

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



Virginia Federation of Chapters

Annual Report 2015 – 2016

President

Kathy Arpa

**1st Vice
President**

Leslie Ravenell

**2nd Vice
President**

Pat Taylor

Secretary

Betty Warren

Treasurer

Raphael Wong

**Past
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Introduction

The NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) continued to be a viable and recognizable representative of the NARFE organization during fiscal year 2016. The VFC has a long history of advising and assisting federal employees and retirees. It was founded April 9, 1955, by NARFE members residing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Of the current 52 NARFE Federations, the VFC is the third largest Federation with 12,591 voting members and 780 non-voting members, effective June 30, 2016. In addition, there are over 3,000 members in the E-NARFE Chapter in Virginia. These members include current and retired federal employees, spouses, and survivor annuitants. There are 144,492 federal retirees and 138,811 active federal employees in Virginia.

The VFC is part of Region X and is organized by geographic area. Virginia remains the largest Federation in Region X. There are currently ten VFC Areas and each Chapter is assigned to one of these areas. The VFC Board includes six program chairs: Alzheimer's, Membership, National Legislation, State Legislation, Public Relations, and Service. Reports from these individuals are included in this report. These reports highlight the activities of the VFC during the past fiscal year.

The VFC holds a Convention annually at various locations in Virginia. The last convention was held in April 2016 in the Richmond/Midlothian Area.

The VFC maintains a website at www.vanarfe.org. The website contains current information on the Board of Directors, the latest legislative program, our State Legislation Plan, and a variety of chapter newsletters. In addition, you will find a wealth of information under Archives including previous convention documents and annual reports. I encourage you to visit our website on a regular basis. We will soon provide information about the upcoming 2017 VFC Convention in Williamsburg, VA and the 2017 VFC State Legislation Plan.

The VFC represents federal retirees and current federal employees within the Commonwealth of Virginia. We communicate with members and the public about issues of concern to federal retirees and current federal employees. The VFC provides a larger voice than that of any single chapter. Our goal, in Virginia, is to serve the Chapters. Let us help you to achieve your goals. Working together we are "Facing the Challenge".

For more information, contact:

Kathy Arpa
President
Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC)
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
2717 Bowling Green Drive
Vienna, VA 22180
Phone: 703-205-9041
Email: mkarpa@hotmail.com



VFC President's Report

The VFC was active in National legislation during this period. In the fall of 2015, Stephen Ledford was appointed National Legislation Chair. The number of VFC members assigned as Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) increased from four to nine and the number of VFC members assigned as Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLLs) increased from one to two. Also, three teleconferences were conducted: two with Senator Warner and one with Congresswoman Comstock. The VFC National Legislation organization is being used by the NARFE National office as a model for other NARFE Federations.

The VFC was also quite active in State legislation during this period. A VFC 2016 State Legislation Program was prepared with the assistance of a number of VFC members. It was distributed to all of the incumbents, a number of candidates for the Virginia General Assembly, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Attorney General. Representatives of the VFC also participated in the preparation of the Transparency in Virginia report. The VFC State legislation activities are being used by the NARFE National office as a model for other NARFE Federations.

Like many other NARFE Federations, the VFC had problems in the membership area. As of June 30, 2016, the VFC had 775 voting members and 112 non-voting members, smaller than it was on June 30, 2015. Also, in that same time frame, the following four VFC Chapters were closed: Joint Expeditionary Base Chapter 2362 and Monticello Chapter 2361 in Area II; Martinsville - Henry County Chapter 1882 in Area V; and Southwest Highlands Chapter 2330 in Area VI. Efforts are being taken to close Falls Church Chapter 401 in Area IX.

VFC Chapters extensively utilized the NARFE Matching Funds program to participate in seven events to recruit additional NARFE members and to publicize NARFE. Betty Mitchell in Area II and Dr. Constance Bails in Area X did exceptional work in recruitment and publication. From July 2014 through June 2016, Betty recruited 63 new members and Connie recruited 29 members. Training was also an important aspect during this timeframe. In October 2015, the biennial training of Chapter Officers was conducted in Chesapeake, Fairfax, Fredericksburg, and Roanoke. The training modules included executive officer positions, public relations and congressional district liaison duties, and an update on the NARFE Strategic Plan. In addition to the four training sessions, membership training was held in Williamsburg in October 2015. Training for our 11 Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) and two U.S. Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLLs) was held in Richmond in January 2016. Prior to FEHB Open Season, NARFE members participated in health fairs sponsored by Congressman Gerry Connolly, Barbara Comstock, and Rob Wittman. Quarterly meetings were also held in July, October and January with the focus on preparation for the 2016 VFC Convention. Much work has been done in revamping the VFC website. We strive to provide a more attractive and user friendly website.

In September 2015 over 80 members attended the Region X Conference in Virginia Beach hosted by past VFC President William Shackelford, who is currently the Region X Vice President. We joined members from the other four federations in Region X (Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia) and E-NARFE members, which resulted in cross fertilization of ideas. An added bonus was having National President, Richard Thissen; National Treasurer, Jon Dowie; Legislative Representative, Chris Ferrell; and Grassroots Manager, Sarah Weissman in attendance. Their presence provided a rare opportunity for members to network with the Headquarters staff in an informal setting.



(Virginia Federation Members participating in the Region X Conference in Virginia Beach, VA in September 2015)

In April 2016, 187 VFC members and guests participated in the annual VFC Convention in Richmond. Guest speakers included: Dr. Roger Loria, Holocaust Survivor; Senator Tim Kaine; NARFE National President, Richard Thissen and NARFE Legislative Director, Jessica Klement. Also attending were Past VFC Presidents Ann Collins, Charles Fallis, Bill Martin, Bill Shackelford and Luther Santiful. Members participated in seminars and workshops on social media, estate planning, financial planning and fitness. Stan Palen received the new Leadership Award and Paula Dansker received the Virginia Service Officer Award and the Region X Service Officer Award.

Newly elected officers were: President, Kathy Arpa; 1st Vice President, Leslie Ravenell; 2nd Vice President, Patricia Taylor; Secretary, Betty Warren and Treasurer, Raphael Wong. We made a few other changes on the Board at the Convention. Dr. Constance Bails and John Bails were appointed co-Chaplains, replacing Margaret Yowell; Maggie Keator was appointed State Legislation Chair, replacing Patti Downs; Steve Dansker was appointed Sergeant at Arms, replacing Lee Barta; Helen Willis was appointed Chair of the By-Laws Committee, replacing Del Dyer and June Staton was appointed Newsletter Editor, replacing Pat Wolfe. Jeanne Garrison was elected Area I Vice President, replacing Patricia Taylor; Raymond Ormond was elected Area IV Vice President, replacing Bobby Whittington; Paula Dansker was elected Area VII Vice President, replacing Steve Dansker. Continuing on the board were Area Vice Presidents: Alex Adkins, Area I, Jack McMurchy, Area III, Debra Laughon, Area V, Mark Fisher, Area VI, Maureen Nolet, Area VIII, Jim Little, Area IX and Wilma Grant, Area X. Also continuing on the Board were: Gaston Gianni, Public Relations; Beverly Thomas-McMillan, Membership; Dr. Constance and John Bails, co-Service Officers; Donna Shackelford, Alzheimer's; Stephen Ledford, National Legislative Chair, William Martin, Nominating Committee Chair and E-NARFE Coordinator; Mary Swain, Parliamentarian and Stan Palen and Sidney Sachs as VFC webmasters.



(Installation of Officers at 2016 VFC Convention conducted by National President Richard Thissen – April 19, 2016)

Planning is already underway for the 2017 VFC Convention which will be hosted by Areas I, II and IV on April 2-5, 2017 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Leslie Ravenell, VFC 1st Vice President, is the 2017 VFC Convention Coordinator.

As we end the fiscal year, 41 members from the Virginia Federation were preparing for the 34th NARFE National Convention in August 2016 in Reno, Nevada. Several delegates from Virginia will serve on committees. Issues will be discussed and delegates will vote to ensure that NARFE continues to survive as NARFE remains the leading advocate for the federal community, ensuring the protection of the benefits of active and retired federal employees. The VFC worked very hard to ensure that every chapter will be represented by a voting representative or proxy.

Our theme for 2016-2017 is “NARFE - Facing the Challenge”, and with the future of NARFE at stake, NARFE’s mission of protecting our benefits will never change. We must accept the challenge to ensure the future of **our** NARFE organization.

Special thanks to **all** of the volunteers in our chapters in Virginia who enable us to continue to advocate for our members in the Virginia Federation of Chapters of NARFE.

