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VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2012

William Shackelford - President

There are many things ongoing within the VFC through the hard work of your Executive Committee, Area Vice Presidents and the Program Committee Chairs. One way to keep up with the direction that the VFC is moving is to visit the VFC website, www.vanarfe.org, which, through the tremendous effort of VFC Webmaster Stan Palen, has been updated with much information for our members to keep abreast of information and activities within the federation, including the six program areas: Alzheimer's, Membership, National Legislation, Public Relations, State Legislation and Service. I encourage everyone to visit the website and give us your comments on how we can improve upon the messages provided

Stability in leadership is critical to the operation of any organization, so while 2010 saw multiple changes in the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) leadership, 2011 was a very stable year. When former State Legislation Chair William "Bill" Schmidt was elected to serve as VFC Secretary, he was quickly replaced by Gene Brown from Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116. J. Carroll Graham stepped down from his position as Senior State Legislation Representative but Jim Bradley accepted the responsibility of the senior position without hesitation and Joe Gresko joined the Executive Board as (Junior) State Legislation Representative.

PROTECT AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT (PAH) CAMPAIGN: Extensive information was provided by NARFE Headquarters on this effort including information and instructions. Numerous e-mail messages through GEMS, the Legislative Hotline were distributed to NARFE's membership. These messages carried requests for specific actions by the members, including phone calls, emails, letters or visits to our Congressmen. NARFE members were encouraged to get energized through Letters to the Editor – either in response to something that was printed or to correct common misconceptions about NARFE. Members across the nation are writing letters, talking to local papers, meeting with members of Congress and their staff, and making calls as part of the campaign. The response by VFC members was tremendous with the number of telephone calls, e-mail messages and letters exceeding expectations. Several VFC members have had great success in getting their letters published in their local papers.

ALZHEIMER'S: The generosity of members of the VFC has not diminished and continues to amaze leaders of other Federations and the Alzheimer's Association. As a national organization, NARFE, exceeded the \$9 million level shortly after the first of 2011 and continues to move towards the stated goal of \$10 million in 2012. During the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, as Alzheimer's Research #1 NARFE contributor. Our members contributed more than \$78,000 to combat this dreaded disease. The VFC continues to reign as the top NARFE Federation contributor and congratulations are due to everyone who has supported this great cause over the years - Thank You!

MEMBERSHIP: The VFC membership total membership at the end of 2011 was down by 4.2%. For the year there was an increase in dues withholding members of 2.1% which shows continued emphasis by the chapters and efforts to increase dues withholding should continue. Member reinstatement numbers are up when compared to last year which is a positive, however, non-renewals are unfortunately still up. Finally, the membership numbers were not helped by the fact that transfers out vs. transfers in were ahead of last year. Even the numbers of new prospective members is less. Needless to say the VFC needs to be focused on the recruitment as well as increase its emphasis on retaining current members. VFC Membership Chair Dennis Martin and the ten VFC Areas Membership Coordinators across the Federation will continue to work in developing methods to energize all members to do what can be done to maintain and increase membership. Let's have a renewed effort by all Chapter Membership Chairs and other Chapter Officers to retain every current member – not letting one drop due to failure to renew their membership. Accomplishing this, the VFC should be able to look forward to success in 2012.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION: During 2011, 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. Goals for the 113th Congress will be discussed at the 58th

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Virginia Federation of Chapters Convention in Richmond. All VFC members are encouraged to contact their representatives and senators to urge their support of the NARFE Legislative program for the 113th Congress. We need to continue to remind our Congressional representatives that Federal workers and annuitants did not cause our budget crisis and making extreme cuts to pay, earned health and retirement benefits, or making changes to cost-of-living adjustments would unfairly single out those who protected our nation, including many now on a fixed income. During NARFE's "Grass-Roots Advocacy Month" in 2011, delegations of members met with the staffs of our U.S. Senators and several of our Congressmen, briefing them on NARFE issues. Virginia Federation members have done a great job in responding to the numerous Legislative Action alerts. Coupled with the Protect America's Heartbeat Campaign, we have had great success in responding to every adverse action or threat against our earned benefits. This approach is proving successful and I want to express congratulations to all VFC members who supported our efforts in 2011 - Thank You!

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Why are public relations important? First you have to think about NARFE's principal mission, protect the earned benefits of Federal employees and retirees. The mission of the VFC Public Relations Committee is to raise the visibility of NARFE at all levels—Nation, State and Local. The public, especially active federal employees and retirees need to know who we are, what we stand for and what we accomplish in our communities. Making NARFE visible in your communities is a way of attracting new members. During 2011, the VFC PR Chair Gaston Gianni pushed many PR initiatives forward in order to increase the awareness of NARFE. There are many activities at the chapter level that can help raise awareness of NARFE. Funds available through the matching funds program have helped several chapters and the VFC to sponsor various events targeted to raising the awareness of NARFE and increasing our membership. Funds are available to help you with recruiting projects costing \$100 or more. Guidelines are posted on the Public Relations section of the VFC web site.

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. Their newest initiative is to form a VFC Service Committee with a group of Area Service Coordinators. Please support them and do whatever you can to help.

STATE LEGISLATION: The State Legislation Committee which consists of Chairman Gene Brown, Senior Legislation Representative Jim Bradley and Legislation Representative Joe Gresko 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. A major concern continues to be the level of donations to the VFC State Political Account. We need to continue to make a significant effort to increase the funds in the VFC PAC. Every chapter is encouraged to make efforts to find donors for the PAC fund.

VFC STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECT: Originally when the VFC Executive Board initiated this project to develop a strategic plan for the VFC, it was decided to develop a plan to cover a three year period 2011-2014. Area IX Vice President Pierce Johnson was designated as the project leader and was assisted by Public Relations Chair Gaston Gianni. After reviewing three other Federations Strategic Plans - North Carolina, Washington and Florida, it was decided that the primary focus of the VFC Plan would be on the following areas:

- ❖ Organization
 - Benchmark VFC with other successful Federations
 - Fully utilize technology
- ❖ Membership
 - Growth
 - Locate retirees within Virginia Federation
 - Identify steps to reach retirees
 - Locate active employees within Virginia Federation
 - Identify steps to reach active employees

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- ❖ Membership
 - Retention/Involvement
 - Identify reasons, other than death, members leaving
 - Increase successful outreach to members
 - Identify methods to get members involved in chapter activities
 - Improve providing services needed by members
- ❖ Public Relations
 - Build a stronger NARFE brand within Virginia
- ❖ Legislation
 - Actively increase outreach to Congressional representatives
- ❖ Service
- ❖ Education/Training
 - Identify type of training Chapters want and need
 - Insure VFC training materials are current
 - Compare VFC to other Federations
 - Identify available resources
- ❖ Communications
 - Improve communications between Federation, Chapters and members

While the VFC is actively working in most if not all these areas, the VFC Executive Board will take a longer look (three to five years) to 1) establish priority areas; 2) identify goals/targeted outcomes; 2) recognize where the Federation and Chapters are in terms of an organization; and 3) work to achieve the desired results three years out. With this type of information, the VFC can 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 achieve greater accomplishments and establish stronger links with its Chapters and members. **REMEMBER** - - The overall goal of the Strategic Plan will be to attract more members as well as retaining our current members.

2013 VFC CONVENTION: Planning has already started on the 2013 VFC Convention. It will be held April 21 – 24, 2013 at the Holiday Inn - Koger Conference Center and will be hosted by members of the seven chapters in Area III. Please mark your calendars now.

MY ACTIVITIES: While many chapters take the summer off from their activities, the members of the VFC Executive Board continue with the business of NARFE. We have been involved in meetings on the Chapter, Federation, Regional and National levels. Following are some of my activities for the year:

- 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
- Attended the combined National Executive Board (NEB) / Federation Presidents' (FP) meeting which was held in Sparks, Nevada. This meeting is held every two years at the site of the upcoming NARFE National Convention which allows the Presidents to see first-hand the facilities we will be using for the 2012 Convention. There was a lot of information that was provided or exchanged at this meeting, including reports from National Information Technology Advisory, By-Laws Review and Recruitment/Retention Committees.
- Attended the Region X Presidents' Conference which was held at the Cumberland Falls State Resort Park in Corbin, Kentucky. This conference is held every two years by the Region X Vice President and the purpose is to bring the Federation leadership from Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia together for the purpose of examining problems/concerns within each Federation and brain-storming possible solutions to these issues.

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- Attended and spoke at the Chapter 1727 (Tuckahoe), Chapter 2330 (Southwest Highlands), Chapter 180 (Winchester), Chapter 1134 (New River Valley), Chapter 1793 (Page Valley), Chapter 1885 (Lake of the Woods), Chapter 1549 (Warrenton/Fauquier), Chapter 1270 (Woodbridge) and the Northern Virginia Caucus of NARFE Chapters (Area IX and Area X)
- Attended and installed officers in Chapter 2112 (Caroline County), Chapter 1823 (Northern Neck), Chapter 2358 (Shenandoah County) and Chapter 1116 (Vienna/Oakton), Chapter 893 (Springfield), Chapter 2065 (Louisa County), Chapter 180 (Winchester), and Chapter 595 (Colonial Beach)
- Attended Chapter 682 (Peninsula) Dinner Meeting to present VFC Presidential Award to Marie Collins as 2011 Top Recruiter
- Attended Chapter 1827 (Virginia Beach-Seaside) to present VFC Presidential Award to Dick Edwards for service as VFC Webmaster
- Attended Chapter 178 (Staunton/Augusta/Waynesboro) meeting for presentation of Certificate of Distinguished Service to Anne Smith
- Attended Chapter 682 (Peninsula) Dinner Meeting with 4 Virginia State Senators
- Participated in the annual State Legislation meeting in Richmond which was held for the purpose of the 2012 VFC State Legislation Plan.
- Attended 12th Annual State Legislative Breakfast sponsored by Northern Virginia Aging Network with several Incumbents and Candidates for Virginia General Assembly – In attendance were Delegates David Bulova, Mark Keam, Vivian Watts and Tom Rust with whom I spoke about the 2012 VFC State Legislation Plan
- Attended Chapter 1827 (Virginia Beach-Seaside) to present VFC Presidential Award to Dick Edwards for Service as VFC **Net Coordinator**
- Traveled to Richmond office of Senator James Webb for meeting with Chief of Staff and General Counsel
- Moderated a Congressional Forum with Jim Moran sponsored by Alexandria-Chapter 232
- Attended Joint Meeting (coordinated by Chapter 682) with National Secretary Elaine Hughes and Chapter Officers and other members from VFC Areas 1 through 4
- 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.

