

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**



Virginia Federation of Chapters
Annual Report 2016 – 2017

President
Leslie Ravenell

1st
Vice President
Pat Taylor

2nd
Vice President
Dr. Constance Bails

Secretary
Richard Shrum

Treasurer
Raphael Wong

Past President
Kathy Arpa



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Introduction

The NARFE Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) continued to be a workable and recognizable representative of the NARFE organization during this reporting year July 2016 to June 2017. The VFC has a long history of making recommendations and offering guidance to federal employees and retirees. It was founded April 9, 1955 by NARFE members living in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, there are more than 11,000 NARFE members within the 48 traditional Chapters and over 5,000 in the Virginia National Division. These members include current and retired federal employees, spouses, and survivor annuitants.

Virginia is one of the few states that have a very active State Legislation Program. A State Legislation Plan is developed every year and presented to the Virginia Delegates. We support State Legislation that strengthens fair and efficient governance and protects the rights, safety, and assets of Virginia's seniors. We invite you to look at our Plan and our newsletter at our website at www.vanarfe.org

There are ten VFC Areas, organized geographically; each Chapter belongs to one of these areas. To find the nearest Chapter, go to the NARFE website, at www.narfe.org, and enter the five-digit postal zip code for your location.

The VFC holds a Convention annually at various locations in Virginia. This year's convention was in April in Williamsburg. Our current theme "VFC-Preserving Our Future" reflects our mission. NARFE has many priorities, but its top priorities are recruiting and retention and, of course, legislation. If we do not unite and work together, we will soon be losing benefits. That is our purpose - to unite and work and vote on issues concerning our benefits.

NARFE has Service Officers who are available to provide NARFE members, their families, and survivors with (1) aid in contacting the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) concerning benefits and programs, such as civil service annuities, survivor benefits, life insurance, income tax-withholding from annuities and health insurance; and (2) information on other important programs, such as Medicare, Social Security, and veterans' benefits.

The monthly NARFE Magazine offers essential information such as a powerful message from our NARFE President Richard Thissen, a NARFE Bill Tracker, and changes in health benefits, Medicare, long term care, upcoming conventions and discounts for members. Each magazine also includes questions and answers for employees and retirees and valuable information about benefits and retirement issues that affect the entire federal community, not just NARFE members.

As a NARFE member you can receive information at our NARFE National website www.narfe.org, including on-demand webinars, white papers, and information about the latest legislative issues.

Help us help you by securing our future and joining NARFE if you are not already a member.

[Join NARFE Now!](#)

Leslie Ravenell
VFC President
2017-2018



VFC President's Report

This report covers the period July 2016 to June 2017. Reports of activities by the executive board, program chairs and area vice presidents follow my report.

In July 2016, the board of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) met in Richmond, VA. The focus of the meeting was to approve the FY 2017 budget and discuss the resolutions for voting at the National Convention.

The highlight of the summer was The National Convention held at the Grand Sierra Hotel in Reno, NV from Sunday, August 28 to Thursday, September 1, 2016. 900 people attended the Convention including 42 members from the Virginia Federation.



Virginia Federation Delegation in Reno, Nevada – August 2016

Virginia was well represented on committees at the Convention with the following members serving: Dick Giangerelli, Resolutions Committee; Pierce Johnson, Legislation; Gaston Gianni, By-Laws; Betty Warren, Ballot and Tellers; Connie Bails, secretary; John Bails, Sgt. of Arms; and Kathy Arpa, Membership Committee. Virginia gave four resolutions, all adopted by the delegates.

Top NARFE recruiters were recognized by Bridget Boel, NARFE's Marketing Director, for their recruitment efforts during the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016. President Richard Thissen presented Betty Mitchell of Chapter



5 (Virginia Beach) with a silver award for recruitment of 63 members and Dr. Constance Bails of Chapter 737 (Fairfax) a silver award for recruitment of 29 members.



Dick Thissen with Dr. Constance Bails



Dick Thissen with Betty Mitchell

During the past year we closed several Chapters throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a result, several chapters reassigned members to another local chapter and other members chose to retain their membership as National only members. You will find detailed statistics in the membership report..

In October 2016, the VFC met in Richmond, Virginia and in January the Board met in Williamsburg, VA, the site of the 2017 VFC State Convention. In March 2017, Virginia had many representatives at the National Legislation Conference held at a new location the Adams Mark Hotel in Alexandria, VA. On the last day of the Conference, members traveled to Capitol Hill to meet with their local politicians to share NARFE's successes and concerns.

In April, the 2017 VFC Annual Convention was in Williamsburg, VA. The following officers were elected at the Convention: President Leslie Ravenell, 1st Vice President Patricia Taylor, 2nd Vice President Dr. Constance Bails, Secretary Richard Schrum and Treasurer Raphael Wong.

The Virginia Federation continues to take an active role in advocacy and takes advantage of their proximity to NARFE headquarters and Capitol Hill, as well as meeting with local politicians in their neighborhoods.

I cannot end this report without thanking all of the NARFE members in Virginia who thought of me during my recent illness and recovery. The phone calls, the visits, the cards and the special notes I received helped me through a very difficult time.

Kathy Arpa, President





1st Vice President's Report

During the annual reporting period, I served as 1st Vice President (VP) of the VFC from July 2016 to April 2017. One of my primary duties as the 1st VP is to serve as Convention Coordinator. I coordinated the 63rd Annual VFC Convention held April 2-5, 2017 at the Doubletree by Hilton Williamsburg, Williamsburg, VA. Areas I, II, and IV were the hosts for the convention; hence the Area Vice Presidents were the Convention Co-Chairs (Jeanne Garrison, Alex Atkins and Ray Orland, respectively). Twenty five very able and dedicated committee members from eight chapters in the host areas and the Board of the VFC gave their support. 2nd Vice President Pat Taylor also took a leading role in coordinating the convention.

The Doubletree by Hilton Williamsburg staff was very accommodating in supporting our convention committee meetings. The meetings were in September, January, and March at no cost. This helped to contribute to the financial success of the convention.

Keynote speakers at the convention were: Congressional District 3, Congressman Bobby Scott; Heather Snyder, Senior Director, Medical and Scientific Operations, Alzheimer's Association; Richard Thissen, President, National Active and Retired Employees Association; Jessica Klement, NARFE Legislative Director; and Bill Shackelford, NARFE Region X Vice President. There were 18 well received exhibitors at the convention. Lovely harp music entertained us at the Reception and the Strolling Silver Strings entertained us at the Banquet. 190 Virginia NARFE members were in attendance. The convention ended with a profit so there was no expense to the Federation. The 2018 convention will be at the Doubletree by Hilton in Charlottesville, VA..

Another major responsibility of 1st VP is to assume the duties of the VFC President in the President's absence. On February 27, 2017, the VFC President had emergency surgery. I served as acting President of the VFC from then until an election took place in April. During that time, I led the Virginia Delegation at the NARFE National Legislation Training in Alexandria, March 12-15, 2017. Of the 300 attendees, Virginia had the largest number of delegates. On April 3, 2017, I became the new VFC President. Sorrowfully, I closed the Augusta/Waynesboro Chapter 178. Happily, I attended the following chapter anniversary parties: Colonial Beach Chapter 595: 60th anniversary; Fredericksburg Chapter 90: 65th anniversary; and Arlington Chapter 7: 70th anniversary.

Although it was challenging to serve as both the VFC Convention Coordinator and Acting VFC President simultaneously, I was proud to serve the VFC.

Leslie Ravenell, 1st Vice President





2nd Vice President's Report

The first half of the 2016-2017 year was the usual quarterly Board meetings, chapter visits, holiday events, and swearing in officers for the coming year, etc. As VFC 2nd VP my primary task is to work with the Program Chairs which is a privilege. Program Chairs include: Alzheimer's, Donna Shackelford; Membership, B. J. Thomas-McMillan; National Legislation, Steve Ledford; Public Relations, Gaston Gianni; Service Officers, Connie Bails, and John Bails; and State Legislation, Maggie Keator.