Kathy Arpa, President

Richard Giangerelli, Immediate Past President



1st Vice President's Report

This report covers the period of July 2015 to April 2016 when I served as 2nd Vice President of the VFC, and April 2016 to June 2016 as the newly elected 1st Vice President.

In September, I visited Chapter 2265 for their annual picnic and Winchester Chapter 180 for the first time. I attended the Region X Meeting in Virginia Beach. I also attended a Breakfast meeting with Congressman Wittman in Fredericksburg in October. This meeting was an example of your NARFE PAC funds in action.

At our fall Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Board Meeting, for the first time, I had a representative from all six committees: Alzheimer's, Membership, National Legislation, Public Relations, Service Officers, and State Legislation. We welcomed Steve Ledford, newly appointed National Legislative Chair and Maggie Keator, newly appointed State Legislative Representative. In Chesapeake, VA, I attended the first of four VFC Organization Trainings sponsored by our training team. The training team also provided training in Fredericksburg, Roanoke, and Fairfax. Evaluations from the training sessions were very positive. On November 5th, I attended Membership Training in Williamsburg. On November 7th, I participated in a Health Fair in Stafford, VA sponsored by Congressman Rob Wittman, 1st Congressional District. Several VFC and Chapter members also participated in the event.

The second quarter for the VFC is the season of installing chapter officers! In November, I visited Chapter 90 in Fredericksburg. I installed President Maureen "Moe" Nolet (also Area VIII Vice President) and her team. This is Moe's 6th year as President in Fredericksburg. I went to Horn Harbor in Burgess, VA, in December, to install the new officers of Northern Neck Chapter 1823. They had a lovely silent auction for Alzheimer's. We postponed the Colonial Beach Chapter 595 installation until 2016 so we could attend the Chapter's annual Holiday event at the Westmoreland Rehabilitation Center in Colonial Beach. Our members entertained the residents with Holiday songs and gifts. My husband and I visited Shenandoah Chapter 2358 for the installation of officers where chapter members performed some great holiday music. I visited Peninsula Chapter 682; they had a very elegant and delicious luncheon at a local retirement home. I also visited the Woodbridge Chapter 1270 for a festive holiday celebration with Scottish Highland Dancers. Lastly, I visited Middle Peninsula Chapter 1757 where I installed their officers on January 21. This was my first visit to Chapter 1757 and I enjoyed meeting everyone and seeing the village of Gloucester.

In January, I organized a preliminary site committee and went out to look at possible hotels for the 2017 VFC Convention. Our focus was Williamsburg and after consideration of four properties, the Doubletree by Hilton of Williamsburg was chosen.

At the annual VFC Convention in April, I was elected 1st Vice President. In May, I attended the State Legislative Meeting. In June, I attended the Area VII meeting in Harrisonburg and briefed the group on the results of our State Legislative meeting. It has been a busy but rewarding year.

Leslie Ravenell, 1st Vice President



2nd Vice President's Report

I was elected as VFC 2nd Vice President in April, at the 2016 VFC Convention held in Richmond, VA. Since being elected, I attended the July Board Meeting. At the board meeting, I conducted the session for the Program Chairs. It was a learning experience for me and there was an excellent exchange of ideas among the group. The following program chairs were in attendance: Alzheimer's, Donna Shackelford; Public Relation's, Gaston Gianni; Service, John & Connie Bails and State Legislation, Maggie Keator. The following Program Chairs were unable to attend the meeting due to personal commitments: Membership, Beverly Thomas-McMillan and National Legislation, Stephen Ledford.

Our Webmaster, Stan Palan, provided us with information and answered questions about proposed plans for the VFC website in 2017. We all expressed appreciation to Stan for his many contributions to the VFC and sharing his knowledge of computers and software. Margaret Yowell stepped down as VFC Chaplain. Service Co-Chair, John and Connie Bails, will assume the added tasks of Chaplain. Their additional responsibilities will include coordinating the annual Memorial Service held at the VFC Convention each spring.

1st Vice President Leslie Ravenell is the Convention Coordinator for the 2017 VFC Convention Committee. She appointed me to serve on the committee. I attended the 2017 Convention committee meeting at the Doubletree by Hilton Convention Center in Williamsburg on May 18. A Hilton staff member gave us a tour of the facility. The facility appears to be an outstanding venue for the annual convention. The 2017 VFC Convention will be hosted by Areas I, II, and IV. The respective AVPs are currently advising their chapters of the committees that will be established so the work can begin immediately.

In August, I will attend the National Convention in Reno. This event has major issues to be discussed that will affect the future of NARFE. I hope members will contact VFC Board members and members of their respective chapters to make their thoughts known so that those attending can vote accordingly. As a member of the VFC Executive Board, I look forward to representing members of the VFC in any way possible. Please feel free to contact me if I may be of any assistance.

Pat Taylor, 2nd Vice President

Secretary's Report

I was appointed as VFC Secretary October 2015. My report will be limited to October 2015 –April 2016. The duties of the Secretary require that I take minutes at board meeting and distribute them before the next meeting for review; and keep the official records of the VFC. As the secretary, I took and compiled minutes for The Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and compiled reports from board members. Board minutes were distributed to the VFC Board members, and the Executive Committee minutes were distributed to that committee.

The Secretary, with the assistance of VFC President, distributed the report of the "Virginia Federation of Chapters Voting Strength" to chapters in January. The report was based on the chapter membership as recorded on the December 31, 2015 NARFE Annual Membership Report. Chapters submitted Proposed VFC Bylaws Amendments and Proposed Convention Resolutions for Bylaw changes to me for inclusion in the Call to Convention. The resolutions approved at the Convention were submitted to NARFE National office for consideration at the 2016 National Convention.

I attended all board meetings and the VFC 2016 Convention. Special thanks to President Giangerelli, Area X Vice President Wilma Grant and every officer of the VFC for all the help they have given to me this past year.

Betty Warren, Secretary



Treasurer's Report

The EOY expenditure to date is 67% of the approved FY16 budget. The total contribution collected to the VFC State Political Fund ending in 2nd QTR CY 2016 is \$185.00. Finally, I am pleased to announce that the VFC is in the black for FY16, the first time since I became Treasurer.

EOY FY16 TREASURER REPORT SYNOPSIS ENDING June 30, 2016

Approved Budget	\$121,670
EOY Income	\$83,430
EOY Expenditure	\$82,121
Required from Savings	\$0

<i>Revenues</i>	FY16 BUDGET	ACTUAL	1st QTR %	2nd QTR %	3rd QTR %	4th QTR %	DIFFERENCE
NARFE 10% Funds	\$56,000	\$52,695.59	22%	47%	71%	94%	\$3,304.41
Chapter Dues	\$25,000	\$22,227.45	1%	2%	57%	89%	\$2,772.55
Reimbursed Expenses	\$500	\$14.00	0%	0%	3%	3%	\$486.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$3,000	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$3,000.00
NARFE Matching Funds	\$6,000	\$6,781.77	28%	103%	110%	113%	(\$781.77)
Interest	\$850	\$710.76	26%	45%	65%	84%	\$139.24
VFC Convention Reimburse	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	0%	0%	100%	100%	\$0.00
From Checking Account	\$29,320	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$29,320.00
Total Revenues	\$121,670	\$83,429.57	12%	27%	50%	69%	\$38,240.43
<i>Expenses</i>	FY16 BUDGET	ACTUAL	1st QTR %	2nd QTR %	3rd QTR %	4th QTR %	DIFFERENCE
Executive Comte							
President	\$4,800	\$3,429.28	26%	41%	54%	71%	\$1,370.72
1st Vice President	\$2,800	\$2,533.16	30%	40%	55%	90%	\$266.84
2nd Vice President	\$2,080	\$1,899.35	17%	54%	71%	91%	\$180.65
Secretary	\$1,680	\$1,530.48	5%	32%	55%	91%	\$149.52
Treasurer	\$3,280	\$2,443.15	13%	25%	36%	74%	\$836.85
Subtotal	\$14,640	\$11,835.42	20%	38%	53%	81%	\$2,804.58



