

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



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

(May 2008 – April 2009)

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

Area I

Peninsula 682
Colonial Williamsburg 685
Middle Peninsula 1757
Northern Neck 1823

Area II

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

Area III

Petersburg 28
Richmond 60
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/Augusta 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 489
Fairfax 737
Vienna 1116
Loudoun 1133
Dulles 1241
Metro Northern VA 1665

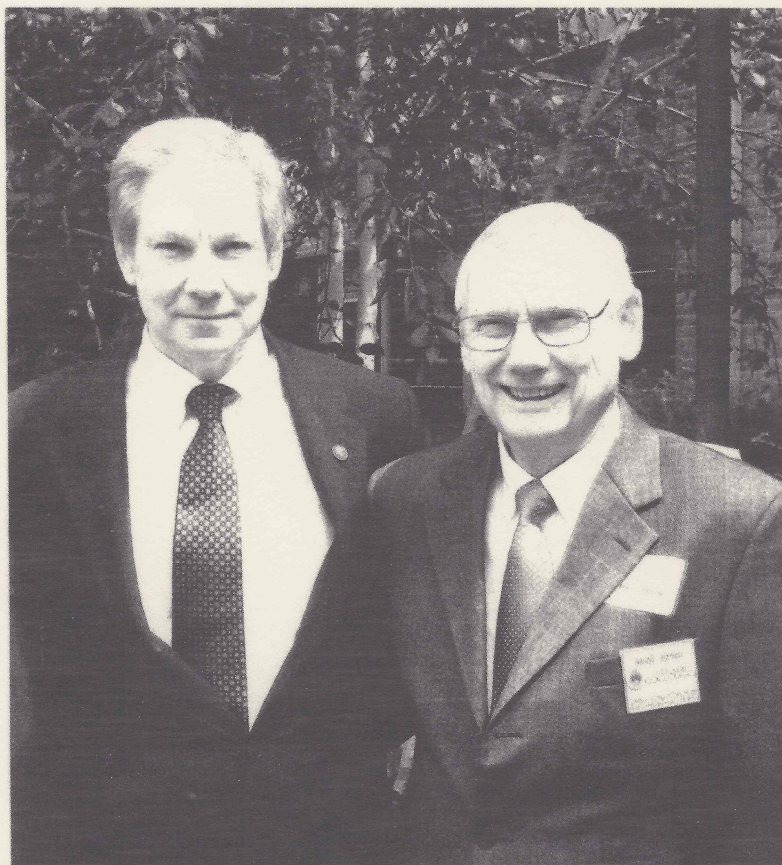
To Honor

R. David Smith

**Immediate Past President
VFC Board Member 1999 - 2008**

Virginia Federation of Chapters

**“His calm and confident leadership encouraged
us to move forward and to think outside the box.”**



Dave Smith, (r) at July luncheon honoring Rep. Tom Davis

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VFC-NARFE ANNUAL REPORT – 2009

William F. {Bill} Martin, President

There have been many changes in our organization during the past year. The most difficult to accept was the resignation of our VFC President R. David Smith in September due to health reasons. Although Dave was able to help me as I took over as president, his dedicated leadership has been sorely missed. As a result of Dave's resignation, the following position changes were made: Carolyn Wilson advanced to the 1st Vice President's position, Richard Giangerelli was appointed 2nd Vice President replacing Carolyn, and Kathy Arpa was appointed Area X Vice President replacing Richard.

Other VFC Board Changes: In addition to the officer changes, there were several committee leadership changes. Wilton Ward, after an excellent job resigned as Alzheimer's Committee Chair and was ultimately replaced by Shirley Keyes. Dennis Martin left as Membership Committee Chair and was temporarily replaced by Shirley Keyes before she agreed to chair Alzheimer's. I'm happy to report that Dennis Martin has returned to chair the Membership Committee. Mary Swain replaced John Eaton as our Parliamentarian. We'll miss John Eaton's wonderful smile and the "squeal" of his hearing aide, but we'll enjoy his replacement, the delightful Mary Swain. Also during the year, Bob McConahy was replaced as VFC Net Coordinator by Dick Edwards who returned to the position. We also have several new Area Vice Presidents: Jack McMurchy replaced Bob Boyd in Area 3; Jessie Barksdale replaced Jim Nobles in Area 5; Del Dyer replaced George Hawkins in Area 6; and Dick Giangerelli replaced Richard Raybold in Area 10. The last change occurred when the well-respected Oscar Honeycutt moved his home and membership to North Carolina. Our loss is obviously North Carolina's gain.

National Legislation: We have been successful under the leadership of Charlie Delaplaine, in getting most of our representatives to co-sponsor the repeal of GPO and WEP and for our retirees to be included in the Premium Conversion program, which will allow us to pay for our insurance with pre-tax dollars. The problem is that nothing has moved much beyond that again this congressional session. Many VFC members attended the Legislative Conference in March and after two days of being educated on NARFE issues, went to Capitol Hill and met with their representative or a legislative aide. All VFC members are encouraged to contact their representatives and senators to urge their support of the NARFE Legislative program. I'm sorry to say that Charlie Delaplaine will be leaving the VFC board after the convention. He has done a wonderful job and will be missed.

State Legislation: The State Legislation Committee, chaired by Bill Schmidt, has also been very busy this year. They developed a meaningful legislative program and Bill received approval to receive weekly reports from Eldon James on the state issues. That report was posted on the VFC web site www.vanarfe.org and weekly status reports were sent to our members with email addresses using the NARFE GEMS (Global Electronic Messaging) System. Included with the Eldon James report was the insightful Giesen Report. Bill is currently reviewing whether we'll renew this contract next state political season.

Membership: Although our membership has declined slightly (3.9%) since EOY 2007, the bright spot is Dues Withholding. During the same time as the decline, we have seen an 8.4% increase in the number of members with dues withholding – now, 1,978 using Dues Withholding. We will continue to place emphasis on dues withholding. We have increased our support to the membership program, by establishing two sub-committees – one to determine why members didn't renew and at the same time to solicit them to reinstate their membership, and the second to concentrate on adding new retiree and current federal employee members. While the committees are slow to start, we will be working to energize them, as well as energize all members to do what can be done to maintain and increase membership – everyone must understand that NARFE is the only one doing what can be done to protect our earned benefits. Thanks to Shirley Keyes for her excellent work on the committee this year and for establishing the sub-committees. She will be taking over the Alzheimer's Committee chair duties and will be replaced on the Membership Committee by Dennis Martin - welcome back Dennis.