Due to National Legislation Chair Steve Ledford's illnesses during the year, I was given the awesome task of revitalizing and reenergizing the VFC National Legislative Program. It was a great learning experience, and I had the pleasure of talking with members from across the state – and talking some of them into stepping up to fill empty CDL slots. Thanks to each one of you. I received recommendations from members, and after many phone and text messages, they agreed to serve. The final results were that all 11 Congressional District Liaison (CDL) positions and the two Senatorial Legislative Liaison (SLL) positions were filled. At the National Legislation Training Conference in Alexandria, VA we had a full slot of representatives – including the 5th Congressional District which had been missing a CDL for several years. MANY thanks to these members who stepped up to serve!!!

The next BIG event of the year was the planning for the 2017 VFC Convention. For the first time in ten years the convention was in the Hampton Roads area of the state – Williamsburg Marriott. The hosting areas were: I, II, and IV (AVPs Jeanne Garrison, Alex Adkins, and Ray Orland). When they asked for volunteers from their respective chapters, the excited members stepped up and did a tremendous job – lots of attendees, exhibitors, supporters, etc. The result was a successful event with the chapters sharing in the distribution of funds raised from this convention.

Unfortunately, during the convention, we learned that our President Kathy Arpa was ill and would be unable to attend. Shifting gears 1st VP Leslie Ravenell stepped up and did an outstanding job of presiding and leading the multi-day event. I received my "baptism under fire" while trying to step up to the 1st VP office and help Leslie when possible. Thanks to ALL who were there when needed and kept the convention on schedule and a wonderful experience! I also helped Leslie with the "follow up" convention committee meeting held in Newport News.

Once installed as the 1st VP a year earlier than expected, I set out to learn what my tasks would be and to help Leslie in any way possible. One of the events I really enjoyed was visiting with Chapter 1549, Fauquier, when they celebrated their 40th anniversary. Fun event with great food!!!!

I'd like to thank those of you who supported me during the past year while I served as your 2nd VP, and I also appreciate your support when I sought the office of 1st VP. No officer can be successful without the support of the members they serve. THANK YOU!!!! Please let me know if my assistance is needed in any way, and I definitely look forward to visiting more chapters and meeting more members across the state!

Pat Taylor, 2nd Vice President



Secretary's Report

During Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016, thru June 30, 2017), the Board of Directors of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) met five times. The meetings were at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotels in Virginia on the following dates:

- July 11 – 12, 2016, Richmond
- October 17 – 18, 2016, Richmond
- January 23 - 24, 2017, Williamsburg
- April 2, 2017, Williamsburg
- April 5, 2017, Williamsburg

The first three meetings of the Board consisted of:

- An afternoon two-hour coordination meeting of the VFC Area Vice Presidents, led by the VFC 1st Vice President, discussing Chapter activities, issues, and concerns;
- An afternoon two-hour coordination meeting of the VFC Committee Chairs, led by the VFC 2nd Vice President; and
- An evening three-hour coordination and planning meeting of the VFC Executive Committee, led by the VFC President and including the 1st Vice President, the 2nd Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Parliamentarian, and the NARFE Region X Vice President.
- A presentation of recent activities of the VFC President;
- A review and approval of the minutes of the prior VFC Board meeting;
- A VFC financial status report by the Treasurer;
- A NARFE Headquarters report by the NARFE Region X Vice President;
- A report of Chapter issues, concerns, and activities by each VFC Area Vice President; and
- A report of past and planned activities and up-to-date information by each VFC Program Chair.

In addition, the July 2016 meeting agenda included: presentations of a final report of the 2016 VFC Convention; discussion of resolutions proposed for the 2016 NARFE National Convention; a preliminary plan for the 2017 VFC Convention; a review of the 2017 VFC State Legislation proposals and approval of final plan; discussion of the preparation and distribution of the 2016-2017 VFC Annual Report; and the status of revisions to the VFC website.

Additional items discussed at the October 2016 meeting included organizational changes approved or discussed at the 2016 NARFE National Convention; plans for the 2017 NARFE National Legislation Training Conference; status of the 2017 VFC State Legislation Plan; membership recruitment procedures; the Matching Funding Program and related issues; potential Chapter closings; the current status of potential revisions to the VFC website; and current activities and plans of the NARFE Configuration Advisory Board.

Additional items discussed at the January meeting 2017 included changes in NARFE instructions for the Joint Funding Program; the status and closing of VFC Chapters; the NARFE Headquarters proposed Federation Bylaws and structure; planning for the 2017 NARFE National Legislation Training Conference; planning for the 2017 NARFE Region X Conference; submitted proposed bylaws amendments and resolutions for the 2017 VFC Convention; the slate of Executive Committee officers for nomination at the 2017 VFC Convention; the final plan for the 2017 VFC Convention; and potential for electronic meetings for the VFC Board.

The April 2nd meeting featured discussions of activities and issues related to the conduct of the 2017 VFC Convention. The purpose of the April 5th meeting was to ensure all members of the new Board understood their responsibilities and functions and had a schedule for the Board meetings and deadlines for Fiscal Year 2018. None of these Board meetings were closed-meetings and any Chapter member can attend. Copies of the approved minutes of any VFC Board meeting are available from the VFC Secretary.

Richard Giangerelli, Past VFC Secretary



Treasurer's Report

The 4th QTR (EOY FY17) expenditure to date is **80%** of the approved FY17 budget. The total contribution collected to the VFC State Political Fund ending in 2nd QTR CY 2017 is **\$185.00**.

4th QTR FY17 TREASURER REPORT SYNOPSIS ENDING June 30, 2017

The 4th Qtr (or EOY FY17) expenditure to date is 80% of the approved FY17 budget. The total contribution collected to the VFC State Political Fund ending in 2nd QTR CY 2017 is \$185.00.

4th QTR FY17 TREASURER REPORT SYNOPSIS ENDING June 30, 2017

Approved Budget	\$118,887
Income	\$94,034
Expenditure	\$95,028
Required from Savings	\$ 994

VFC Finances

4th QTR FY17 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017)

	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual
Revenue:				
NARFE 10% Fund	\$57,917	\$50,442	\$52,696	\$46,693
Chapter Dues	\$25,803	\$24,297	\$24,392	\$20,540
Other	\$5,440	\$7,150	\$8,507	\$26,801
TOTALS	\$89,160	\$81,889	\$85,595	\$94,034
Expenses:				
Executive Committee	\$13,452	\$11,674	\$11,835	\$10,292
IPP & Appointees	\$8,197	\$6,248	\$5,867	\$5,215
Field Operations	\$22,714	\$17,487	\$16,877	\$15,670
Program Operations	\$21,319	\$13,640	\$15,417	\$14,007
Administrative	\$32,247	\$41,017	\$32,874	\$49,844
TOTALS	\$97,929	\$90,066	\$82,870	\$95,028
Required from Savings:	\$8,769	\$8,177	(\$2,725)	\$994

Raphael Wong, Treasurer



Area I Vice President's Report

All chapters were given information on the vote to be taken at the National convention in Reno. There were questions and discussion of the changes that could happen. Three chapters had delegates attending and I obtained a proxy and the opinions for voting from the 4th chapter. After returning from the convention I visited all chapters several times and discussed the effects of the vote on chapters. I also attended the various December holiday meetings and installations of officers. In January, I had the opportunity to meet with Senator Warner's local representative, Drew Lumpkin. In March, I attended the National Legislative Conference along with other members from Area I.

This past year, Area I worked with Areas II and IV to host the VFC convention held in Williamsburg, home of Chapter 685. All chapters gave volunteers to support various committees. We covered all convention expenses and still had some funds to share among the participating chapters. Although the convention was a high priority activity each chapter continued with its normal meetings and activities.

Colonial Williamsburg Chapter 685: In October several chapter members participated in a local walk for Alzheimer's, wearing T-shirts with the chapter number. Monthly chapter meetings included speakers on estate planning, Medicare, and health insurance. Chapter Vice-President Bill Ketron also serves as the CDL for District 2 and attended the National Legislative Conference.