IPP and Appointees							
Immediate Past Pres	\$1,760	\$1,278.72	21%	41%	41%	73%	481.28
Parliamentarian	\$1,360	\$1,036.39	24%	24%	47%	76%	323.61
Chaplain	\$1,600	\$1,252.45	17%	17%	36%	78%	347.55
By Laws Comte	\$560	\$528.13	0%	0%	94%	94%	31.87
Net							
Coordinator	\$0	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.00
Nominating Comte	\$800	\$304.51	0%	0%	38%	38%	495.49
PRS Coord	\$0	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.00
Senior Navigator Liaison	\$0	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.00
Sergeant-At-Arms	\$560	\$438.35	0%	0%	0%	78%	121.65
Newsletter Editor	\$400	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	400.00
Webmaster	\$880	\$1,028.45	0%	18%	59%	117%	(148.45)
Subtotal	\$7,920	\$5,867.00	12%	19%	31%	74%	\$2,053.00
Field Operations							
AVP I	\$2,160	\$774.52	16%	29%	29%	36%	\$1,385.48
AVP II	\$1,660	\$1,589.24	23%	46%	67%	96%	\$70.76
AVP III	\$2,640	\$1,802.39	14%	39%	39%	68%	\$837.61
AVP IV	\$2,080	\$1,502.62	20%	39%	39%	72%	\$577.38
AVP V	\$2,400	\$1,704.60	17%	30%	47%	71%	\$695.40
AVP VI	\$2,320	\$2,191.22	20%	42%	70%	94%	\$128.78
AVP VII	\$2,880	\$2,929.07	14%	37%	67%	102%	(\$49.07)
AVP VIII	\$1,780	\$1,017.33	5%	10%	29%	57%	\$762.67
AVP IX	\$2,330	\$2,091.94	17%	17%	60%	90%	\$238.06
AVP X	\$1,960	\$1,274.41	18%	18%	18%	65%	\$685.59
Subtotal	\$22,210	\$16,877.34	16%	31%	47%	76%	\$5,332.66
Program Operations							
NL Committee	\$10,080	\$2,041.69	1%	2%	13%	20%	\$8,038.31
SL Committee	\$3,680	\$950.12	14%	16%	20%	26%	\$2,729.88
Membership Committee	\$3,920	\$2,141.36	23%	32%	42%	55%	\$1,778.64
Public Relat Chair	\$6,900	\$5,782.32	5%	64%	73%	84%	\$1,117.68
Co-Service Officers	\$6,400	\$3,375.98	6%	16%	32%	53%	\$3,024.02
Alzheimer's Chair	\$2,720	\$1,125.07	1%	12%	22%	41%	\$1,594.93
Subtotal	\$33,700	\$15,416.54	7%	23%	34%	46%	\$18,283.46



Administrative							
VFC Convention advance	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	100%	100%	100%	100%	\$0.00
Awards/Gifts	\$100	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$100.00
NARFE/FEEA	\$0	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$0.00
Membership Contest	\$0	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$0.00
Biennial Officer Training	\$6,000	\$4,325.24	0%	70%	70%	72%	\$1,674.76
Membership Training	\$2,000	\$687.12	0%	34%	34%	34%	\$1,312.88
VFC Matching Funds	\$9,000	\$7,555.49	31%	74%	81%	84%	\$1,444.51
Donations	\$0	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$0.00
State Legislation Meeting	\$1,800	\$1,945.70	0%	0%	0%	108%	\$145.70
Hotel / Facility	\$4,100	\$2,404.25	27%	59%	59%	59%	\$1,695.75
Membership Recruitment	\$0	\$3,991.96	0%	0%	0%	70%	(\$3,991.96)
Miscellaneous Expense	\$1,500	\$1,271.63	3%	3%	32%	85%	\$228.37
Newsletter	\$1,000	\$221.40	1%	22%	22%	22%	\$778.60
Region X Conference	\$16,000	\$8,598.88	1%	54%	54%	54%	\$7,401.12
National Convention	\$0	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$0.00
NARFE Leg Training Conf	\$0	\$0.00	0%	0%	0%	0%	\$0.00
Web Site	\$700	\$122.88	7%	12%	18%	18%	\$577.12
Subtotal	\$43,200	\$32,124.55	12%	55%	67%	74%	\$11,075.45
GRAND TOTAL	\$121,670	\$82,120.85	12%	38%	67%	67%	\$39,549.15

Raphael Wong, Treasurer





Area I Vice President's Report

During the period from July 2015 until April 2016, I had the privilege of filling in for the Area Vice-President Pat Taylor as she recovered from illness. I attended two board meetings and have included some information from the quarterly reports; however, not all of Area I's activities are included. I attended June meetings of Chapters 685, 1823 and 682 and I am pleased to say that they all have someone who plans to attend the National Convention in Reno. I participated in the legislative planning session in May, as well as the first meeting of the NARFE VFC 2017 convention chairs.

Colonial Williamsburg Chapter 685 had a representative of the new Historic Yorktown Victory Center as guest speaker in May. Their business meeting followed with an in-depth discussion of the NARFE Strategic Plan. Many members were not sure what things meant and were appreciative of the opportunity to ask questions. Chapter 685 had its first indoor picnic at the home of President Marilyn Riddle, it was very successful. In June, I was invited to a meeting of Williamsburg community leaders with Senator Mark Warner. Chapter 685 legislative chair, Marcelline St. Pierre and I heard Senator Warner speak about the Congressional partisanship and the potential for passing legislation such as gun control. Three members from Chapter 685, Marilyn Riddle, Jeanne Garrison, and Mary Swain attended the fall Region X conference in Virginia Beach. B.J. Thomas-McMillan, from Northern Neck, Maggie Keator and another member from Peninsula were also there

The Northern Neck Chapter 1823 June meeting was held at the Caret Cellars Winery in Caret, VA. After the business meeting, which included discussion of NARFE issues to be brought to the National Convention and the Strategic Plan, there was a wine tasting with an explanation on the history and processing of each wine tasted.

Peninsula Chapter 682 provided a presentation by David Yancey, 94th District Delegate to the Virginia House of Delegates at their June meeting. He spoke on important issues in the Virginia Legislature, emphasizing those affecting the district. At the business meeting, members were encouraged to read the Strategic Plan and let their delegate know their chapter's thoughts. Alzheimer's chair, Marie Collins reported they had achieved the 30th mile in the pennies for Alzheimer's walk, a total that represents over \$25,000.

Chapter 682 hosted a town meeting for 2nd district Congressman Scott Rigell in July. He sponsored a bill to provide ID Theft Protection to all affected by the OPM data breach. In October, President Ray Whipple and Vice-President Tom Yager spoke to the NASA Langley Alumni Association on "The Advantages of NARFE Membership". Some chapter members represented NARFE at local Open Season health fairs. At the August breakfast, General Assembly Delegate Monty Mason was the speaker. Other meetings had presentations from the local Alzheimer's Association, the Peninsula Agency on Aging, and an FEHB provider.

Chapter 1757: I look forward to attending the September meeting of chapter 1757. Although they have no delegate attending the National Convention, I am serving as their chapter proxy. They provided me with their thoughts on some of the NARFE issues.

Area I is happy to be one of the three areas hosting the NARFE VFC 2017 conference. We are especially pleased with the choice of the Williamsburg location. As I visited the chapters, several folks have volunteered to help. They would really like to get started since fund raising and soliciting of support should begin as early as possible.

I will be attending the National Convention in Reno, NV in August.

Jeanne Garrison, Area I Vice President



Area II Vice President's Report

During the past year, several Area II chapters have elected new officers. Joseph F. Murray continues as President of Virginia Beach Seaside Chapter 1827. Other elected officers include: 1st Vice President, Peter Amante; 2nd Vice President, Nancy McWilliams; Secretary, Lynn Pipis and Treasurer, Richard Bourdon. Committee chairs include: Dick Edwards (National Legislation, Membership, E-mail and Web Coordinator); Nancy Craft (State Legislation); Betty Atkinson (Sunshine and Alzheimer's Research); Willard Buzzard (Public Relations); Jim Obal (Service Officer); Richard Bourdon (Programs); Peter Amante (Telephone) and Ken Gimbert (NARFE PAC).

Virginia Beach Metro Chapter 5 elected new officers on the 5th of May. This was the chapter's first meeting since May of 2015. Judy Bosnengo was elected and installed as the President and Julia Hobbs was elected and installed as Secretary-Treasurer. Betty Mitchell will be serving as Membership Chair. The chapter met again on the 23rd of June, but I was not able to attend because of schedule conflict.

Virginia Beach Bayside Chapter 974 has elected and installed Alex H. Adkins as President, Charles Chapman as 1st Vice President (now deceased), Burnley Rhue as 2nd Vice President, Fran Sansone as Secretary, and Donald Warren as Treasurer. Committee chairs include Donald Warren (National Legislation), Fran Sansone and Bill Poulter (State Legislation), Betty Warren (Public Relations), Burnley Rhue (Service Officer), Priscilla Adkins (Hospitality), Myrtle Durham (Sunshine), and Sylvia Butler (Alzheimer's Research). Alex Adkins, Priscilla Adkins, Betty Warren and Donald will serve as chapter delegates to the 2016 National Convention.