Service: Sue and Jim Righter have been very active this past year, continuing to attend chapter and board meetings and sharing their wealth of knowledge on Service issues. They have decided to leave the board after the convention and they will be missed. Sue and Jim have been on the board for four years and our appreciation goes to them both for the excellent items they've produced and seminars they've conducted. Thanks Sue & Jim.

Public Relations: Pat Taylor has been working with chapters, helping them on Matching Fund initiatives – NARFE Headquarters and the VFC will match chapter funds when the expense is directed towards expansion of NARFE's name. Our goal is to make NARFE a well known household word, and to solicit memberships during festivals, health fairs, conventions, etc. where active and retired federal employees attend. Pat has also been actively working on the recruitment and membership sub-committees, intended to add new members and to bring back those who have let their memberships expire.

Alzheimer's: Although Wilton Ward left as chair of the Alzheimer's Committee, he's stayed involved over the year as we've worked to bring on our new committee chair, Shirley Keyes. Dick Giangerelli is rebuilding the data base and facts on donations just aren't ready at this time. But, on a very positive note, NARFE has exceeded the \$7 million goal reaching \$8.4 million earlier this year. Congratulations are due to everyone who has supported this great cause over the years – Thank You!

NARFE's Rapid Response Team (NRRT): A new initiative is the VFC-NRRT. NARFE headquarters initiated the NRRT this year. It is intended to encourage members with internet capability to sign up and have their email address added to GEMS. Dick Edwards, the VFC Net Coordinator, will be working with AVPs and chapters to support the effort to get all internet members on GEMS. We have found it an excellent way to keep members up to date on a variety of issues at very little cost. We will be encouraging everyone to sign on. One "complaint" has been that members' email addresses are shared with others – this is not true. Email addresses are confidential and will be held in total confidence. Sign up for GEMS today at www.narfe.org.

VFC ANNUAL REPORT – 2009

2010 VFC Convention: Planning has already started on the 2010 VFC Convention. It will be held April 25-28, 2010 at the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center and will be hosted by members of chapters in Area I, II, and IV. Please mark your calendars now. ☺

My Activities: This year started with me as VFC 1st VP, coordinating the 2009 VFC Convention but when Dave Smith had to resign, my work really started. I can only emphasize how wonderful it has been to work with him. He made everything seem easy – but when he wasn't there to help, I could see all that he had been doing. Following are some of my activities for the year:

- Led the VFC Delegation to the 2008 NARFE National Convention, participated in the President's Conference and worked on the Ballot and Tellers Committee.
- Attended three and chaired two VFC Board Meetings
- Attended the Tom Davis Recognition Luncheon
- Attended the Virginia League of Postmasters convention in Bristol
- Attended, spoke, and as needed, installed officers in Eastern Shore 1175, Caroline County 2112, Fredericksburg 90, Northern Neck 1823, Colonial Beach 595, and I plan to visit 1727 Tuckahoe and 2265 Midlothian during April.
- Attended the Region 10 Retention Committee meeting in Bristol
- Participated in several 2009 Convention Committee meetings
- Visited several sites for the 2010 VFC Convention with the committee, selecting the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center.
- Attended 2009 Legislative Training Conference and visited Congressman Cantor's office on Capitol Hill

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



Virginia Delegation at the 2008 NARFE National Convention, Louisville, Kentucky

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2009

Carolyn Wilson, 1st Vice President

I will start this report as 2nd Vice President of the VFC. I served as 2nd VP from April 2008 until August 2008. Those four months I worked with the membership and public relations program chairs fulfilling invitations to various venues. Bill Martin, 1st VP, VFC, Barbara Nugent, Pre-retirement Seminar Coordinator (PRS) and I attended four Postal Conventions across the state of Virginia. Eleven new members were recruited at these conventions. TRIAD events were held in Chesterfield County and Petersburg, VA. Barbara Nugent, myself and members of Chapter 28, Petersburg set up and manned the tables. A lot of interest was shown; however, there is really no way of knowing whether **any** new members were recruited. Two chapters tried holding meetings at different times. Fredericksburg Chapter 90 had a Saturday morning meeting and Piedmont Chapter 2080 had an evening meeting. Attendance wasn't as high as we had hoped, but two new members were recruited. I attended Chapter 90's meeting and helped Chapter 2080 set up their meeting.

The rest of the time I was busy with helping to develop the State Legislative Plan, attending Chapters meetings and/or picnics and attending the VFC Board Meetings.

The middle of August I was planning to attend Louisa Chapter 2065's picnic and sharing a ride with Dave and Norma Smith. Dave called and said that he wasn't feeling well and so they wouldn't be going. My life changed after that phone call. Bill Martin, as the new VFC President, appointed me 1st Vice President of the VFC on September 1st. I can say for a fact that life as the 1st VP is even busier than when I was 2nd VP!

As 1st VP, Convention Coordinator becomes a new title! I have been very busy working with the Convention Chair and co-chair and committee chairs planning the 2009 convention in Reston, VA. Areas IX and X are working hard to make this the most successful convention ever. The change in the economy has given us an extra challenge. Having the convention in Northern Virginia has given us a chance to do some different things in our program; i.e., a forum for candidates for governor, focus groups with OPM, Congressmen as guest speakers, and a financial advisor speaking about topics that interest active federal employees.

Working with the 10 Area VPs is a real pleasure and having worked with most of them over the past few years has been a real advantage for me. This year saw three chapters having difficulty in remaining viable chapters due to poor attendance and lack of interest in serving as officers. After working with the Area VPs and the chapters, I am happy to say that all three chapters **elected** a full slate of officers and I believe are newly energized. A new Chapter had its first meeting in March, Chapter 2358, Shenandoah County, giving Virginia a total of 57 chapters. I look forward to visiting the chapters and meeting with the members.

I want to thank every officer of the VFC, Area Vice Presidents, and Chapters for all the help they have been to me this past year and I look forward to working with them for the next year as their 1st VP.

