

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



**FY-2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

(July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

*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  
Monticello 2361

**Area III**

Petersburg 28  
Richmond 60  
South of the James 1138  
Colonial Heights 1472  
Imperial Plaza 1510  
Tuckahoe 1727  
Midlothian 2265

**Area IV**

Portsmouth 63  
Churchland 1293  
Chesapeake 1682  
Brentwood 1697  
Suffolk 1743

**Area V**

Lynchburg 110  
Danville 1011  
Bedford 1068  
Martinsville/Henry 1882  
Southside 2079  
Piedmont 2080

**Area VI**

Roanoke Valley 111  
New River Valley 1134  
Wilderness Trail 1837  
Southwest Highlands 2330

**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  
Loudoun 1133  
Dulles 1241  
Metro Northern VA 1665



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
<b>Executive Committee Reports</b>	
President’s Report.....	2
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President’s Report.....	3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President’s Report.....	4
Secretary’s Report.....	6
Treasurer’s Report .....	7
<b>Area Vice Presidents’ Reports</b>	
Area I Report .....	9
Area II Report .....	11
Area III Report.....	12
Area IV Report.....	14
Area V Report.....	15
Area VI Report.....	16
Area VII Report .....	18
Area VIII Report.....	19
Area IX Report.....	21
Area X Report.....	23
<b>VFC Committees Chairs’ Reports</b>	
National Legislation Committee Report .....	25
State Legislation Committee Report.....	26
Membership Committee Report.....	27
Service Committee Report.....	30
Public Relations Committee Report.....	31
Alzheimer’s Committee Report .....	32
<b>FY-2015 VFC Board</b> .....	<b>35</b>

## Introduction

This Annual Report of the Virginia Federation has been prepared to identify events that occurred during this past VFC fiscal year (July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014) that members of the VFC Board believe are significant and worthy of note. It is hoped that you find the information provided in the following articles informative and useful.

In the past, it has been the tradition to provide a report to attendees of the VFC Annual Conventions that was identified as an annual report. It covered the time period from one annual VFC convention to the following annual VFC convention. However, these reports, though they covered a 12-month period, were not really VFC annual reports, since the covered period, April to April, did not match the VFC fiscal year (July 1 thru June 30). Both the immediate past VFC President, Luther Santiful, and I believed that the report should be a true annual report and should be distributed to all Chapters' officers and chairs, not just those attending the VFC Convention. Also, by making this change, the true annual financial report of the VFC could be included, not the three quarters financial report as was provided in the past.

Please note, the articles in this report were written by Virginia Federation members that held positions on the VFC Board from April 2013 thru April 2014. Most of them were re-elected or appointed to the VFC Board in April 2014, but not all. To ensure that significant events were addressed, I asked that the previous VFC Board members write the articles, not the new VFC Board members who might only have been in office since April 2014.

Another change that is being implemented this year is a schedule change for the publication of the VFC Notes, the name of the VFC newsletter. Instead of preparing the VFC Notes immediately after each scheduled quarterly VFC Board meeting, it will be prepared quarterly based upon the VFC fiscal year. This change will allow the VFC Notes to address issues and events throughout the Virginia Federation in a more timely manner, not just the discussions and presentations from the VFC Board meetings.

I hope that these changes make sense to you. As always, your recommendations and comments will be welcomed.

**Richard Giangerelli, VFC President**

## Executive Committee Reports

### VFC President's Report

We began the year with a solid strategic plan in place to guide our activities toward our agreed upon goals and objectives. Our strategies were concentrated in the following areas: Membership Recruitment and Retention, Leader Training, Legislative Advocacy and Communications across the Federation spectrum. We assessed our progress at each quarterly board meeting and made sure resources and attention were directed toward the areas of most need. In between board meetings, a monthly status report in graphical format depicting total membership, dues-withholding, Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS) participation and total employed active members was distributed to all chapter presidents. We did not reverse the downward trend of our membership as our plan envisioned; but we did slow the rate of decline.

At considerable expense, we sent 17 VFC Board members to the Region X Conference in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Most of our attendees had leadership roles in the conduct of the conference. It was a chance to discuss our ways of doing business and learn how the other four states in the region tackled the same issues. We came away inspired and with some new ideas about how to grow and care for our membership.



During the summer, we held a training session for our eleven Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) and two U.S. Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLLs). We discussed how the congressional districts lines are drawn and how that complicates how we reach out to a member on behalf of our members. Each attendee was provided congressional member voting records on NARFE issues. Information was shared by the liaisons who work with members who support NARFE, for the benefit of the liaisons assigned to the members who provide minimal support. We stressed the need to have each member of congress support NARFE regardless of his ideology because federal employees deserve their support. Proof that this training was worthwhile was that three members of congress participated in our 2014 convention.

As my tenure as VFC President comes to an end, I want to express my appreciation to all members and especially the members of the VFC board for all the support provided to me for the past two years. While it is recognized that we must change some of the ways we do business, we can concentrate on the core mission of NARFE without losing the concern for the social and personal needs of our members. Chapters serve a real purpose in NARFE and I hope the camaraderie present in chapters can continue in some meaningful way.

**Luther L. Santiful, VFC President**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report

This past year (1 July 2013 thru 30 June 2014) has been a very busy one for all of the members of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Board. An indication of how busy it has been is indicated in the other articles in this Annual Report.

In September 2013, 16 other members of the VFC and I represented Virginia at the five-state NARFE Region X Conference in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. A picture of all of the VFC attendees is included in the VFC President's report; however, although this shows people standing around for a group picture, do not believe that it was a boondoggle. Past VFC President Bill Shackelford organized this Conference as a working session to present ideas and discussions on issues and problems common to all five NARFE Federations. A number of VFC members played significant roles in the presentations and discussions. This picture is probably more representative of the Conference.



In September, I also began the organizational work for the 2014 NARFE VFC Convention, scheduled for April 2014. I was the VFC Coordinator for the Convention, as well as the Database Manager. Debra Laughon, the VFC Area V Vice President, and Wanda Ware, the VFC Area VI Vice President, were co-chairs of the Convention Committee. The Convention Committee included members of VFC Areas III, V, VI, VIII, and X; and members of VFC Area IX provided additional assistance. This Convention was attended by 198 registrants and included speeches by one U.S. Senator and two U.S. Congressmen, by a number of representatives from the NARFE National Headquarters, and by candidates for NARFE National officer positions. The 2013 R. David Smith Award nominees were recognized and the award was presented to Marie Collins of Chapter 682. A number of Membership recruitment awards were also presented. The Convention incorporated a number of different training sessions, including a training session for new Chapter officers. Three proposed VFC Bylaws amendments and two proposed Resolutions were proposed and approved. A new slate of VFC Executive Committee officers, VFC Area Vice Presidents, and VFC Nominating Committee members were elected and some changes to the appointed positions on the VFC Board were announced. Even though there were some glitches, the Convention appeared to be another successful one. However, primarily as a result of new hotel restrictions and charges, the Convention did not turn out as a financial success and resulted in additional costs to the VFC of approximately \$800. For this and other reasons, it was decided to move the location of the 2015 NARFE VFC Convention from Midlothian to Fredericksburg.

Chapter officer training was conducted by a VFC team, which included Leslie Ravenell, Raphael Wong, and myself, at various locations around the State. Due to low registration numbers, the training

scheduled for Roanoke and Harrisonburg was cancelled; and snow and ice problems caused scheduling problems for the training in Midlothian, Newport News, and Fairfax. However, over 100 members received this training, which included discussions of the VFC functions and responsibilities, the Chapter Presidents' and Vice Presidents' functions and responsibilities, the Chapter Secretaries' functions and responsibilities, and the Chapter Treasurers' functions and responsibilities. A review of the training evaluations indicated that the training was well received and pertinent.

The rest of the year was a blur of activity for me. It included a Peninsula Chapter 682 meeting in October, a Shenandoah County Chapter 2358 meeting and a Springfield Chapter 893 meeting in December, a Tech Town Hall meeting by Senator Warner and Congressman Wolf in January, a Colonial Beach Chapter 595 meeting in February, a VFC State Legislation Planning meeting in June, and of course the quarterly VFC Board meetings. In addition, there were all of those other family and household responsibilities that also needed attention.

In closing, I want to thank you for electing me VFC President for the year beginning in April 2014. Some old issues continue to need to be addressed and some new issues have developed. I will do my best to ensure the continued success of the Virginia Federation.

**Richard Giangerelli, VFC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report**

There are seven individuals on the VFC Board who serve as Program Chairs who provide services to more than 15,000 NARFE members and spousal annuitants throughout Virginia. Serving on the Board for 2013-2014 were:

- Dennis Martin who served as the VFC membership chair. During the last quarter of 2014, Dennis Martin resigned as our membership chair. Fortunately, B.J. Thomas-McMillan stepped in to take over his duties. Thank you, Dennis, for your service.
- Connie and John Bails who served as the VFC co-service officers
- Patti Downs who served as the VFC state legislation chair
- Gaston Gianni who served as the VFC public relations chair
- Tom Hall who served as the VFC national legislation chair, and
- Donna Shackelford who served as the VFC Alzheimer's chair.

I would like to welcome Betty Warren back to the Board as our membership retention coordinator and Jim Brewer as our national legislation chair.

B.J. took off running after learning the ropes from Dennis Martin and shared vital membership information on a monthly basis. Membership contests were held, with one member winning a one week stay at a timeshare in Florida and other members winning monetary rewards for classifications that included small, medium, or large chapters.

Connie and John visited many chapters throughout Virginia and really impressed the other NARFE members in Region X with their presentations at Pigeon Forge last September.

Patti Downs is now in her second year and did a wonderful job preparing the 2014 State Legislation Plan and has prepared several outstanding newsletters during the past year, which are posted on the VFC website.

Gaston's enthusiasm for PR is contagious. He visited many chapters and was always available to send out "goodies" to chapters who were hosting a membership drive or health fair. He also assisted chapters with matching funds projects.

Tom Hall kept us informed of legislative issues and the status of contributions to politicians in our areas. He worked hard to get Congressional District Liaisons for all the areas that were District Liaisons for all the areas that were restructured as a result of redistricting.



Back row left to right – Gaston Gianni, John Bails  
Tom Hall, Patti Downs, & B.J. Thomas-McMillan  
Front row left to right – Connie Bails &  
Donna Shackelford

Donna had another successful year and shared the latest reports on research and contributions for Alzheimer's research, which continued to roll in every month.

In the following pages of this annual report, you will find detailed reports of the activities of each Program Chair. I encourage you to share your thoughts and suggestions with our Program Chairs about your needs and the directions NARFE should take as we look down the road to the future.

The VFC developed training programs to train new officers and the biennial VFC Chapter training was scheduled for January and February. Although I participated in the planning and preparation of material for the training, I was unable to participate because of weather cancellations and other commitments. Fortunately, Leslie Ravenell was able to step in for me for my portion of the training, which went off without a hitch. Original plans to hold the training in the fall were not practical for a variety of reasons; however, we may attempt to provide it in the fall of 2015.

In April, we located a new venue for the 2015 VFC State Convention, which will be presented on April 12-15, 2015 at the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center. It will be hosted by Area IX under the direction of Pierce Johnson, Area Vice President; and I will be the VFC Convention Coordinator.