The Northern Neck Chapter 1823: Since the members live in different areas, the chapter meets at a variety of venues from museums to wineries. Some of their activities were an ice cream social, a fish fry and a fall picnic which included a raffle of a quilt made by a member to help Alzheimer's. The drawing for the winner was done by Congressman Rob Wittman who was in attendance. Chapter President Larry McIlwee also received an AVP award for his service to the VFC convention.

Peninsula Chapter 682: Marie Collins, with the help of some of the other members, worked to increase NARFE membership by attending local Federal employee conventions with information about NARFE. She continues to promote the Miles of Pennies Campaign to raise money for Alzheimer's. As of June, the chapter was working to complete the 32nd mile. They held regular monthly meetings with speakers on diverse topics such as: aging and staying at home and other health issues. A past chapter president is the CDL for District 3.

Chapter 1757: This group met monthly for lunch and hosted a variety of speakers. The chapter's main concern is the decreasing number of participants. They struggle but want to continue functioning as a chapter so they are doing a survey to see what members want that will encourage more attendance and involvement. The President moved in April so they need a new candidate. One member is working with me to secure a location in the Gloucester area for an area meeting in the fall.

Jeanne Garrison, Area I Vice President

Area II Vice President's Report

Joe Murray is the President of Chapter 1827 for another year. Other elected officers of Chapter 1827 include 1st Vice President Peter Amante, 2nd Vice President Nancy Mc Williams, Treasurer Richard Bourdon, and Secretary Lynne Papis. The chapter's delegate to the 2017 VFC Convention was Joseph Murray.

Margie Mitchell serves as President and Johnny Arthur as Vice President of Tidewater Chapter 66. Mary Asby is the chapter's Secretary and Vera Merritt is Treasurer. Committee chairs include Service Officer Arlene Arthur, Newsletter Editor Tom Van Tiem, and Legislative Chair Rosemary Whitehurst. Johnny and Arlene Arthur served as the chapter's delegates to the 2017 VFC Convention. Tom Van Tiem also attended the VFC convention. Johnny and Arlene Arthur served on the Facilities committee for the convention and did an excellent job. They are the new VFC Service Officers, replacing Connie and John Bails.



Alex Adkins is President and Burnley Rhue is the Vice President of Chapter 974. Fran Sansone is Secretary and Donald Warren is the chapter Treasurer. Committee chairs include Gregg Ferrito (Legislation), Betty Warren (Legislation & Public Relations), Burnley Rhue (Service Officer), PJ Adkins (Hospitality), Myrtle Durham (Sunshine), and Sylvia Butler (Alzheimer's Research). Regretfully, our good friend Myrtle Durham passed away in June. Many chapter members attended her memorial services.

A large contingent of Chapter 974 members attended the 2017 VFC Convention and worked on convention committees. They include Alex & PJ Adkins, Donald and Betty Warren, Fran Sansone, Jerry & Faye Fudala, Emory Dixon, Tom Biggs, Rosemary Stepnowski, and Jerry Hudson. The members of Chapter 974 worked on the registration and credentials committees.

Judy Bosnengo is President and Julie Hobbs is the Secretary Treasurer of Chapter 5. Bernita Townes is the chapter's Legislative Chair. Julia Hobbs was the chapter's delegate to the 2017 VFC Convention.

Alex H. Adkins, Area II Vice President

Area III Vice President's Report

Area III consists of five chapters in the Richmond area and surrounding counties stretching to Brunswick, Greenville, and Southampton counties and to the state line of North Carolina. They are: Petersburg Chapter 28, Richmond Chapter 60, Imperial Plaza Chapter 1510, Tuckahoe Chapter 1727, and Midlothian VA Chapter 2265.

Midlothian meets monthly; the other chapters do not meet in July or August. Colonial Heights Chapter 1472 announced it was closing due to few members attending meetings, holding elected offices, or working on committees. The chapter officially closed at the end of December 2016, and most of the members joined as national only members.

Petersburg reelected its officers and filled committee chairs. A variety of speakers spoke at meetings. The President invited Colonial Heights members to the October meeting to hear a Blue Cross/Blue Shield speaker discuss insurance changes for 2017. Membership Chair Roy Beasley provided NARFE materials to Ft. Lee organizations. The chapter membership is now stabilized at 160 members. Six former Colonial Heights members transferred into the chapter, but one died before he could attend a meeting. Per capita, this chapter raised the most money in Area 3 for Alzheimer's research. The chapter also donated a contribution to the Petersburg Public Library.

Imperial Plaza has 38 members. As in the past, most of the members are over the age of 80. President Edwin Heflin reported things are going well with the new owners of the facility. However, due to the age of many of the members, there are problems getting enough members to attend luncheon meetings. Mr. Heflin is now the alternate member of Area III for the 2018 nominating committee at the next state VFC convention.

Tuckahoe now has 100 members and has kept this membership steady. The chapter continues to offer a variety of speakers at meetings and does an excellent job of notifying members of changes which could affect benefits. The chapter uses both a telephone tree and a professional postcard reminder and both are successful in getting good turnouts to meetings.

Midlothian Chapter has 360 members and has continued to support this number. The chapter is active and features a variety of speakers that encourages good meeting turnouts. Unlike in other area chapters, officers change every two years, especially for president and the vice presidents. Most of the money in the treasury comes from profits from bus trips. The chapter also sponsors a bimonthly newsletter. To attract new members, the chapter takes part in the Chesterfield TRIAD Senior Day in the area. The chapter collected the largest amount of any chapter in Area III for Alzheimer's research. Former president Helen Willis is chair of the VFC Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Also, former president Tony Michalek, is Chair of the Nominating Committee for Area III, and Steve Stansky is chair of the Area 3 State Legislative Committee. Ten members transferred to the chapter, but one died before she could attend a meeting.



I conducted one council of chapters meeting in October. Chapter presidents and members from each chapter attended. I visited each chapter at least twice during the reporting period and installed chapter officers in three chapters in December. I also attended all four VFC meetings during the year, the state convention, and the State Legislative Working meeting on May 17th.

Jack W. McMurchy, Area III Vice President

Area IV Vice President's Report

Area IV has had a very eventful and busy year. We were one of the host areas for the state convention and we also closed our Portsmouth Chapter 63. This Chapter had been struggling for many years and the members recently voted to close and transfer to other local chapters and a few to other states. After the successful completion of the Portsmouth closure, we are now closing Chesapeake Chapter 1682 due to lack of leadership; it has no officers. This is not as bad as it appears; because most of the members will transfer to the Brentwood Chapter 1697. I'm working with the Brentwood President June Staton and the Churchland President Bobby Whittington to make the transition as smooth as possible. We hope to move the meeting location for the Brentwood Chapter to where the Chesapeake Chapter used to meet and rename the Brentwood Chapter to Brentwood/Chesapeake Chapter 1697. We hope this closure will increase meeting attendance for Chapter 1697. The Brentwood, Churchland and Suffolk chapters continue to be strong and active. All have meaningful meetings with speakers covering a broad spectrum of topics.

Area IV continues membership recruitment by taking part in various events such as Health Fairs and the Suffolk Virginia Peanut Festival. Last fall, the Peanut Fest ended abruptly, due to hurricane Matthew. The Suffolk chapter 1743 has already secured its spot in the Peanut Fest for this year. This includes submission of required paperwork to National for matching funds.

In March, I had the opportunity along with Dillard Horton (Suffolk Chapter), the Congressional District Liaison for District 4, to attend the NARFE Legislative Conference in Alexandria, VA. It was very educational and an experience I'll always remember. It was great to meet NARFE members from all over the country. As Area Vice President, I'm proud that the District IV CDL is from my area and chapter.

The state convention in Williamsburg was a success. With Area IV responsible for the banquet, reception, and meet & greet, I ventured in areas where I had no previous experience; however, I learned a lot very quickly. After the convention, I was proud of the results. I give special thanks to Bobby and Barbara Whittington, Dillard Horton, and Edgar Owens.