VFC-NARFE ANNUAL REPORT – 2009
Richard J. {Dick} Giangerelli

This past year was a year of change and I somehow got entangled in it. I was elected the Area X Vice President at the 2008 NARFE/VFC Convention and actually served about 3 months in that capacity. During that time, I visited 3 of the 7 Chapters in Area X, conducted a brain-storming session with representatives from the Area X Chapters to discuss options for inclusion in the VFC 2009 State Legislative Plan, developed a proposed realignment and clarification of boundaries for the Area X Chapters, and represented NARFE at Northern Virginia Aging Network policy planning meetings and discussions. Also, during this period, I volunteered to be the database manager for the 2009 VFC Convention, not realizing the level of effort that position required. I also continued on as the Dulles Chapter 1241 1st Vice President and Membership Chairman.

Then I was asked to designate a replacement for the Area X Vice President's position and to serve as the VFC 2nd Vice President. The primary responsibilities of this position are to assist the VFC President in any way needed and to biennially conduct training sessions for the Chapter Officers and Chairmen. This includes providing oversight and direction for the six VFC Committee Chairs. Lucky for me, the six Program Chairs were experienced and allowed me to ease into this position. But nothing remains constant, and soon we had Shirley Keyes taking over the Membership Chair from Dennis Martin, and Barbara McDiarmid taking over the Alzheimer's Chair from Wilton Ward. Also, Charles Delaplane, the National Legislation Chair, and Sue and Jim Righter, the Service Co-Chairs, indicated that they needed to step down soon from their positions. Changes continued to embroil the VFC. In January 2009, Barbara McDiarmid had to step down from the Alzheimer's Chair because new demands in her life, so I stepped into that position in an acting capacity until someone could be appointed.

While all of this was going on, I was also elected as President of Dulles Chapter 1241 and began the process of finding and training someone to assume the position of Chapter Membership Chair. And, this work continues.

As a result of all of these events, for you I have been largely an invisible VFC 2nd Vice-President. But, I believe that challenges and problems are nothing but opportunities for improvement. We have had some successes in both the National and Commonwealth of Virginia legislative programs. Membership in the VFC has remained fairly stable relative to the rest of NARFE. Alzheimer's research contributions in 2008 were 10% higher than in 2007. And the VFC is now one Chapter larger than it was in 2008.

Challenges and problems are nothing but opportunities for improvement!

Robert H. Miller, Secretary

As I approach the end of five years as your VFC Secretary, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the support that you have given me over this past year, and in fact, for the past eight years that I have served on the VFC Board. I have had the opportunity to meet many fine NARFE members around Virginia working hard to recruit and retain members, to promote our legislative program, and to raise funds for Alzheimer's research.

Here is a recap of some of the events that I have personally been involved in during the past year:

- Took and compiled minutes the meetings of the VFC Board of Directors and the VFC Executive Committee.
- Forwarded required reports on the 2008 VFC Convention and VFC officer roster to NARFE Secretary.
- Forwarded Chapter F-7 reports to VFC Data Base Coordinator.
- Distributed in February to chapter presidents and secretaries "Virginia Federation of Chapters 2009 Voting Strength and Federation Dues" as of December 31, 2008.
- Participated in June the VFC State Legislation meeting.
- Attended VFC luncheon honoring Congressman Tom Davis.
- Forwarded VFC officer roster changes to NARFE Secretary.
- Staffed a NARFE table at Congressman Moran's Women's Issues Conference.
- Attended 2008 National Convention, Louisville, KY.
- Arranged for Area IX and X members to meet with Congressman Moran's staff.
- Attended 2009 National Legislative Conference, Arlington, VA, and met with staff of Senator Webb, Senator Warner, and Congressman Moran, Washington, D.C..
- Met northern Virginia legislators during General Assembly session and at meetings in their districts.
- Arranged for two antique vehicles with NARFE signage in George Washington Birthday Parade, Alexandria.
- Attended meetings of 2009 Convention Committee.
- Compiled reports from Board members for the 2009 Annual Report.
- Attended meetings of several Chapters in northern Virginia.

Special thanks to VFC Presidents David Smith and William (Bill) Martin, and Executive Committee members Carolyn Wilson, Richard Giangerelli, and Darlene Myer Rhodes, as well as Area Vice Presidents and Committee Chairs who helped me serve the Federation this year.

If reelected at the 2009 VFC State Convention, I look forward to serving as your Federation secretary for another year. Feel free to contact me at 703-683-3025 or e-mail: vivmiller801@netzero.net.

VFC ANNUAL REPORT - 2009

Darlene Myer Rhodes, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET (\$)		ACTUAL (\$)	
	Annum		Jul 1 - Mar 31	
Revenues				
NARFE 10% Funds	\$53,400		\$36,556.33	
Chapter Dues	\$34,700		\$22,402.00	
Accounts Receivable	N/A		\$14,740.00	
Reimbursed Expenses	\$116		\$116.00	
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,740		\$1,740.00	
NARFE Matching Funds	\$636		\$636.00	
Commissions-Travel	\$932		\$931.50	
Interest	\$800		\$359.30	
2009 Convention Advance	\$1,000		\$1,000.00	
Prior year Carryover	\$30,776		\$0.00	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$124,100		\$78,481	

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET (\$)		ACTUAL (\$)	
	Annum		Jul 1 - Mar 31	
Expenses				
Executive Committee	\$18,520		\$11,262.91	
IPP and Appointees	\$9,962		\$2,377.49	
Field Operation	\$29,935		\$11,984.32	
Program Operation	\$21,760		\$7,524.30	
Convention Advance	\$1,000		\$1,000.00	
Contract-Eldon James	\$2,700		\$2,700.00	
Awards/Gifts	\$1,000		\$78.07	
NARFE/FEEA	\$1,000		\$1,000.00	
Training	\$1,000		\$0.00	
Directories	\$500		\$0.00	
Electronics Comte	\$200		\$0.00	
Equip Rental/Repair	\$500		\$0.00	
Hotel	\$3,500		\$2,855.70	
Member Recruitment	\$7,000		\$3,347.55	
Miscellaneous Expense	\$2,000		\$3,694.98	
Newsletter	\$2,000		\$1,487.46	
Pre-Retirement Activities	\$200		\$0.00	
President's Spec Comte	\$500		\$87.58	
President's Special Mtgs	\$8,348		\$6,428.07	
NARFE Leg Training Conf	\$11,925		\$3,183.41	
VFC Data Base	\$250		\$0.00	
Web Site	\$300		\$89.91	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$124,100		\$59,102 (48%)	