We closed out the fiscal year with the VFC State Legislation Planning Meeting in Richmond on June 10. Pattie Downs, VFC State Legislation Chair, presided over the 30 NARFE members in attendance in an attempt to develop a 2015 State Legislation Plan, and possibly a multi-year plan, to present a list of VFC issues for the Virginia General Assembly session. A draft of the new 2015 State Legislation Plan will be presented for approval to the VFC Board in July.



I would like to thank all the Program Chairs who served with me on the Board during the past two years. I appreciated their hard work and expertise.

At the 2014 VFC Convention I was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the VFC and am looking forward to working again with the 10 area vice presidents. I served three years as the Area Vice President for Area X a few years ago.

**Kathy Arpa, VFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

### **Secretary's Report**

The budget adopted for the 2014 Fiscal Year included funding for attendance at the NARFE Region X Conference in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for members of the VFC Board and for several members of chapters. The VFC Board voted to provide VFC State PAC funds to some candidates running only in the current election for the General Assembly. Checks of \$500 were disbursed to the following candidates running in the November elections:

- Mark D. Sickles, House of Delegates (HOD) candidate, District 43;
- Scott Surovell, HOD candidate, District 44;
- Thomas Rust, HOD candidate, District 86;
- Kirk Cox HOD, candidate, District 66;
- Rosalyn Dance, HOD candidate, District 63; and
- Todd Gilbert, HOD candidate, District 15.

The VFC Board adopted a State Legislation plan for the 2014 session of the General Assembly, and General Assembly members willing to sponsor various pieces of the plan were identified.

Dennis Martin, the VFC Membership Chairman for several years, resigned and was replaced by B.J. Thomas-McMillan.

In January, the VFC Board reprogrammed \$2,000 of unused funds from the Region 10 Conference to fund a special meeting of the VFC Constitution and Bylaws Committee, in preparation for the 2014 VFC Convention.

Four proposed amendments to the VFC Bylaws were presented and approved at the 2014 VFC Convention. In addition, one proposed resolution was approved to be forwarded for consideration at the 2014 NARFE National Convention.

**William Schmidt, VFC Secretary**

## Treasurer's Report

I am happy to report that at the end of Fiscal Year 2014, the VFC is in sound financial condition. The following unaudited financial report, indicating the budgeted and actual income and expenses for the VFC Board, is provided for your information. Although the actual revenues were \$10,510 less than expected, the actual expenses were \$38,196 less than expected. The result is that in Fiscal Year 2014, the VFC had a positive cash flow of \$27,686.

<b>Revenues</b>	<b>13-14 BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>DIFFERENCE</b>
NARFE 10% Funds	\$60,000	\$57,917	\$2,083
Chapter Dues	\$30,000	\$25,803	\$4,197
Reimbursed Expenses	\$500	\$591	-\$91
Miscellaneous Income	\$3,000	\$50	\$2,950
Interest	\$1,170	\$891	\$289
NARFE Match Funds	\$4,000	\$2,718	\$1,282
VFC Convention Reimburse	\$1,000	\$1,200	-\$200
Prior Year Carryover	\$36,455	\$36,455	\$0
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$136,125</b>	<b>\$125,615</b>	<b>\$10,510</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Executive Committee</b>			
President	\$5,340	\$3,531	\$1,809
1st Vice President	\$3,800	\$2,621	\$1,179
2nd Vice President	\$2,325	\$2,062	\$263
Secretary	\$2,300	\$2,019	\$281
Treasurer	\$4,340	\$3,219	\$1,121
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$18,105</b>	<b>\$13,452</b>	<b>\$4,653</b>
<b>PP and Appointees</b>			
Immediate Past President	\$1,950	\$2,270	-\$320
Parliamentarian	\$1,600	\$1,420	\$180
Chaplain	\$2,350	\$1,742	\$608
Bylaws Committee	\$2,200	\$0	\$2,200
Sgt-at-Arms	\$700	\$434	\$266
Nominating Committee	\$450	\$688	-\$238
PRS Coordinator	\$0	\$0	\$0
Web Masters	\$1,125	\$1,643	-\$518
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$10,375</b>	<b>\$8,197</b>	<b>\$2,178</b>
<b>Area Vice Presidents</b>			
AVP I	\$2,400	\$1,748	\$652
AVP II	\$2,300	\$1,884	\$416
AVP III	\$2,550	\$2,290	\$260
AVP IV	\$2,000	\$1,474	\$526
AVP V	\$3,100	\$2,632	\$468
AVP VI	\$3,000	\$2,360	\$640
AVP VII	\$3,300	\$3,428	-\$128
AVP VIII	\$3,000	\$2,731	\$269

<b>AVPs (cont.)</b>			
AVP IX	\$2,500	\$2,623	-\$123
AVP X	\$2,275	\$1,544	\$731
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$26,425</b>	<b>\$22,714</b>	<b>\$3,711</b>
<b>Program Chairs</b>			
NL Chair	\$3,800	\$1,776	\$2,024
CDL's & SLL's	\$1,000	\$949	\$51
SL Chair	\$2,320	\$1,691	\$629
SL Rep.	\$1,650	\$77	\$1,573
Membership Chair	\$3,750	\$2,282	\$1,468
Public Relations Chair	\$6,875	\$7,002	-\$127
Co-Service Officers	\$5,000	\$5,373	-\$373
Alzheimer's Chair	\$3,400	\$2,169	\$1,231
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$27,795</b>	<b>\$21,319</b>	<b>\$6,476</b>
<b>Administrative</b>			
Convention advance	\$1,000	\$2,025	-\$1,025
Awards/Gifts	\$1,000	\$26	\$974
Nat'l Legislative & Trng Meeting	\$0	\$47	-\$47
Chapter Officer Training	\$8,000	\$2,692	\$5,308
Member Contest	\$1,000	\$900	\$100
Hotel	\$3,000	\$3,247	-\$247
Donations	\$500	\$100	\$400
Member Recruitment	\$6,000	\$5,422	\$578
President's Special Meeting	\$1,275	\$971	\$304
President's Special Breakfast	\$0	\$271	-\$271
State Legislation Meeting	\$1,650	\$1,703	\$53
Newsletter	\$1,500	\$517	\$983
National Convention	\$0	\$0	\$0
Region X Conference	\$19,000	\$13,200	\$5,800
Web Site	\$500	\$144	\$356
Matching Funds	\$6,000	\$654	\$5,346
Miscellaneous	\$3,000	\$328	\$2,672
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$53,425</b>	<b>\$32,247</b>	<b>\$21,178</b>
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$136,125</b>	<b>\$97,929</b>	<b>\$38,196</b>

Raphael Wong, VFC Treasurer

## Area Vice Presidents' Reports

### Area I Report

As another VFC year drew to a close, I sat down to think about what we'd accomplished in Area I during the past months. I must admit, I'm very pleased with the efforts displayed by all four Area I chapters: 682 (Peninsula); 685 (Williamsburg); 1757 (Middle Peninsula); and 1823 (Northern Neck).

As noted before, these chapters cover diverse areas in many ways – urban, a little rural, tourist mecca, military oriented, etc. But most of the members, regardless of the area or the size of the population, truly believe in NARFE and work diligently to promote its mission. During the past year most of our concerted efforts have been on advocacy and membership recruitment and retention.

We have concentrated most of the time promoting advocacy through meetings with numerous members of Congress. There were some drastic changes in Congressional districts with the redistricting during the year, and that has brought about several changes with CDL's and Vice CDL's. In the past, most of the members of Chapter 682 were in the 1<sup>st</sup> District (Congressman Wittman). Now less than 200 Peninsula members remain in the 1<sup>st</sup> District, with the remaining 600 members being in three other districts – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup>. The other three chapters are in the 1<sup>st</sup> District.

Congressman Scott Rigell (2<sup>nd</sup> District) picked up 80,000 constituents on the Peninsula, so that greatly affected the contacts developed by members of Chapter 682 over the past few years. These members have worked to build new contacts with Congressman Rigell's staff and have successfully established great rapport both with Congressman Rigell personally and with his staff. Congressman Rigell has requested a meeting with NARFE members in Areas I and II who are his constituents. Ray Whipple (acting CDL for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District) is coordinating plans for this meeting with the assistance of both the Area I and II AVP's (tentatively scheduled for mid-August based on information provided by Congressman Rigell's scheduler.

The remaining Area I chapters are all in the 1<sup>st</sup> District and have had Congressman Wittman speak to them several times during the year. Congressman Wittman is actually a member of Chapter 1823 and his District Director has promised to join Chapter 685.

As always Congressman Scott has been supportive and appears frequently at NARFE events. His voting record is near 100% for NARFE issues. The remaining congressman covering Area I members is Congressman Randy Forbes (4<sup>th</sup> District), so plans are being formulated to establish contacts with him and his staff.

Following the successful Congressional debates held on the Peninsula in October 2012, plans are being made now to set up similar events with Congressmen Rigell (2<sup>nd</sup>), Scott (3<sup>rd</sup>), and Forbes (4<sup>th</sup>), and their respective opponents. As in 2012, efforts are being made to work with Christopher Newport University,

one of their Political Science professors and at least one student group, with the *Daily Press*, and, perhaps, with one or two other organizations.

All chapter officer positions have been filled during the year, with a couple of exceptions due to health issues of those elected to serve. Committee chairs have been active with various activities. Peninsula's Marie Collins coordinated 6 health fairs held at area agencies where 93 applications for the 6 month free membership were completed. Out of that number 43 were assigned to Chapter 682, and several of those have converted to full membership! Marie was honored at the VFC Convention with the R. David Smith Award for service and leadership and was also the winner for recruitment in the large chapter category.

Chapter 1823's own B.J. Thomas-McMillan stepped up to serve as VFC Membership Chair and is doing an outstanding job! She established a blog for chapter membership chairs to "discuss" issues, ideas, etc., and all of her efforts have been well received and appreciated. She also implemented a revamped monthly membership reporting system for VFC Board members.

For the first time, Chapter 685 worked two postal conventions held in Williamsburg. Plans were coordinated by their Membership Chair Forrest Fenstermaker, and tables were staffed by members at both events. By providing them with information, a little guidance, and the opportunity to handle these events on their own, members displayed renewed interest and a sense of accomplishment.

Area I attendance (20+ members) at the VFC State Convention was outstanding this year! More members attended and then came back to give first hand reports to their respective chapters. Since funds are tight within the chapters, I asked that the four Area I chapters split the cost of a full page ad in the Convention program book and they readily agreed, which is perhaps the first time all four chapters have participated in supporting the program book!

There are at least 5 members who are planning to attend the National Convention this year, and Jeanne Garrison, Chapter 685 President, will be serving on the Membership Committee.

Maggie Keator, member of Chapter 682, attended the annual State Legislation planning meeting held in June. I was traveling so I asked Maggie to represent Area I. She has worked for both a State Senator and a member of Congress so she's extremely knowledgeable on numerous issues. She enjoyed the open discussion and has presented a report to one chapter since the planning session. Plans are being made to have her speak at an Area I meeting in the coming months.

Four members (two from Chapter 685, one from Chapter 1823, and one from Chapter 682) attended the Region X Conference in Pigeon Forge last fall. Their interest and apparent leadership skills have been encouraging as we try to identify more members who will step up to serve in the future on both the area and federation levels.

The VFC Chapter Officer training, held on the Peninsula in February, brought out approximately 35 members from the Peninsula and the Southside (Areas I, II, and IV) – again providing a bright spot from my viewpoint in the form of more interest in what's happening and what can be done! Communication

among the Area I chapters along with conducting joint events has stimulated interest and camaraderie! Also it must be noted that support from Area II VP Alex Adkins has been exceptional.