Raymond Orland, Area IV Vice President

Area V Vice President's Report

At the beginning of the reporting period, Area V consisted of five chapters: Bedford Chapter 1068, Danville Chapter 1011, Lynchburg Chapter 110, Piedmont (Farmville) Chapter 2080, and Southside (South Hill) Chapter 2079. Unfortunately, during the reporting period, Danville Chapter 1011 closed.

On a brighter note, the Piedmont Chapter continues to meet and plan activities and they are the strongest chapter in the area. The Lynchburg Chapter recently considered closure but after a visit from the temporary Area V Vice President, they decided to try to continue their current leadership.

Due to the terminal illness and the eventual passing of her husband, Area V Vice President Debra Laughon was unable to visit chapters during the year and attend the 2017 VFC Convention in April. VFC President Leslie Ravenell appointed Bill Martin (past VFC President, past Region X Vice President, and current President of Louisa Chapter 2065) to serve as a temporary Area V Vice President and temporarily transferred Chapter 2065 to Area V.



Bill's first action was to visit Chapter 110 and discuss the future. The chapter agreed to continue operation rather than close. This chapter has been in operation more than 60 years. Secondly, Bill developed a survey to send to the Area V chapters (except Piedmont (Farmville) Chapter 2080). Responses to this survey were still coming in as the reporting year ended on June 30, 2017. We will publish the results in our October VFC notes.

Debra E. Laughon, Area V Vice President

Area VI Vice President's Report

All three chapters had officers for the year. I installed officers at Chapter 1134 in November and officers at Chapter 1837 in December. Both chapter 111 and 1837 continue to reach out to the new members from the transferring chapters inviting them to attend their meetings; yet they have not attended any meetings.

New River Valley Chapter 1134 board is brain storming to continue their growth considering NARFE National's approval of optional chapter membership. They hold a social gathering every two months for a small group of members who enjoy the fellowship and learning about what some volunteer and service organizations are doing in the community. These activities are educational and entertaining. In addition, the Board is seeking to better understand and support the NARFE mission by considering what events and activities, what alliances, what actions to undertake to implement NARFE's mission statement. The chapter is engaged in several activities to increase their visibility and presence in the community.

Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837 participated in the following activities during the period of January - June 2017: The Winter Quarterly Meeting on March 21, 2017 with speaker Laura Blevins, Southwest Virginia Regional Director for Senator Tom Kaine, that included discussion of proposed changes in benefits for Active and Retired Federal Employees followed by a chapter business meeting; the Spring Quarterly Meeting on June 13, 2017 with presentation by Spencer Byrn from the Colonial Financial Group on "Strategies for Sheltering Your Assets" with the chapter business following. President Mary Kelley attended the VFC 63rd Annual Convention in April in Williamsburg.

Roanoke Valley Chapter 111 Membership Vice President Boatman is continuing her visit to various postal conventions and meetings to promote NARFE and is working with two active employee members with the VA Hospital to set up a recruitment table at the hospital. Newly elected President Harold Bryant has moved to Lynchburg and resigned his position as President due to the death of his wife. We wish him the best in his new endeavors. The Executive Board bestowed upon me the honor of completing the year as your President. Wanda Ware is the First Vice President/Membership Chair. During the November meeting of Chapter 111 we installed new officers at the chapter Christmas luncheon in December. Again, the chapter had a retiring VA Hospital employee to serve as the chapter's president and I will serve as the chapter's treasurer.

In November, I attended a health fair sponsored by Blue Cross; our local representative contacted Chapter 111 a couple days out thinking that this would be a good opportunity for the Chapter to meet and recruit new members. A special thanks to Keith Wray of Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. The event had a great turnout and the chapter recruited new members. Keith came to the November chapter meeting where I presented him with the new VFC cup. Later in November I travelled to Blacksburg to attend Chapter 1134's bi-monthly meeting and to install their elected offers. It is a pleasure to work with Del Dyer as the Chapter 1134 president. I attended the VFC Annual Convention in Williamsburg. Although my area had a small group attending, there were representatives from all three chapters.

Mark Fisher, Area VI Vice President

Area VII Vice President's Report



Area VII centers on the Shenandoah Valley in far Northwestern Virginia, and Central Western VA. We have six chapters (listed below), although we are losing the Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta County Chapter #178 due to lack of a President. We numbered 1,044 in strength as of February 2017 (the latest figures available). The membership has only dipped slightly this past year, but with the closing of the Staunton chapter, Area VII stands to lose close to 100 members from them alone. In addition, with the National By-laws change approved at the 2016 NARFE National Convention that allowed members not to join a chapter, these figures stand to take an added hit throughout the Area. Our goal is to hold our numbers in the range of 1,000 by the end of 2017.

Steve Dansker is the new Area VII VP. As the outgoing AVP, Paula Dansker, reported on Area VII activities through December 2016, and thus this report will concentrate on activities since then. The April 2017 VFC Convention was a resounding success. However, this year Shenandoah County Chapter #2358 did not contribute to the financial success through solicitation of commercial ads. Chapter 2358 had been in the forefront of commercial ad solicitations for the last five years and will continue to do so for the 2018 VFC Convention.

As AVPs, we both visited all six chapters multiple times during the year. In addition, Paula continued to serve as the Area VII Service officer, as well as our chapter's (Shenandoah County Chapter #2358) Service Officer and Alzheimer's Committee Chair. In March 2017, both of us attended the NARFE National Legislative Training Conference. In May, Steve and Charles Kawecky attended the VFC State Legislative Planning session.

In June 2017, Area VII held its annual meeting at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg as we did last year. As has been the practice, all the continuing 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 Leslie Ravenell, VFC 2nd VP Connie Bails, and VFC Public Relations Chair, Gaston Gianni. The discussions were very lively, given the National By-laws changes concerning the non-mandatory local/state chapter membership, and the expected one person-one vote on National issues. Also discussed was the referendum proposal that the NARFE National Executive Board wishes to put forth to the National membership to allow our present NARFE National president to seek another 2-year term (after having served 4 years under the current National By-laws).

Since December 2016, here are the speakers/activities of the Area chapters through June 2017:

Shenandoah County Chapter #2358: Shenandoah County TRIAD booth; Annual picnic; Kathy Bass, Blue Cross & Blue Shield; Cheryl Strickland from Home Instead Senior Care; Michael Combs, co-owner of Hearing at Home; Dr. Connie Bails, VFC 2nd VP membership & Service topics; April Lubkemann, Shenandoah Memorial Hospital Senior Outpatient Program.

Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro Chapter #178: Ms. Abena Foreman-Trice, Communications Director at the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

Page Valley Chapter #1793: Steve Dansker, President of Shenandoah County chapter addressed the membership in regard to the decisions made at the 2016 NARFE National Convention in Reno, NV; Annual Chapter 1793 picnic & Alzheimer's Fundraiser at Luray's Lake Arrowhead Park; Annual Alzheimer's Research Community Walk; Angie Brittle, Pharmacist with Elkton Family Pharmacy; Juanita Roudabush, Deputy Manager of Town of Shenandoah; Gina Hilliard, President of Luray-Page Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center; Jennifer Flynn, new Supt of Shenandoah National Park; Rose Ann Smythe, member of the Blue Ridge Heritage Project; Meredith Dees, President of Luray Downtown Initiative

Harrisonburg Chapter #164: Annual Alzheimer's Research chapter meeting Auction, chapter picnic in Bridgewater

Charlottesville Chapter #135: Sally Mank, Virginia Senior Medicare Patrol; Dr. Michael Rein infectious disease expert from UVA; Jody Kielbasa, Director of the Virginia Film Festival and UVA Vice Provost for the Arts; Chuck McElroy, from WorkSource, Mike F. Belcher, from the Federal Executive Institute; Paul Bethke, retired DOD officer who served as Commander of the US Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii where he was charged with the mission of searching for, recovering and identifying the remains of service members missing from WWII, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War.



