strategic goals of the VFC and reviewing and enhancing the VFC training program. Working together we will help make NARFE and the VFC stronger.

Tip O'Neill, the former Speaker of the House, once said "All politics are local" and so is NARFE PR. While the VFC and Chapter PR Chairs focus on getting the NARFE message out, each NARFE member also can help with making NARFE better known. Become aware of the major issues which we face as active and retired federal employees; interact with your congressional Senators and Representative to let them know how you feel on issues; and lastly, reach out and invite someone to become a member of NARFE.

Contact information Email gastongianni@aol.com , Phone 703-508-4339, and mailing address: 3816 Mulberry Point Ct, Dumfries, VA 22025. Let me hear from you if you have any thoughts for the VFC PR or have Chapter need.

Closing Quote: Thanks

Donna Shackelford - Alzheimer's Chair

Alzheimer's Disease is receiving very positive publicity, even though it is such a terrible affliction. Both Commonwealth and National lawmakers have recognized the need to make the public aware of it. Our General Assembly has issued a Resolution in particular honor of the NARFE Winchester Chapter 180 for their donation of \$40,000 in support of research into the cause, prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The Resolution pointed out that in 2010 more than 130,000 Virginians were living with Alzheimer's and that NARFE celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the partnering with the Alzheimer's Association and has committed to raising a total of \$9 million by February of 2011 toward research. The General Assembly Resolution also emphasized that VFC has raised a total of \$66,270 for the Fiscal Year 2010 (and was recognized at the National Convention for the achievement).

At the National level, on January 4, 2011, the National Alzheimer's Project Act was signed into law. This will create a coordinated national plan to overcome Alzheimer's Disease and ensure coordination and evaluation of all national efforts in research, clinical care, institutional, and home/community based programs. The Alzheimer's Association has been working very hard to promote this Act, which will provide the framework within the government that recognizes the Alzheimer's crisis is no longer emerging, *but is here*.

All of our Chapters have donated and worked diligently to raise money through innovative means to send to the Research Department. The Association has now funded 49 projects as a result of NARFE contributions, and the VFC has certainly headed this effort. Remember, "Alzheimer's is a tragic epidemic that has no survivors, not even one," as stated by Harry Johns, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association. It is the **only** disease of the top ten causes of death in America without a way to prevent, cure, or even slow its progression.

Particular recognition is being given to the top six chapters, broken down as follows for calendar year 2010; and six individual contributions will be recognized during the Convention.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Per Member</u>
Woodbridge 1270	\$10,426	Falls Run 2343	\$33.96
Winchester 180	5,381	Shenandoah County 2358	27.80
Annandale 1159	4,917	Louisa 2065	17.09
Falls Run 2343	3,894	Colonial Beach 595	15.09
Springfield 893	3,460	Page Valley 1793	14.12
Fairfax 737	3,038	Woodbridge 1270	13.03

As your VFC Alzheimer's Chair, I participated in an Alzheimer's walk that took place in the District of Columbia. Not only did the NARFE people make friends with the Alzheimer's staff who were there, but it also provided an opportunity to recruit for Membership those who were present as participants. I spoke to some Chapters after my appointment in September, 2010. I've learned a great deal about Alzheimer's Disease in my short tenure, and I know I will continue to grow. The next Calendar Year looks very promising!