I am anticipating a wonderful convention in April and am looking forward to meeting with many old friends and meeting new ones. The 2012 Convention Committee has put together a very exciting program. I want to express my thanks to all of you for giving me the privilege to serve as VFC President for 2010-2012. It was been a very enjoyable experience primarily due to our strong and capable Federation Board as well as the hospitality, extended to me by all of our Chapters. I sincerely hope that all of us together can continue to promote the objectives of the Virginia Federation. I fully believe that we can accomplish a great deal because you are members you care about the NARFE organization.

Luther L. Santiful – 1st Vice President

This has been a very busy year for me as VFC 1st Vice President following my second election during the 2011 convention. I have visited chapters throughout the state to install officers, rejuvenate chapter leadership and participate in special meetings. Some chapters visited are: Peninsula 682, Shenandoah County 2358, Page Valley 1793, Southside 2079, Roanoke Valley 111, Tuckahoe 1727, Staunton - Augusta - Waynesboro 178, Charlottesville – Albemarle 135 and Lake of the Woods 1885. Some of the smaller chapters are struggling but they are remaining viable and engaged in the NARFE mission. Visits to chapters also provide an opportunity to meet members, see them in action and catalog them as future possibilities for leadership positions in the VFC.

As this was the year for VFC biennial chapter officer training, I acquired training sites in Richmond, Williamsburg, Roanoke and Manassas for use during February and March. A cadre of VFC board members, and a past VFC secretary, conducted training for 185 officers. An assessment of the course evaluations verify that the course content was well received. One very positive side effect was the suggestions offered by the participants in areas of membership recruiting and retention and data management. We readily accepted the suggestions for further review for VFC use or forwarding to the national office, as appropriate.

One aspect of my position as VFC 1st Vice President that is truly rewarding is that of working with the ten area vice presidents. We are fortunate to now have a solid group of individuals who are interested in NARFE work and who do their best to provide advice and assistance to chapters that are under their cognizance. There was not the annual turnover of individuals that we have experienced in recent years.

It was a pleasure working with the 2012 VFC Convention Committee comprising representatives of Area VII and capably lead by the Convention Chair, Steve Dansker. The intent was to plan and organize a successful convention that members could participate in and go home inspired to do more. Steve used much of his naval officer training to lead the committee in what we believe will be a thoroughly productive convention. Thanks to all the chapters, members, supporters, patrons and commercial entities out there who contributed to this effort.

As this was the third year of an annual R. David Smith Memorial Award, VFC members saw fit to nominate eight individual members who made outstanding contributions to the VFC during the past year. 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!

Richard R. Giangerelli - 2nd Vice President

Please do not fail to read the articles by the following current VFC Committee Chairs, printed in the following pages of this report:

- Tom Hall, VFC National Legislative Chair;
- Eugene Brown, VFC State Legislative 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.

They have all been quite busy with their various VFC duties and responsibilities.

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There are also a few others working very hard behind the scenes that I want to mention and that you won't see articles from. They are:

- Reginald Sykes, Congressional District Liaison (CDL) for Congressional District 1;
- Vince Agnelli, CDL for Congressional District 2;
- Ken Gilbert, Vice-CDL for Congressional District 2;
- Wanda Hewlin, CDL for Congressional District 3;
- Barbara Nugent, CDL for Congressional District 4;
- Joe Laughland, CDL for Congressional District 6;
- Carroll Graham, CDL for Congressional District 7
- Rita Jensen, CDL for Congressional District 8;
- Linda Bywaters, Vice-CDL for Congressional District 8;
- George Hawkins, CDL for Congressional District 9;
- Frank Perrini, Vice-CDL for Congressional District 9;
- Bill Schmidt, CDL for Congressional District 10;
- Jon Joyce, Vice-CDL for Congressional District 10;
- Mary Lou Vroman, CDL for Congressional District 11;
- Steve Ledford, Senatorial Legislative Liaison (SLL) to Senator Mark Warner;
- James Bradley, Senior State Legislative Representative; and
- Joe Gresko, State Legislative Representative.

The reason that I have named all of these Virginia Federation members in my article is that, as the VFC 2nd Vice President, I am the primary contact person for the VFC Committee Chairs and am responsible for providing guidance and support in the development and implementation of their plans and programs. But they are the people who actually do the work and are the face of the NARFE Virginia Federation to the Chapters and the political incumbents. I thank them all for their dedication to NARFE and for their work and initiative.

However, you are probably waiting to read about my activities during these last 12 months, and, I must say, it has been a very busy 12 months for me.

Last year I wrote about my work with Newtek Business Services to arrange a way to allow Virginia Federation members to make contributions to the VFC Political Fund by using credit cards. This was a trial case for using credit cards in other Virginia Federation arenas. After a six-month trial, it was determined that this approach did not seem to be acceptable to membership at large, so this initiative was ended. Perhaps, it can be reconsidered in the future.

During the 2011 VFC Convention, weaknesses became apparent in the VFC Convention Standing Rules. I was directed to form a committee and prepare proposed revisions for consideration by the Virginia Federation. The current Convention Standing Rules will meet the needs of the 2012 VFC Convention, so preparation of a proposed revision remains a work in progress. It will be completed in time to meet the needs of the 2013 VFC Convention.

Late in 2010, it became apparent that the CDL's and SLL's were not being adequately funded and supported by the VFC. Through the efforts of Jim Brewer, the past VFC National Legislative Chair, additional funds were budgeted for their expenses during the 2011/2012 fiscal year. Additional training and direction was also provided.

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Recently, conflicts were identified between the VFC Bylaws and the VFC Organizational Handbook. I presented proposed recommendations to the VFC Board for correction of these conflicts. These proposed recommendations have been sent to all of the Virginia Federation Chapters for review and comment. The proposed recommendations and the associated comments from the Chapters will be discussed at the next VFC Board meeting.

I have been kept quite busy updating and maintaining an up-to-date mailing list for the VFC Notes. This list currently contains approximately 430 e-mail addresses and 290 mailing addresses. Included in this listing are all Virginia Federation Chapters' officers and chairs, VFC officers and chairs, Presidents of the other 51 NARFE Federations, the NARFE Regional Vice Presidents, the NARFE National officers, the Commonwealth of Virginia political incumbents, and the Virginia Congressional incumbents. This work may result in the development of an electronic version of a Virginia Federation directory.

The biennial VFC Chapter Officer Training sessions, organized and coordinated by Luther Santiful, the VFC 1st Vice President, have just been completed. During this training, I led the discussion of Chapter Treasurer functions and responsibilities. Hopefully, the training met the needs of the attending Chapter officers. Please let us know how this training can be improved.

This will be my last article as the VFC 2nd Vice President, as I am not seeking re-election to this position. I ask that you provide all of the support and assistance that you can to the person elected to fill this position at the 2012 VFC Convention.

William A Schmidt - Secretary

As the Secretary of the VFC my duties require that I take minutes at board meetings and distribute them before the next meeting for review; and to keep the official records of the VFC. Preparing and submitting the minutes is straightforward and has been done. We use two methods of recordkeeping. The Secretary keeps a hard copy of all records and we try to capture the minutes and other important documents in the electronic archives so that they are available on the VFC web site. The difficulty is to avoid keeping too much and not to lose the important items in bulk storage. One project this year has been to sort out old records that are no longer needed and dispose of them. Board minutes were distributed to the VFC Board members, and the Executive Committee the minutes were distributed to that committee.

Also the Secretary received the reports submitted by the elected and appointed officers of the Federation for the 2012 Annual Report. These reports were compiled by the Secretary and used to prepare this 2012 Annual Report.

The Virginia Federation of Chapters 2011 Voting Strength and Federation Dues, as of December 31, 2011, was distributed to Chapters and to the VFC Board members in advance of the 2012 Annual VFC Convention. The Secretary will compile a record of the Area Caucus elections of the Area Vice Presidents, and the Area elections to the Nominating Committee for 2012-2013. 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 2012 Convention to NARFE Headquarters.

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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".