On the topic of communication, all four chapters have viable newsletters and excellent open lines of communication with their members! This has been one of my primary goals – to keep members feeling as though they “belong” and that their ideas are both wanted and needed. I hope this trend has been as successful as it appears to be. The number of phone calls, invitations, e-mails, etc. received from both officers and members of the four chapters are encouraging to me. We communicate openly and freely – not always agreeing, but discussing! This is always a good sign to me.

I could continue with comments regarding the work being done within Area I, but I will close by saying that I continue to be honored to be elected and to serve as the VFC Area I VP. I’m looking forward to another year with renewed vigor and lots of new goals!

**Pat Taylor, VFC Area I Vice President**

## **Area II Report**

During the past year, several Area II chapters have elected new officers. Joseph F. Murray has been installed as President of Virginia Beach Seaside Chapter 1827. Other elected officers include 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Peter Amante, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Richard Bourdon, Secretary Annette Hall and Treasurer Dick Edwards. 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).

Metro Chapter 5 has elected and installed Jim Brewer as its President along with Lynne Pipis as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, William “Bill” Dugan as Secretary, and Marsh Witcher as Treasurer. Committee chairs of Chapter 5 include Judy Bosnengo (Membership), and Phyllis Brown (Service Officer and Sunshine Committee), Chip Mauer (Alzheimer’s Research). Jim Brewer is also serving as the VFC National Legislation Chair.

Monticello Chapter 2361 has elected and installed Shirley Driver Kinchen as President, and Alonzo D. Kinchen as Secretary and Treasurer. The membership of Chapter 2361 consists primarily of active federal employees and Shirley Driver Kinchen is working hard to recruit new members for the Chapter.

Tidewater Chapter 66 has re-elected and installed Margie Mitchell as President, Helen Griggs as Vice President, Vera Merritt as Secretary, and Earl Mitnaul as Treasurer. Committee chairs of Chapter 66 include Betty Mitchell (Membership) and Margie Mitchell (Program and Newsletter). Betty Mitchell served as the chapter’s delegate to the 2014 VFC Convention and will also be its delegate for the 2014 NARFE National Convention.

Virginia Beach Bayside Chapter 974 has re-elected and installed Alex H. Adkins as President, Charles Chapman as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Burnley Rhue as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Johnnie Woodhouse as Secretary, and Donald Warren as Treasurer. Committee chairs of Chapter 974 include Charles Chapman (Membership), 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 served as chapter delegates to the 2014 VFC Convention and will also be delegates to the 2014 NARFE National Convention.

Eastern Shore Chapter 1175 is continuing with Richard Turner as President, Berran Rogers as Vice President, Katherine Kidwell as Secretary/Treasurer and Helen Benthall as Membership Chair.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, six Area II members recruited prospective NARFE members at the Capital-Atlantic Area National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) Convention. NARFE members Betty and Donald Warren, Jim Brewer, Joe Murray, David Holliday and Alex Adkins participated. The group met at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront, where former Area II Vice President Betty Warren was a speaker at a general session on Friday afternoon the 16<sup>th</sup> of May. She explained how NARFE has opposed issues that adversely affect postal employees and emphasized the importance of a strong relationship between NARFE and NAPS. Twenty-five M-2 Forms were completed and three membership applications with checks were received. Virginia Beach Seaside Chapter 1827's meetings include field trips every other month.

During the early April meeting, an interesting excursion took chapter members and the Area II Vice President to the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center (formerly known as the Virginia Truck Experiment Station). See <http://www.arec.vaes.vt.edu/hampton-roads/>. Over the past thirty years, the Center has gradually shifted its emphasis from agricultural work to sustainable gardening, as well as commercial nursery and landscaping. The tour for NARFE members was given by one of the resident Virginia Tech professors who provided an excellent explanation of problems encountered by local gardeners and landscapers (e.g., many of our native trees and shrubs grow to dimensions that aren't practical for the small city lots found in modern subdivisions). One of our local NARFE members, Patty Divito of Chapter 974, is a master gardener who has worked as a volunteer maintaining the flower gardens at the Center. The tour provided Chapter 1827 members excellent ideas for managing their own gardens and was a good addition to the chapter's program.

**Alex Adkins, VFC Area II Vice President**

### **Area III Report**

Area III consists of seven Chapters:

**Petersburg 28** currently has 177 members; and during this reporting period 16 members dropped, six members were reinstated and three members passed away. This Chapter has all of its officers and

committee chairs. Chapter President, Jack McMurchy, and VP Roy Beasley held two outreach programs at Fort Lee during this report period. The meetings are well attended with very interesting programs, which included Petersburg Sheriff, Vanessa Crawford and two deputies discussion of the benefits of belonging to TRIAD and answering questions about scams that are currently in the local area. An Alzheimer's Auction was held with proceeds of \$781. This Chapter raised over \$1200 for Alzheimer's this reporting period. Jack McMurchy is also the Chapter State Legislation Chair.

**Richmond 60** currently has 243 members; and during this reporting period 19 members dropped, 18 members were reinstated and nine members passed away. This Chapter has gone through some trying times. Two of the most active members and committee chairs moved away. This had a large impact on the Chapter; but I am happy to say that attendance at meetings is up, interesting program are being presented, and officers are working hard to make this next year a great one for the Chapter.

**South of the James 1138** currently has 110 members; and during this reporting period 14 members dropped, four were reinstated, and three members passed away. This Chapter has been challenged this reporting period because they meet either in a training building or a conference room at the McGuire Veterans Hospital. The parking and walking distances are not easy for the aging membership to navigate; therefore, attendance has declined. I am working with the President of the Chapter to try to find a more easily accessible meeting place.

**Colonial Heights 1472** currently has 168 members; and during this reporting period 20 members dropped, eight were reinstated and three members passed away. This Chapter is having a hard time getting members to attend the meetings even though they have had interesting guest speakers, which included Joan Fallon, Senior Constituent Services Representative and Senior Advocate for Congressman J. Randy Forbes, 4<sup>th</sup> District, and Bill Flanagan, Chief of Staff, for VA State Delegate Kirk Cox. The meetings that had the most attendance included the Alzheimer's auction and the presentation of the health benefit changes by a representative from BlueCross BlueShield. Stephen Stastny is the Chapter State Legislation Chair and also the VFC Area III State Legislation Coordinator.

**Imperial Plaza 1510** currently has 38 members; and during this reporting period three dropped, one was reinstated and four members passed away. This is a Chapter with approximately 85% of the members over the age of 80. They meet in a reserved dining area and have a luncheon meeting. These meetings are well attended. Late last summer, Ed Heflin transferred in from a Chapter in Maryland, and he brought new ideas to the Chapter. A membership drive is being considered. This Chapter is a joy to visit, as everyone is happy and interested in NARFE. Every year, an impressive memorial service is held.

**Tuckahoe 1727** currently has 101 members; and during this reporting period eight dropped, one was reinstated, and five members passed away. This Chapter continues to be vibrant, offering its members and guests relevant programs and activities within the scope of the NARFE vision and mission. Examples of presentations include the Chained CPI by Roy Webb, Senior Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, and Legacy Planning by Pat Robson, Certified Financial Planner, Robson Financial Services. This Chapter has a telephone tree and a professional postcard reminder service which has proved to be very successful.

**Midlothian 2265** currently has 331 members; and during this reporting period 25 dropped, 10 were reinstated and 10 members passed away. This Chapter is very active and has a good turnout for every meeting. It is the only Chapter of the seven in VFC Area III that meets year round. It raised \$3,378 for Alzheimer's Research by various means. Meeting programs are varied, and included presentations by a representative for VA Delegate Doris McQuinn, by John Knapp, State Director for Senator Tim Kaine, and



by Jessica Klement, the NARFE Legislative Director. Midlothian has a bi-monthly newsletter funded in part from their very active travel agenda. This Spring the location of the meetings was changed due to construction at Brandermill Woods. The new location is Hopewell United Methodist Church, which has a very nice meeting area. This Chapter participates in the Chesterfield TRIAD Senior Day event which has a very large attendance. Matching funds were received from NARFE and the VFC for this event.

All of the Chapters were affected by the bad weather that winter brought. Meetings and activities had to be canceled. The VFC Officer Training provided by VFC Board had to be delayed; but several members attended when the training was rescheduled. All attendees thought the training was worthwhile and above average.

Area III supported the 60<sup>th</sup> VFC Convention held in April. Bob Boyd, Midlothian Chapter 2265, served as the facilities manager and I served as the Exhibitors' Chair. Forty-two Area III members attended the Convention, and all chapters had a Chapter ad in the program book. Pat Robson, Tuckahoe Chapter 1727, was an exhibitor, and was responsible for getting other businesses to become exhibitors. Several Chapters sold ads. At the Convention, Midlothian Chapter 2265 received a Membership Award for Most Dues Withholding members added (8 members) and Richmond Chapter 60 received the Membership Award for Highest Renewal Rate (24 members). An Area Caucus Meeting was held during the Convention at which Lynn Osborne and Mary Lykins were elected to serve on the VFC Nominating Committee as member and alternate. At this meeting, I announced that this would be my last year as the VFC Area III Vice President.

Three Council of Chapter meetings were held during this period. Chapter presidents and at least one other chapter member are invited to attend. Special emphasis was placed on one program area at each of the meetings. During this reporting period we had training on the OAM, service, and legislation.

I visited each of the seven chapters at least twice during this reporting period. I also attended three of the four VFC Board meetings, and Tony Michalek, President, Midlothian Chapter 2265, represented Area III at the fourth VFC Board meeting.

I attended the Region X President's "Best Practices" Conference held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on September 10-13, 2013. This conference was excellent and provided a great opportunity to exchange ideas with members from the other Federations in NARFE Region X.

I also attended the monthly TRIAD meetings in Petersburg and Chesterfield, Chesterfield Council of the Aging, and the Midlothian Networking Luncheons at Morningside of Bellgrade Assisted Living.

**Carolyn Wilson, VFC Area III Vice President**

### **Area IV Report**

VFC Area IV consists of five chapters Brentwood 1697, Chesapeake 1682, Churchland 1293, Portsmouth 63 and Suffolk 1743. See the individual Chapter's websites for specific information further information relative to chapter activities.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Bobby Whittington, Churchland, is currently the VFC Area IV Vice President, and also served on the VFC panel to select the 2014 R. David Smith Award winner.
- Thomas Hall, Churchland, served as the VFC National Legislative Chairman until April 2014.
- Dillard Horton, of Suffolk Chapter, and Barbara Whittington, of Churchland Chapter, were elected as the Area IV representatives on the VFC Nominating Committee.
- The Churchland Chapter rented a booth at the Smithfield “Olden Days” Festival in June 2013 for a recruiting event. Chapter volunteers ‘manned’ the booth, and handed out NARFE bags of materials, NARFE magazines, applications, brochures and gift items.
- In October 2013, the Suffolk Chapter held a recruiting campaign at the annual Suffolk Peanut Festival. Volunteers manned their booth for the four day event and passed out cups of peanuts as well as the NARFE bags of materials, such as mentioned above.
- NARFE volunteers from the Churchland Chapter participated in two federal employee health fairs within Portsmouth, in November 2013. One event was at the Naval Medical Center and the second event was at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (located in Portsmouth). Approximately 500 NARFE bags of materials were obtained from HQ NARFE and VFC Public Relations, and were passed out to federal employees and retirees.
- Area IV and its chapters strongly supported the 2014 VFC Convention with individual donations, sales of advertising, gifts to the Alzheimer’s silent auction, and 10 Area IV members representing three chapters (Brentwood, Churchland and Suffolk) attended.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Assisting the selection and installation of a new president and board members for the Chesapeake Chapter, as the former president and vice president (husband and wife) are moving out of state. (To date, no one has volunteered for those positions; but I will be talking to the members at the June 2014 chapter meeting.)
- Recruiting event scheduled for Smithfield Olden Days, June 28, 2014.
- Recruiting event scheduled for Suffolk’s Peanut Fest, September 2014.
- Recruiting events scheduled for Federal Employee Health Fairs in Portsmouth, October 2014.