Winchester Chapter #180: LuAnn Bennett, candidate for 10th Congressional District addressed the membership; Shatella Winters, Edelman Financial Advisor, Alfred & Gert Taylor, Missionary Singers; Geoff Byrd, Kindred Spirits Band playing Celtic Music; Annie & Mac, Old Time Music; Suzan Herskowitz, Attorney, wills & powers of attorney; Danita Robie & Richard Kennedy, Winchester Chamber of Commerce.

Paula & Steve Dansker, Area VII Vice Presidents

Area VIII Vice President's Report

As Area VIII VP, I have attended several chapter meetings and had the honor of celebrating some chapter anniversaries. All chapters have installed new officers. Some chapters are struggling more than others; however, all of them have kept their status as a chapter. For the first time, I had the opportunity to attend the 2017 Legislative Training Conference in Northern Virginia & DC.

We invited Chapter 90 Fredericksburg to a joint meeting with Louisa Chapter 2065 to tour the new Spotsylvania County Museum. They toured the artifacts warehouse and the new Museum in Spotsylvania Courthouse area; celebrated its 65th anniversary with a presentation from VFC President, Leslie Ravenell; and members were invited by Woodbridge Chapter 1270 to attend a luncheon with guest speaker Molly Checksfield from NARFE Headquarters. Molly spoke on pertinent items in the Legislative area.

Chapter 595 Colonial Beach, celebrated its 60th anniversary; held its annual fund raiser for Alzheimer's with a Harvest Supper with a surprise special guest, Congressman Rob Wittman. The chapter went to Westmoreland Rehabilitation Center in December where they sang holiday songs and presented gifts to the residents. The members took an August field trip to historic Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern, in the heart of Heathsville Historic Town Square, had lunch followed by shopping.

Chapter 1549 Fauquier celebrated its 40th anniversary and had 1st VP Pat Taylor as a guest. They had a special chapter meeting honoring NARFE Distinguished Members from the chapter where Dick Giangerelli, VFC immediate past president, awarded certificates and pins to those able to attend. They took photos of each person receiving their certificate from Dick Giangerelli and one guest was so impressed with the event that he joined NARFE.

Chapter 2112 Caroline had speakers from the county administration, Sean Myers, Senior Trooper, Sex Offender ID Unit; Ruritans; Caroline Extension Agency; Blue Cross/Blue Shield; and VA Federation Service Officers, Constance & John Bails. The chapter had a new undertaking to bring food for a meal by each member for the Food Pantries at different churches to feed the members; and Area VIII VP, Maureen Nolet, installed the new officers.

Chapter 2343 Falls Run has had a very difficult time getting officers and members to actively take part in chapter meetings. After several special meetings, a new chapter member came up with some different ideas and chapter members voted to meet quarterly.

Maureen "Mo" Nolet, Area VIII Vice President

Area IX Vice President's Report

Area IX has 2,896 voting members. While successful recruitment efforts resulted in a total of 19 new recruits during the first six months of Calendar Year 2017, the area is struggling to keep pace with the multitudes of voting and non-voting members transferring to the National Division. During the first six months 225 members have taken advantage of the new Optional-Chapter Membership policy, severely affecting every chapter's financial stability and their ability to attract leadership and other volunteers. Area IX continues to be at the forefront of Alzheimer's Research Fundraising, and encourages public and community service initiatives.



Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters: Area IX is a charter member of the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters. The group added each chapter president to the Newsletter distribution list to ease sharing of best practices and interesting program ideas. A great concern is the enormous number of transfers from Chapters to the National Division since the start of the calendar year; a total of 199 for the chapters in the Caucus. The Caucus represents about half of the VFC membership; therefore, it plays a more active part in the VFC: makes visitors and new members feel welcome, and encourages participation in the VFC State Legislative Planning meeting and the State Convention.

Alexandria Chapter 232: President Patricia Jack, Bob Miller, Phil Schmidt took part in Alexandria's Washington Day Parade. Chapter 232 attended the National Legislative Training in March. Several members attended the annual VFC convention in April. President Patricia Jack attended the Virginia Legislative Planning session in Richmond; Chris Farrell of the National Office, was the opening speaker. The group recommended keeping all but one of last year's priorities but did a lot of work to edit and streamline the wording. The VFC executive Board will review and approve at its next meeting.

Manassas Chapter 356: Manassas Chapter 356 continued publishing monthly newsletters and holding monthly luncheon meetings with programs of interest to our members. Looking to the future, they have arranged to have a recruitment table at a church festival at the Harris Pavilion in Manassas on September 16. They will obtain recruitment materials from Headquarters to hand out along with membership applications.

Springfield Chapter 893: Chapter members attended the Area IX and Area X Caucus meeting, the March Legislative Training Conference and the April 2017 VFC Convention in Williamsburg. Chapter member Dorie Waddick received recognition for her many contributions to Chapter 893 at the 48th Annual Older Adults Volunteer Recognition Ceremony held May 5, 2017, hosted by the Fairfax Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and the Senior Citizens Council. The chapter has worked to increase member awareness of Virginia legislative and NARFE issues.

Annandale Chapter 1159: Four members attended NARFE's 2017 Legislative Training Conference in Alexandria, VA, capped by a visit with Virginia Senators/Congressmen on Capitol Hill. Several members attended the 2017 VFC Convention in Williamsburg, VA. Mr. Stephen Ledford, Annandale member and VFC National Legislation Chair, collected over \$3,000 for NARFE-PAC at the convention. Two members were involved in the Area IX and Area X Caucus meeting on April 21st.

Woodbridge Chapter 1270: The chapter's Executive Board held a 2017 Planning meeting, and dealt with ideas and goals for the calendar new year: recruitment of new members; the retention of existing members; and how to deal with the new administration in Washington. On July 4th, chapter members took part in the Dale City parade. This is an annual event for Chapter 1270. Along the mile-and-a-half parade route they gave copies of the NARFE Magazine and other recruitment information. The Chapter received matching funds from both the VFC and NARFE Headquarters for this event.



James R. Little, Area IX Vice President

Area X Vice President's Report

NARFE Virginia Federation's Area X includes six independent chapters: Arlington, Great Falls/McLean, Fairfax, Vienna-Oakton, Dulles, and Northern VA Metro. All chapters are active and in good standing. Kudos to their current presidents, officers, boards, and committee chairs for their work in continuing chapter newsletters to better inform their membership; active chapter meeting participation where they deliver up many newsworthy topics with interesting speakers; encouragement of member participation, not only at the local level, but at Area IX and X Caucus Meetings held locally at the Fairfax American Legion. Pat Jack, Chair, runs the Caucus with help from Darwin Ransom, Secretary, and Jim Little, Treasurer. Jim Little, Area IX Vice President and Wilma Grant, Area X Vice President offer agenda items to help make the meetings interesting to all area members.



This spring's NARFE Legislative Training Conference in Alexandria, VA included meetings with Senators and House Representatives on Capitol Hill, plus a reception on the Hill, albeit in snowy weather but it included bus service to/from the Alexandria site and the Capitol Hill meetings. Attendees found the reception and face-to-face meetings with their senators/representatives to be very impressive. We had a very busy VFC Legislative meeting this Spring at the Doubletree hotel in Richmond with 31 attendees. Top it all off with the 2017 VFC Convention in beautiful Colonial Williamsburg, which drew a NARFE crowd, who enjoyed the musical talent of The Strolling Strings at their final dinner. We hold these events to help NARFE membership in Virginia, plus local chapters hold many more monthly. If you are a new NARFE member please join with us at any of our meetings, meet new friends with similar interests, form bonds, help our No. 1 charity (The Alzheimer's Association), and help us to grow even stronger in our efforts to legislate Federal Retiree and Active Federal Staff interests in Virginia and throughout the nation.