Chapter 974: Charlie Chapman was the second 1st Vice President of Chapter 974 to pass away during the past five years. Charlie was very active in our community and his funeral was attended by a large group of people including many chapter members. Chapter 974 also lost a distinguished member, William T. Congleton, who was a former Chapter President and former VFC Chaplin. Bill had been a chapter member since 1977 and also had a very large memorial service at the Bayside Baptist where he had served for many years as a Deacon.

Tidewater Chapter 66 re-elected and installed Margie Mitchell as President, Johnny E. Arthur as Vice President, Mary J. Asby as Secretary, and Vera Meritt as Treasurer. Committee chairs of Chapter 66 include Thomas Van Tiem as Newsletter Editor, Arlene Arthur as Service Officer, Alzheimer's Chair, Rosemary Whitehurst as Legislative Chair and Margie Mitchell as Public Relations Chair.

Seaside Chapter 1827 held its June meeting at the Culinary Institute of Virginia at Towne Center in Virginia Beach. The Chef's Garden at the Culinary Institute of Virginia brings the spirit of the farm-to-table movement to the forefront of culinary education. It opens its dining room to local residents on Wednesdays while classes are in session. This was the second year that Chapter 1827 held a luncheon at the Institute.

Virginia Beach Bayside Chapter 974 had its June meeting at the Olive Garden on Lynnhaven Parkway in Virginia Beach. Everyone who attended enjoyed the luncheon at Olive Garden.

I will be attending the National Convention in Reno, NV in August.

Alex H. Adkins. Area II Vice President



Area III Vice President's Report

Area III consists of six chapters: Petersburg Chapter 28, Richmond Chapter 60, Colonial Heights Chapter 1472, Imperial Plaza Chapter 1510, Tuckahoe Chapter 1727, and Midlothian VA Chapter 22265. Midlothian meets monthly; the other chapters do not meet in July or August. We experienced a small decline in membership due to deaths of older members (like other areas) but continued success in reinstatements.

All chapters except Colonial Heights and Midlothian filled all elected officer positions. Colonial Heights could not elect a vice president or Midlothian a second vice president. Area III chapters continue to plan programs for meetings to encourage member attendances; chapter presidents exchanged information on the most successful speakers. Still one of the biggest problems, in spite of good programs, is attendance at meetings is lower than expected. Primarily, this is due to the increasing age of members and recruitment of fewer younger ones. None of the chapters will send delegates to the National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

Petersburg provided membership at Fort Lee during the health fair in November but was unable to recruit new members. Membership chair, Roy Beasley, is now contacting individual organizations and expects better recruitment success. The chapter again has the highest per capita donations in Area III for Alzheimer's research. Winn Hasty, the chapter National legislation chair, was also appointed as the area National legislation coordinator.

Colonial Heights has experienced lower turnout at meetings but the June turnout was higher than in the past four months. The chapter State legislation chair, Steve Stansky, was also appointed Area III State Legislative coordinator. Imperial Plaza president Edward Helfin has the smallest Area III chapter with 40 but has a good turnout at meetings. Most of the members live at Imperial Plaza and Mr. Helfin has worked with the new owners to continue the good relationship formerly held.

Tuckahoe president, Tom Reid, has high attendance at meetings and hardworking officers. Two of the former members of the now-closed South of the James chapter, joined this chapter and were delegates to the State Convention. The Tuckahoe chapter (at the request of the U.S. Postal Service) also recruited at a Richmond Post Office.

Midlothian chapter is Area III's largest and provided the highest amount of contributions for Alzheimer's research. During their annual picnic in September 2015, NARFE VFC members were invited and in December a VFC officer installed elected chapter officers. The chapter successfully recruited at an open house at the July 2015 meeting and the 2016 County TRIAD. They are the only chapter still publishing a newsletter every two months. President Helen Willis and her husband attended the Region X conference September 29th - October 1st in Virginia Beach.

As the VFC Area III Vice President, I participated in the State Legislative meeting in June 2016, attended all VFC Board meetings and the Region X Conference, in Virginia Beach, VA. I also conducted one Council of Chapters meeting during the reporting period. I visited each of the five chapters twice during the reporting period and installed new officers in four of them in December 2015. Ms. Carolyn Wilson, former Area III VP, installed me and other elected officers of Petersburg, my home chapter. I was re-elected as the Chapter President.

Jack W. McMurchy, Area III Vice President



Area IV Vice President's Report

Area IV consists of the following five chapters: Portsmouth Chapter 63, Churchland Chapter 1293, Chesapeake Chapter 1682, Brentwood Chapter 1697, and Suffolk Chapter 1743. I also serve as president of the Suffolk chapter. All chapters continue to have meaningful meetings with speakers covering a broad spectrum of topics concerning the interest of seniors. Area IV was well represented at the Region X Conference in September in Virginia Beach. Several members from the Brentwood, Churchland, and Suffolk chapters were in attendance.

Kathy Arpa led an Officers Training session at the Chesapeake chapter in October. It was well attended by Area IV. Also in October, the Suffolk chapter continued its tradition of having a booth at the Peanut Fest. This is a four day event and a great recruiting opportunity (I joined NARFE after visiting the booth in 2002). Members from Brentwood and Chesapeake chapters assisted in manning the booth. In the fall, most Area IV chapters schedule Blue Cross/Blue Shield representatives to speak at their meetings about any changes that might affect members. This is done so members can make changes if needed during open season. This fall, Brentwood chapter also invited Government Employee Health Association (GEHA) representatives to speak on upcoming health changes. During the year, other activities accomplished within Area IV included a booth at the Smithfield Olden Days, health fairs in various locations, income tax associates and financial advisors speakers.

Area IV had an excellent turnout for the 2016 VFC Convention. We had members and officers from the Chesapeake, Brentwood, Churchland and Suffolk Chapters. The Portsmouth Chapter president provided a proxy for voting purposes. Several of our chapters purchased advertisements in the convention handbook. Churchland 1293 was honored with a NARFE Citation for Distinguished Service for donating an Alzheimer's Silent Auction Basket which raised \$80.00 for Alzheimer's in the auction. That amount was the most by any VFC Small Chapter. Brentwood member, Ella Anderson, was selected to serve on the VFC Nominating Committee as the Area IV's primary representative. Brentwood Chapter President, June Staton, accepted an appointee position on the VFC Board as the Newsletter Editor. She is also Newsletter Editor for Area IV and the Brentwood Chapter. Area IV quarterly newsletters are posted on the NARFE VFC website.

Chapter 1293 was one of six VFC chapters with a 'Prospect Conversion Ratio of 40% or above (VFC Membership 2015 EOY Stats, February 17, 2016). On February 26, 2016, the chapter members participated in a teleconference with VA Senator Mark Warner (D-VA).

Chapter 63 was recognized as one of the nine best chapters in the federation for its membership 'Reinstatement Ratio of 65% or Better' in the VFC Membership EOY Statistics for 2015. Additionally, it was mentioned as one of only 12 chapters that had 'no net loss in Dues Withholding Members'.

Chapter 1683 has a strong core attendance at meetings; however, none of their members will serve in any officer capacity. Churchland Chapter President, Bobby Whittington, continues to serve as 'acting president and treasurer', and also writes and publishes the minutes for the chapter.

Chapter 1743 has been active in creating and maintaining relationships with our congressmen and senators. Dillard Horton (Area IV CDL) and I have met with them on numerous occasions. Due to redistricting, we will have to create a new relationship because we are now in District 3. At the Suffolk meeting in June, the speaker was Delegate Chris Jones. Delegate Jones gave a great talk about issues of importance to our area.

Chapter 1697 installed a slate of new officers: June Staton, President; Ella Anderson, Vice President; Florence Claiggon, Secretary and Raymond Staton, Membership Chair. Lyle Thoburn, Treasurer and Allen Earnhardt, Service Officer continued in their respective positions. Area IV Past President Bobby Whittington facilitated the installation of all the officers. The chapter publishes a monthly newsletter which is posted on the VFC website and distributed via email chapter members and Chapter 63 members that have email addresses.

Raymond Orland, Area IV Vice President



Area V Vice President's Report

At the beginning of the reporting period, Area V consisted of six chapters: Bedford Chapter 1068, Danville Chapter 1011; Lynchburg Chapter 110; Martinsville-Henry Chapter 1882; Piedmont (Farmville) Chapter 2080, and Southside (South Hill) Chapter 2079. Unfortunately, at the end of the reporting period, Martinsville-Henry Chapter 1882 is now closed.

This past year the chapters in Area V continued to meet and plan activities. However, as is the case with a number of chapters in the VFC, the majority of Area V Chapters continue to struggle in securing people who are willing to serve in leadership roles.

Chapter 1882 began requesting closure in the fall of 2015. When a chapter requests closure, first the VFC does everything possible to keep a chapter viable. Despite our best efforts the chapter did close in the spring of 2016. All chapter members were contacted by the VFC President and all members requesting transfer either to another chapter or the e-chapter were accommodated.