Samuel Harris - Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012

DESCRIPTION	BALANCE June 30,2011	RECEIPTS Jul 1 - Mar 15	DISBUR. Jul 1 - Mar 15	BALANCE March 15, 2012
GENERAL FUND SAVINGS	\$5	\$0		\$5
GENERAL FUND CHECKING	\$47,502	\$63,582	\$54,779	\$56,305
GENERAL FUND RESERVE	\$24,428	\$328	\$0	\$24,756
GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY	\$9,231	\$124	\$0	\$9,355
TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS	\$81,166	\$64,034	\$54,779	\$90,421
CONVENTION SAVINGS	\$5	\$0	\$0	\$5
CONVENTION CHECKING	\$18	\$24,205	\$2,386	\$21,837
TOTAL CONVENTION FUNDS	\$23	\$24,205	\$2,386	\$21,842
POLITICAL SAVINGS	\$5	\$0	\$0	\$5
POLITICAL CHECKING	\$5,012	\$899	\$0	\$5,911
TOTAL POLITICAL FUNDS	\$5,017	\$899	\$0	\$5,916

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET (\$)	ACTUAL (\$)
Revenues	Annum	July 1 - Mar 15
NARFE 10 % Funds	\$60,000	\$40,280
Chapter Dues	\$34,500	\$17,533
Reimbursed Expenses	\$200	\$46
Interest	\$800	\$1,110
NARFE Match Funds	\$6,000	\$4,665
VFC Convention Reimbursement	\$1,000	\$0
Miscellaneous Income	\$500	\$400
Prior Year Carryover	\$15,470	\$0

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TOTAL REVENUES	\$118,470	\$64,034	
Expenses	Annum	July 1 - Mar 15	
Executive Committee	\$17,565	\$10,363	
IPP and Appointees	\$9,050	\$1,263	
Field Operations	\$26,755	\$13,971	
Program Operations	\$33,075	\$9,378	
VFC Convention Advance	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Awards/Gifts	\$1,000	\$0	
NARFE/FEEA	\$1,000	\$0	
Member Contest	\$325	\$0	
Hotel	\$2,500	\$1,605	
Donations	\$500	\$25	
Member Recruitment	\$8,500	\$6,791	
Newsletter	\$1,000	\$881	
Biennial Officer Training	\$7,000	\$2,721	
President Special Meeting	\$8,000	\$5,984	
WEB Site	\$200	\$105	
Miscellaneous	\$1,000	\$689	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$118,470	\$54,776	46%
NET GAIN/LOSS		\$9,258	

Pat Taylor – Area I Vice President

I was elected Area I Vice President at the 2010 Convention. That first year presented a steep learning curve as I worked to determine what “needed” to be done to assist Chapters 682, 685, 1757, and 1823. The second year has provided me with more insight and, hopefully, provided all four chapters the information and support they deserve. Just to be certain I’m performing my expected tasks for an AVP, I sat down and reread the duties and responsibilities as stated in the Federation By-laws. In an abbreviated form, below are *some* of the pertinent points of the job.

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

From my perspective, these tasks all require “communication”! As an AVP it is my job to keep the chapters informed, to discuss their status/problems, and to provide some guidance. I hope I’ve achieved those goals during 2011-2012. If I use my perspective of the success of Area I chapters during this timeframe, I will definitely walk away smiling!!!

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The chapters cover diverse areas (Peninsula, Middle Peninsula/Gloucester, Williamsburg, and Northern Neck). Some of the members have more “urban” issues while others can be considered more “rural”. I’m not suggesting that parts of Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck are rural, but when I listen to their Legislation chairs give their presentations it’s easy to see that their issues are different from the tourist oriented area of Williamsburg and the more urban areas of the Peninsula (Newport News, Hampton, Poquoson, and Yorktown). Another BIG difference is the number of agencies within their respective chapter “areas” this is particularly true of Northern Neck. With these thoughts in mind, we’ve worked together to try to achieve success despite any perceived limitations, and I think by communicating and sharing ideas we’re definitely moving in the right directions.

All four chapters have newsletters that keep their members informed and encourage participation. Both Chapters 1757 and 1823 have expanded their newsletters during the past few months. Chapter 685 is working on setting up a bulk rate mailing permit and is being assisted by Chapter 682 which has an outstanding publication and has used bulk rate mailing for years. There have been special programs and social events hosted by one chapter that prompted members from the other chapters to attend. A great example of this support is the luncheon meeting Chapter 682 hosted in August where 3rd District Congressman Bobby Scott and 1st District State Senator John Miller both spoke. With 71 members in attendance, I was pleased to note that one attendee was from Chapter 685, one from Chapter 1823, VFC National Legislation Chair (Virginia Beach), and even Area III VP Jack McMurchy attended.

Prior to the quarterly VFC Board meetings, I ask the members of the chapters to let me know if there’s a problem or an issue that I need to present to the Board. After the meetings, I prepare an overview of the discussions and distribute the information to the four chapters. Using the initiative of their President B.J. Thomas, Chapter 1823 submitted suggested improvements to Headquarters on the presentation of information on the website. Identifying problems, making suggested changes – positive actions.

Alzheimer’s Research is definitely high on Area I’s priority list. Chapter 682 is averaging donations of \$139 per month with their “Miles of Pennies” – members bring in coins and/or make cash donations at every membership meeting. It takes \$844.80 dollars for each “mile of pennies” and over the years the chapter has completed 20 miles of pennies and is closing in on their 21st mile quickly! Chapter 1823 holds an Alzheimer’s fundraiser by standing in front of businesses in various parts of the Northern Neck asking for donations. Chapters 685 and 1757 hold 50/50 raffles and are considering trying the techniques used by Chapters 682 and 1823.

In an effort to expand our contacts with members of Congress, Chapter 682 had members step up to serve as the Vice CDL for both the 1st District (Wittman) and the 3rd District (Scott). In January both the 1st District CDL and Vice CDL and I met with Congressman Wittman for over an hour to discuss the issues that active and retired Federal employees are facing now and in the coming months/years. This was an extremely lucrative meeting with Wittman asking if we would spearhead setting up an Advisory Group composed of both active and retired employees to participate in tele-conferences to provide input prior to votes on the floor. This will be accomplished with the assistance of the VFC National Legislation Chair and the VFC Board.

In February I, along with the Vice CDLs for the 1st and 3rd Districts, attended a reception in Hampton where we talked to all three Congressmen (Wittman, Rigell, and Scott) who were speaking to the members of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). Again, we had good conversations with the Congressmen and their respective aides. An ongoing effort is being made to establish a closer association with members of the AIAA. I often receive invitations to attend their

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functions, and I'm joined by members of Chapter 682 who are members of this professional organization or worked at NASA.

One of my proudest "accomplishments" during the year was getting National Secretary Elaine Hughes to come to the Williamsburg area to speak to members about plans being made in Headquarters and new programs being considered or implemented to assist with membership recruitment and retention. A total of 51 members from Areas I, II, III, and IV (and even two from Area VIII) attended. Believe me, e-mail is a valuable tool when trying to organize a multi-area meeting! This was a great opportunity for members to hear first hand from one of the National Officers and to have an opportunity to talk, to discuss ideas, to get to know each other! The comments I received after the presentation were complimentary, followed by "when can we do something like this again?". Hopefully soon!!!! Thanks must be extended to Region X VP Bill Martin and VFC President Bill Shackelford for their assistance with this project.

I could continue to write about the excellent programs, the great social events, etc., but I'd like to sum up the 2011-2012 year for Area I by saying that I'm proud to be their representative on the VFC Board. I was proud to speak up at a Board meeting and tell my fellow AVPs that we had a full slate of officers for all four chapters for 2012 (not always an easy accomplishment). I'm proud to see how they are facing some of the membership problems and being innovative when it comes to finding ways to reach potential members. I find it extremely encouraging to see that Chapter 1823 is planning day trips to bring out current members and perhaps recruit a few new members. I'm pleased that Chapter 682 is setting up a class on Genealogy to encourage members to come out, learn, and perhaps bring a potential member with them. Learning, interacting, socializing – great recruitment tools.

Looking back over all the things that I've mentioned as being accomplishments during 2011- 2012 for Area I chapters the "common thread" from my perspective is **communication!!!!** Meeting, talking, discussing, planning, fundraising, socializing, etc. – it all boils down to communicating with each other. Even the phone calls, letters, and messages forwarded to members of Congress from our members required various forms of communication.

In closing I'd like to say to the members of Area I, thank you for the support you've given me during this year and for the friendships we've shared. I sincerely hope you'll allow me to continue serving as your AVP for the coming year.

Betty L. Warren - Area II Vice President

During the past year I attended all VFC Board of Directors meetings and held Area II Council of Chapter Presidents meeting following each Board meeting. The Area meetings are a useful avenue for providing information on VFC Board meeting decisions and action to be taken by the chapters. I visited all the chapters except the Eastern Shore Chapter 1175, attended their Holiday parties, and installed their 2012 officers. I participated in a number of Health Fairs at federal agencies promoting and recruiting NARFE members. I also attended the VFC State Legislative Training.

The Area II chapters are all distinct and unique to the location. Thanks to each chapter for your hard work and energy at the grass roots level of NARFE. The newest chapter, Joint Expeditionary Base Chapter 2362 is in transition. This chapter has undergone a transfer of functions and contracting out the remainder of the federal civilian workforce. The Eastern Shore Chapter meets only twice a year, Metro Chapter 5 and Seaside Chapter 1827 voted to change their meetings from monthly to bi-monthly,

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Monticello Chapter 2361 have quarterly meetings. Virginia Beach Chapter 974 and Tidewater 66 are the only two chapters that have monthly meetings. All the chapters have speakers and programs that seem to be interesting yet their meeting attendance continue to drop. The meeting change is for a one year trial to see if there is any change in meeting attendance.

The status of Eastern Shore Chapter 1175 is unknown. The chapter did not have a meeting last year. The officers have not responded after many inquiries. The VFC Vice President has been notified of the situation with this chapter.

While the past year has been challenging in many respects, it is time to turn the page and focus our attention to the challenges which lie ahead recruiting and retaining membership. At the close of each year, considerable amount of time is set aside to recount notable individuals who made a significant contribution or otherwise held our attention, on the national stage. We too, have our own notable individuals. They are our chapter members who have served on the NARFE stage they occupied during the past year. We are fortunate to have faithful members who supported our activities thru the year (2011) to further NARFE's mission.