**Bobby Whittington, VFC Area IV Vice President**

## **Area V Report**

VFC Area V consists of Bedford 1068, Danville 1011, Lynchburg 110, Martinsville-Henry 1882, Piedmont (Farmville) 2080, and Southside (South Hill) 2079.

This past year, 2013 – 2014, has been a busy one for Area V. We have experienced a small decline in membership, like all other areas of the state. Our chapters continue to meet and have great enthusiasm for NARFE and its future. Area V and VI worked together to plan the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual VFC Convention. Each chapter helped in this project and it turned out to be a great success. There were two recruitment opportunities during the year. The first was the State Convention of the Rural Letter Carriers and the second was the Antique Farm Show in South Hill. The NARFE booth was well received and many contacts were made with federal employees at each of these events.

Area V Chapters continue to meet and plan activities to encourage member attendance. Local Chapter elections will be held in the Fall of 2014; and members are being encouraged to take an active role in their Chapter's activities, and possibly become officers.

As the VFC Area V Vice President, I attended meetings at all six Chapters during the year to maintain contact with the members and answer any questions. I also attended the NARFE Region X Conference in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in the Fall of 2013. I was re-elected as the VFC Area V Vice President at the 2014 VFC Convention in April. I will be attending the VFC State Legislation Planning meeting in June 2014 and the NARFE National Convention in Orlando, Florida in August 2014. I look forward to the coming year and am proud to represent VFC Area V.

**Debra Laughon, VFC Area V Vice President**

## **Area VI Report**

I attended the State Legislation meeting, the four VFC Board Meetings and the Region X Conference at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. I attended all of my Chapter's meetings and attended one meeting of each of the other Chapters in VFC Area VI.

The year has been interesting. Debbie Laughon and I were Co-Chairs of the 2014 VFC Convention. Even with a few glitches here and there, a successful convention was accomplished because of the VFC Board and ALL the hard work of the Committee Chairs and the people they recruited to help. Del Dyer was elected Area VI VP at the 2014 VFC Convention.

The following year-end summaries have been submitted by the Area VI Chapter Presidents.

Mary F. Kelley, 2014 President Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837 reports that the Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837 held quarterly meetings at Shoney's Restaurant in Wytheville during this time period, meeting with guest speaker Richard Sikon from the VA Dept. of Health State Anatomical Program. The September 10, 2013, meeting included a presentation by Deana Landers, RN, Health Education Specialist with the Lifetime Wellness Center. The December 3, 2013, meeting included a presentation by Keith Wray from BlueCross BlueShield. The March 11, 2014, meeting speaker was R. Allen Slagle, Community Specialist for the Senior Navigator program. During this year the Chapter was pleased to add one new member as a transfer from another Chapter, but sad to lose three members who passed away, including our long time member and Service Officer, LaSalle "Jake" Jacobs. At the December 2013

meeting, Richard Johnson, who had served as Chapter President for 13 years, stepped down as President and accepted the Service Officer position. Mary F. Kelley was elected Chapter President and Nancy Rawls, Secretary. Roy Hand, Jean M. Davidson, Ina Jacobs and Ted Haslup continued in their respective positions of Vice President, Treasurer, Alzheimer's Chair and Newsletter Editor. The Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837 assisted with the preparation for the 2014 VFC Convention in April 2014 and Mary Kelley chaired the Credentials and Ballot and Tellers Committees and represented the chapter as Lead Delegate. The Chapter also provided an item for the VFC Convention Alzheimer's Auction and purchased an ad in the Convention Book. As we begin the 2014-2015 year, the Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837 looks forward to increasing its membership, serving as advocates for legislative issues impacting our members and continuing to provide resources to active and retired federal employees in our communities.

Linda Boothe, President, Southwest Highlands Chapter 2230, reports that the Southwest Highlands Chapter 2230 held Chapter meetings bi-monthly. Guest speakers included Leigh Anne Hunter, Superintendent, Abingdon Muster Grounds, Dr. Ramsey White, Director of College for Older Adults at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, and Luther Santiful, VFC President. A 50/50 drawing was held at each meeting with 50% going to Alzheimer's Research and 50% to the person whose name was drawn. At the May 13, 2013, meeting, the attending members voted unanimously to close the Chapter for the following reasons: the same leaders have served continuously for many years with no potential for replacement; Chapter attendance continues to decline to unacceptable levels even though relevant programs have been provided for each; and membership continues to decline. We have reviewed the "Procedures for Closing a Local Chapter". The plans are to publish one more newsletter by the end of July advising all members of the closure and to have all closure procedures completed as of September 1, 2014. In the final newsletter, we will encourage all members to remain a part of NARFE, continue to recruit new members, and keep up-to-date with NARFE issues through Chapter meetings, NARFE e-mails *NARFE* magazine and/or e-NARFE. We still support NARFE and its work.

Del Dyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President New River Valley Chapter 1134, reports that the Chapter considered closing, but work was done to get former stalwarts back into leadership positions. The Chapter came back strong in January 2014 with a full slate of officers and committee chairs. The Chapter has one hundred fifty-one members. Alternative paths forward were evaluated and the following three important decisions were made:

1. To continue our chapter and return to meeting twelve times per year (six Board meetings and six Chapter meetings);
2. On the basis of a membership survey, focus our programs to include "What's NARFE done for us and what we need to do for NARFE" and topics of general interest to other aspects of our members; and
3. Dedicate our active members to recruit new members.

The chapter is set for now but the current President agreed to return for only one term. There is still much work to do. Del Dyer was the Chair of Advertising/Sales. Chapter 1134 did a great job selling ads. Travis Poole, Jr, President and Del Dyer 2<sup>nd</sup> VP attended the 2014 VFC Convention.

Jim Bono, President, Roanoke Valley Chapter 111, reports that on the first Friday of each month (except June, July, August), the Chapter meets at The Roanoker Restaurant. In June 2013, the chapter held its meeting at Elm Park Estates and attendees toured the facility, learned about the accommodations, their independent living program and activities, and enjoyed a delicious lunch. Chapter speakers including doctors, nurses, a fireman, financial planners and representative from BlueCross BlueShield have been interesting. There was an excellent turn out for the Chapter Christmas party, with those in attendance enjoying good food, fellowship and a wonderful musical group. Monthly meetings include a 50/50

drawing to raise money for Alzheimer's Research and a raffle for the Chapter general fund. A "Bakeless Bake Sale" raised over \$600 for the chapter. A newsletter was published each month that the chapter met using e-mail and USPS non-profit bulk mail. Five members attended the 2014 VFC Convention. Wanda Ware was the Convention co-chair; Mark Fisher was registration chair; and Jim and Fran Bono, Elaine Drewry, and Carolyn Fisher were on the registration committee.

**Wanda Ware, VFC Area VI Vice President**

## **Area VII Report**

Area VII centers on the Shenandoah Valley in far Northwestern Virginia; and is composed of six Chapters: Winchester, Shenandoah County (meeting in Mt. Jackson), Page Valley (Luray), Harrisonburg, the combined Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro, and Charlottesville. Membership is approximately 1,170 as of March 2014. The membership has dipped a little over 7% this past year, but with the new recruitment contest, members have been vigorously attempting to bring in new members, and bring back those that have lapsed. The goal is to increase membership to over 1,200 by the end of the 2014.

This report will cover the period from the July 2013 through June 2014.

The 2014 VFC Convention held in April was a resounding success. My own Chapter, Shenandoah County Chapter 2358, contributed to the financial success by soliciting over \$3,350 in commercial ads. My chapter has been in the forefront of commercial ad solicitations for the past three years and we will continue to do so as long as there are VFC Conventions. It appears that there is a move afoot to do away with Federations at the 2016 NARFE National Convention, thus there may be only two more VFC Conventions. Time will tell if this will come to pass.

Because of the 2014 primaries and elections, Area VII Chapter members have begun to energize their activities to let our Senators and Congressman know how we feel regarding the proposed cuts to our earned pay and benefits. I have been involved in political campaign appearances and election preparations. Although I am no longer an Election Official here in Shenandoah County, I attended political party activities. The Virginia National Candidates have come and are coming to Area VII in vast numbers, holding fundraisers as well as numerous indoor and outdoor activities. Our Chapters intend on attending all of them during the summer and fall. It seems that Western Virginia is a hotbed of activity because we are considered a "state-in-play." Much attention is being given to us and we appreciate it. And as before, all through the year, nationally, I have been very vocal in writing and speaking directly to our 6th District Congressman, Bob Goodlatte, and our two Federal VA Senators to keep our pay and benefits in line with the rest of the Country, and to not to single out federal employees and retirees for cuts. I'm not sure this campaign will be totally successful; however, the cuts could have been a lot worse. This is an on-going battle that I fear will consume our membership for years to come.

Individually, as in the past, I visited all six Chapters multiple times during the year. Being the President of the Shenandoah County Chapter meant that I would be absent there a few times a year to attend other Chapters' meetings that had conflicting schedules. Our Chapter's officers carried out their duties well without me, particularly Vice President Bill Wells. Plus, we have had the advantage of having the

VFC President, Luther Santiful, as a member of our Chapter for most of this fiscal year. He has since moved over to Area VII's Staunton Chapter.

In June 2014, Area VII held its annual conclave at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg. As has been the practice, all six Chapters sent their officers to get together among equals and share experiences. In addition to voicing their concerns and relating their successes, Chapter officers received training conducted by several VFC Committee Chairs. We also had the honor of recognizing Luther Santiful, the VFC Immediate Past President.

During 2013, I outlined the accomplishments of the Area VII individual Chapters in the Quarterly VFC Notes. However, since the last Quarterly VFC Notes in January 2014, there have been a few noteworthy occurrences. In May, the Harrisonburg Chapter hosted a TRIPLE presentation of frauds imposed on Seniors. Their guest speaker was Postal Inspector Joey Bond who spoke about postal-related scams, especially on the elderly, and how to protect yourself. He was accompanied by a member of the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office and a representative of the Harrisonburg Police Department. Earlier this year in February, the Harrisonburg Chapter hosted an Alzheimer's Research auction run by a real locally-based auctioneer. I was "tricked" into buying an artificial Xmas tree made of pine cones; and I can't wait to use it this coming Christmas.

Secondly, early this year, the Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro Chapter, was revived with the election of a new chapter president, Lena Mahone. Only one other Chapter, Charlottesville, elected a new president, Joanne Hirsch. All other Chapters re-elected their current president.