Danville Chapter 1011 also has requested closure due to lack of current officers. Again members will be contacted individually and that contact will determine the future of Chapter 1011.

Chapter 2080 continues to progress and they are the strongest chapter in the area.

Chapter 110 also continues to make progress and become stronger with their current leadership.

I attended all VFC Board meetings and the Region X Conference, in Virginia Beach, VA in September 2015.

I was happy to attend the 2016 VFC Convention in Richmond and I want to express my appreciation to the convention attendees from Area V, who chose to re-elect me for another term as Area V Vice President. With my re-election, I continue to look forward to working on the challenges in Area V.

I will remain positive and focused on the success of local chapters. It is my belief that NARFE is our strongest alliance to protect our benefits and secure our future.

Debra E. Laughon, Area V Vice President



Area VI Vice President's Report

This year working with the VFC President saw the official closing of the Southwest Highlands Chapter 2330. I transferred the remaining 43 members to the e-chapter and the majority to the Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837.

New River Valley Chapter 1134 has a full complement of Officers and committee chairs. Chapter 1134 Board meets on the even months and has membership meetings in the odd months. They publish a newsletter every two months. The letter goes via email to those with emails and is mailed to about 64 without email or who prefer to get the hard copy. The membership is 135 and they have between 12 and 20 to attend their meetings.

Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837 met quarterly during the period of July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 with the following programs and discussions of NARFE issues: NARFE Strategic Plan; VFC By-Law Amendments and legislative issues potentially impacting active and retired Federal employees; Fraud Scams in Our Communities presented by Sheriff Keith Dunagan, Wythe County Sheriff; Keith Wray, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Representative presenting information about the BC/BS Benefits for 2016; Mark Mustard, Director of Cardiopulmonary Rehab and Sleep Services, Wythe County Community Hospital talking about Sleep Apnea and treatment for it. In October 2015, Chapter President Mary Kelley and Service Officer Richard Johnson attended the VFC Chapter Organization training in Roanoke. Mary Kelley, Lead Delegate, attended the 2016 VFC Convention in Richmond and shared information about the convention in the June 2016 newsletter. In April 2016, we were officially notified of the closure of the Southwest Highlands Chapter 2330 and the transfer of a number of members to the Wilderness Trail Chapter. A special welcome was extended to those members in our June newsletter.

Roanoke Valley Chapter 111 1st Vice President, Wanda Ware, and I presented our PAC donation of \$500 to Virginia State Senator John Edwards in his Roanoke office. Chapter 111 President and their 1st Vice President, Frances Boatman attended the Virginia / West Virginia National League of Postmasters Convention and set up a NARFE Membership Booth at the convention. In May, the chapter welcomed 17 members that transferred from Martinsville-Henry County Chapter 1882, as that chapter closed. The chapter meets ten times a year on the first Friday of the month, with the exception of June and July. The chapter newsletter is provided by email and as a hard copy to those members that do not have email accounts, which is about 2/3 of the membership. However, with a large membership, there is still a problem getting members to step up to fill positions. Recently, the newly installed Secretary was replaced with the position being filled by the 2nd Vice President.

I attended the Region X Conference at Virginia Beach in September 2015 and the VFC Board Meetings.

I also participated in the VFC Chapter Officer Training in Roanoke. I used my church fellowship hall for the training and provided refreshments.

Mark Fisher, Area VI Vice President



Area VII Vice President's Report

Area VII centers on the Shenandoah Valley in far Northwestern Virginia. We are composed of six chapters (listed below). The membership has only dipped slightly this past year. Our goal is to increase our numbers to back over 1,100 by the end of 2016.

This year, at the 2016 VFC Convention in April, I was elected to serve as the Area VII Vice President (AVP). The April 2016 VFC Convention was a resounding success. Chapter 2358, Shenandoah County, contributed to the financial success by soliciting over \$2,500 in commercial ads. Chapter 2358 has been in the forefront of commercial ad solicitations for the past five years and will hopefully continue to do so as long as possible. Steve Dansker (the former Area Vice President) and I visited all six chapters multiple times during the year. In addition, I continued to serve as the Area VII Service officer, as well as my chapter's Service Officer and Alzheimer's Committee Chair.

In June, Area VII held its annual meeting at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg as we did last year. As has been the practice, all six chapters sent officers to get together among equals and share experiences. In addition to voicing their concerns and relating their successes, attendees received VFC information from the Region X VP Bill Shackelford, VFC President Kathy Arpa, VFC 1st VP Leslie Ravenell and VFC Public Relations Chair, Gaston Gianni.

Below are a few of Area VII chapter speakers/activities:

Shenandoah County Chapter 2358: County TRIAD booth, annual picnic, Sheriff Carter, Karen Doane (Diabetes Educator RN), Zach Hottel, Archivist for the Shenandoah County Library

Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro Chapter 178: Jerelyn Anderson (People Places in Staunton)

Page Valley Chapter 1793: James Northup, Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park, Page County Sheriff Chad Cabbage and Sergeant Steve Owens, Frank Bellinetti (Rehabilitative Services & Vocational Placement, Inc), Chapter Member Jim Blubaugh had a 45 minute meeting with Senator Kaine's representative, Joe Montano.

Harrisonburg Chapter 164: Dr. Rexrode (a country doctor and musician), Dr. John F. Sloop, Chaplain of the Valley Family Forum, the chapter manned a recruitment table at the Virginia Rural Letter Carriers State Convention June 26-28, at the Harrisonburg Holiday Inn.

Charlottesville Chapter 135: Lettie Bien of One Virginia 2021, Jason Kemp & Heather Short of Hearing Healthcare of VA; after much effort, the Chapter visited the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) where they briefed 720 government civilian employees and afterwards NGIC reciprocated with a Chapter visit.

Winchester Chapter 180: Congresswoman Barbara Comstock, Two of a Kind (Music duo), Sally Seabright (Violinist), Richard Hoover (Historian).

I will be attending the National Convention in Reno, NV in August.

Paula Dansker, Area VII Vice President



Area VIII Vice President's Report

This past year I visited the following chapters: 595 Colonial Beach; 2112 Caroline; 1549 Fauquier; 2343 Falls Run; 1885 Lake of the Woods; 2065 Louisa. I am also the President of Chapter 90. All chapters have elected a new slate of officers. The chapters seemed to be working quite well and any situations they had were similar to chapters in other areas. Some chapters had difficulty in finding people to step forward to fill officer positions but they succeeded.

Chapter 595 had a difficult year with the passing of two special members. Their Big Band dance lacked the normal participation so their annual donation to Alzheimer's was lower than usual. They had an annual boat trip to Cobb Island, MD and it was a sellout. The chapter visited Westmoreland Rehabilitation Center and provided lots of holiday songs and gifts for the residents. They were represented at the commemorative wreath laying services on Veteran's Day & Memorial Day and also participated in the Volunteer Fair held by Colonial Beach. Their membership was increased with five new members.

Chapter 1549 members attended Region X Conference. Three members attended the VFC training in October. The president gave a presentation to members on how to perform the duties of chapter secretary, and explained the audit process. Following the training, they set up a three person audit committee; held special raffle for Alzheimer's Research \$500.00 plus and sponsored an ad in the April VFC Convention program book. Two of the members attended the convention. The chapter distributed 100 copies of NARFE Magazine at medical and library facilities, after the rained out Warrenton Spring Festival. They added new members as a result of advertising and corrected their chapter name back to Fauquier. They are diligently working with some of the members on e-NARFE, giving them a choice to join the chapter or just e-NARFE. They have been successful in getting some of these members to switch over.

Chapter 1885 continues their bus trips to Charleston, WVA and providing interesting speakers at their meetings. This chapter is now established on Facebook and also has developed a video.

Chapter 2112 Region X Vice President Bill Shackelford, in my absence, assisted them on their concern about the lack of attendance and interest in the meetings, and the declining membership. They had speakers from the county administration, Ruritans Caroline Extension Agency and VFC Officers. They also brought food for meals to the Food Pantries to help feed the hungry; they continue to support Alzheimer's.

Chapter 2343 had a representative from Micah inform them about what is being done for homeless individuals in their area. They sponsored a community drive to collect food for SERVE and continues to support Alzheimer's with a drive called Light Up for Alzheimer's totaling \$3,000.00 plus. The chapter sponsored Bingo with 10% of the proceeds for Alzheimer's Research.

Chapter 90 continues to improve their financial situation. Their soup fund raiser continues to raise money for Alzheimer's research.

All of the chapters are in good standing and work hard to keep the chapters active.

I will be attending the National Convention in Reno, NV in August.