Arlington - Chapter 7 - President William Thompson: The Chapter successfully transitioned meetings from Culpepper Garden Senior Center to the Thomas Jefferson Community Center. The transition gave printed notice of meetings in the Arlington County's 55+ Senior Magazine. The first notice attracted three new member attendees and three prospective new members. The Chapter held monthly meetings and had a variety of speakers to include: NARFE President Thissen; a U.S. Marshals Service representative; Delegate Patrick Hope; and a representative from Arlington County. Chapter President Bill Thomson attended the April 21 Area IX & X Caucus meeting at Fairfax American Legion. The chapter celebrated its 70th Anniversary in June with NARFE guests: National President Dick Thissen, Region X Vice President Bill Shackelford, VFC President Leslie Ravenell and Area X Vice President Wilma Grant, plus a local politician.

McLean/Great Falls - Chapter 489 - President Ray Wong: The chapter held several presentation meetings with a variety of informative speakers to include: Lori Young, from the Goodwin House at Home (GHAH); Clifford Blasius, from the Cremation Society of VA; Chester Freedenthal, of the Senior Medical Patrol; Davida Leuhns, from the Foundation Fighting Blindness. The Chapter hosted public information events, and offered support and resource information to those dealing with vision loss. At the NARFE National Legislative Training Conference retired member, Eddie Eitches, organized Capitol Hill visits. As a newly-appointed VFC Senatorial Legislative Liaison, Eddie organized a visit with both Senators Warner and Kaine.

Fairfax - Chapter 737 - President Ralph Thompson: Ten members attended the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Convention in Williamsburg, VA. Chapter member, Dr. Constance Bails, is the VFC's Second Vice-President for 2017. She also received the VFC's Management Award for 2017 and the Second Place Award for attracting the most VFC Membership. John Bails is the VFC's Sergeant-at-Arms for the coming year. Chapter member Donna Shackelford is the Alzheimer's Chair for Region X as well as for the VFC. Donna works closely with Linda Meyers in support of NARFE VFC Alzheimer's. On May 5, 2017, member Linda received the Fairfax County Senior Citizen's Award for her work on the Alzheimer's effort. Ralph Thompson received a Certificate of Appreciation from NARFE National Headquarters for his 20 plus years of service to NARFE and to Chapter 737 in Fairfax. The Chapter presented him with a trophy for his many contributions in leading the Chapter during these challenging times. Tom Hart, our Chapter's Legislative Chair, attended the March 2017 NARFE Legislative Training Conference in Alexandria and the recent Legislative Priorities Planning Session in Richmond. Bob Sottile, chapter 1st VP, arranged for a Marine Corps Heritage Foundation "Semper Fidelis Memorial Brick" in honor of Fairfax's former President, Frank Kelly. The chapter held monthly meeting that featured interesting and educational meetings from a variety of speakers.

Vienna/Oakton - Chapter 1116 - President, Ralph Dantine: The chapter held monthly meetings with presentations on many subjects from a variety of speakers to include: a team of speakers from the Cremation Society of Virginia, a local tax preparer, and Mark L. Keam, 35th District Delegate for the Virginia House of Delegates. The chapter will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019.

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



Metro Northern VA - Chapter 1665 - President Judy Willis: The chapter appears to have stabilized financially during the first half of 2017. As of May 24, 2017, the treasury balance was \$2,476.70, although we expect to have a few more disbursements prior to our summer recess. The membership continues to slowly decline with a few people each month opting to leave the chapter and transfer to National Division status. As of the April 30 M-114 report, we had 164 voting members, six National Life members (non-voting), and 13 National only members (non-voting). This contrasts with the 170 members listed on December 31, 2016. Meeting attendance stays constant at 20, give or take one or two in each direction. The chapter held monthly meetings that featured a variety of programs from very interesting speakers to include: Ana Nelson, from the Alzheimer's Association, Holly Koons McCullough, Director of the Arlington Arts Center, Brian Cannon, Executive Director of One Virginia 2021, Heather Hurlock, Crime Prevention Specialist with the Arlington County Police Department and Stacia Turner, Recycling Outreach Specialist, from the Environmental Management Office, Arlington County Solid Waste Bureau. Judy Willis, Bill Armstrong, and Marilyn Mautz attended the joint Region IX & X Caucus meetings. Marilyn was also Chapter 1665's delegate to the VFC 2017 Convention.

Wilma Grant, Area X Vice President

National Legislation Chair's Report

This has been a very challenging year for the VFC National Legislation Committee. Our Chair, Steve Ledford was seriously ill for much of the reporting period. But as with any other team, members of the VFC Board stepped up to help. The National Legislative Committee consists of the aid of 11 Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) and two Senate Legislative Liaisons (SLLs). We started the year (July 2016) with two of our CDL positions vacant, District 3 and District 5. As we went through the year, several positions were vacant and we appointed new members. Because of redistricting, we re-assigned the CDL from Congressional District 2 to District 3. We appointed a new CDL to District 2, and 10 and a new member as the SLL for Senator Kaine. By the time we were ready to attend the NARFE National Legislative Training in March 2017, only the District 5 position was vacant. District 5 had been vacant for several years and we were so fortunate when in April 2017 Ray Brandenburg from Chapter 1549 volunteered to become the CDL for District 5. At the end of the reporting period (June 2017) we had no vacancies. Thanks to 2nd Vice President Pat Taylor for her help in the recruitment effort to fill all our positions. As a point of reference, in 2014 we had six vacancies.

The mission statement of NARFE includes the following: "to support legislation and regulations beneficial to federal civilian employees and annuitants and potential annuitants under any federal civilian retirement system and to oppose those detrimental to their interests." To fully support this mission, the VFC Board decided to fund the expenses for all 11 CDLs and the two SLLs to attend the NARFE National Legislative Training which took place March 12-15, 2017 in Alexandria, VA. Nine out of 13 attended. In addition, close to 50 VFC Board members, chapter officers and members attended this important training. Virginia had the highest attendance of any Federation out of the 300 attendees nation-wide.

On the last day of the National Legislative Training, participants visit their Congressman and/or Senator on the Hill. Due to the illness of our VFC National Legislative Chair, we needed someone to coordinate the scheduling of appointments on the Hill. 2nd Vice President, Pat Taylor took on this daunting task. The newly appointed SLL for Senator Kaine, Eddie Eitches from McLean Chapter 489, recruited by Pat, helped with this task. Turns out that Eddie had extensive experience in this area. As a result, meetings with 10 Congressional offices and two Senator offices took place. This is the first time in our VFC history that we have had such significant participation.

In March, Steve Ledford's health began to return and he gave full participation to the National Legislative Training and the visits on the Hill. In April, Steve staffed the NARFE PAC table at the VFC Convention. This year we raised more than \$3,000 for the NARFE PAC with one donor writing a check for \$1,000. This was a first. To summarize we ended the year with a complete National Legislative Staff, 11 CDLs and two SLLs and a NARFE PAC donation of over \$3,000. We had many positive contacts with our Congressmen and senators during the year and we look forward to continued success in the future.

Steve Ledford, National Legislation Chair



State Legislation Chair's Report

2017 has been a year of learning and expansion for our VFC State Legislative Program. Nineteen chapters have state legislative chairs, 13 were present at our session at our state Convention. 29 were present at our state legislative planning session, which represents 18 chapters. Three more chapters submitted proposals, but were unable to attend.

We introduced six of our seven issues in whole or in part by bills or General Assembly Leadership action: Absentee Voting, Enhanced Protection of Adults from Financial Exploitation, Income Tax for Retiree Health Insurance and Long Term-Care Insurance Premiums, Indexing Income Tax Age Deduction to Inflation, Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform, and Transparency. Our Minimum Nursing Home Standards did not gain patrons this session.

As a member of the all-volunteer Transparency Virginia coalition, we checked three areas of transparency - notice of committee and subcommittee meetings, and consideration of all bills recorded votes when defeating bills. The House continues to defeat bills without recorded votes in committee (12.1% received roll-call votes versus 85% in the Senate). Eight five of the 140 legislators signed a letter to the clerks of the House and Senate asking to add electronic voting to all committee and subcommittee rooms in the new GA Building, and if possible, into the Pocahontas Building. The House system of notifying individuals of meeting times and agendas has been good, but needs prompt implementation; the Senate could adopt something similar.