Thirdly, I attended the annual VFC State Legislative Planning Meeting in June 2014. It brought together many of the VFC Area Vice Presidents and their State Legislative Committee Chairs in order to map out the VFC 2015 State Legislative Agenda. After a brainstorming session in which many ideas were aired, the Conference settled on a few main topics which will be presented at the next VFC Board meeting in July 2014 for review and approval.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all members of Area VII Chapters for your continued support. This has truly been a wonderful year for our Area, and for me in particular. Thanks to all of you, we had a glorious year. I was re-elected for another year at the VFC Convention in April 2014, and am looking forward to serving you again this next year as your Area Vice President.

**Steve Dansker, VFC Area VII Vice President**

### **Area VIII Report**

Area VIII has seven chapters with the full gamut of chapter sizes from Fredericksburg Chapter 90, the largest chapter with 600+ members to Caroline Chapter, the smallest with less than 50 members and all the others falling somewhere in between. Chapter 90 is in the City of Fredericksburg, Warrenton-Fauquier Chapter 1549 is near the hustle and bustle of I-66 traffic; Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885 and Falls Run Chapter 2343 are closely connected to their individual retirement communities; Louisa Chapter 2065 and Caroline Chapter 2112 are in rural areas but have close connections to Richmond; and finally, if you drive about 100 yards past the meeting place of

Colonial Beach Chapter 595, you will find yourself in the Potomac River. Area VIII is the third largest area in the VFC. At the beginning of the VFC fiscal year (July 2013) the leadership was half way through their elected term and I was in my fifth year as Area VIII Vice President. The chapter presidents of Area VIII were as follows: Maureen Nolet, Fredericksburg Chapter 90; Leslie Ravenell, Colonial Beach Chapter 595; Jerry Rosenfeld, Warrenton-Fauquier Chapter 1549; Shirley Cornwell, Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885; Kate Killiam, Louisa Chapter 2065; Judi Moore, Caroline Chapter 2112; and Mike Anderson Falls Run Chapter 2343.

Summer 2013 found everyone out enjoying activities of the season: Chapter 2065 with two political picnics; Chapter 2112 with their annual picnic at Pitts Pond; Chapter 90 with an indoor picnic at an Italian restaurant; Chapter 1885 with an ice cream social and Chapter 595 on a boat trip to Cobb Island to name a few. In July the Fredericksburg Free Lance Star published, for the first time, all seven chapters' contact information in the Senior Section of the annual Guide to Living.

Fall 2013 it was back to business! How many different ways can you raise money for Alzheimer's research? Well here are just a few. In September Lake of the Woods Chapter 1885 was on a bus trip to Charlestown Casino and had a 50/50 drawing. But here's a hint, make sure you have the drawing on the way up not on the way back! In October, Falls Run Chapter 2343 conducted their annual "Lights On" for Alzheimer's research, where the community is asked to put their porch light on and a NARFE member comes to collect their donation. In November, Colonial Beach Chapter 595 held its annual Big Band Dance with proceeds of \$1,200 going to Alzheimer's research. Fredericksburg Chapter 90 sells a soup mix jar for \$5.00. I can tell you from personal experience, this soup is fantastic! The fall is also when we look closely at our health benefits during open season and BlueCross BlueShield was busy visiting four Area VIII Chapters. Finally it was time for the nominating committees to get in gear with new slates of officers for 2014. So what happened in Area VIII? All seven presidents in place in 2013 were reelected to serve in 2014! So one noteworthy aspect of Area VIII for the fiscal year has been its experienced chapter leadership. However changes will be coming as four of the seven chapters will be impacted by the term limits in December 2014.

After each chapter had their holiday celebrations and installation of officers, Winter 2014 came in with a bang and gave us some really difficult weather, causing a number of meeting cancellations; but the Area VIII annual meeting in Fredericksburg, VA, went off without a hitch. All seven chapters were well represented with two or more members. The VFC Membership Chair B.J. Thomas-McMillan was there to give an in-depth presentation on Recruitment and Retention. Region X Vice President and member of Louisa Chapter 2065, Bill Martin, gave us the view from NARFE Headquarters. As always, Stan Palen, VFC Webmaster and member of Colonial Beach Chapter 595, was there to assist.

With the snow still falling in March 2014, I was pleased to accompany several 2015 Convention Committee members on a field trip to Fredericksburg, VA, to look at the prospect of conducting the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual VFC convention at the Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center. We visited the Convention Center and the several hotels located adjacent to the Center. We came away with a very favorable impression; and, as most of you know, the 61<sup>st</sup> VFC Convention will be held in Fredericksburg next year.

As spring 2014 finally came in April, we all went to Richmond for the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual VFC Convention. At the convention I was elected to the position of VFC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The annual Area VIII Caucus meeting was attended by six of the seven chapters and Maureen “Moe” Nolet was elected Area VIII Vice President. Moe is president of Chapter 90 and has served as nominating chair for the VFC for the past three years. Dot Almassy, Chapter 595, was elected as the Area VIII representative to the VFC nominating committee.

So now it is time for me to say best wishes to Moe as she takes on the joys and challenges of Area VIII. I want to say thank you to all the officers and committee chairs and the members of Area VIII for their hard work and dedication to the mission of NARFE. During my five years as Area VP, it has been my pleasure to work with 16 different chapter presidents. I will not name them all but you know who you are. Each of these individuals has worked long hours to keep our chapters going strong; and I could not have accomplished anything in Area VIII without their support. Thanks again, and I look forward to working and sharing with all of you in my new role as VFC 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.

**Leslie Ravenell, VFC Area VIII Vice President**

### **Area IX Report**

Area IX includes the following six “southern” chapters of Northern Virginia: Chapter 232 Alexandria, Nick Andrus, President (continuing); Chapter 1159 Annandale, Doug Jones, President (continuing); Chapter 401 Falls Church, John Restall, President (continuing); Chapter 356 Manassas, Dave Doliber, President (continuing); Chapter 893 Springfield, Pat Harahan, President (continuing) and Chapter 1270 Woodbridge, Jim Little, President (continuing). As you can see, we have the benefit of chapter president continuity for all of Area IX.

Area IX is the home of Gaston Gianni (Chapter 1270), who serves as VFC Public Relations Chair, Margaret Yowell (Chapter 893), who serves as the VFC Chaplain, and of course, Pierce Johnson (Chapter 1270), who is entering his final year as the VFC Area IX Vice President. Mary Lou Vroman (Chapter 1159) serves as the Congressional District Liaison (CDL) for Congressman Connolly, Gaston Gianni (Chapter 1270) serves as the CDL for Congressman Wittman, and Rita Jensen served as Congressman Moran’s CDL. Steve Ledford (Chapter 1159) serves as the Senate Legislative Liaison (SLL) for Senator Warner.

Chapters in Area IX range in size from 371 (Manassas) to 1378 (Springfield). Area IX has the two largest chapters in Virginia (Springfield and Alexandria). Consequently, Area IX has over 28% of the membership of Virginia. However, all Area IX chapters are continuing to experience drops in membership, yielding nearly a 10% drop in Area IX for the year 2013.

Again, I am VERY proud of the Area IX contributions for Alzheimer’s research this past year. Woodbridge (Chapter 1270) again came in FIRST among all chapters in Virginia, with over \$15,000 donated. Their success is due in large part to their annual Fashion Show, which had great support from not only the



local community, but also from VFC and National NARFE leadership. With Woodbridge leading the way, Area IX led all other areas in Virginia and made Virginia competitive throughout the nation.

In June, Area IX members participated in creating the State Legislative Plan, publicizing and emphasizing our efforts to the Virginia General Assembly. At the national level, Area IX members have made a number of calls on Capitol Hill, some “push” and some “pull.” Through Area IX donations to VFC-PAC as well as NARFE-PAC, our legislators have become very well aware of NARFE’s “Protect America’s Heartbeat” Campaign. In addition to “Grassroots Advocacy” month last August, several chapters met with or hosted Congressional members or their staff members, as well as Virginia General Assembly members at their chapter meetings during the year. For example, in September, members from Alexandria (232) and Annandale (1159) met with Congressman Connolly and members of his staff to discuss pending legislation. Further, Annandale (1159) hosted State Senators and Delegates to the General Assembly for their reports at the state level.

In October, members from Area IX staffed a NARFE table at the Women’s Issues Conference sponsored by Congressman Moran. And in November, members from Area IX joined members from Area X to participate in a membership drive at the Health Benefits Fair sponsored by Congressman Connolly at the Fairfax County Government Center again this year. We enjoyed recruiting new members, as well as greeting long-time NARFE members. Tammy Flanagan (Chapter 1270) threw Congressman Connolly a “softball” question about membership in organizations such as NARFE, and the congressman answered how important he views membership in these types of organizations, hitting it “out of the park.”

At the Caucus level, Areas IX and X participated in Chapter officer training in February presented by VFC leadership, despite earlier postponements due to weather. Earlier in November, the Caucus hosted Jessica Klement, NARFE’s Legislative Director, who gave a firsthand update on what Congress was (or was not) doing with our benefits. Congressman Connolly also attended and gave his perspective.

Highlights from the Chapters this past year include: Annandale’s (Chapter 1159) publicizing the NARFE brand by adopting a highway (two signs were erected in return for picking up litter at least four times a year), the continuing participation in the Fourth of July Parade in Dale City by Woodbridge (1270) as well as their annual Fashion Show to benefit Alzheimer’s research; Woodbridge (1270) also sponsored a “Take-Me-Out-To-The-Ballgame” night with the Potomac Nationals minor league ball club inviting other Northern Virginia chapters, a document shredding fund raising event, as well as a restaurant-sponsored fund raising.

Chapters in Area IX are to be congratulated in their communications efforts. Each chapter produces a monthly newsletter and most maintain a website accessible from the VFC website. A couple of chapters even have Facebook pages! Monthly programs run the gamut from entertainment to information to legislative updates. I have been privileged to visit each chapter a number of times during the past year and have thoroughly enjoyed their programs. Every chapter celebrated a holiday social, which was very well attended by their members and enjoyed by all. I was also able to install officers in most of the Area IX chapters.

With declining membership and the corresponding drop in dues, many chapters have had to find ways to cut costs and increase Chapter income. This year, Annandale (Chapter 1159) joined the Amazon Associates program allowing the chapter to earn a fee for all purchases from Amazon.com made through a link associated with the Chapter.

In 2015, Area IX will be responsible for “running” the VFC Convention. With the Future of NARFE recommendations being discussed (and some voted on) at the National Convention in Orlando in

August 2014, “Embracing Change” seemed to be a natural theme for our VFC Convention. I hope to see you there!

**Pierce Johnson, VFC Area IX Vice President**

### **Area X Report**

Area X of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) consists of seven chapters in Northern Virginia. Chapter presidents for 2013-2014 included: Mark McLaughlin, Chapter 7 (Arlington); Raphael Wong Chapter 489 (Mc-Lean-Great Falls); Ralph Thompson, Chapter 737 (Fairfax); Ralph Dantine, Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton); Vicky Duarte, Chapter 1133 (Loudoun); Bill Schmidt, Chapter 1241 (Dulles); and Judy Willis Chapter 1665 (Metro Northern Virginia).

A number of VFC Area X members supported the Federation as members of the Board. They were: Dick Giangerelli, 1st Vice President; Kathy Arpa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Bill Schmidt, Secretary; Raphael Wong, Treasurer; Dr. Constance and John Bails, VFC Service Officers; and Donna Shackelford, VFC Alzheimer’s Chair.