NET GAIN/LOSS

\$19,379

BRINGING EMPLOYEES and RETIREES TOGETHER

VFC ANNUAL REPORT – 2009
Darlene Myer Rhodes, Treasurer

ACCOUNT BALANCES

As of March 31, 2009

CODE	DESCRIPTION	Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance
		30-Jun-08	Jul 1 - Mar 31	Jul 1 - Mar 31	31-Mar-09
1000	Wachovia Checking (1)	35,895.14	63,381.83	59,098.00	40,178.97
1010	Contingency Fund (5/09) (2)	9,005.01	84.58	0.00	9,089.59
1044	General Fund CD5 (10/09) (3)	6,266.00	58.13	0.00	6,324.13
1045	General Fund CD6 (5/09) (3)	8,388.40	78.77	0.00	8,467.17
1047	General Fund CD2 (03/09) (3)	10,081.16	131.34	0.00	10,212.50
1030	General Fund MM (3)	7,587.68	6.48	0.00	7,594.16
	Total General Funds	77,223.39	63,741.13	59,098.00	81,866.52
1000	Political Account Checking (4)	4.00	835.00	835.00	4.00
1020	Political Account MM (4)	4,751.27	839.33	0.00	5,590.60
	Total Political Fund	4,755.27	1,674.33	835.00	5,594.60
1005	Convention Checking	13.85	32,701.00	2,628.68	30,086.17
	Total Convention Fund	13.85	32,701.00	2,628.68	30,086.17

(1) Wachovia checking account balance on 30 Sep 08 included \$1,142.15 earmarked for future VFC communications upgrade-- revenue was generated by VFC sponsored travel to Branson, MO in December 2004. By action of the VFC Board meeting, July 28-29, 2008, these funds have been placed in general funds category.

(2) By action of the VFC Board Meeting, July 28-29, 2008, the earmark of Legal Funds was removed and now placed these funds as contingency funds available for general use.

(3) Available reserves (codes 1044, 1045, 1047 and 1030) - totaling \$32,597.96

(4) VFC State Political Accounts. One is a Money Market account which earns interest on accumulated contributions from individual NARFE members until time for the disbursement to legislators' campaigns. At that time, funds are transferred to the checking account. Checks are distributed to the respective VFC AVPs to arrange for hand delivery to recipients. Maintenance of these accounts is in accordance with state laws and guidelines provided by the State Board of Elections (SBE). VFC State Political Account quarterly reports are required and transmitted electronically to the SBE by the VFC Treasurer. The report for the period ending 31 Mar 09 was transmitted electronically to the SBE on 2 Apr 09, although it was not due until 15 Apr 09.

(5) The 2007 Form 990 was filed with the IRS before November 15, 2008 due date.

(6) A review of financial accounts of Fiscal Year 1 July 2007 - 30 June 2008 was conducted by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), who reported the VFC financial accounts to be presented fairly in all material respects.

BRINGING EMPLOYEES and RETIREES TOGETHER

VFC Annual Report – 2009
Ann M. Collins, Past President

During the Fall of 2008, the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) Executive Committee and Board members displayed their resilience in adjusting to the challenges of the changes in the VFC leadership necessitated by the surprise diagnosis of a severe illness and subsequent resignation by VFC President Dave Smith. We continue to keep Dave and Norma Smith in our prayers.

During the past year, I served as the Immediate Past President and member of the VFC Board up to the change in leadership, above. As a Past President of the Federation, I will continue to be a Delegate-At-Large for the current and future VFC Conventions. VFC President Bill Martin requested highlights of my NARFE activities for the entire past year:

- Served as a voting member of the VFC Board of Directors (one meeting past year).
- Served as VFC Congressional Liaison for VA-11th District for the 110th Congress.
- Served on the Board of Directors, Virginia Coalition on Aging (term exp 12/2008).
- Attended four workshops relating to aging issues (as a Board member of the Coalition), sponsored by the Virginia Center on Aging.
- Arranged for the VFC sponsored Recognition Luncheon for Congressman Tom Davis in July 2008. Former State Senator Jeannemarie Devolites-Davis was recognized for her support to the VFC, also. There were 90 attendees representing 20 chapters along with NARFE National President Margaret Baptiste.
- Participated in the September 2008 NARFE National Convention, Louisville, KY.
- Attended the Fall 2008 Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN) Legislative Breakfast.
- Attended the TRIAD Fall Conference in NOVA.
- Attended the Fall 2008 Joint Virginia Coalition for the Aging and Elder Rights Coalition Legislative Forum, Richmond.
- Served as Silver Representative, VA-11th District, and NARFE representative at the National Silverhaired Congress Session, Washington, DC, February 2009.
- Attended the March 2009 NARFE Legislative Training Conference.
- Installed officers and/or gave remarks at chapter meetings -- Annandale 1159; Vienna 1116; Loudoun 1133; and my home chapter, Springfield 893.
- Attended bi-monthly NOVA Caucus meetings, appointed as Advisor to the Caucus, and installed newly elected Caucus officers.
- Served on the 2009 VFC Convention Committee as the Chair, Exhibits Committee.

I look forward to being with many Virginia chapter delegates and members at the May 2009 VFC Convention. In the meantime, I urge all Virginia chapter leaders and members to continue to raise the awareness of NARFE in everything you do -- a well-known identity will make a difference -- NARFE will become a household name in Virginia, yet!

Sharon H. Rose, Area I Vice President

Area I is comprised of four chapters, Peninsula Chapter 682, Williamsburg Chapter 685, Middle Peninsula Chapter 1757, and Northern Neck Chapter 1823.

As Area I Vice President during this reporting period, I attended the VFC Convention in April 2008 and all the VFC quarterly board meetings. I held two Area I Council meetings during this period. I have also visited each chapter at least twice during this time. I attended a VFC State Legislative Meeting in June 2008 to develop a proposed 2009 State Legislative Plan for VFC Board approval. In September 2008 I attended the NARFE National Convention in Louisville, KY. I installed officers for Chapter 685 at their January 2009 meeting.