Absentee voting: 32 bills sent, one vetoed by governor, four passed. Most bills died in the House Privileges and Elections Committee. SB844 no excuse absentee voting (Howell), died in the Senate P&E on a 7-7 tie vote. Enhanced Protection of Adults from Financial Exploitation – One bill sent, HB1945 (Peace), broadens the definition of adult exploitation for purposed of social services law, passed both chambers and signed by the governor, Acts of Assembly, Chapter 195.

Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums: One bill sent, HB1035 (Rasoul) sets up elderly care savings trust accounts. Died in Finance Committee.

Indexing Income Tax Age Deduction to Inflation – Seven bills sent, HB163 (R.G. Marshall) is closest to our proposal. HB 215, HB540, SB289, SB685, HB693, and SB618 all died in their respective Finance Committees.

Minimum Nursing Home Standards: No bills submitted to adopt a minimum staffing level. Senator Dance (D-16, Petersburg) submitted SJ226, which requested a JLARC Study on staffing ratio requirements for assisted living facilities. It did not pass; but the relevant committee sent a letter to the Joint Commission on Health Care, requesting that this Commission conduct the study called for by SJ266. Del Hope (D-47, Arlington) is a member of JCHC and was made award of VANARFE's interest when he met with Chapter 7's membership this spring.

Nonpartisan Redistricting Reform: 18 bills sent, none passed, left in Senate or House Privileges and Elections Committees. If a Senate bill got out of the Senate, it was killed in the House P&E. Peninsula Chapter 682 members participated in a joint coordinated call/email effort with One Virginia2021 and the Virginia League of Women Voters to urge the House P&E subcommittee members to allow a full committee to vote on the three Senate redistricting bills (SJ290, SJ231 and SB846). More than 5,000 calls were received on this issue, the largest volume of calls in the General Assembly's history.

Our 2018 State Legislative Planning Meeting was in May 17, 2017, with 29 members present. Chris Farrell, NARFE HQ Senior Analyst, discussed the value of NARFE state legislative action and Dave Ress, reporter for the Daily Press, discussed transparency and openness issues across Virginia government. We revised our Legislative Plan by dropping the Enhanced Protection item to allow us to focus more fully on the other issues. We approved some change in language and will present the revised Plan to the VFC Board at its July meeting for revision/approval. The approved 2017 State Legislative Plan should be available in August on the VFC website. This November Virginia voters will select a Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and all 100 members of the House of Delegates. The House make-up today is 66 Republicans, 34 Democrats. Eight seats are open, seven



Republicans and one Democrat; no incumbent running, and 52 of the 100 House Districts supported Hillary Clinton in the 2016 Presidential election. All politics is local, so we shall see if there are any real changes in the political makeup in the House this fall.

Margaret W. Keator, State Legislation Chair

Membership Chair's Report

Membership Trends: After several years of considerable progress in slowing the decline in VFC members, overall membership is now trending in the opposite direction. As of May 2017, the VFC had 15,922 members, 10,767 chapter members and 5,155 National Division members. National Division membership has grown by 10% since January 2017. However, overall membership has declined -5.8% (-10.2% without the National Division members). As of year-end 2016, VFC membership had declined by -3.1% (-7.3% without the National Division members). We closed four Chapters this fiscal year. Many of these members have transferred to other Chapters, resulting in a 153% increase in transfers when compared to May 2016. However, transfers out are up by a whopping 530%!!! It is not known how many of these Transfers Out have transferred to the non-chapter National Division.

The number of non-renewing members as of May 2017 vs. May 2016 stayed about the same, while the issuance of Second Notices is down by 20%, this shows that more members are renewing without being nudged. Deaths also were about the same. Area VII had the smallest decline in membership (5.4%) followed closely by Areas III and X (both with 6.6% declines). Six chapters – 1697 Brentwood, 1793 Page Valley, 2358 Shenandoah County, 2112 Caroline, 1159 Annandale, 489 McLean – have increased membership or held steady. Some of these increases may be due to transfer of members from closed chapters. Once again, the top member recruiters this past year were Betty Mitchell (18 new members) and Connie Bails (16 new members).

Prospect Conversion Ratio: The ratio for the VFC overall is down considerably – 9.7% as of May 30, 2017 compared to 34% as of year-end 2016. Even though the number of New Prospects received from HQ is up by 40% from this time last year, the number of actual New Members is DOWN by over 50%. Area VI had the best Prospect Conversion Ratio (43%), just edging out Area VII (42%). Ten chapters had Conversion Ratios of 40% or higher – 2358 Shenandoah City (300%), 1793 Page Valley (200%), 1823 Northern Neck and 1510 Imperial Plaza (100%), 1293 Churchland (67%), 164 Harrisonburg, 2112 Caroline, and 2343 Falls Run (50%), 685 Williamsburg and 111 Roanoke (40%).

Reinstatement Ratio: The Reinstatement Ratio for the VFC overall has held steady – at around 35%. Area VII has the best Reinstatement Ratio by far - at 62%. Area X was second at 38%. Nine chapters had Reinstatement Ratios of 50% or greater – 1549 Fauquier (100%), 180 Winchester (93%), 1665 Metro Northern VA (71%), 2065 Louisa and 1743 Suffolk (67%), 135 Charlottesville (63%), 682 Peninsula, 2079 Southside, and 356 Manassas (50%).

I've added all the Membership Statistics to the Membership area of the www.vanarfe.org website. (Scroll down the left-hand column, click on Web Page Test, then on VFC Board, then on VFC Program Chairs, then on VFC Membership, then on Membership Blog.

Next Steps

1. To avoid closing Chapters for lack of officers, we need to work new members/attendees at meetings into the Chapter activities. Appoint a host for each Chapter meeting - to greet and introduce new attendees to the other members. Give the new members a job, no matter how small – bring cookies, serve refreshments, give ideas for programs, join in an Alzheimer project, etc.
2. To gain more new members - KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN - as to possible active or retired federal employees - that you meet or even among those persons you already know.
3. CONTACT the Prospects included in the monthly reports from HQ.

Beverly Thomas-McMillan, Membership Chair



Service Co-Chair's Report

Fair Winds and Following Seas! This is our last annual report as Service Officer Co-Chairs appointed in 2009. We appreciate the opportunity to learn and to grow, by being of service to the members and chapters of the Virginia Federation of Chapters of NARFE.

We began by following the guidelines in VFC Organizational Handbook as a pivotal point of Service activity within the VFC. We serve as a resource of Service Officer knowledge in the state and support a flow of such knowledge to the Area Co-Coordinator for Service and Area Vice Presidents.

We have responded to requests by Chapters in other States, Area Vice Presidents, and Chapters for speaking engagements throughout Virginia. We have visited Chapters in Farmville, Richmond, Alexandria, Colonial Heights, Abingdon, Petersburg, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, Roanoke Valley, Harrisonburg, Falls Church, Colonial Beach, Williamsburg, Virginia Beach, and Louisa to name a few. We attended all Area IX and X Caucus meetings, VFC Conventions and National Conventions.

Since service is an important part of NARFE, we have volunteered to set up a Service Center for Northern Virginia, Area X. We leave you in the capable hands of Arlene and Johnny Arthur NARFE Chapter 66, Norfolk VA.