In June 2014, Area X members attended a legislative meeting in Richmond with VFC State Legislative Chair Patti Downs to participate in creating the 2015 State Legislative Plan, and publicize and emphasize our efforts to the Virginia General Assembly. Chapter 7 was very involved in background research. Later in the year, trifold will be developed and distributed to all area chapters and to state and local legislative contacts.

Eight individuals from Area X attended the five states Region X Conference in Pigeon Forge in September. They took part in breakout sessions that included: The Future of NARFE, fund raising, dealing with troubled chapters, digital NARFE/E-NARFE, and communicating effectively with technologically challenged members. The Service Officer’s presentation by the Bails on materials available for member’s benefit generated a great deal of interest.

The Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters (Areas IX and X) met in November 2013 at the Mason District Center with guests speakers Jessica Klement, Legislative Director from NARFE and Congressman Gerry Connolly. This occurred during the Federal Government shutdown and resulted in animated presentations by both individuals and many interesting questions from the large group of NARFE attendees. Also in November, Area X members participated in the well attended Health Fair sponsored by Congressman Connolly and signed up numerous members for the six-month free membership.

In November and December, chapters held their annual holiday parties; and many installed their new officers.

In February, I joined other members at the VFC Chapter Officer training at the Fairfax American Legion.

In March, the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters Meeting with Area IX and X was held at the Yen Chen Restaurant in Fairfax, at which Donna Shackelford from Chapter 737 (Fairfax) was elected Chair of the Caucus. Attendance at the caucus meetings has been excellent at this location.

Chapters in Area X hold a variety of interesting and entertaining programs throughout the year. Programs included a representative from Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Office, who spoke on “How to Hire a Contractor for home repairs/service, a representative from Adult Day Health Program, a program on container gardening, a program on the development of the District of Columbia, live entertainment, a silent auction, a program on the development of the Silver Line Metro, a program on senior wellness with exercises, a representative from BlueCross BlueShield, a representative from Arlington County's Senior Services who spoke about transportation, other adult and senior programs, and local politicians. Other activities included recruitment events and activities to support Alzheimer's research goal of reaching \$11 million dollars through the “piggy bank” program, loose change, raffles, silent auctions and personal donations. I attended several of these meetings, enjoying the programs and meeting the members.

In April, six of the seven chapters sent delegates to the 60<sup>th</sup> VFC Convention in Richmond with Chapter 1133 sending a proxy. At the VFC Convention, Vicky Duarte of the Loudoun Chapter was honored as the number one recruiter from the mid-size chapters. I chaired the Area X Caucus Meeting where Max Scruggs from Chapter 7 was elected the new Area X Vice President. At the Convention, from Area X Dick Giangerelli was elected VFC President and Kathy Arpa was elected VFC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Bill Schmidt and Raphael Wong were re-elected to their positions of VFC Secretary and VFC Treasurer.

In May, NARFE members participated in the Fairfax County Senior Recognition luncheon at the Waterford in Springfield, VA. The following chapter members from Area X were recognized: Thomas Hart from Chapter 737 (Fairfax), Nancy Linn from Chapter 1166 (Vienna-Oakton) and Louise Rooney from Chapter 1241 (Dulles).

Five chapters post their monthly newsletters on the VFC website. Several chapters are sending as many electronic newsletters as possible in an effort to cut expenses. Some chapters have very attractive websites.

The Future of NARFE (FON) Committee Report has generated lively discussions at chapter and VFC meetings; and it should result in a very interesting 2014 NARFE National Convention in Orlando in August.

Chapters in Area X are gearing up for the fall elections with several forums planned and are following the ebb and flow of activity in Congressional Districts 8, 10 and 11, and, in particular, in Districts 8 and 10 where Congressmen Moran and Wolfe, both strong advocates for fair treatment of Federal employees and retirees for decades, are retiring.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers in Area X for their commitment to the mission of NARFE and to their Chapters.

**Ralph Dantinne, VFC Area X Vice President**

# VFC Committees Chairs' Reports

## National Legislation Report

**NARFE-PAC 2013-2014 Election Cycle:** The following disbursements have been made for the State of Virginia, which include the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter of this election cycle:

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee		\$15,000
National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee		\$15,000
Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee		\$15,000
National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee		\$15,000
Rep. Rob Wittman	VA-1	\$2,500
Rep. Jim Moran	VA-08	\$5,000
Rep. Frank Wolfe	VA-10	\$7,000
Rep. Gerry Connolly	VA-11	\$7,500

(Both Rep. Jim Moran, VA-8, and Rep. Frank Wolf, VA-10, are not seeking reelection)

The total collections to NARFE-PAC for the VFC is as follows:

1,053 Contributors                      \$37,778 Collected                      \$35.88 Mean Contribution

**Congressional District Liaisons:** We are very excited about our new CDL's/ACDL's for Congressional Districts 1 and 6. As announced last quarter we have approved a New CDL for the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Ed Masker and have a new CDL for the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, Gaston Gianni. We have a candidate for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District. Due to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional districts large areas we were looking for a ACDL for the 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> districts. We were also looking for a Senate Legislative Liaison for Sen. Tim Kaine.

**Continuing Appropriations Act of 2014:** Congress approved this legislation in December 2013 and the President has signed the bill thus ending, for two years anyway, the Government shutdowns. As far as I could tell all of the Virginia delegation members voted for the bill. The major points concerning NARFE are as follows:

- Federal retirement Contributions will increase for new hires, AGAIN;
- Reduced Military COLAs;
- "Self plus one" FEHBP option. Latest rumor is that it MAY be available as early as 2015; and
- Limits on contractor compensation.

**Tom Hall, VFC National Legislation Committee Chair**

## State Legislation Report

**2014 State Legislative Plan.** The VFC 2014 State Legislative Plan, like many of our past plans, focused primarily on support of, and benefits to, Virginia's senior citizens. The following four legislative issues were addressed:

- **Enhanced Protection of Incapacitated Adults.** Expand current law to provide greater protections against the financial exploitation of adults who are incapacitated by mental or physical condition or social isolation.
- **Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance Premiums.** Amend the tax code to allow all of Virginia's retirees to subtract their health insurance premiums from Virginia taxable income.
- **Required Geriatrics Training.** Require geriatrics training for the professional license renewal of medical and health care providers offering direct care and diagnosis to Virginia's seniors.
- **Senior Absentee Voting.** Pass common-sense legislation that permits Virginia's seniors to vote by absentee ballot without having to formally designate a specific excuse for doing so.

The 2014 Plan was distributed to Virginia General Assembly incumbents and the political candidates in the 2013 elections for House of Delegates' seats. Two key products were prepared for external release: (1) a glossy trifold brochure, with an updated format, that summarized the VFC legislative proposals (over 1500 printed); and (2) a corresponding one-page detailed background description of the issues. In addition, a "Talking Points" paper, detailing important background for each of the four legislative issues, was produced for the sole use of VFC members in preparation for their meetings and consultations with General Assembly incumbents and their staff.

During the 2014 General Assembly session, political summaries of political and legislative happenings, including updates on the status of 2014 State Plan, were produced on a weekly basis. A new VFC State Legislation Newsletter was created and distributed to keep members up-to-date on State Legislation in general. Electronic copies of all products are available on the VFC website ([www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org)) on the State Legislation page.

**How Did We Do?** Two of our four legislative proposals received strong backing from a number of Democrat and Republican legislators in the Virginia Senate and the House of Delegates. A third VFC proposal was sponsored by one legislator in the House. In all, nineteen separate bills were sponsored that either mirrored these proposals or provided similar legislation; but all of the bills eventually died without debate in committees of the GOP-controlled House of Delegates. While our proposals on **Senior Absentee Voting** and **Enhanced Protection of Incapacitated Adults** received bipartisan traction through a good number of bills in both the House and Senate, they were ultimately blocked by leaders of the House Elections Subcommittee and House Courts of Justice Committee, respectively. **Income Tax Subtraction for Retiree Health Insurance Premiums** continues to be an unpopular subject with the Finance Committees of the General Assembly; since, despite the state's revenue surpluses, some Virginia lawmakers view the loss of such tax revenue as a showstopper. The issue of **Required Geriatrics**

**Training** did not have a legislative sponsor this year as this issue is complex; and the VFC will need a better strategy if we continue to pursue a legislative remedy for this problem. For details on how all four issues fared, see the March 2014 issue of the VFC State Legislation Newsletter, posted on the VFC website.

**State Political Account Donations.** During the July and October 2013 VFC Board meetings, six House of Delegates' incumbents were approved to receive donations from our State Political Account Fund. Each of the following Delegates received a check for \$500.00:

- Kirk Cox, R-66<sup>th</sup> District;
- Rosalyn Dance, D-63<sup>rd</sup> District;
- Thomas Rust, R-86<sup>th</sup> District;
- Mark Sickles, D-43<sup>rd</sup> District;
- Lionell Spruill, D-77<sup>th</sup> District; and
- Scott Surovell, D-44<sup>th</sup> District.

A seventh Delegate, Todd Gilbert, R-15<sup>th</sup> District, was also approved to receive a VFC donation but declined to accept it. Although appreciative of our donation offer, Delegate Gilbert said that the donation was not needed.

Many thanks to those Virginia Federation members who contributed to the VFC State Political Account Fund (PAC) over the past year. The account balance stands at over \$6,500 as of this writing.

A list of *lessons learned* were developed this year for the nomination and decision-making process for VFC State PAC. Key among them was the need to revise our procedural guide to provide stronger justifications for candidate nominations, as well as the need to air and weigh dissenting views; and to ensure better coordination of the nominations within and among Virginia Federation Chapters. Draft revised procedures will be presented for discussion by the VFC Board.

**Next Step.** Our primary task now is to decide whether or how the VFC State Legislative strategy should change in light of the *Future of NARFE (FON) Committee Report* recommendations. What is the VFC strategic vision for State Legislation? Should the VFC model state-level advocacy on core NARFE goals? Should the VFC broaden our State Legislative portfolio to include “good government” issues, such as transparency, campaign finance reform, and redistricting reform, or, championing public service at the state-level? Should the VFC move to a multi-year state plan instead of changing issues every year? Given the tough political environment, how should the VFC measure “success” and better market itself? These are questions that need to be addressed.

**Patricia (Patti) Downs, VFC State Legislation Chair**

## **Membership Committee Report**

This year's VFC Convention (April 13-16) in Richmond was my first as VFC Membership Chair, to which I was appointed in October 2013. The Convention included a Membership Committee meeting and three

Recruitment and Retention Workshops. Betty Warren conducted the Retention Tips Workshop. In addition, top individual recruiters and various Chapters were recognized for their efforts. Everyone who recruited a new member from April 2013 to March 2014 was given one ticket for each member recruited for the top membership recruitment award drawing. The winner of this drawing, Debbie Laughon, VFC Area V VP, received a week at Fishermen's Village Resort Club in Punta Gorda, Florida, in December. The other membership recruitment awards which were based on Chapter size, were \$200 for 1<sup>st</sup> place and \$100 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place (\$50 each if there were ties). The top individual recruiters within each chapter size category were:

Small Chapters

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Bill Martin (6 members recruited)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – TIE – Debbie Laughon and Wilhelmina Santiful

Mid-Size Chapters

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Vicki Duarte (19 members recruited)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – TIE – Jan Raymond and B.J. Thomas-McMillan

Large Chapters

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Marie Collins (91 members recruited)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Jane Beaudoin

The Chapters within each size category with the most new members were: Shenandoah County Chapter 2358,; New River Valley Chapter 1134; Roanoke Valley Chapter 111.