I am indeed grateful to our members who made the sacrifice to volunteer their time. It has been my pleasure to serve the past six years.

As a parting shot, thank you! Thank You! Thank You! And adieu.

Jack W. McMurchy - Area III Vice President

Area coordinators included Jim Bradley (service), Carroll Graham (state legislation), Bettye Thornton (membership), Marv Hecker (alzheimer's), Larry Garelick (public relations/newsletter editor.) and Winn Hasty (national legislation). The Midlothian chapter publishes their newsletter separately but coordinators from their chapter still furnished columns for the area newsletter which the other 6 chapters publish together. When it was time to publish the fall newsletter (after the summer recess), the Richmond chapter dropped out after realizing their treasury was too low to continue to pay their share for newsletter publication and also pay VFC dues. Two other chapters then planned to quit the joint publication, but after several months, 5 chapters (minus Richmond) decided to continue, and published an area newsletter in Mar-Apr. The next newsletter will be published in May or June, and it appears future newsletters will be published quarterly. (Richmond is getting their funding problems resolved and will probably rejoin future publications.)

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. VFC Treasurer, Sam Harris, installed the officers in my home chapter as I was reelected president. I also attended the 2011 VFC Convention, the State Legislative planning meeting in Richmond and each of the VFC Board meetings. I conducted 3 council of chapters meetings during the year and conducted a brief part of the elected officer training in February at Richmond (on duties of the AVP). Area Service Coordinator and Midlothian Service Officer Jim Bradley conducted the Service Officer Training in Williamsburg (as VFC CO-Service Officers, Connie and John Bails could not attend.).

Chapter websites have generally been updated to include current 2012 officers. Again this year, Petersburg, Imperial Plaza, and Tuckahoe used plenty of pictures.. Also, I updated the Area 3 directory and provided copies to all chapter presidents and the 20 VFC elected and appointed officers. On January

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30th, 9 of us from area 3 met with members of Areas 1, 2 and 4 near Williamsburg to listen to National Secretary, Elaine Hughes' presentation on membership. Regional VP Bill Martin and VFC president, Bill Shackelford were active in arranging details and funding and Ms. Hughes transportation; Region 1 VP, Pat Taylor, made all the local arrangements.

Overall membership dropped from the year-end totals of 2010 in all chapters as they did in all but 4 chapters throughout the state. Retention efforts of membership committees kept the losses from being greater. Both Midlothian and South of the James have recruited members in the past at Chesterfield TRIAD events and health fairs, but no new members were obtained in 2011. Petersburg conducted lunch n'learn meetings in the Fort Lee EEO Conference room but recently quit because of lack of attendance or recruitment success.

The primary activity in all chapters and of this VP was protecting America's Heartbeat and our entitlements. Besides the numerous telephone calls to Congress and the President, members sent letters both by email and snail mail to all. More contact and visits were made to various congressmen and senators. The president of Midlothian, Lynn Osborne (and others) visited Senator Webb's office (just prior to the 2011 convention). On June 30th, 2nd. VFC VP Gingerelli, Carroll Graham, and I (and about 30 current AFGE employees) held a rally outside of Congressman Cantor's Glen Allen Office (which the congressman did not attend). In November for the first time (in 7 terms), he met will Lynn Osborne, Tony Michalek, and a Louisa chapter member. In August, I attended a luncheon meeting of the Peninsula chapter in Newport News and met and talked briefly with 3d Dist. Congressman Scott (my home dist. representative and his staff members. Also I have received good follow-up. I've had numerous email contacts with 4th. District Congressman Forbes/staff and Senator Warner/staff and good follow-up when I contacted them by either telephone or email. Both Ms. Osborne and I had letters published on the editorial page of the *Richmond Times Dispatch* urging protection of our entitlements. I also provided two updates to the South of the James chapter on America's heartbeat and abbreviated updates to the other chapters during my visits at their meetings.

For the first time since I was elected AVP, there was no problem electing chapter presidents. There were changes of other elected offices as follows: Petersburg secretary, Kit Ericson, stepped down and Marjorie Dixon was elected to replace her. Richmond's former president, Michael Muldowney resigned in Sep, and acting president, Judith Brantner was elected. Former treasurer, Yvette Gilmore was elected VP, and Louise Whitehead, is the new treasurer. All South of the James officers were reelected, but president Joyce Thomas told her members that 2012 was her final year as president. Colonial Heights elected officers serve 2-year terms, and the only election held was for a secretary to replace Arlene Barkley, who resigned for family reasons. Gwynn Stastny was elected for a one year term. Later, VP Carolyn Wilson later resigned as VP, and the chapter is currently looking for a replacement. All Imperial Plaza officers were reelected. All Tuckahoe officers were reelected except VP Margaret Seim who did not run. She was replaced by Carroll Graham. Midlothian reelected their president, 1st VP, and secretary. Long-time treasurer Noel Bornsky had reached her term limit. She was replaced by former 2nd. VP Ann Simpkins. Brenda Cordle was elected their new 2nd. VP.

Most appointed offices are did not change. Petersburg has a new membership chair, Shirley Shands, and a new public relations officer, Ed Jordan. There are no changes in Richmond, South of the James. or Imperial Plaza. Colonial Heights has a new public relations officer, Gwen Stastny ;they are looking for a new membership chair. Tuckahoe has a new membership chair, Thomas Reid, and a new newsletter editor and net coordinator, Judith Gaskin. Midlothian has a new nat'l legislation chair, Robert Zombron, and membership chair, Helen M. Willis. The chapters have continued having a mix of programs and generous support for Alzheimer's research, and the state legislative PAC.

Thanks to all chapter presidents and members, and the 6 area coordinators for their support during my tenure as AVP. I hope you give my successor the same cooperation and help.

Bobby L. Whittington - Area IV Vice President

VFC Area IV encompasses five chapters on the Virginia Southside, Chapter 63 (Portsmouth), Chapter 1293 (Churchland), Chapter 1682 (Chesapeake), Chapter 1697 (Brentwood), and Chapter 1743 Suffolk. During the year, all chapters have been visited with officers being installed by the Area IV Vice President; who also hosted a President's Breakfast in February at a local restaurant, to allow an exchange of ideas and discussion among the five presidents.

Significant Events within Area IV

A congressional outreach meeting with Congressman Randy Forbes was scheduled and sponsored by Area IV during August 2011. Around 46 NARFE members attended, including three of our chapter presidents. VFC National Legislative Liaison Jim Brewer was also present. The congressman and two of his staff members met with our group for approximately two hours. He posed for photos (one of which appeared in the monthly NARFE magazine) and he was presented with a NARFE/VFC coffee mug to remind him of his visit.

An annual event is the Suffolk Peanut Festival in October. Our Suffolk Chapter rents a table to advertise NARFE and its mission. The event runs for several days, so the host chapter is regularly augmented by members of other chapters within Area IV.

In November, the Churchland Chapter participated in two Government Health Fairs in Portsmouth. One fair was held for several hours at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital & Medical Facility. Our NARFE members handed out over 500 'gift' bags to federal employees and retirees visiting the annual event. The bags contained a NARFE magazine, brochures, pamphlets, membership applications; along with a NARFE 'trinket' such as a ballpoint pen, measuring tape, envelope opener, etc.

VFC sponsored a visit by NARFE National Secretary Elaine Hughes at Williamsburg, in January, along with VFC President Bill Shackelford. Ms. Hughes provided an excellent briefing regarding recruiting and retention plans and actions being formulated within NARFE Headquarters. Members of Areas I, II, III and IV were invited, and a total of 51 people attended the luncheon and briefing. Area IV was represented by nine Area IV members (including three chapter presidents and the Area IV VP) from three chapters – Churchland, Chesapeake and Suffolk.

Finally, VFC sponsored training for chapter officers (including future board members) for Areas I, II, III and IV at Williamsburg in late February. Four chapters of Area IV had a total of eleven members in attendance – Churchland, Brentwood, Chesapeake and Suffolk. The opening overviews of programs and the following 'breakout' sessions were quite informative and valuable.

On-Going Actions

The Churchland Chapter's Vice President and Senate Legislative Liaison, Thomas Hall, was recently appointed by VFC President Bill Shackelford to fill the VFC National Legislative Liaison position, which was left vacant when Jim Brewer stepped down.

Four of Area IV's chapters have members attending this year's VFC Convention including the president of each of those chapters. Our membership was active in selling advertising for the convention program and otherwise supporting the convention as a whole.

Our chapters have had a full myriad of guest speakers at chapter meetings, including congressional representatives, local politicians, entertainers, singers, opera representatives, health insurance and health care spokespersons, museum curators, senior citizen housing spokespersons, etc.

Area IV members are active in supporting NARFE plans for contacting congressional members and the White House to support NARFE and Protecting America's Heartbeat initiatives by means of phone calls, emails and written letters.

Each chapter has a means and/or mechanism for raising contributions to donate to the Alzheimer's Foundation via NARFE.

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CONTINUING PROBLEMS

Recruiting continues to lag in most of Area IV chapters. Again, to belabor the point, HQ NARFE needs to 'take the lead' on a saturation of advertising from the top. Grassroots activism is fine; but, at Peanut Fests and Health Fairs, a chapter member only has a couple of minutes to convey the NARFE message... and, as we learned from our Area IV experiences – about 90%+ of active federal workers have *never heard of NARFE!* Trying to explain what NARFE *is* what it does and then try to sign someone up takes w-a-y too much time than the potential recruit can spare going through a line.