In July 2008, Chapter 682's President and long time NARFE member, Ellsworth (Mike) Michel passed away. Mike was a strong supporter of NARFE and its goals and was very active in his chapter and in NARFE right up until his passing. His strong leadership and friendship are greatly missed. The unexpected vacancy through the death of a Chapter President created some interesting challenges, but VFC President Dave Smith, as well as NARFE HQ, were very supportive. I think we all learned a lot about what to do and not do when the unexpected happens.

Over the summer months I, along with Joe and Norma Lee (AVP IV) and Betty Warren (AVP II), visited potential convention sites for the 2010 VFC Convention that will be hosted by Area I, II and IV. The VFC Board in January 2009 voted to accept our recommendation for the Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center. Now the hard work begins!

In November 2008, Marie Collins (Chapter 682), NARFE recruiter extraordinary, participated in seven Health Fairs in the Peninsula area. Also, I assisted by staffing a table at the Veterans Administration Health Fair in Hampton. Although NARFE members have often discussed about the value of attending Health Fairs, Marie does sign up many new members and we do get the word out about NARFE.

All four chapters have hosted various political incumbents and candidates during this reporting period. To encourage retired federal employees in the community to join NARFE, Chapter 1823 hosted Charles Delaplane at a special Sunday meeting in February 2009 to discuss legislative issues in the new Congress that could affect active and retired Federal employees. Chapter 1823 used NARFE/VFC matching funds to advertise this meeting in three local newspapers. Also in February, I traveled with representatives from Area I Chapters 682, 685, and 1823 to visit HQ NARFE for orientation and discussion.

Sharon H. Rose, Area I Vice President(sharonhrose@hotmail.com)

VFC ANNUAL REPORT

Betty L. Warren, Area II Vice President

The past year has been an eventful and challenging one in many respects, but now it is time to turn the page and focus our attention to the challenges which lie ahead recruiting and retaining membership. The Chapter Presidents have worked hard throughout the year to hold on to their members and to recruit new members. All chapters were visited on a regular basis. The members are upbeat and committed to NARFE's mission. Chapter activities included picnics, Health Fairs, Luncheons, Silent Auctions and Public Radio Fund Raising all in an effort to recruit, raise money for Alzheimer's research and chapter events. Members in Area II participated with Representatives from the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program Health Fairs for active federal employees in the Tidewater area. At these Health Fairs we were able to distribute NARFE Membership Recruitment and Retirement packages to active federal employees.

There are five distinct and individual Chapters in Area II located in Virginia Beach, Norfolk and Eastern Shore. Each chapter is diverse and unique to the area. Of the five chapters, two have new Presidents. I am sure the new Presidents will develop the character of their Chapter.

In our favor during these stressed economic times, the chapters continue publishing a quarterly newsletter that informs members of items of importance regarding legislation, chapter activities, meetings dates and speakers. Increased in membership attendance is attributed to interesting programs and communication in the newsletter. The combined chapters sponsored a Health Benefit Fair for retirees, annuitants and active federal employees. All Federal Employees Health Benefits providers were invited, eight were represented.

Metro Chapter 5 chapter programs are excellent focusing on speakers with subjects to enhance recruitment and meeting attendance. As a result of these programs the meeting attendance has doubled. Under the leadership and hard work of Past President Lynne Pipis this was possible.

Tidewater Chapter 66 chapter meetings are well attended. President Merritt is maintaining chapter membership. **Virginia Beach Chapter 974** has a new President Alex Adkins. Alex immediately made all his appointment and is focusing on chapter growth and better attendance at chapter meetings. The chapter spearheaded a forum for candidates running for Mayor of Virginia Beach. **Eastern Shore Chapter 1175** President Richard C. Turner agreed to stay around for another year. Richard is looking for more chapter growth and is trying to increase meeting attendance. This chapter meets only twice a year. Starting 2009, they will meet three times a year. **Seaside Chapter 1827** Ron Butler another President who agreed to stay around for another year. Ron is working hard trying to recruit new members and trying to get more of his members to attend Chapter meetings. The members participated in the Public Broadcasting Radio Membership Drive. Their participation exposed NARFE and their presence is announced during the broadcast.

We are fortunate to have faithful members who supported our activities thru the year (2008) to help further NARFE's mission. I am indeed grateful to our members who made the sacrifice to volunteer their time. It has been my pleasure to serve another year.

VFC ANNUAL REPORT – 2009

Jack W. McMurchy, Area III Vice President

First, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me last year and to former VP Bob Boyd who was a model VP. I have concentrated during my first year on (1) continuing the publication of our excellent area newsletter; (2) providing greater training and emphasis on the chapter service officers, and (3) trying to encourage the update of chapter webpages on VFC and national websites. Four of the former coordinators agreed to serve again (Jim Bradley – Service, Barry Corson – National Legislation, Bettye Thornton – Membership, and Marv Hecker – Alzheimers) They were joined by new coordinators Carroll Graham – State Legislation and Larry Garelick – Public Relations/Newsletter. All six did a good job and contributed to the success of the area newsletter with their columns and those of the 7 chapter editors.

Again, I agreed to serve as Petersburg chapter President. Vice President Ken Beasley is assuming more duties and responsibilities. Both he and Treasurer, Annette Jackson, provided new ideas and suggestions to improve the chapter. The chapter spent most of the year playing “catch-up” on membership. While membership ended the year 3% behind 2007’s all-time high, it is making progress. The chapter has a variety of programs/speakers and a viable Service Officer and committee which assist as many nonmembers as members. Good support continues for Alzheimer’s research. Websites are current.

All Richmond Chapter officers agreed to return for another year. Meeting attendance increased due to a greater variety of programs and the more central location of the meetings. Chapter President, Mike Muldowney, works full time, but VP Judith Branton, Secretary Carol Garelic, and the other officers keep the chapter moving. Membership losses continue due both to the death of older members and transfers out.

South of the James Chapter could not get anyone to assume the Presidency (although all other offices were filled for 2009). VFC 1st VP, Carolyn Wilson, and I worked with them. A survey indicated members were satisfied with the chapter and wanted it to continue. After the survey results, Joyce Thomas agreed to become the President (in February). She has updated many items that had lapsed. I look for overall improvement during 2009. Colonial Heights chapter elected a new President, Mary Lykins, and Secretary, Arlene Barkley; but no VP’s. Treasurer Mary Shrum, is the only-hold officer. The chapter gained the most new members (percentage-wise) in the area, continued to have a variety of programs and provided good support for PACs and Alzheimer’s research. They updated their bylaws and are updating their websites.