Accomplishments

- Updated FH-10 Service Officer Manual (4/2016) for distribution to Chapter Service Officers January 11, 2017
- Obtained 2016 Q&A Booklets for distribution at January 11, 2017 Service training session
- Attended Fall VFC Board Meeting
- Attended Winter VFC Board Meeting Williamsburg
- Chapter Visit Farmville Southside 2080
- Visits to NARFE HQ, for Service Supplies
- Chapter Visit Dulles 1241
- Chapter Visit Mclean 489
- Chapter Visit Metro Area 1665
- Attended VFC Convention
- Purchased "Healing Grief" booklets for distribution as required when members contact us
- Attended all Area IX and X Caucus meetings
- Attended National Convention in Reno, Nevada
- Gave a Service presentation to Veterans Affairs active employees, Washington DC.
- Chapter visit to Louisa Chapter 2065
- Rendered services to VFC Chapters
- Responded to inquiries from various Chapter Presidents
- Mailed out Survivor Benefit packages to members without emails
- Constant contact with Headquarters to obtain F-100's for distribution at Chapter visits
- Mailed various cards to members (get well, sympathy, thinking of you)
- Sent Q&A Books to Chapters visited (Service Officers)

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

Public Relations Chair's Report

I start this report as I did last year because it is important and deserves repeating! The VFC Public Relations Chair's primary function is SERVICE to NARFE Chapters in Virginia. The three ways we can serve Chapters are: First, give materials (PR GOODIES) to Chapters to assist in their membership recruitment efforts; Second, to assist



Chapters in getting Matching Funds for any projects directed at recruiting new NARFE members; and Third, to be available to visit and speak at Chapter meetings. In addition, the PR Chair supports and aids in VFC and NARFE activities. During the past year, as detailed below, helped many individuals and Chapters in the above activities. Hopefully, in reading this report, more Chapters will be better informed and will take advantage of these services. REMEMBER: WE CAN'T HELP IF YOU DON'T ASK!

ALERT--MATCHING FUNDS GUIDANCE UPDATE: Make requests for matching funds at least a month BEFORE the planned event. This allows NARFE Headquarters to review the request to decide if it will support the project and to offer any guidance. National gives 50%, VFC 25% and the Chapter picks up the remaining 25% of costs for eligible recruiting projects. Projects need to place a heavy emphasis on membership recruitment and use NARFE M-2 Forms where possible. Chapters will receive their matching funds AFTER they process the final report on the project. Remember to take pictures, if possible, to include in the final report.

Matching Funds: Last year we had six chapter matching funds projects approved for a total of about \$3,000 and National contributed about \$1,500, the VFC contributed about \$750, and the chapters picked up the remaining \$750. The following are the projects: Suffolk Chapter 1743, Suffolk Peanut Festival Booth; Midlothian Chapter 2265, Chesterfield Triad Seniors Day Booth; Midlothian Chapter Membership Drive Open House; Woodbridge Chapter 1270, Float in Dale City 4th of July Parade (see picture and the annual membership drive and community shredding; Harrisonburg Chapter 164, Rockingham County Fair Booth. As PR Chair, I work with the Chapters to develop the Matching Funds Requests, help process the requests through the VFC and NARFE Headquarters, and I also help with the preparation and processing of the final project report. In addition, we received \$1,000 in

Headquarters' Matching Funds towards our replenishment 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. Need help: Call Gaston at 703-508-4339 or email him at gastongianni@aol.com



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 to name a few. The items should be given to perspective members at various functions—Federal

Health Fairs, County Fairs, and other community events—along with NARFE Magazines and membership applications. Last year we had 14 requests for PR Goodies and gave out 12,500 items.

Area Visits: During the year, I was invited to attend and speak at Areas VII and VIII Area Meetings with their Chapters. It is always a privilege to be able to make these visits and talk about NARFE public relations issues and what the VFC is doing to help the Chapters. This is an effective way to hear firsthand about the Matching Funds process and how to get VFC PR Goodies. Just give me a call and I'll try to attend your Chapter meeting.

Support and Contribute to VFC and NARFE Activities: In August 2016, I attended NARFE's 34th National Convention in Reno, Nevada and served on the National Bylaws Committee. The Committee supported the bylaws changes related to Optional Chapter Membership and One Member, One Vote; both of which passed at the convention. I also attended the VFC's 63rd Annual Convention in Williamsburg, VA in April of 2017 as well as the quarterly VFC Board Meetings. I headed a VFC subgroup to review the VFC bylaws to find changes that would allow the VFC to better use its Treasury Funds. The VFC Board rejected the proposals to go to a biannual (every two years) VFC convention and to permit fewer VFC Board meetings. Finally, I continued to serve as VFC's Congressional Liaison for VA's 1st Congressional District. During the year I met with Congressional Representative Rob Wittman on six separate occasions to talk about the issues that are important to NARFE.

Closing Quote: "Integrity is not a ninety percent thing, not a ninety-five percent thing. Either you have it or you don't!" Peter Scotese

Gaston Gianni, Public Relations Chair



Alzheimer's Chair's Report

Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is one of the most expensive disease any patient can experience. During the past year, patients spent \$259 billion for the aggregate cost of care. Of that amount, \$131 billion has come from Medicare, and \$44 billion has come from Medicaid. Out of pocket expenses have exceeded \$56 billion. These costs are overall three times those of individuals without AD or other dementias in people 65+ years of age. You can readily understand why it is so vitally important to find a cure for this condition.

NARFE again has a total to spend due to the generosity of its members. It appears that around \$450,000 will be available to grant to researchers when the NARFE Alzheimer's Committee (NAC) meets again the end of August. Many specialists send papers concerning an aspect of AD they wish to pursue, and the experts at the Alzheimer's Association choose 8-10 of the projects to present to the NAC. A doctor who is familiar with each of these projects discusses them with the NAC and a vote is then taken of the 12 members of NAC to determine which seems the worthiest for NARFE members to invest.

During this past year, the Virginia Federation of Chapters has donated in excess of \$65,000 to research. We are once again the Number One contributor in the nation and our Federation alone has given more than eight of the other nine Regions. Since I've been keeping records, Virginia has given more than \$1.1 million to the cause. You have been quite imaginative in raising funds such as shredding projects, dances, door-to-door collections, funeral parlors, and regular chapter meetings. A side benefit of all these fund raisers is that you are getting the name of NARFE out in the public eye.

Federation conventions are always a primary source of funds for each Federation. This past year, I collected \$3,234.00 for Alzheimer's Research while we were at the convention in Williamsburg. Our silent auction had a total of 28 baskets, 11 from small chapters (less than 250 members) and 16 from large chapters.

We also had one basket contributed by Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The baskets in the auction brought in an amazing \$1,652 for Research, and other contributions made up the remaining \$1,582. The cash donations, the small raffle, and the 50/50 raffle were the source of the latter category. Just for your information, we awarded \$800 in the 50/50 drawings. In a friendly competition, the small chapter's basket came from Churchland Chapter 1293 and yielded \$125. Woodbridge Chapter 1270 donated the largest basket and brought in \$200.

Mary Ann Giangerelli, Paula Dansker and Mary Heck from Chapters 1241 Dulles, 2358 Shenandoah Valley and 90 Fredericksburg, respectively, 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



**National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Association
Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC)**



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

*Serving Current, Former and Retired Federal Civilians,
Spouses and Survivor Annuitants
In Virginia Chapters*

Area I

Peninsula 682
Colonial Williamsburg 685
Middle Peninsula 1757
Northern Neck 1823

Area II

Metro 5
Tidewater 66
Virginia Beach 974
Eastern Shore 1175
Seaside 1827

Area III

Petersburg 28
Richmond 60
Colonial Heights 1472
Imperial Plaza 1510
Tuckahoe 1727
Midlothian 2265

Area IV

Portsmouth 63
Churchland 1293
Chesapeake 1682
Brentwood 1697
Suffolk 1741

Area V

Lynchburg 110
Danville 1011
Bedford 1068
Southside 2079
Piedmont 2080

Area VI

Roanoke Valley 111
New River Valley 1134
Wilderness Trail 1837

Area VII

Charlottesville 135
Harrisonburg 164
Staunton-Waynesboro 178
Winchester 180
Page Valley 1793
Shenandoah County 2358

Area VIII

Fredericksburg 90
Colonial Beach 595
Warrenton/Fauquier 1549
Lake of the Woods 1885
Louisa 2065
Caroline 2112
Falls Run 2343

Area IX

Alexandria 232
Manassas 356
Falls Church 401
Springfield 893
Annandale 1159
Woodbridge 1270

Area X

Arlington 7
McLean/Great Falls 489
Fairfax 737
Vienna-Oakton 1116
Dulles 1241
Metro Northern VA 1665

VFC Website: www.vanarfe.org