Retention is hard due to the economy and the lack of COLA increases (until this year), while the cost of everything else is rising. Members complain about the dues... and try comparing it to ASIS' \$5.00.

Several couples have stated they are dropping one of their memberships to save the money, and 'we can both attend meetings and one magazine is enough.' Father Time continues to reduce our ranks as aged retirees continue to die regularly. Not much we can do about the latter.

Volunteerism continues to decline in many chapters. Only two of Area IV has more than three or four board members to serve all officer functions, or as many as they can handle. Unfortunately, this is often driven by not acquiring new members who 'haven't been there and done that.'

Jessie Barksdale – Area V Vice President

Area V - Chapters: Lynchburg 0110 (138), Danville 1011 (77), Bedford 1068 (51), Martinsville/Henry 1882 (37), Southside 2079 (83), Piedmont 2080 (65)

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

The total NARFE membership in Area V as of March 2012 was 451. The primary focus in Area V during the past year has been retention. Membership declined slightly due to deaths and non-renewals. If not for the national recruitment efforts (OPM mailings, etc), membership in Area V would probably be significantly less. During the past year, attendance at chapters meetings reached an all- time low. Most of the chapters experienced great difficulty in getting a new slate of officers for the current calendar year. Due to the unwillingness of others to assume a leadership role in the chapter, the current chapter presidents, secretaries, and treasurers have been serving for several years.

NARFE owes these dedicated members a debt of gratitude for moving the organization forward in spite of all odds. This is evidenced by the fact that no chapters are closing or consolidating in Area V. The main source of recruitment in Area V is the US Postal Service. Members have been affected by current socio-economic, and health issues and concerns throughout the area. Ultimately, these issues impacted local recruitment and retention.

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It has been my pleasure to work with the chapters in Area V. The members are positive and very committed to NARFE. To them I say, "thank you" for all that you have done for NARFE and specifically for the VFC.

Jessie Barksdale Area V Vice President

Delwyn A. 'Del' Dyer - Area VI Vice President

Area VI covers the geographic area from Roanoke Valley west to the Tennessee/Kentucky lines. Each Chapter draws members from five or more counties. Meeting attendees tend to be from locations within thirty miles of the meeting place.

The four Chapters and their meeting places are: Roanoke Valley 111 (The Roanoker Restaurant); New River Valley 1134 (Bull and Bones, Blacksburg); Wilderness Trail 1837 (Shoney's Wytheville); and, Southwest Virginia Highlands 2330 (The Senior Center, Abingdon).

As Area V.P. I attended each of the Chapters at least twice during the year and the two special meetings organized by Chapter 111 and 2330 as they focused on attracting current Federal employees to membership in NARFE. I also attended the 2011 VFC Convention in Midlothian, the State Legislative planning meeting and each of the VFC Board meetings. In addition I attended Chapter Board meetings and met with individual Committee Chairs at their request. I conducted five such sessions in 2011. I sent summaries of each VFC Board meetings to the Chapter Presidents and suggested work they should be undertaking.

All Chapters have a full complement of Officers and Committee Chairs. All have been duly installed for the 2012 year. Chapters were represented at the VFC Officer and Service Chair training held in Roanoke in February. Each Chapter produces a newsletter and one has a telephone "calling tree" to encourage members to be active. Chapter 2330 now offers its Newsletter electronically to its members. Two Chapters post their Newsletters on the VFC Web site and the other two are being encouraged to do so.

Membership is down in the Area even though Chapters have made special efforts in recruitment. One member in the area will be recognized at the VFC Convention for her success in recruiting. At the same time attendance at meetings (in good weather) has increased. Winter weather is a big factor in attendance as travel is very difficult in these mountains. If school is canceled on the day Chapters are scheduled to meet – they do not meet. Chapters are finding new members in the ranks of "Come Homes", people who were raised in Southwest Virginia and are now coming home in their retirement years. Membership Chairs continue to follow-up on non-renewals and to push for enrollment in dues withholding.

Two Chapters utilized matching grant moneys. Two members in the Roanoke Chapter (111) recruited nineteen new members in the ranks of the currently employed and went on to organize a three hour seminar for other current employees in the Roanoke Valley. Forty plus attended to learn about NARFE and their benefits. Leadership in the Southwest Virginia Highlands (2330) worked to identify Federal Agencies in their Chapter area and provided NAFRE materials to the employees located there. This Chapter covers seven counties and two Cities. They found 28 Federal Agencies and 76 Post Offices. After locating this cache of potential members they hosted an August Picnic inviting all to come. Not many showed up. The Chapter is working on other ways to encourage active members to join NARFE.

Legislative Chairs in all Chapters do an outstanding job of keeping members informed of the issues that effect their benefits and well being through articles in newsletters, meeting programs, and encouraging members to be active in contacting their State and Federal elected officials. Many members are on the

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NARFE GEMS network and are involved in making phone calls, sending Emails and letters and attending political meetings in their areas. Two members of Chapter 1134 are in the VFC CDL program. George Hawkins and Frank Perrini are charged with helping Congressman Morgan Griffith understand and be supportive of active and retired federal employees needs and concerns.. Chapters 1837 and 2330 have an excellent working relationship with Senator Warner's legislative aide assigned to their area.

The Area V.P. continues to encourage Chapter members to participate in the State and National Conventions. Members in the Chapters do not place participation in these two events very high on their personal agendas. Chapters 111 and 1134 participate in the State Convention. Few have ever been to a National Convention.

I appreciate the support of the Chapter Officers and members during the pas year. It has been a pleasure to serve you as your Area V.P.. Thanks to all the VFC Officers and Board members for their efforts to help me do this job.

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 1300 in strength. The membership has dipped a little 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 2012.

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 2011 Virginia State Convention. In addition, I have attended the VFC Legislative Conference that was centered on keeping abreast of Virginia State Laws and proposals. All through the year, nationally, I have been very vocal in writing and speaking directly to our 6th District Congressman, Bob Goodlatte, and our two Federal VA Senators to keep our pay & benefits in line with the rest of the Country, and to not single us Federal employees out for cuts.

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.

This past year, many members in Area VII have excelled in their duties. The most noteworthy was Joe Beaudoin from the Winchester Chapter who continued to serve as NARFE National President. Joe has valiantly led the efforts before Congress in support of our membership. So far, he has been successful in fending off the impact on our CSRS Retirees, while working hard to minimize the effects of Congress to lower the take home pay and benefits of the FERS Active Employees. With the help of U.S.

Congressman Frank Wolf from his District (10th), he is keeping up the fight. Our VFC 2012 Convention Theme: "Accepting the Challenge" has been his motto.

This past year has been highlighted by the efforts of our Area VII 2012 VFC Convention Committee. These last 3 months have centered on finalizing the preparations to have a successful convention. We hope that all attendees will enjoy themselves and take away a new sense of urgency to keep up the fight. This coming year will continue to 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

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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 second full year as your VP. I have enjoyed meeting and serving you all, and will continue to do so in the coming year.

Leslie E Ravenell - Area VIII Vice President

This past year has been a wonderful year for Area VIII with lots of challenges, hard work and at the end lots of rewards. As our 2011 convention theme said, we were: "Challenged as Never Before". As this reporting period began last April, all chapters in Area VIII were busy hosting the 2011 Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) annual convention. For me, it was an incredible experience since I had actually only attended one and one half VFC conventions in the past. Thanks to the dedication of our officers and members in Area VIII, both the most experienced and those who were new like me, we had a very successful convention in Richmond both from a financial perspective and an attendee perspective. In fact several convention evaluations said that this was the best convention ever. How's that for a challenge to Area VII, this year's convention host!

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-Fauquier Chapter 1549, President: Barbara Scott; Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885, President: Shirley Cornwell; Louisa Chapter 2065, President: Ray Siewert; Caroline Chapter 2112, President: Annette McDonald, and Falls Run Chapter 2343, President: Julia Alessio. Last year we had four new chapter presidents in Area VIII, a significant change in leadership. In the fall of 2011, one brand new president was elected in Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885 and Caroline Chapter 2112 brought back a former president, Annette McDonald to serve this year. So Area VIII had only a minor changeover in leadership. Thanks to all who served as chapter officers and committee chairs in 2011 and to all those who are serving now.

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. At the January VFC Board meeting, the VFC Membership Chair presented a slide showing that five chapters in the VFC had increased membership over the calendar year. Two of the five were in Area VIII: Colonial Beach Chapter 595 and Warrenton-Fauquier Chapter 1549. We know that there is strength in numbers and these chapters proved it. Thanks to all our Area VIII membership chairs for continuing the fight to keep our membership strong!

It was a very uncertain year as we watched the battles over our benefits on Capitol Hill. I was honored to represent Area VIII and the VFC in a visit to Congressman Jim Webb's office in July. Also in July I visited Warrenton-Fauquier Chapter 1549 and announced that we were looking for a Vice Congressional District Liaison (CDL) for District I. Reginald (Reggie) Sykes volunteered and just as he was getting his feet wet, the primary CDL for District I had to step down and Reggie moved up. Thanks, Reggie. Finally, it has been a busy, fun-filled year with the Area VIII chapters offering the full myriad of activities for their members: speakers, trips, tours, boat trips, fund raising with silent auctions, soup mixes and flea markets, wreath laying ceremonies, and the social activities with picnics and holiday celebrations. One major new activity was added with Area VIII participating heavily in a joint Health Fair in October sponsored by Congressman Rob Wittman. Once again, many thanks to all members of Area VIII who made this a wonderful year!

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Pierce J. Johnson -- Area IX Vice President

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

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

Chapters in Area IX range in size from about 450 (Manassas) to nearly 1700 (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, all Area IX chapters experienced drops in membership, yielding just over a 3 % drop for the year 2011.