Imperial Plaza Chapter President Bettye Thornton also agreed to serve as President another year along with many other officers and a new Secretary, Maxine Brown. This small sized chapter had high attendance at meetings, a variety of program speakers, good support of Alzheimer’s research, and current web pages.. Tuckahoe Chapter officers have served 8 years or more, and President Carroll Graham reports nobody else will take an office over. The chapter has a good variety of programs and a strong emphasis on state legislation, but continues to lose members. More luncheon meetings are now held at restaurants to attract more/new members.

Midlothian Chapter changed all officers this year except the Treasurer, Noel Boraski, but the chapter has a tradition of bringing officers up through the ranks. New president Marv Hecker is off to a good start and all areas of the programs are strong, especially National Legislation (through the efforts of Barry Corson).

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Joseph D. Lee, Area IV Vice President

Area IV consists of five chapters with a total membership of about 900 members.

- Chapter 63, Portsmouth, Raymond L. Ballard, President (until May 2009)
- Chapter 1293, Churchland, Joseph D. Lee, President, continuing
- Chapter 1682, Chesapeake, Bill Swann, President, continuing
- Chapter 1697, Brentwood, Walter Broadnax, President, continuing
- Chapter 1743, Suffolk, Joe Silberholz, President, continuing

Membership Retention: Two chapters participated in the Health Fairs in Portsmouth at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) in November 2008. Chapter 1293 distributed about 2,400 NARFE brochures, pamphlets, and membership applications, and about 750 NARFE magazines. Chapter 1697 participated in the Health Fair at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital, and distributed 250 NARFE magazines and about 600 pamphlets, brochures, and membership applications in Suffolk, October 9-12.

Special Program: With NARFE matching funds, Joe Silberholz, Chapter 1743, obtained a booth for the Peanut Festival held in Suffolk, October 9-12 at the Executive Airport. With a backdrop of the NARFE Display Board (lighted), Chapter Banner, and American flag, 28 members from Area IV chapters staffed the booth at scheduled times to distribute NARFE items, including pencils, and membership applications. The NARFE booth was the only one offering free peanuts, which were made available to Chapter 1743 at no cost. NARFE members were largely occupied filling cups with free peanuts. Chapter 1743 plans to participate in the Festival in October 2009 and requests other Area IV chapters to assist.

Political Actions: Henry Stafford, Congressional district Liaison, met in January, February, and March with Kate Griggs, the new Constituent Services Aide for Rep. Randy Forbes, Chesapeake office. E-mails indicate the Congressman supports NARFE position on WEP, GPO, and Premium Conversion. Last October, Norma and I attended a fund raising dinner for State Delegate Johnny Joannou and we were able to network with a number of local elected officials.

Chapter Meeting Programs: A variety of speakers on various topics have been presented in Area IV. Chapter 1293 programs included: Senior Watch and Crime Prevention, Probate and How to Avoid Probate, Titling Property and Estate Disposition, Recognizing Street Gangs and Taking Precautions, Revolutionary War Battle of Craney Island.

Serving as Area IV Vice President has been a sincere honor and privilege. Thanks to VFC officers, and program chairs for your cooperation, guidance, and direction. While I am still learning new things and changes, I look forward to new challenges now and in the future.

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Jessie L. Barksdale, Area V Vice President

Chapters: Lynchburg 110, Danville 1011, Bedford 1068, Martinsville-Henry 1882, Southside 2079, Piedmont 2080

Goals (Area V Vice President):

- Provide assistance to enhance recruitment and retention efforts in Area V.
- Attend Area V chapter meetings (2 each) annually.
- Increase the "dues withholding" rate in Area V.

Overall membership in Area V is good - our numbers fluctuate according to the natural order of business. The year-to-date percentage change in membership is approximately -4.00%. In essence, we lose a few and gain a few. The membership recognizes the importance of having meetings and activities to foster an environment that is conducive to retaining current members. There has been a noticeable decline in attendance at monthly meetings throughout Area V over the past 12 months. A known factor contributing to the decline involves age/health concerns.

Although smaller in numbers, Area V faces the same challenges with regards to membership/retention as medium to large chapters.. One of our ongoing challenges is to establish and maintain a viable source of communications with local U.S. Postal Service officials. This is critical because new membership in this area is obtained primarily from this source. Except for Federal agencies with satellite offices, e.g., Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, etc, Federal agencies are non-existent throughout Area V.

The majority of members in Area V do not attend regularly scheduled meetings/activities. Therefore, all chapters have been encouraged to develop and/or enhance the quality of newsletters to make it a better resource. The chapters do an excellent job of scheduling guest speakers who cover a variety of topics.

Currently, all chapters have the mandatory numbers of elected officials. The update of Area V's web pages is always "on-going." This seemingly "no brainer" takes more time and energy than I imagined. However, the assistance that we continue to receive from Stan Palen, VFC Webmaster, is outstanding. With Stan's continued support, this too will be accomplished.

Our membership is declining, and we must do everything that we can to slow, stop, and/or reverse this trend. I have embarked upon a mission that took me back to my former employer (Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, DC) where I have connected with former co-workers and management officials in order to provide NARFE information to active employees. I hope to create a permanent line of communication with employee groups within the Department of Transportation.

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Delwyn A. "Del" Dyer, Area VI Vice President

As a new Area Vice President I had a lot to learn. My predecessor George Hawkins was a great help in getting me started and continues to help whenever I ask, which is often. President Martin and Vice President Carolyn Wilson have been supportive and timely in their assistance.

Chapter member strength has been a major focus throughout the Area. Recruitment and retention are keys. Richard Murphy's analysis of potential members, by zip code, has been a great motivator as Chapters see the number of retirees in their "backyard" who are not members. Three Chapters that did not have membership recruitment efforts now have active Membership Chairs and additional members on their committees to assist in the work.

I have made presentations to all Chapters on the dynamics of "Dues Withholding", i.e. how it works, and the power of dues withholding as a member retention device. Two Chapters have stressed the advantages of dues withholding in their Newsletters.

Chapter Officers and Board members have begun to place NARFE magazines in Federal Employee "Break Rooms" and in the waiting rooms of Doctors, Clinics and other magazine browsing areas. Members are donating their past issues for this purpose and Chapters are requesting additional copies from NARFE National.