Maureen "Mo" Nolet, Area VIII Vice President



Area IX Vice President's Report

Membership is 3,809, a net increase of 107 over EOY 2015, representing a total of 144 new recruits. Despite successful recruitment efforts, some chapters are still seeing a net loss in membership due to deaths, non-renewals, and other factors. Recruitment efforts included attending two annual health fairs with Areas VIII and X; sponsoring neighborhood political forums for incumbents and candidates, and Adopt-A-Highway road cleanups; open houses at community centers; sponsoring a Document Shredding Alzheimer's fundraiser and recruitment tool, a cruise on the Occoquan River; an outing at the Potomac Nationals Ball Park, and visits to the Little Theatre of Alexandria; and participating in Fourth of July events.

All active chapters held monthly meetings and provided guest speakers and/or political speakers. Several meetings have attendance between 35 and 50. Each chapter sponsored well-attended Holiday parties, special summer luncheons and/or picnics, and other events. Area IX was represented at the 2015 Region X Convention, the 2015/2016 VFC Leadership and Legislative Training sessions, and the 2016 VFC Convention. All chapters will be represented by delegates or proxy at the 2016 National Convention. Notwithstanding substantial attendance at meetings and good membership numbers, vacancies in key Executive Board and Committee positions continue to exist. Principal goals throughout Area IX continue to be achieved and social and professional Chapter activities are successfully managed. Falls Church officially began closing in December 2015, they had 29 non-voting Falls Church members transfer to other chapters, 24 to transfer on their own, and 369 other members will be transferred.

Chapter meetings included a wide range of speakers and topics, including a Holocaust Survivor; discussions by professionals and VFC officials on the impacts of Alzheimer's; the National Capital Area Alzheimer's Association; family and personal issues of Caregivers; the heartbreak of Alzheimer's on the family and the types of care and treatments available for all stages of dementia and Alzheimer's. Other topics included: tax law changes, getting ready for filing taxes, computer forensics, cyber security, the History of Fairfax, the role of local police, fire, rescue, emergency management; how community outreach officials play in our daily lives, the primary goals of National NARFE's Strategic Plan, changes in the 2015 Federal Health Benefit Plans, Bluebirds Senior bus tours, the role suffragettes played in our nation's history, and the myths and truths about Islam in America. Many of our elected local, state, and Federal officials and opposing candidates have participated in our meetings and activities. Area IX does a great job staying in touch with its legislators through the leadership of Gaston Gianni, Stephen Ledford, and chapter legislative liaisons. Several members participated in conference calls with Senator Mark Warner and Congressman Rob Wittman and NARFE webinars hosted by Woodbridge Chapter's Tammy Flanagan. Through efforts by our members, we had Delegate Kaye Kory sponsor one of the 2015 VFC State Legislative initiatives.

Area IX raised \$18,419.50 in CY 2015, with three of its chapters being recognized at the 2016 Annual VFC Convention: Annandale, Springfield, and Woodbridge. All active chapters continue to do a great job fundraising for Alzheimer's Research, donations, 50/50's, and other fundraisers including the Occoquan River boat cruise and shredding event. Area IX had raised \$5,161.86, which was 45.7% of the VFC total. Joe Bush (Springfield) was recognized by the Fairfax County Senior Citizens Council for his outstanding volunteer service and Phyllis Maguire (Springfield) and Jim Little (Woodbridge) for their photos, which were selected to be included in the 2015 NARFE Photo Calendar. Many others were recognized for contributions to the community and their chapters.

I will be attending the National Convention in Reno, NV in August.

James R. Little, Area IX Vice President



Area X Vice President's Report

All six Area X chapters are in good standing, their Presidents and Boards continue to keep NARFE membership interested in monthly programs, speakers, and involvement in other events. Chapter members stay aware through their chapter's monthly newsletters, thanks to the many hours their creators donate monthly. They provided members to the 62nd VFC Convention Committee. The Committee held planning meetings hosted by Convention Chair Wilma Grant, and Convention Coordinator Kathy Arpa. Chapters sent attendees to the annual VFC Convention in Midlothian, VA - April 17-20, 2016. Very positive feedback was received from the 190 plus attendees. Convention profits of \$900 each will be sent to all Area X chapters represented on the committee. I plan to attend NARFE's bi-annual National Convention in Reno, NV.

Arlington - Chapter 7 - new President Bill Thompson: The total chapter membership is 751 members; voting – 689, and non-voting – 62. The chapter held several meetings - a joint meeting with Springfield Chapter, speaker topic was Alzheimer's – Caring for the Caregiver; a speaker, Mark Keen CFP and a NARFE contributing columnist, on Managing your Money; a Caucus meeting at Fairfax American Legion, hosted by Donna Shackelford, and a Virginia Legislative Training in Richmond. Bill attends everything on behalf of his chapter.

McLean/great Falls - Chapter 489 - President Rey Wong: The chapter held several presentation meetings with speakers. They included: Ana Nelson, Alzheimer's Association; Chester Freedenthal, Senior Medicare Patrol, who gave an interesting talk about Fraud Related to Medicare Services; and William Fort, a retired Engineer and a life-long Stamp Collector, who gave an excellent presentation. Rey also held a NARFE Health Fair at his company. He is, notably, our constantly busy VFC Treasurer.

Fairfax - Chapter 737 - President Ralph Thompson: Fairfax Chapter has been active over the last six months. They held monthly luncheon meetings at Fairfax American Legion Post. They invited members from the recently-closed Falls Church chapter to share their meetings; and some have showed interest in transferring to this chapter. The chapter has had a variety of interesting speakers each month; some included representatives from local Retirement Communities, Fairfax County Cable TV, and Fairfax County Senior Services. Some chapter members joined the 2016 VFC Convention Committee and attended the VFC Convention. Ralph is still actively working and is on medical dialysis several days a week Thank you for your many years of NARFE service, Ralph.

Vienna/Oakton - Chapter 1116 - President, Ralph Dantine: The chapter held monthly meetings where speakers discussed the following subjects: Alzheimer's/Dementia Care; Home Security; Tax Services and the NARFE Strategic Plan. They enjoyed social events including: an Ice Cream Social and a Pot Luck Picnic Lunch. The chapter's VP and Newsletter Editor, Kathy Arpa, was elected as the 2016 NARFE VFC President at the 62nd Annual VFC Convention in April. Kudos to Kathy! Ralph actively represents his chapter and attends meetings.

Dulles - Chapter 1241 - President Patricia Wolfe: The chapter held monthly Executive Committee and Luncheon Program Meetings. Handouts/training videos were distributed at their last meeting with Attorney General's representatives. They published a monthly newsletter with approximately 500 copies sent via U.S. Postal Service and about 275 copies sent electronically. The chapter's membership numbers and financial status remain stable. The biggest challenge is attracting members to serve in leadership positions. Pat is at the heart of Dulles Chapter.

Metro No. VA - Chapter 1665 - President Judy Willis: Some concerns include the potential closure of the chapter due to financial problems, mainly related to newsletter costs. Alzheimer's Silent Auction was successful, raising \$946. Several chapter members worked on the 62nd VFC Convention, serving on the Welcome Committee and Credentials, Ballots & Tellers Committee. Judy is a long-term President and she served on the Convention Committee.

Wilma Grant, Area X Vice President



National Legislation Chair’s Report

Very little has happened on the National front since December 2015. As Senator Kaine stated at our convention in April, because of the 75 day hiatus, if nothing happened by June 2016, nothing would happen until after the election.

Earlier activities included the following:

1. A continuing resolution to fund the Government through December 2016 was passed.
2. A transportation bill to fund repairing bridges and interstate highways was passed.
3. Medicare B increases were significantly reduced, thanks to the grassroots effort of many NARFE members calling their respective representatives and making their voices heard.