I've also started emphasizing and tracking monthly membership statistics for Reinstatement Rates (number of reinstatements divided by the number of non-renewals), and Prospect Conversion Rates (number of new members divided by the number of prospects identified by NARFE Headquarters).

Headquarters is doing an excellent job of referring information on potential members to the Chapters. In almost all cases, if a Chapter converts half of the prospects identified by Headquarters to new members, or persuaded half of the non-renews to reinstate, that Chapter would show AN INCREASE in its membership.

The Chapters within each size category with the highest Reinstatement Rates were Piedmont Chapter 2080 (133%), Richmond Chapter 60 (60%), and Annandale Chapter 1159 (53%). Chapters with the highest Prospect Conversion Rates were Shenandoah County Chapter 2358 (400%); New River Valley Chapter 1134 (300%); and Roanoke Valley Chapter 111 (133%). Overall, 244 Virginia NARFE members were involved in recruiting new members. Winchester Chapter 180 had the most members involved in recruiting; and Midlothian Chapters 2265 and Alexandria Chapter 232 added the most new Dues Withholding members.

As of the end of 2013, in five of the ten VFC Areas, membership went up; and in four of the ten VFC Areas, the decline in membership slowed. As of the end of May 2014, eleven Chapters either had no decline in membership or less than a 1% decline. And six Chapters – Fauquier Chapter 1549, Lynchburg Chapter 110, Martinsville-Henry Chapter 1882, Louisa Chapter 2065, Falls Run Chapter 2343, and Dulles Chapter 1241 – have actually experienced a NET INCREASE in membership.

I initiated the following actions in support of Chapter Membership Chairs:

- Started VANARFE Membership Group in Google to help me distribute information to Chapter Membership Chairs and to allow the Chairs to share ideas with each other. The Group, which is also open to Chapter Presidents, is private and can be found only by members of the Group. This Group currently has 43 members. Please let me know if you would like to be included.
- Conducted brainstorming and training sessions for VFC Areas I, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X. I hope to schedule sessions with the remaining Areas soon. I'm also available for Chapter meetings.
- Posted recruitment ideas summarizing the results of the training sessions at the VANARFE.org website and in the Google Group. Also posted a Quid Pro Quo article indicating what Chapter Membership Chairs can expect from me and what I'm hoping they will do, a PowerPoint presentation on how to create a strategic plan together with a sample strategic plan, a summary of suggested recruitment-retention materials, and various other information to use for recruitment and retention. These materials include a letter to the editor, "NARFE Pension Bargain," which compares the cost of NARFE membership to protect one's pension to the much higher cost of enlisting a financial advisor for other investments.
- Developed new analyses of membership statistics to help Chapter Membership Chairs pinpoint where their efforts are most needed and could yield the best results.

I encourage Chapter Membership Chairs to:

- Focus NOW on retaining people who joined as part of the "6 month free" offer. The first of these "free" memberships expired at the end of March 2014, so now is the time to be contacting these people. (Instructions on how to identify who is a "6 month free" member have been posted in the VANARFE Membership Group.
- Develop a Strategic Plan for their Chapter - pinpointing whether to devote more efforts to new member recruitment, prospect conversion, or reinstatement of non-renews; setting goals; and deciding on tactics to achieve those goals.
- Review/redesign their Chapter's webpage, at VANARFE.org, to make sure it has valid, updated contact information, AND would induce a potential member to contact the Chapter (e.g., it has photos, a list of the Chapter's past and upcoming meeting programs and non-meeting activities – such as fishing trips, fundraising for Alzheimer's research, participation in other charity events, etc.). I also encourage Chapters to create a page in Facebook, and use other social media outlets.

As part of the Membership Committee, Betty Warren will continue to work on Retention Issues, and Dennis Martin will continue coordination of the eChapter 2363 Virginia members.

I was very encouraged by the enthusiasm of the attendees at the Membership Committee meeting and the Membership Workshops during the 60<sup>th</sup> VFC Convention. I distributed three boxes of Membership materials. Thanks to Connie and John Bails for bringing some of these materials. I hope to build on that enthusiasm in the coming year to keep our membership going in the right direction.



If your Chapter does not have a Membership Chair, please contact me if you would like to discuss some ideas for finding one.

**B.J. Thomas-McMillan, VFC Membership Committee Chair**

### **Service Committee Report**

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

#### **Accomplishments This Fiscal Year**

- Participated in VFC Board meetings;
- Participated in Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters meetings;
- Service Presentations at Metro Virginia Beach Chapter 5, Churchland Chapter 1293, Virginia Beach Chapter 974, Shenandoah County Chapter 2348, Roanoke Valley Chapter 111, and Dulles Chapter 1241, and Metro Northern Virginia Chapter 1665;
- Obtained materials from NARFE Headquarters for distribution to Service Officers during the 60<sup>th</sup> VFC Convention;
- Developed and presented True Colors training for the Service Officers' break-out session at the 60<sup>th</sup> VFC Convention; and
- Gave Service Officer Presentation at NARFE Region X Conference at Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

#### **Services provided to VFC Chapters**

- Responded to survivor inquiries from various Chapter Presidents and NARFE members;
- Responded to referrals from Louisa Chapter 2065;
- Sent numerous get well/condolence cards;
- Obtained sufficient copies of the Form F-100 for distribution at all Chapters visited;
- Mailed a copy of the Form F-100 to those members without email access; and

- Provided Life Events and Your Retirement and Insurance Benefits (For Annuitants), OPM Form RI 38-126.

### **Short Range Plan for the Next 12 Months Following 2014 VFC Convention**

1. **Goal** - Establish a VFC Service Committee;
2. Continue to contact area VPs to develop a plan of action to acquire service ACs;
3. Establish Area Coordinators in every VFC Area;
4. Meet with Area VPs and ACs to discuss plan of action to establish Chapter Service Officer(s)/Committees

**John & Dr. Constance T. Bails, VFC Service Officer Co-Chairs**

### **Public Relations Report**

**“ALL THINGS NARFE ARE PUBLIC RELATIONS OPPORTUNITIES!”** Hopefully, your Chapter is in a better place this year than last year and that you have taken advantage of the opportunities to advance NARFE in your local areas. Public Relations (PR) is not a onetime activity; but it is an ongoing activity to build the NARFE brand and to attract new members. Every Chapter activity has a public relations component that could and should be drawn on by a Chapter PR person to get some kind of publicity. If your Chapter doesn't have a PR person, please try to engage a volunteer during the coming year. The VFC has been busy helping Chapters during the year with PR GOODIES and Matching Funds Requests. Have you taken advantage of either? If not, you should find out how the VFC can help your Chapter. We are available to help, you just have to ask.

**PR CHAIRS NETWORK** - Thirty of the 58 chapters in the Virginia Federation have designated PR Persons. This is a decline of 2 from last year. We can do better! Without a PR person you are losing an opportunity to be fully engaged and to take advantage of your Chapter's successes. Also, I send out periodic PR updates to the PR Chairs and Presidents who don't have a person designated.

**PR GOODIES** - This has been a great year! I have sent out almost 17,000 items with NARFE membership information on them—Bags, Notes, Note Books, Pens, Letter Openers, Magnets, Coasters and Tooth Brush Holders. I received 9 requests from VFC Officers and Area Vice Presidents and 13 requests from Chapters. These items were used at local health fairs, various postal conventions, retirement seminars, and local fairs and festivals to attract people to a NARFE table. The visitors learned about NARFE, its accomplishments, and the benefits of membership; plus they carried away a NARFE item as a reminder. Numerous potential members were identified for future follow up and some new members were obtained. **What is your Chapter planning for the 2014-2015 year?**

**MATCHING FUNDS** - Since the 2013 VFC Convention, I received five matching funds requests, three fewer than last year. **We are going in the wrong direction!** The Matching Funds program is an excellent way for Chapters to stretch their limited funds and to sponsor membership projects. All the information

you need is on the VFC web site under the Public Relations section at [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org). Give me a call if you have any questions. I can help you through the process. You just have to look for the opportunities in your local area. The five projects – four involving Chapters and one VFC project - had a total cost of about \$6,300. Chapters had tables at fairs, local festivals, and participated in a parade. Get your creative thinking cap on and think of a way your chapter can attract new members. NARFE Headquarters and the VFC will help on approved projects by covering 75% of the costs!

**PR CHAIR ACTIVITIES** - Keeping busy on NARFE activities doesn't seem to be a problem. I attended the quarterly VFC meetings and provided PR update reports to the Board (these are posted on the VFC web site). At the request of the Area IV VP, I visited and spoke to the Churchland Chapter 1293 members on VFC PR activities. Officers from the Suffolk Chapter 1743 were also in attendance. In January 2014, I completed my two years as the Chair of the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters. Leaders of the 13 Chapters met quarterly to obtain timely feedback from VFC Board meetings and to share and coordinate information on Chapter activities. In August, the VFC President appointed me as the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District Liaison. This position allowed me to present and advance the NARFE mission with Congressman Wittman and his staff. Remember **“All things NARFE are Public Relations Opportunities!”**

**CLOSING QUOTE-** “Failure is not fatal, but failing to change might be!” John Wooden.

**Gaston Gianni, VFC Public Relations Chair**

## **Alzheimer's Report**

Research continues, seeking a cure for this terrible disease. We have many more projects going on than we may realize, and many people involved whom you may not expect. My own pulmonary doctor happened to mention that he is involved in an Alzheimer's research project at George Mason University in Fairfax. Who would have guessed? All of this research is for the benefit of people like you and me. And now, we even have Congress on our side.

In May 2012, the first National Alzheimer's Plan was mandated by a bipartisan National Alzheimer's Project Act (PL 111-375) passed by Congress in 2010. There was an updated release in June 2013 which includes a new timeline for achieving its first goal and a review of progress over the past year. I heard a speaker in July indicate that he would guarantee that we can prevent Alzheimer's disease by 2020.

First off, thanks to the Congress for passing the bill to get some money in the budget for treatment and research regarding Alzheimer's disease. The Plan calls for Congress to continue leadership by supporting the additional \$100 million in the President's FY 2014 budget for the fight against Alzheimer's disease. Some provisions in the 2013 Plan Update include:

- Prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025;

- Develop a curriculum for primary care practitioners so that providers have the necessary skills to provide high-quality care;
- Convene an expert panel on advanced dementia to examine unique and unaddressed needs of those in the late stages of the disease; and
- Expand public outreach efforts to increase awareness and to connect Alzheimer’s patients and caregivers with available resources.

I understand that \$203 billion is spent annually for Alzheimer’s remediation and research; and by 2050 the annual amount is expected to reach \$1.2 trillion. For every \$27,000 spent by Medicare and Medicaid for care of Alzheimer's patients, the National Institutes of Health spends only \$100 on research. This is why our NARFE research money is so very important. At a meeting in Chicago in July between Alzheimer's Association and NARFE, the following four new grants were awarded for research:

- A grant of \$99,697 for two years was presented to a Connecticut researcher to help determine what are the affects of an exercise training program on brain function in people who have at least one parent diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease;
- Nearby in Boston, another grant worth \$99,999 over two years to address whether a series of drug-like compounds protect nerve cells and prevent nerve cell death by activating HDAC1 and could that mean a novel therapeutic for Alzheimer's disease;
- Meanwhile in Florida, a \$100,000 award over two years was made to a researcher at Roskamp Foundation to consider if elevated activity levels of caspase and BACE1 initiate the blood vessel wall damage that leads to cerebral amyloid angiography (CAA) and cognitive decline (it could be link between heart and Alzheimer's diseases); and
- A three-year grant for \$233,960 to try to establish if a new type of vaccine component consisting of a monoclonal antibody can prevent the development of Alzheimer's-like brain changes, or reduce such changes after they have already formed.