Again, I am VERY proud of the Area IX contributions for Alzheimer’s research this year. Area IX came in FIRST among all areas (\$26,597.46), nearly three times the next closest area. Over 36 % 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 \$16,653.01 donated. Their success is due in large part to their annual Fashion Show, which had great support from not only the local community, but also from VFC leadership.

In June, Area IX members participated in creating the State Legislative Plan, resulting in a tri-fold to publicize our efforts. At the national level, Area IX members have made a number of calls on Capitol Hill, some “push” and some “pull.” Area IX also led the way in donating over 39 % of the total contributions to NARFE-PAC. In every effort, Capitol Hill has become well aware of NARFE’s “Protect America’s Heartbeat” Campaign. The NARFE National Banner “Protect America’s Heartbeat” was even carried in Dale City’s Fourth of July parade by Woodbridge Chapter 1270 and some of their relatives from Maryland!

Although August was “Grassroots Advocacy” month, CDL Rita Jensen organized a great session in September with Congressman Jim Moran. CDL Mary Lou Vroman also organized a great session with Congressman Gerry Connolly in September. We are very fortunate to have two such strong supporters of NARFE members.

Again, members from Area IX joined members from Area X to participate in a membership drive at the Health Benefits Fair sponsored by Congressman Connolly at the Fairfax County Government Center this year. We enjoy recruiting new members, as well as greeting long-time NARFE members.

Chapters in Area IX are to be congratulated in their communications efforts. Each chapter produces a monthly newsletter and also maintains 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. Every chapter celebrated a holiday social, which was well attended by their members and enjoyed by all. I was

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also able to install chapter officers for all chapters except for Springfield 893, where the National NARFE President, Joe Beaudoin, did the honors.

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 November, National NARFE Secretary, Elaine Hughes met with us and gave an inspiring talk on membership. Gaston Gianni was elected Chairman, relieving Co-chairs, Kathy Arpa and myself. Additionally, Area IX chapter presidents met separately for lunch a couple of times during the year in a more intimate setting with legislative liaisons joining us.

The Strategic Plan for the VFC has gone through many hurdles, with members and leaders at every level being given the opportunity to contribute. We are now awaiting the final completion with action by the VFC Executive Board.

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

Kathy Arpa - Area X Vice President

It seems like only yesterday that we were at the 57th Annual Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Convention in Richmond where I was re-elected Area X Vice President (AVP) at the Caucus Meeting and Judy Willis (Chapter 1665) and Bill Boning (Chapter 1241) were selected for the 2012 Nominating Committee. Area X, in Northern Virginia, is the proud home of several other NARFE members who serve on the VFC Board. They are President-Bill Shackelford (Chapter 737), 2nd Vice President-Dick Giangerelli (Chapter 1241), Secretary-Bill Schmidt (Chapter 1241), Co-service officers-Dr. Constance Bails and John Bails (Chapter 737), Alzheimer's Chair-Donna Shackelford (Chapter 737), and our newest member, State Legislation Chair-Gene Brown (Chapter 1116).

Area X consists of seven chapters extending from Arlington County to Loudoun County. We have two new chapter presidents in 2012: Raphael Wong-Chapter 489 (McLean-Great Falls) and Shirley Keyes-Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton). Continuing as chapter presidents are: Max Scruggs-Chapter 7 (Arlington), Dr. Constance Bails-Chapter 737 (Fairfax), Bill Schmidt-Chapter 1241 (Dulles), Matt Prisutti-Chapter 1133 (Loudoun), and Judy Willis-Chapter 1665 (Metro Northern Virginia).

It has been a busy year for chapters in Area X. Last May, Chapter 7 hosted an evening meeting at the Arlington County Library to continue their efforts to recruit active federal employees. In October, Chapter 737 set up a membership recruiting booth at the Fairfax Fair. Both Chapters received matching funds for these events. Last fall, Area X members joined Area IX members at a NARFE membership drive at the Health Benefits Fair sponsored by Congressman Connolly at the Fairfax County Government Center. The membership chair of the Loudoun Chapter and I hosted a membership drive at Treasury's Financial Center at Tyson's Corner in December. The Loudoun Chapter also held six recruitment seminars at libraries in Ashburn and Leesburg which resulted in new members. I am pleased to report that several members in Area X are now enrolled in the membership contest sponsored by the VFC.

In the legislative area, members joined our new State Legislative Chair in Richmond in June and helped draft the VFC State Legislative Plan for 2012. In September, members attended meetings with Congressman Jim Moran (D-VA 8th District) and Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA 11th District) set up by Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) Rita Jensen and Mary Lou Vroman. Members made calls to Congress on National Call-in Day and wrote letters to local congressmen.

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In addition to numerous visits to the seven chapters, and installation of officers at five chapters, I hosted area luncheon meetings with chapter presidents at restaurants in Fairfax and Vienna.

During the past year, I attended VFC Board Meetings in Richmond in July and October 2011 and January 2012. Last August I attended Bill Martin's Region X Conference in Corbin, KY, which was hosted by the Kentucky Delegation. We were joined by NARFE members from Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

The end of 2011 statistics showed a loss in membership in Area X of 1.6% or 75 members, which resulted in 4,508 members, or 24% of the VFC total of 18,473. Chapters 7 and 737 still have over 1,000 members. While six of the seven chapters showed a small decrease in membership in 2011, Chapter 1241 (Dulles) had an increase of 2.0% or 16 new members. This is the result of the very active membership committee. They do a great job following up on the many members who appear ready to drop membership. It is a concerted effort by several committee members. Understanding the monthly reports from national, and sorting out who needs calling, and who needs a letter is only part of the job. The committee made phone calls and was diligent in sending follow-up letters. They kept the membership in Chapter 1241 up with hard work. Chapter 7 (Arlington) also has a very active membership committee.

Chapters made an effort to produce interesting newsletters and schedule interesting monthly programs. Every chapter prepares a newsletter and six of the seven chapters have posted their newsletter on the VFC website. Chapter programs covered every spectrum of interest for chapter members including representatives from Blue Cross and Blue Shield, estate planners, a presentation on senior safety in the home, a professional income tax preparer, a speaker from Road Scholar, a specialist from Fairfax County's Division of Adult and Aging Services and tips for decluttering. Other programs of local interest included local politicians, a presentation on the Northern Virginia HOTLANE project, the Arlington and Herndon police department, a lecturer from the Titanic Historical Society, a community garden coordinator for Arlington County, a speaker from Walter Reed explaining the Wounded Warrior project, representatives from the U.S. Marshals Service, and an Assistant Commonwealth Attorney. Exciting programs include a jewelry appraiser, a slide show by a member who hiked the Appalachian Trail, an ice cream social and live entertainment.

Members continued their support for Alzheimer's Research with a silent auction, a white elephant sale, monthly 50-50 drawings, raffles, the sale of Entertainment 2012 books and anonymous donations. I joined other members from Area X at the annual Fashion Show, sponsored by Area IX's Woodbridge Chapter, which raised a significant amount of money for Alzheimer's. Members also supported the NARFE note card campaign, Protect America Campaign, contributed to the Silver Circle fund and generously contributed to the NARFE-PAC fund.

The Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters (consisting of chapters in Areas IX and X) met on a regular basis during the past year. Members shared information on programs that were well received at their chapter meetings. At the September meeting, Gaston Gianni (Area IX) was the guest speaker and shared information about the role of public relations in NARFE, the Virginia NARFE License Plate Project and his involvement on the National By-laws Committee. At the meeting, Gaston was elected Chair, Bill Schmidt (Area X) was elected Treasurer and Darwin Ransom (Area IX) was elected Secretary of the Caucus. At the November meeting, guest speakers were Elaine Hughes, NARFE National Secretary and John Clements, NARFE Director of Membership Development. Both programs were well received and well attended. I installed the Caucus Officers at the November meeting.

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Chapters celebrated the holiday season with festive luncheons and popular holiday music. Chapter 7 went the extra mile by celebrating the 90th anniversary of NARFE with a cake and champagne toast for everyone at their holiday party and included a history of the 90 years of NARFE.

I encouraged chapter presidents to nominate someone for the 2011 R. David Smith Memorial Award by the February deadline and expect a few nominees from Area X.

At least one member from every chapter in Area X attended the VFC training held in February and March. I gave an overview of AVP duties to a large crowd at the Manassas location.

I would like to end my report by thanking all of the officers and members in Area X who have worked with me since I became an AVP in September 2008. **“Accepting the challenge”** and after much consideration, I have decided to seek the position of 2nd Vice President on the executive board of the VFC. ***I would appreciate your support and vote.*** I look forward to seeing many of you at the 2012 VFC Convention and visiting your chapter in the future. **I am also looking forward to the National Convention in Reno-Sparks in August. I recently learned that I will be Chair of the National Membership Committee.**

Kathy Arpa, Area X Vice President, NARFE VFC
Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton)
mkarpa@hotmail.com

VFC National Legislative Chair, Tom Hall

Let me introduce myself. I retired from federal service Jan 2009 after 39 years of government service. This included 6 years (1967 – 1973) of active duty with the U.S. Navy. I graduated from Old Dominion University in May of 1977 and started my government career at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard; I then moved to PERA(ASC), SUPSHIP Portsmouth, COMNAVSURFLANT, and finally FTSCCLANT/MARMC. While working at FTSCCLANT/MARMC, I served as a shop steward/negotiator and Executive Vice President of IFPTE Local 1. I was the Legislative Liaison for Local 1 and worked closely with the International Union’s political Liaison officer in lobbying Congress for government workers rights. I joined NARFE Churchland Chapter 1293 during the summer I retired and was asked to take the duties of Chapter Legislative Chair. The following year I was elected Vice President of the Chapter and, after attending the VFC Legislative Training session, I was asked to become the VFC Vice Senatorial Legislative Liaison to Senator Mark Warner. A few months later I was appointed the Senatorial Legislative Liaison to Sen. Mark Werner. On Jan 30, 2012 I was appointed the National Legislative Chair for the NARFE, Virginia Federation of Chapters by Bill Shackelford President of VFC.