Two Chapters are planning recruitment booths at Senior Days and similar community events. This is a first for these Chapters. I have encouraged them to use the Virginia Federation of Chapters exhibit and materials available to them with the exhibit.

Finally, for this report, all Chapters have been politically active this past year hosting State Legislators in their Chapter meetings and visiting Federal Congressmen in their area offices. All Chapters have articles on benefits and Legislative action needed to assure continuation of those benefits. All Chapters have Legislative Chairs.

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Luther L. Santiful, Area VII Vice President

Area VII now comprises six chapters located in Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Page Valley, Winchester, Shenandoah County and the combined chapter of Staunton-Augusta County - Waynesboro. Shenandoah County Chapter 2358, chartered in February 2009, is the newest chapter in the VFC. We were delighted to have NARFE Vice President Joseph A. Beaudoin and VFC President William F. (Bill) Martin, respectively, present the charter and install the officers. Located an equal distance between Harrisonburg and Winchester, the new chapter hopes to capture many of the prospective members in the logistical support area and thereby increase membership and meeting attendance. Initial indications are that affected members appreciate the reduced travel distance to attend meetings.

Although very few Area VII members attended the national convention, each chapter was represented by delegate or by proxy. We were especially proud that Joseph A. Beaudoin from Area VII was elected NARFE Vice President.

The Harrisonburg and Winchester Chapters continue to be the leaders in getting elected officials to address their memberships. I attended the well organized candidate forum for the 10th Congressional District which was sponsored by the Winchester Chapter. The Page Valley Chapter sets an example of consistently contacting local, state and national elected officials on matters of concern to NARFE. The letters and email messages are followed up with face-to-face meetings, when appropriate.

Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro Chapter 178, Page Valley Chapter 1793 and Harrisonburg Chapter 164 elected new Presidents in December. All Area VII chapters have the requisite set of officers and committee chairs. During the course of the year, I visited all chapters and some more than once. All of the chapters are functioning well with strong emphasis on acquiring new members and retaining those on the rolls. A recent VFC study showed Area VII with the highest percentage of members using dues withholding. We are committed to improving on the current 20 percent level, for there is clearly room for improvement.

Congratulations to all Area VII Chapters for attendance at their meetings. I have conducted a survey which discloses that attendance across the chapters ranges between 20 and 25 percent with some reaching 30 percent at some functions. Harrisonburg and Winchester Chapters continue to deserve credit for the quality of programs at monthly meetings that bring out large percentages of their respective memberships.

I express my heartfelt appreciation to all Area VII officers and members for their support and cooperation over the past year. It was a good year as we held steady in spite of current conditions and we had a few truly bright spots, as well.

VFC ANNUAL REPORT- 2009**Don Shiffert, Area VIII Vice President**

I was appointed in July 2007 by VFC President Dave Smith to fill the term of Art Klotz who had to resign for personal reasons. As I visited the eight chapters in Area VIII was to let them know I was available when they needed help. I also encouraged the chapters to support NARFE PAC and the State Political Fund.

Membership in 2007 saw a small decrease of nineteen members. Area VIII is for the most part an area with a smaller federal population to draw from. Six of the chapters saw a small membership decrease while two showed a gain.

Attendance at chapter meetings is a problem for most of the chapters in Area VIII. Some chapters are located in an area where members have to drive quite a distance to attend meetings which may have an affect on attendance. All chapters have a newsletter to keep their membership informed. In addition I started an Area VIII newsletter after each of the quarterly VFC Board meetings to help chapters stay informed with what the VFC is doing.

A major emphasis was helping a few chapters fill officer positions. All Chapters now have a full slate of officers and committee chairs. Most of the chapters have luncheon meetings and one meets in the evening. All have good meetings with excellent programs and speakers.

Contributions to Alzheimer's, continues to be an area where Area VIII chapters are doing an excellent job. All of the chapters made contributions to Alzheimer's with Chapter 2343 leading the way for the second straight year.

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William Masterson, Area IX Vice President

Of the six Chapters in Area 9, all but one had a new President beginning in 2009. Alexandria Chapter 232 is the only Chapter in Area 9 with the same President. During 2008 and 2009, the chapters have worked hard throughout the year to hold on to their members and to recruit new members. All chapters have a newsletter to keep their membership informed and have good meetings with excellent programs and speakers.

I have enjoyed visiting each of the Chapters and I am again impressed with their efforts. I believe the new Presidents will be making outstanding efforts in their 2009-2010 terms.

Area 9's membership had a serious decline in mid-year 2008 but ended the year with more members than we started with in January.

The Northern Virginia Caucus meetings provide Chapter presidents and other key officers an opportunity to exchange chapter information and address area and/or chapter issues. The Caucus was also used for discussion to the Proposed Resolutions and Bylaws Changes that were coming up for discussion and possible vote at the VFC Convention.

I have enjoyed being Area IX Vice President over the past 5 years. Since this will probably be my last year to serve as Area VP, I want to say thanks to all members of Area IX for their help and support. I certainly could not have done it without your help

Kathy Arpa, Area X Vice President

I was appointed Area X Vice President in September 2008 by VFC President Bill Martin to fill the term of Dick Giangerelli who had accepted the position of VFC 2nd Vice President. A week later, I attended my first National Convention in Louisville, KY and I was officially installed as Area X Vice President by our newly elected National Vice President Joe Beaudoin.

Serving as Chapter President, Area X Vice President, Program Book and Entertainment Chairs for the 2009 VFC Convention and since March as convention Co-Chair, has kept me very busy with NARFE activities.

Area X is the second largest area for membership with seven chapters: Chapter 7 (Arlington), Chapter 489 (McLean-Great Falls), Chapter 737 (Fairfax), Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton), Chapter 1133 (Loudoun), Chapter 1241 (Dulles), and Chapter 1665 (Metro Northern VA). This year two chapters have new presidents: Bill Shackelford (Chapter 737) and Dick Giangerelli (Chapter 1241). Continuing presidents are: Bonnie Franklin (Chapter 7), Rich Raybold (Chapter 489), Kathy Arpa and (Chapter 1116), Matt Prisutti (Chapter 1133), and Judy Willis and Jeanette Pelton (co-presidents of Chapter 1665).