The NARFE PAC (political action fund) plays a significant role in advocacy by assisting Congressmen, who have a history of voting for laws that positively affect NARFE interests, to remain in office. To that end, during Fiscal Year 2016, 668 members of the Virginia Federation, representing 53 Chapters, contributed \$48,847.03 to the NARFE PAC. The following Virginia candidates for U.S. Congressional office received contributions from NARFE PAC for their election and/or reelection campaign fund during Fiscal Year 2016:

- Representative Robert Wittman, Virginia Congressional District (CD) 1 \$4,000
- Representative Robert Scott, Virginia CD 3 \$1,000
- Representative Donald Beyer, Virginia CD 8 \$6,000
- Representative Barbara Comstock, Virginia CD 10 \$3,000
- Representative Gerald Connolly, Virginia CD 11 \$7,000

Advocacy is the responsibility of every NARFE member. However, to coordinate this effort, the Virginia Federation President appointed Stephen Ledford from Annandale Chapter 1159 as the VFC National Legislation Chair. The following Virginia Federation members were also appointed to the Virginia Federation National Legislative Committee as Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLLs) and Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) for the 114th Congressional Session to assist Steve Ledford:

Stephen Ledford (Chapter 1159)	SLL for Senator Warner
Max Scruggs (Chapter 7)	SLL for Senator Kaine
Gaston Gianni (Chapter 1270)	CDL for CD 1
Raymond Whipple (Chapter 682)	CDL for CD 2
Shirley Driver-Kinchen (Chapter 2361)	CDL for CD 3
Dillard Horton (Chapter 1743)	CDL for CD 4
Edward Misker (Chapter 178)	CDL for CD 6
Robert Zombron (Chapter 2265)	CDL for CD 7
John Tolleris (Chapter. 232)	CDL for CD 8
Mary Kelley (Chapter 1837)	CDL for CD 9
Jon Joyce (Chapter. 180)	CDL for CD 10
Judy Thorne (Chapter 1241)	CDL for CD 11

In November 2015, Shirley Driver-Kinchen resigned as the CDL for CD 3; as a result, the CDL positions for CDs 3 and 5 are currently vacant. In January 2016, a VFC training session was conducted for these SLLs and CDLs.



Throughout this fiscal year, these CDLs and SLLs have been very busy meeting with their assigned Senator or Representative to discuss NARFE concerns and issues relative to Congressional Bills. Some of these meetings included: picnic meetings; a Vietnam Veterans Recognition Ceremony; political fund raisers; Holiday meetings; luncheon meetings; campaign meetings; Town Hall meetings; as well as visits to Congressmen's offices. These meetings resulted in Virginia Senator Warner and Virginia Representative Comstock holding open teleconference meetings, with Virginia Federation members, to discuss issues and concerns then being considered and discussed in Congressional sessions. As a result of a meeting, in November 2015, between Senator Kaine, SLL Max Scruggs, and then Virginia Federation President Richard Giangerelli, Senator Kaine agreed to be a speaker at the 2016 Virginia Federation Convention. It was later learned that Senator Kaine's name was on the short list for consideration for nomination as the Democrat candidate for the U.S. Vice Presidency. (Shortly following the close of the fiscal year, Virginia Senator Kaine was selected as the Democrat candidate for the U.S. Vice President position.)

Other Virginia Federation members were also active in the political arena. Included in this number were: Luther Santiful, a past Virginia Federation President, who served as a Delegate to the 2016 Virginia Democrat Convention; and Richard Giangerelli, the Immediate Past Virginia Federation President, who served as a Delegate to the 2016 Virginia Republican Convention.

During the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2016, some of the Virginia Congressmen sponsored health fairs at which the new Federal Employees Health Plan Benefits Program (FEHBP) plans and the Medicare program were discussed. Representative Wittman sponsored a health fair in CD 1. Representative Comstock sponsored a health fair in CD 10, and Representative Connolly sponsored a health fair in CD 11. At each of these health fairs, Virginia Federation members manned booths to pass out NARFE information and recruit new members for NARFE.

In total, this was a very effective fiscal year for the Virginia Federation National Legislative Program, even though some important Congressional Bills did not make it out of Congress and become laws.

Richard Giangerelli, Virginia Federation Immediate Past President

Stephen Ledford, National Legislation Chair





State Legislation Chair's Report

2016 has been a year of transition for our VFC State Legislative Program. Patricia Downs (Charlottesville, E-Chapter) stepped down as Chair in April. Maggie Keator (Peninsula) is now the chair. We owe Patricia a great debt of gratitude for moving us forward in our state advocacy and encouraging more members to participate in grassroots advocacy. We have focused on the following seven issues: Transparency, Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform, Senior Absentee Voting, Enhanced Protection of Incapacitated Adults and Indexing Income Tax Age Deduction to Inflation, Minimum Nursing Home Standards, and Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums. Five of our issues were supported in whole or part by bills or General Assembly Leadership action. The other two issues, Minimum Nursing Home Standards and Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums, did not gain patrons this session.

General Assembly best practices for Transparency increased in 2016 – meeting one of our three goals for this issue. Partial success was achieved with the initiation of a new House of Delegates' public notification system. The system provided more timely notifications of changes to committee hearing schedules. The House ended its practice of holding meetings at members' desks where the public and media are excluded. We will continue to work with our partners in the informal "Transparency Virginia" coalition to monitor the General Assembly's transparency and accountability practices. The Transparency Virginia 2016 Report can be found at: <https://transparencylvirginia.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/transparency-va-2016.pdf>

All 12 bills on Senior Absentee Voting ultimately died in the House Privileges and Elections (P&E) Committee. We raised NARFE-VFC visibility by asking the NARFE chapters in the districts of P&E Committee members to contact their delegates. We will work in 2017 to apply this approach to more of our issues.

Our Tax Parity Issue, Indexing Income Tax Age Deduction to Inflation, had nine related bills introduced. Three have been continued to 2017 in the House Finance Committee: Senator Mark Obenshain (R40) – SB733, Delegate Betsy Carr (D69) - HB693, and Delegate James LeMunyon (R67) - HB215. Several NARFE chapters engaged their General Assembly members on this issue. Great work done by our chapters!

Despite bipartisan efforts to enact Redistricting Reform, especially in the Virginia Senate, the General Assembly was unable to move forward on this issue. Instead, the federal courts have acted on this issue, with the U.S. Supreme Court finding Virginia's 3rd Congressional District unconstitutional (due to racial gerrymandering). New district boundaries for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Congressional Districts have been implemented for the November elections and, to-date, one senior Republican (Randy Forbes) has been defeated in his primary.

Delegate Kaye Kory (D38) sponsored one bill (HB162) on Enhanced Protection that was left in the House's Courts of Justice Committee. The committee is concerned about expanding criminal law due to the potential for "prosecutorial overreach." We will try a different approach in our 2017 legislative package.

Our 2017 State Legislative Planning Meeting was held May 25, 2016, with 27 members present. We revised our Legislative Plan and revamped the brochure. Some language was changed, our "senior" focus was reduced and issues were made more relevant to active members and the public. The 2017 State Legislative Plan should be available in August on the VFC website.

Margaret W. Keator, State Legislation Chair



Membership Chair's Report

Membership Trends - As of June 30, 2016, the VFC had 15,682 members; 3,091 were e-Chapter members. This is a -1.5% decline in membership (-5.8% without the e-Chapter members) for the VFC Fiscal Year July 2015-June 2016. For the first six months of 2016, Area VI had the smallest decline in membership (-.9%), followed by Area VIII (-1.2%), and Area III (-2.2%). Thirteen Chapters actually gained members (1697 Brentwood, 110 Lynchburg, 111 Roanoke Valley, 1837 Wilderness Trail, 2343 Falls Run, 1159 Annandale), or had less than a 1% decline in membership (1827 Seaside, 28 Petersburg, 1727 Tuckahoe, 1068 Bedford, 90 Fredericksburg, 2112 Caroline, 1241 Dulles). In 2014, only three Chapters had a net increase in members. Moreover, the number of new members is UP by 31% as compared to last year at this time, and the number of non-renewals was DOWN by 26%. There were 429 deaths in 2015 versus 437 in 2014.

Our top recruiter, during this period with an amazing 45 new NARFE members recruited, was Betty Mitchell from Chapter 5 Metro-Virginia Beach. Connie Bails, Chapter 737 Fairfax, was second with 21 new members recruited. Kudos to both of these ladies! I'm sure they would be happy to talk with other members about how they achieved these incredible numbers of recruits. On the down side, VFC closed four Chapters and is in the process of closing one of which has 350 members – mainly due to lack of members willing to become Chapter officers.

Prospect Conversion Ratios - Overall, we are doing a MUCH better job of converting prospective new members identified by headquarters into Chapter members. The Prospect Conversion Ratio for the VFC is now 33%, compared to 14% a year ago. Area VI had the highest at 71%, followed by Area II at 45% and Area VII at 44%. The following 19 Chapters had Prospect Conversion Ratios of 50% or above: 1757 Middle Peninsula, 66 Tidewater, 974 Virginia Beach, 28 Petersburg, 2265 Midlothian, 1293 Churchland, 1697 Brentwood, 111 Roanoke Valley, 1134 New River Valley, 135 Charlottesville, 180 Winchester, 2358 Shenandoah County, 1549 Fauquier, 2065 Louisa, 2343 Falls Run, 232 Alexandria, 1159 Annandale, 7 Arlington, 489 McLean. This is a significant improvement from 2014, when only seven Chapters had Prospect Conversion Ratios of even 40%.