My personal goals as the National Legislative Chair are to continue the outstanding program Jim Brewer has been developing during his tenure and to fill all the vacant CDL and SLL positions, so that the NARFE influence to Congress will continue to grow and concerns will be considered when bills that involve the federal workforce are introduced.

The NARFE-PAC 2011 – 2012 contributions through the 4th quarter of session one of the 112th Congressional Cycle show 282 VFC NARFE members contributed a total of \$11,637.00. Fourth quarter contributions totaled \$725.00, missing the VFC annual goal for the 2011 session one by \$13,363.00. The VFC goal for session two of the 112th Congressional cycle is \$25,000.00, which will likely be exceeded as donations historically increase dramatically in election years. Thanks to all supporting NARFE-PAC. Together, we will make a difference for our cause.

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The NARFE-PAC national contribution figures, as of the end of the 4th quarter of session one, indicated 705 members of NARFE Region X, which includes the Virginia Federation and four neighboring Federations, contributed \$24,395.13. NARFE-PAC contributions for the other 9 NARFE Regions were \$15,165.15 for Region IX., \$27022.80 for Region VIII, \$14,038 for Region VII, \$11,623 for Region VI, \$27,084.74 for Region V, \$16,970.00 for Region IV, \$18,566.00 for Region III, \$22,825.55 for Region II, and \$7,564.00 for Region I. Session one National totals through the 4th quarter of 2011 indicate that 5,407 NARFE members contributed \$171, 579.37. In Virginia, the NARFE-PAC disbursements during the past year went to Congressman Jim Moran of the 8th district, Congressman Frank Wolf of the 10th district, Congressman Gerry Connolly of the 11th district, and Congressman Randy Forbes of the 4th district. Disbursements to Congressman Wittman of the 1st district are pending. Attendees at the 2010 VFC Convention set the 112th Congressional NARFE-PAC goal. The Virginia Federation NARFE-PAC goal for 2011-12 was voted to be \$50,000.00 over two (2) years at the 2011 VFC Convention. At the upcoming 2012 VFC Convention, the member's attending the National Legislative break out session will set the VFC NARFE-PAC goal for the 113th Congress.

NARFE members and National Legislative Activists answered the call from the NARFE sponsored "call your Congressmen drive" this past year that resulted in a successful event, recording "a good response" in November, to the Protect America Heartbeat Alert. The alert statistics indicated that the NARFE VFC respondents to Congressmen "call day's" have been steadily increasing and recently recorded (42) forty-two, first-time NARFE member / activists calling their Congressmen. Nationally, the last 2011 event recorded approximately two thousand six hundred twenty (2,620) members calling in to their Congressmen. These statistics are an indication that more and more federal employees, spouses, adult Children and NARFE members believe we can no longer wait for our Congressional Leadership to do the right thing on their own without providing them with our experience and guidance. NARFE member activists are setting the standard for others to follow.

The following Virginia Federation initiatives should also be noted:

1. National Legislative Strategic plan status:

Our present position on the National Legislative Strategic plan timetable is at the 12-18 month level.... Of special interest during this phase is networking, becoming more legislatively effective, and Liaisons, both CDL's and SLL's, empowered to support actual or implied rules and by-laws. Chapter President's are requested to make every attempt to support Liaisons when it comes to Congressional District LEGISLATIVE operations, meetings, events with Congressmen, or setting up Congressional call-in programs. Liaisons are empowered to contact member volunteers to solicit support, help and assistance within the membership of Chapters they "LEGISLATIVELY" lead in their respective Congressional districts. Chapters are encouraged to continue to set up their own Congressional meetings with their respective Congressmen or Senators, but are requested to share the topics and outcome via written response to the Liaisons to allow sharing of information within the VFC network. Liaisons are empowered to plan, organize, direct, control, communicate with, and motivate members for legislative events within a Congressional district that may incorporate multiple Chapters with major numbers of members living within the assigned district.

The VFC National Legislative upcoming 24 month strategic timeline will focus on Legislative issues and concerns within our VFC Network to define the National issues, and to evaluate and determine a plan for each Congressional District. National Legislative issues and concerns will be solicited from Chapter members, Chapter Presidents, Chapter National Legislative Chairs, and

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Area Vice Presidents. Each Liaison, Chapter member, and Chapter National Legislative Chair will share results with other Liaisons and AVP's within the Virginia Federation. Recognition and certificates of appreciation, signed by the VFC President, will be awarded to Liaisons at the VFC Convention. Recognition and certificates, signed by the NARFE National President, will be awarded to the top Liaison and vice Liaison supporting National Legislation.

2. **The CDL's and SLL's organizational structure:**

The Liaisons are directed to continue to develop networks with the Chapters by attending Area board meetings and Chapter meetings in their respective districts, solicit information on concerns of NARFE members, and provide feedback comments from elected officials in the Virginia Commonwealth.

VFC is currently seeking a volunteer for the Congressional District Liaison (CDL) position in Congressional District 5. A recommendation has been made for the CDL position in Congressional District 7 and an appointment should be made by the time this report is published. Vice CDL's for Districts 1,3,4,5,6,7 and 11 are also needed. If you are interested, please contact Tom Hall at: tomhatnarfe@cox.net

In addition, the CDL organization will have to be reorganized to conform to the recently approved Virginia Congressional District boundaries.

3. **Other Legislative Initiatives:**

A Virginia Federation sponsored candidate debate has been suggested. A committee may be organized to gather local support and funding, arrange a location, initiate preliminary discussions with the media, set up a panel to solicit candidate questions, identify a potential moderator, establish operating rules, solicit local police and fire department assistance, and develop advertising and public relations brochures.

Gene Brown - State Legislation

VFC Annual Report – 2011

F. Eugene Brown, Jr. State Legislation Chair

The State Legislation Representatives for 2011 were Jim Bradley (Midlothian Chapter 2265) and Joe Gresko (Louisa Chapter 2065).

The VFC State Legislation Committee met at the Koger Center Holiday Inn on June 16, 2011 to prepare a draft of our 2012 State Legislative Plan along with a draft of the candidates for the General Assembly who would receive our support. The VFC State Legislation (SL) Committee consists of the SL Chair, the two SL Representatives, the 10 Area Vice Presidents and their Area SL Coordinators, and the VFC President and the two Vice Presidents.

At the October 16-18, 2011 VFC Board Meeting it was decided that due to the short time remaining before the November 8 election and the small amount in the PAC fund (approximately \$5500) that there was neither time enough to vet the candidates nor money enough to provide a reasonable donation for candidates who would support our issues.

In addition to our Legislation Plan, a major goal for 2012 is to draw attention to the donations needed in our VFC Political Fund. These funds will be used to inform members of the General Assembly of the issues that are of concern to members of NARFE.

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The annual VFC State Legislation Committee meeting will be held at the Koger Center Holiday Inn on June 13, 2012 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. At this meeting the VFC State Legislation Committee will prepare a draft plan for the 2013 General Assembly Legislative Session and highlight the members of the General Assembly who supported our interests.

As of this writing, it appears that the Eminent Domain Amendment will be on the ballot in November. The VFC strongly supports the passage of this amendment.

Other issues listed in our 2012 State Legislative Plan include:

Real Property Tax; exemption for elderly and disabled (HB 408) – Waiting to be signed by the governor.

Handicapped Parking; allows localities by ordinance to grant free parking (HB 289) – Signed by the governor.

Continuing care facilities; residents meetings (HB 178) – Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions.

Absentee voting; (HB 786) – Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Financial exploitation of elderly or vulnerable adults; penalty (Multiple bills) – All referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

The VFC Political Fund donation form is listed below and can also be found on the “State Legislation” link on www.vanarfe.org .

VFC STATE POLITICAL ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTION

AREA _____ CHAPTER _____ DATE _____
Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
E-Mail Address _____
Currently Working: Yes/No _____
If working show employer (Required by State Board of Elections)
Employer Name _____
Employer Address _____
Amount:
\$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ Other _____
Date of Contribution: _____ Form of Contribution: Cash _____
Check _____
Make check payable to: VFC STATE POLITICAL ACCOUNT
Completed form (with cash or checks) should be mail to:
James Bradley
VFC State Legislative Representative

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4150 Round Hill Drive
Chesterfield, VA 23832-7842

Dennis K. Martin - Membership Chair

The VFC Board of Directors set a 2011 membership goal of a 5% increase in membership. To support this goal the Board also set a goal of a 10% increase in those members who have dues withholding. Thirteen hundred and six new members were recruited into the Virginia Federation of NARFE. However, the VFC membership for 2011 ended with a total membership decrease of 819 for the year. This was far below the VFC goal of an increase of 5% in membership. The total number of dues withholding for the year increased by 45, for a 2.1% increase for the year. This percentage increase was below prior years.

Reviewing the membership statistics for the year and comparing them with last year's, it appears progress made in prior years was reversed. The number of non-renewals increased by 329 while the efforts of recruiting new members slowed significantly with 488 less recruited than in 2010. Ever second notices increased by 174. One piece of good news was that reinstatements increased by 102.