Harry Johns, President and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, said that these studies are examples of the quality research in the pipeline that needs further funding in order to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025, as outlined in the National Alzheimer's Plan.

We know that Virginians are digging deep to give as much as they can to the research. Here is some of the financial news over the past year:

Total collection, 2013:	\$77,031.17;
Area IX contribution:	\$26,576.10, with Woodbridge Chapter 1270 giving \$15,580; and
Per Capita contribution:	Falls Run Chapter 2343 gave an average per member of \$48.93

I have received checks of \$2.00 and as much as \$1,000. Rest assured, it all goes to research and is very valuable. Virginians should hold their heads high at the NARFE National Convention in August.

**NARFE ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH CUMULATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS  
from Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) for Calendar Year 2013**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Area Vice President</b>	<b>1st Quarter</b>	<b>2nd Quarter</b>	<b>3rd Quarter</b>	<b>4th Quarter</b>	<b>Year</b>
1	Patricia A. Taylor	\$75.00	\$391.50	\$4,229.07	\$2,111.64	\$6,807.21
2	Alex H. Adkins	\$336.00	\$772.40	\$286.00	\$262.00	\$1,656.40
3	Carolyn E. Wilson	\$1,553.50	\$823.33	\$477.50	\$3,090.62	\$5,944.95
4	Bobby L. Whittington	\$488.00	\$198.00	\$375.00	\$153.00	\$1,214.00
5	Debra E. Laughon	\$100.00			\$305.00	\$405.00
6	Wanda Ware	\$328.00	\$548.00	\$357.00	\$260.00	\$1,493.00
7	Steve Dansker	\$1,926.36	\$1,692.33	\$2,964.78	\$7,624.03	\$14,207.50
8	Leslie E. Ravenell	\$3,341.13	\$1,004.39	\$965.84	\$5,181.82	\$10,493.18
9	Pierce J. Johnson	\$3,063.88	\$4,970.35	\$6,979.72	\$11,562.15	\$26,576.10
10	Ralph Dantinne	\$1,407.65	\$1,107.37	\$1,338.00	\$2,150.81	\$6,003.83
VFC		\$11.00	\$2,159.00	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$2,230.00
Totals		\$12,630.52	\$13,666.67	\$18,022.91	\$32,711.07	\$77,031.17

**NARFE ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTIONS  
from Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) FOR Calendar Year 2013**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Area Vice President</b>	<b>1st Quarter</b>	<b>2nd Quarter</b>	<b>3rd Quarter</b>	<b>4th Quarter</b>	<b>Year</b>
1	Patricia A. Taylor	\$0.06	\$0.31	\$3.40	\$1.68	\$5.36
2	Alex H. Adkins	\$0.37	\$0.87	\$0.33	\$0.32	\$1.90
3	Carolyn E. Wilson	\$1.26	\$0.69	\$0.40	\$2.65	\$4.96
4	Bobby L. Wittington	\$0.69	\$0.30	\$0.60	\$0.24	\$1.83
5	Debra E. Laughon	\$0.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.97	\$1.22
6	Wanda Ware	\$0.47	\$0.82	\$0.55	\$0.41	\$2.25
7	Steve Dansker	\$1.55	\$1.39	\$2.48	\$6.39	\$11.72
8	Leslie E. Ravenell	\$2.23	\$0.69	\$0.69	\$3.77	\$7.32
9	Pierce J. Johnson	\$0.64	\$1.07	\$1.53	\$2.60	\$5.76
10	Ralph Dantinne	\$0.35	\$0.28	\$0.35	\$0.58	\$1.55
VFC		\$0.00	\$0.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.14
Totals		\$0.75	\$0.84	\$1.14	\$2.10	\$4.78

**Donna Shackelford, VFC Alzheimer's Committee Chair**

## **FY-2015 VFC Board**

### **Executive Committee**

President	Richard Giangerelli	Secretary	William A. Schmidt
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Kathy R. Arpa	Treasurer	Raphael Wong
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.	Leslie E. Ravenell	Im. Past Pres.	Luther L. Santiful

### **Area Vice Presidents**

VFC Area I	Patricia A. Taylor	VFC Area VI	Delwyn A. Dyer
VFC Area II	Alex H. Adkins	VFC Area VII	Steve Dansker
VFC Area III	Carolyn E. Wilson	VFC Area VIII	Maureen Nolet
VFC Area IV	Bobby L. Whittington	VFC Area IX	Pierce J. Johnson
VFC Area V	Debra E. Laughon	VFC Area X	Max D. Scruggs

### **VFC Committee Chairs**

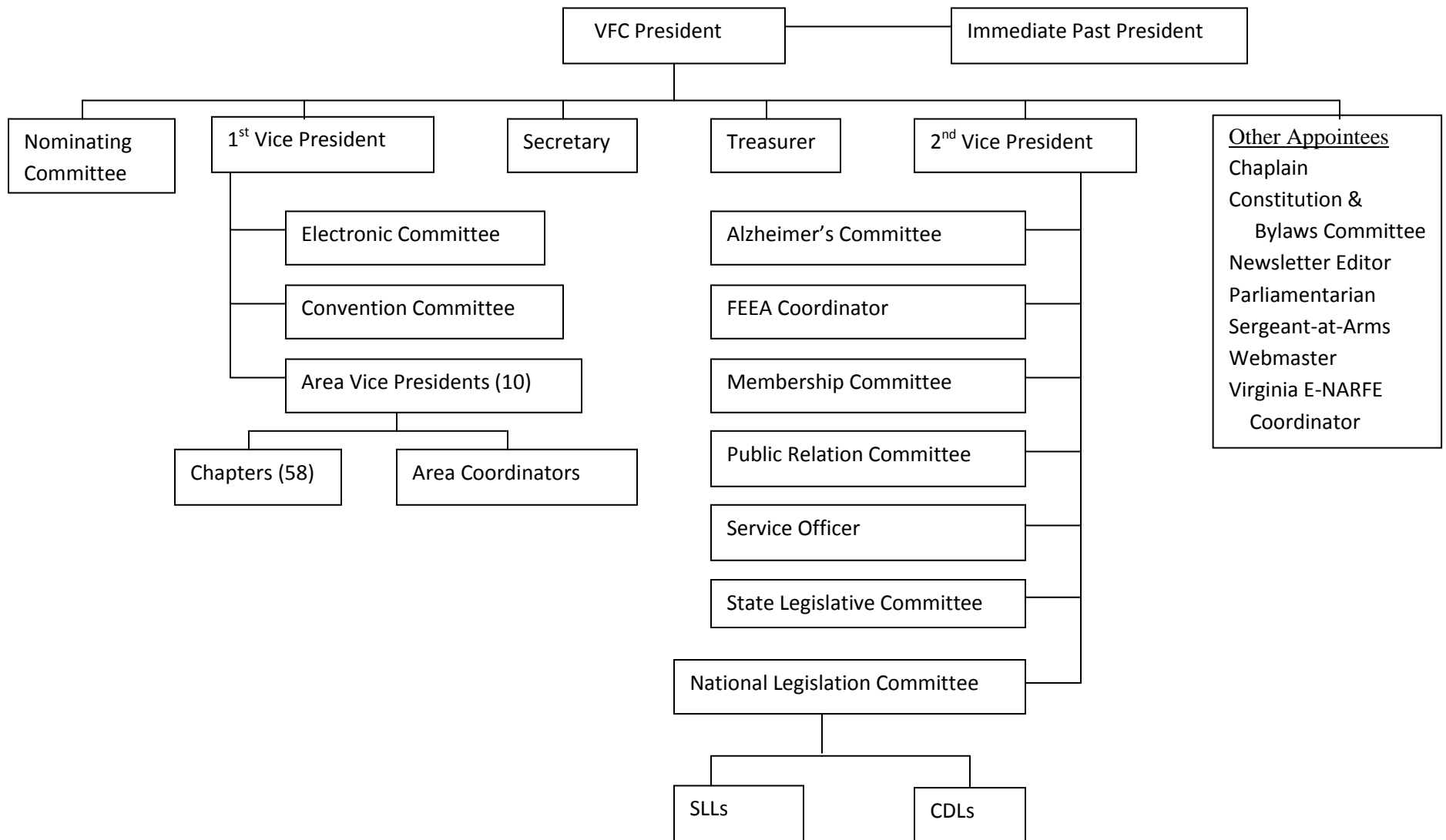
National Legislation	Jim Brewer	Membership	Beverly Thomas-McMillan
State Legislation	Patricia M. Downs	Service	Constance & John Bails
Public Relations	Gaston Gianni	Alzheimer's	Donna Shackelford

### **Other Appointees**

Chaplain	Margaret Yowell	Parliamentarian	Mary E. Swain
Constitution & Bylaws	Delwyn A. Dyer	Sergeant-At-Arms	Lee Barta
Membership Retention	Betty Warren	Web Masters	Stan W. Palen
Newsletter Editor	Patricia M. Wolfe		Sidney Sachs
CDL, District 1	Gaston Gianni	Deputy CDL, Dist. 2	Ray Whipple
CDL, District 3	Shirley Driver-Kinchen	CDL, District 10	Jon Joyce
CDL, District 11	Mary Lou Vroman	SLL, Senator Warner	Steve Ledford
SLL, Senator Kaine	Max D. Scruggs		

### **VFC Nominating Committee**

<u>VFC Area</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
I	Marilyn Riddle	Ray Whipple
II	Phyliss Brown	Judith Bosmengo
III	Lynn M. Osborne	Mary Lykins
IV	Dillard Horton	Barbara Whittington
V	Edith Austin	Debra Laughon
VI	Mark Fisher	Arnold Travis Poole
VII	Jon Joyce	Patricia L. Joyce
VIII	Dorothy W. Almassy (Chair)	Mary Heck
IX	Carlton Andrus (Vice Chair)	Margaret A. Yowell
X	John Bails	Mark McLachlan





# Virginia Federation of Chapters

[www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org)

The Virginia Federation of Chapters of NARFE was established on April 9, 1955. Eighteen national members representing ten chapters and fewer than 1,000 members in the Commonwealth established the tenth federation of NARFE.

The Virginia Federation now has 58 member chapters with a total membership of approximately 16,000.

The Federation is divided into ten areas to which chapters are assigned by geographical location for more efficient operation.

Ten Area Vice Presidents, six Committee Chairs, five Executive Committee members, and the Immediate Past President serve on the Federation Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors meets at least three times yearly at a central location in Virginia to conduct business of the Federation.

The Federation Constitution conforms to the overall objectives of NARFE, with its Bylaws and Organizational Handbook outlining the specifics of its mode of operation.

The Federation trains chapter officers and program chairs on a recurring basis. Training sessions are held throughout the Commonwealth to minimize travel requirements.

For more information, contact:

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**NARFE Membership Benefits You!**