Reinstatement Ratios - The VFC Reinstatement Ratio (% of non-renewing members that are reinstated) stands at 38%, down slightly from last year. Area V had the highest Reinstatement Ratio (50%), followed by Area VIII (48%), and Area IX (43%). Individual Chapters are doing even better. Twelve chapters currently have a Reinstatement Ratio of 50% or above: 685 Williamsburg, 1472 Colonial Heights, 1682 Chesapeake, 1697 Brentwood, 110 Lynchburg, 164 Harrisonburg, 1885 Lake of the Woods, 2112 Caroline, 2343 Falls Run, 893 Springfield, 7 Arlington, 489 McLean. In 2014, the measurement point was 40%.

Other Membership Activities - In November 2015, I conducted a Membership Training in Williamsburg focused on: role playing to teach Chapter members to bring in potential NARFE members; interpret statistics; use Skype to bring in speakers remotely, thereby broadening program topics to keep and attract members and allowing me to review charts and documents with Membership Chairs. I also used social media (Pinterest, Facebook, etc.) to market Chapters and communicate better with members. Since January, I have been working to create a Membership blog. The blog, which should be available soon, will let Membership chairs easily share ideas and will allow me to quickly distribute documents (e.g. the monthly Membership statistics for each Area and Chapter).

Beverly Thomas-McMillan, Membership Chair



Service Co-Chair's Report

Federation Service Officers assist all chapter Presidents and Service Officers in developing strong, responsive service programs. We continue to strongly encourage every Area VP to appoint an Area Coordinator Service Officer. In medium size and large chapters we encourage them to also select a service committee. Each of the ten VFC areas in the state will have an Area Coordinator (AC) for Service. The Area Vice President (AVP) appoints this person from the membership of chapters in the area. The Area Coordinators for Service, plus the VFC Service Chair, comprise the VFC Service Committee. The AC's work with the chapter service committee and assist them with service program efforts in the chapters of each area. The chapters should provide input through their respective AC's to the VFC service efforts since the AC is a member of the VFC Service Committee. A properly operated service program is an excellent recruiting and retention tool when the benefits are widely publicized. It may be one of the main attractions for non-member 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.

The following are some of the major accomplishment we have had since the last VFC Convention:

- ✓ Chapter Visit, Petersburg 28 September 2015
- ✓ Attended VFC Board Meeting Oct 2015
- ✓ Attended VFC Board Meeting Jan 2016
- ✓ Attended Northern VA Caucus of Chapters Meetings
- ✓ Chapter Visit, Louisa February 2016
- ✓ Chapter Visit, Caroline County April 2016 2112
- ✓ Assigned Facility Manager Duties VANARFE Convention April 2016
- ✓ VANARFE Convention April 2016
- ✓ Attended Spring VFC meeting
- ✓ Attended Full VFC Board Meeting (New Board)

We have provided the following services to VFC Chapters during this period:

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Mailed various cards to members (get well, sympathy, thinking of you)

Our short range plans for the next 12 months are:

Goal – Establish a VFC Service Committee

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

Objective 2 – Establish Area Coordinators

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

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



Public Relations Chair's Report

The VFC Public Relations (PR) Chair's primary function is service to NARFE Chapters in Virginia. The PR Chair supports and participates in VFC and NARFE activities. The three ways we serve Chapters are: provide materials (PR GOODIES) to assist in their membership recruitment efforts; assist in getting matching funds for any projects directed at recruiting new NARFE members and to be available to visit and speak at Chapter meetings. During the past year, I helped a number of individuals and Chapters in the activities below.

PR Goodies: The VFC, with the help of NARFE National Matching Funds, purchases items embossed with NARFE membership information. Our supply includes such items as bags, pens, note pads, sticky notes, magnets, letter openers, and can openers. The items are to be given to perspective members at functions such as: Federal Health Fairs, County Fairs, community events—along with NARFE Magazines and membership applications. This year, I had 18 separate requests from Area VPs, and Chapters. We provided about 19,500 items this past year. We will restock and get ready to meet your needs for the coming year.

Matching Funds help stretch Chapter funds. National provides 50%, VFC provides 25% and the Chapter picks up the remaining 25% of costs for eligible recruiting projects. We had nine Matching Funds Projects during the year totaling \$11,330. Seven of the projects were sponsored by individual chapters and two of the projects were sponsored by the VFC. The projects included the Suffolk Peanut Fest, Midlothian Open House, Harrisonburg Rockingham County Fair, Woodbridge Outreach Health Fair, Peninsula's recruiting table at a Postmasters' Convention, Warrenton Spring Festival, and the Woodbridge community shredding and membership drive. The two VFC projects were a recruiting table at a church ushers national convention and the reordering of PR Goodies. Chapters can go on the VFC web site (www.vanarfe.org) and go the Public Relations link for an example of how to request matching funds or call Gaston (703-508-4339) or email him gastongianni@aol.com.

Area and Chapter Visits: I visited the following chapters: 1823 Northern Neck, 1293 Churchland, 1549 Fauquier, 893 Springfield, and 1116 Vienna-Oakton. I spoke on Public Relations issues, the NARFE Strategic Planning Process. I also spoke at the Area VII Chapter Caucus meeting. I want to thank all for their kind invitation and their hospitality. As a member of this year's VFC Training Team, I visited the Chesapeake, Fredericksburg, Roanoke and Fairfax areas to assist in giving public relations, congressional relations and strategic planning training to NARFE members. I attended the Region X Conference and served on a panel with the NARFE National Treasurer to talk about the status of NARFE's Strategic Planning Process.

Support and Participate in VFC and NARFE Activities: I attended the VFC's 62nd Annual Convention in Richmond and developed several VFC Press Releases on the convention. I served as VFC's Congressional Liaison for VA's 1st Congressional District. I met with Congressman Rob Wittman on seven different occasions and we discussed important NARFE issues. I served as Region X's representative on the NARFE Strategic Planning Team. We developed a series of proposed NARFE Bylaw changes to help ensure that NARFE is able to operate in the 21st Century. The team's work was passed on to the Strategic Planning Committee and the NARFE Executive Board for consideration. Several items were accepted and will be voted on during the 2016 National Convention.

I hope this report informs more chapters of how to take advantage of our services. **REMEMBER: WE CAN'T HELP IF YOU DON'T ASK!**

Closing Quote: "To love what you do and feel that it matters-how could anything be more fun?" Katharine Graham

Gaston Gianni, Public Relations Chair



Alzheimer's Chair's Report

The past year has been fruitful with publicity concerning Alzheimer's disease (AD). Congress has been generous with financial support, and NIH has received \$991 million in research funding. Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Roy Blunt and Ranking Member Patty Murray were instrumental in securing bipartisan support for the largest ever increase in AD research funding for the second year. It is the most expensive disease in the nation.

NARFE has sponsored three and one-half grants for AD research. This amount was the total of \$479,208 which represents the donations throughout the nation July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. They are briefly as follows:

- Type 2 Diabetes and Risk for Alzheimer's Disease: Effect of Exercise
- Apolipoprotein E Levels: a Risk-Determinant for Neurodegenerative Disease
- Tau Efflux via Exosomes and Potential Plasma Biomarker of Alzheimer's Disease
- Probing Blood-Brain Barrier Integrity in APP/PSEN1 Mice by 19F MRI

Here in Virginia, we have donated approximately \$70,000 to the Alzheimer's Research. Our Federation total exceeds all of the Regions totals, except California. Many of our chapters in VFC have creatively conducted fund raisers and involved the community, thereby making the name of NARFE more visibility to the public at large.

As your Alzheimer's Chair, I have visited several chapters, and provided them with table runners, pamphlets, and display posters for their various events. I've researched for some members the status of their donation checks. I've provided guidance to chapters regarding their handling of Alzheimer's Research checks and monitored their collections.

The VFC Convention is always a big fundraiser. This year, in two and a half days, we collected a total of \$2,778. It included the 50/50 chances, raffles (purple bags items), silent auction and some variety of cash donations. Proceeds are broken down showing that the raffles earned \$306, and the silent auction and other donations collected \$2,472.

We ran a friendly competition among the chapters (small and large) to determine whose basket would yield the highest gain. Among the small chapters, Churchland Chapter 1293 donated a basket entitled, "Taste of Smithfield", which brought \$80 and for the large chapters. Woodbridge Chapter 1270 provided an "Oriole Baseball Basket" which collected \$150.00.

You should know that besides me, Mary Ann Giangerelli, (1241 Dulles), Paula Dansker (2358 Shenandoah), and Mary Heck (90 Fredericksburg) were very devoted and helpful in performing duties at the Convention Alzheimer's Research display. Good things happen when people work hard!!

Donna Shackelford, Alzheimer's Chair