One encouraging sign was that four of our chapters increased their membership in 2011. These were: Chapter 685 - Colonial Williamsburg, Chapter 595 - Colonial Beach, Chapter 1549 - Fauquier, and Chapter 1241 - Dulles.

John & Connie Bails : VFC Co-Service Officers



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

Major Accomplishments Since Last VFC Convention

- ✓ Attended VFC Convention 2011 – Service Officer presentation break out session
- ✓ Attended VFC Board Meeting July 2011
- ✓ Travel to Corbin Kentucky Region X Conference August 2011

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Skype video Conference with Dave Snell; all Region X Federation Presidents were present

- ✓ Chapter visit to Williamsburg August 2011
- ✓ Attended VFC Board Meeting October 2011
- ✓ Chapter visit Farmville November 2011
- ✓ Chapter visit Page Valley November 2011
- ✓ Attended Area X Caucus meeting
- ✓ Travel to Abington Chapter 2330 – Service Officer presentation
- ✓ Attended VFC Board Meeting January 2012

Services provided to VFC Chapters

- ✓ Responded to inquiries from various Chapter Presidents
- ✓ Mailed out Survivor Benefit packages to members without emails
- ✓ Visited Headquarters to obtain F-100's for distribution at Chapter visits
- ✓ Assisted with recruitment efforts at Fairfax City Fair by manning booth table
- ✓ Sent fillable VANARFE Convention registration form to Chapter Service Officers
- ✓ Assisted NC Chapter member with OPM questions

Short Range Plan For The Next 12 Months Following 2012 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

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

Let's focus on why public relations should be important to every VFC NARFE Chapter before getting into a summary of last year's activities and my goals for the coming year. As stated by the Institute of Public Relations "**Public Relations are the planned and sustained efforts to establish and maintain goodwill and mutual understanding between an organization and its publics.**" What this means is that everything we do and say in our Chapters can be related to public relations. We must think about how to use these activities to benefit our current members and to encourage potential members to join NARFE. So, public relations is more than putting notices in the local papers about an upcoming meeting. It is about ensuring that your Chapter is building the NARFE name and goodwill in the local area. While the Chapter has, or should have, many people involved in accomplishing its activities, the PR Chair should be helping the Chapter President ensure that the Chapter has the following: newsletters, chapter web site, frequent contact with members through working phone trees and sunshine callers, an active chapter profile with local, state and national government representatives, articles about chapter

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activities in local papers, and recruiting events for new members (Matching funds may be available up to 75 percent of the cost of these events or projects). Finally, PR Chair Persons need to identify chapter members who are active volunteers in other areas within the community and publicize these efforts so as to help build NARFE's goodwill. Remember building awareness and goodwill for NARFE will help bring in new members and make NARFE stronger.

ACTIVITIES: Last year was an active year. We acquired needed supplies such as bags, pens and note pads with NARFE membership information to assist chapters with recruiting events. I took over the VFC License plate project and updated our records on the number of NARFE members who have signed up for plates. This is a very worthwhile initiative to help build awareness of NARFE in Virginia. Unfortunately, few NARFE members (65) have signed up to date and we need 450 to move forward at the state level. We have had more success with Chapters using matching funds to help recruit new members. There were 13 Matching Fund Projects for a total \$14,151; ten Chapter projects related to ads in newspapers, recruiting events such as picnics, health fairs, and NARFE booths at local festivals; and three VFC projects which purchased a newspaper ad, four new ZAP Banners advertising the benefits of being a NARFE member, and supplies with NARFE logos to handout at recruiting events. For the 13 projects, NARFE Headquarters provided \$6,823, VFC provided \$5,188, and the Chapters provided \$2,140. I sent out periodic status reports and information to PR Chairs and Chapter Presidents and put more information on the VFC web site for Chapters and PR Chairs to use, such as forms for applying for the NARFE license plate, Chapter PR contact information and quarterly status reports. I continued to help the VFC develop a Strategic Plan, worked on the NARFE National By Laws Committee as the Region X representative, and attended the NARFE Region X Presidents' Conference and made a presentation on public relations. We subsequently, established a network to coordinate and share information among the five Federation PR Chairs. Finally, I visited several Chapters and Area VP meetings and made presentations on public relations activities.

GOALS: As I look over last year's goals, I see that I've made some progress, summarized above, but more still needs to be accomplished. During 2012, I want to work on developing more information for the PR section of the VFC web site. In addition, I want to update our PR training manual and work with Chapters to develop recruiting projects which qualify for matching funds. When invited, I will attend Area and Chapter meetings to speak about VFC public relations activities and assist them with their public relations activities. I will continue to encourage Chapter Presidents to appoint PR Chairs and to build the communication network among Chapter PR Chairs. I will attend various meetings and events to help build the NARFE brand at the local, state and national levels. Finally, I will assist the VFC in making a decision on the future of the License Plate Project.

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 program or if you would like some assistance with Chapter PR matters.

Donna Shackelford - Alzheimer's Chair

Alzheimer's Program by Donna Shackelford

Facts that have come to attention during 2011 from the Alzheimer's Association:

Alzheimer's disease is not one for citizens of the United States. It is not a disease for the European countries. It's not for African countries or for Asian countries. Oh, yes, and it's not one for the Australians "down under." This miserable, cantankerous, hateful, ugly disease shows up in people all over the world, not just a single geographic area. Therefore, it is appropriately being addressed by scientists from all over the world all the time. One very prominent group is the International Genomics of Alzheimer's Project (IGAP). It is formed by researchers from the European Alzheimer's Disease

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Initiative in France, the Alzheimer's Disease Genetics Consortium from the United States, The Genetic and Environmental Risk in Alzheimer's Disease from the United Kingdom, and the neurology subgroup of the Cohorts for Heart and Aging in Genomic Epidemiology from the Boston University.

International groups such as IGAP meet periodically to share research and findings with each other for the overall benefit of mankind. One such conference was held in July in Paris. The Associated Press reported from Paris on July 20 that scientists were closing in on a long-sought goal: a blood test to screen people for Alzheimer's disease. Further testing continues to ensure positive and accurate results. Many good things came from the conference, among which was the funding for another research project. This time Dr. Steve DeKoskey was named as the 50th such project, and it is being conducted from the University of Virginia College of Medicine. At VFC we are very proud to have such an important study conducted locally.

Here in the United States, we are becoming more aware of Alzheimer's disease. For so many years the affliction was considered something to be ashamed of, and families wanted to hide the patient and not let anyone know that such a horrible thing had happened within their family. Well, thankfully, it is taking on the characteristics now of a disease that is part of human nature. The one really bad feature is that there are no survivors of it, and that is the goal of the Alzheimer's Association: **A world without Alzheimer's**. As I travel around VFC Chapters, I am often handed a paper with the comment, "Have you seen this?" It will be a new discovery about the disease or a new way to handle it. This speaks very well, because it points out that the nation is aware, and awareness is an early step in diagnosis and possible early treatment. Although there is no cure at present, the medical field has found ways to inhibit the activity of the gene when found at very early stages.

There is a researcher in New York who knew that music generated a very calming effect on AD patients. Last summer he formed a choir of AD patients, along with their caregivers, and conducted the chorus just as any chorus of healthy people. He taught them how to breathe properly, how to enunciate the words, how to count the time of the music, etc. The patients and the caregivers were equally responsive and eager for each practice. After a couple months, the choir was ready and performed a concert. They also performed again at the holiday time with seasonal music. This proved to be very therapeutic. The audience as well as the singers were entertained and the researcher's theory proved very successful.

A fiscal report is in order at this time, and I'm very proud to say that VFC has had a 9.4% increase in 2011 over our accomplishments in 2010. The top money collection for the year was Chapter 1270, Woodbridge, Area IX, with a grand total of \$16,653.01. On a per capita basis, Falls Run Chapter 2343 in Area VIII topped the chart at \$27.65 per member. Some of the chapters got very creative in raising money and community awareness of Alzheimer's disease, and the Research side of the Alzheimer's Association gained a grand total of \$73,675.46 for the calendar year of 2011.

I want to thank all of the Chapter chairs, and all of the members of VFC for their efforts and contributions to the charity of NARFE. Remember, we still want to reach \$10 million nationally by the end of 2012, and I'm sure we can do it,

NARFE ALZHEIMER'S CUMULATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS from Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) for 2011

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Area	Area Vice President	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Year
1	Patricia A. Taylor	\$630.42	\$406.00	\$3,013.32	\$1,785.32	\$5,835.06
2	Betty L. Warren	\$728.00	\$203.00	\$60.00	\$335.00	\$1,326.00
3	Jack W. McMurchy	\$536.50	\$3,327.55	\$124.00	\$1,398.00	\$5,386.05
4	Bobby L. Wittington	\$717.00	\$33.00	\$358.00	\$283.00	\$1,391.00
5	Jessie L. Barksdale	\$149.00	\$20.00		\$490.00	\$659.00
6	Delwyn A. Dyer	\$340.00	\$274.00	\$600.00	\$525.70	\$1,739.70
7	Steve Dansker	\$1,315.00	\$1,525.50	\$3,131.93	\$3,545.97	\$9,518.40
8	Leslie E. Ravenell	\$1,076.50	\$981.00	\$2,865.00	\$2,712.00	\$7,634.50
9	Pierce J. Johnson	\$3,007.00	\$5,474.00	\$7,890.15	\$10,226.31	\$26,597.46
10	Kathy R. Arpa	\$913.00	\$2,152.00	\$2,972.00	\$2,432.29	\$8,469.29
VFC		\$1,150.00	\$3,732.00	\$177.00	\$60.00	\$5,119.00
Totals		\$10,562.42	\$18,128.05	\$21,191.40	\$23,793.59	\$73,675.46