Kathy Arpa, Area X Vice President (continued)

Several Area X chapters meet on the same day of the month. For this reason, we found it works best to have Area X breakfast meetings. Area X is part of the Northern Virginia Caucus of Chapters and we meet at least five times a year. Chapters in Areas IX and X have been working diligently this year to ensure a successful VFC Convention for active and retired federal employees.

Two area X chapters (Chapter 7 and 737) each have over one thousand members with Chapter 1241 close to 900 members. At the end of 2008, memberships had decreased in all Area X chapters except Chapter 1133 which showed an increase of 13 members. Loudoun Chapter has increased every year since 2005 and is now close to 300 members. Things are looking up in 2009 as membership reports for January and February show Chapters 1116 and 1133 with membership increases.

To encourage attendance and increase membership, chapters scheduled quality programs on topics such as Medicare, estate planning, finance, crime prevention, fitness, and self-defense. Speakers included local authors and representatives from the NARFE legislative staff, Social Security Administration, and American Red Cross. Pertinent local information came from the Arlington County Registrar and the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. Our new NARFE Vice President Joe Beaudoin provided the latest NARFE information. Before the November election, chapters drew large crowds as they featured lively debates and forums with various political candidates.

Communication is important in Area X and most chapters publish a newsletter. Chapters also advertised their meetings in the Washington Post and other local newspapers to attract potential members and to remind current members about meetings. It really does help! Area X members helped NARFE reach the \$8 million mark in giving for Alzheimer's research with money raised through silent auctions, white elephant sales, and 50/50 drawings.

Area X members participated in a meeting with Bill Schmidt, VFC State Legislation Chair, to draft the VFC State Legislative Action Plan for presentation to the Virginia General Assembly. The new VFC Congressional District Liaison for the 11th District and I met with Congressman Gerry Connelly in February to discuss the NARFE Legislative Plan for the 11th Congress.

I joined some 300 NARFE members at the National Legislative Training held in March at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Arlington, VA. NARFE members came from six of our seven chapters to hear excellent speakers and attend breakout sessions packed with a wealth of information. Following the training, a large delegation from Areas IX and X met with legislative staffs of Senator Jim Webb and Senator Mark Warner at the Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., to discuss NARFE's Legislative Agenda.

I am looking forward to serving another year as Area X Vice President if I am elected at the Area X Caucus meeting on May 2 at the VFC Convention.

Charles T. Delaplane, National Legislation Chair

ACTIVITY DURING THE YEAR. Since our last VFC Convention in April 2008 it has been busy times. At the end of May, as Legislation Committee Chair for the upcoming NARFE National Convention, I met with Judy Park and Dan Adcock of NARFE to prepare, and then participated in a June 3 conference call regarding National's Meet Your Candidates month. The call was followed by coordination of and reporting on the VFC participation in that nationwide effort to have NARFE members get to know their candidates for the November Congressional elections. The "month" – technically August, in National's eyes – for Virginia essentially started in June and extended through October insofar as candidate contacts went.

Chapter visits included Fredericksburg last June 21, Northern Neck on February 8; and Midlothian on April 8. Let me remind members that VFC program chairs usually have some budget to support chapter visits, and are willing to come to chapter meetings.

On July 22 the VFC sponsored an appreciation luncheon for Rep. Tom Davis (R-11th), who was retiring from the U. S. House of Representatives. VFC President Dave Smith was an excellent Master of Ceremonies at that luncheon, but by the time of the September National Convention he had resigned for reasons of health.

During that National Convention I helped develop and present NARFE's Legislative Program for the 111th Congress, as chair of the Convention's Legislation Committee. As campaigning picked up last fall, NARFE-PAC-supported events attended by members around the State seemed less than usual; I did represent NARFE at two NARFE-PAC-supported events in Washington, D.C., for Rep. Jim Moran, and for former Governor, now-Senator, Mark Warner.

The period prior to National's March 7 – 10 Legislative Training Conference was busy, trying to ensure that appointments were arranged with as many Representatives as we had Districts represented at the conference. Ultimately we did arrange appointments with staff for Sens. Webb & Warner, plus appointments with staff members for Representatives Rob Wittman (R-1st), Glenn Nye (D-2nd), Randy Forbes (R-4th), Tom Perriello (D-5th), Eric Cantor (R-7th), Jim Moran (D-8th), Frank Wolf (R-10th, following the conference), and Gerry Connolly (D-11th). No one attended the conference from the 3rd and 9th Districts (Reps. Bobby Scott and Rick Boucher, both Democrats). Congressman Bob Goodlatte's (R-6th) workload schedule did not permit an appointment with staff on the Tuesday on which we were sent to Capitol Hill.

LEGISLATION. For the umpteenth Congress our priority benefits enhancements – premium conversion, and repealing the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision – remained stuck firmly in the tax-writing committees. BUT - nothing was taken away from retirees, either. Vigorous action by NARFE National and others resulted in a roll-back of Blue Cross/Blue Shield's plan to lay a major cost burden (up to \$7,500) on enrollees receiving surgical services from out-of-network providers.

NARFE legislative staff also obtained an amendment to the Federal economic stimulus package for CSRS-only retirees (i.e., those not in the Social Security system) to give a \$250 tax credit to be applied on 2009 Federal income tax returns. The original stimulus bill provided \$250 per person to Social Security and some other retirees, but not to those receiving only CSRS annuities.

William A. Schmidt, State Legislation Chair

The State Legislation Committee has accomplished much this past year. We have placed on the VFC Web site complete training materials for chapter State Legislation chairs. Members will find guidance on how to work with each other and our elected representatives to achieve legislative goals.

We developed a 2009 State Legislative Plan, which led to several successes. The House of Delegates changed their rules of operation to place a record of votes in subcommittee on the General Assembly Web site. Our goal of increasing the tax credit for persons modifying their homes to make them more accessible and visitable by disabled and elderly persons with mobility restrictions was exceeded when the General Assembly passed legislation to increase the tax credit from \$500 to \$2,000.

Our other goals which included improving transportation infrastructure and policy to reflect the increasing number and percentage of seniors in the state population, to protect private 401-k funds, and to improve the nd Retirees of seniors in nursing homes could not compete with the legislative need to curb costs and generate a balanced budget in a time of serious economic loss.

The committee itself has attempted to address the educational aspect of our responsibilities by contracting with the Eldon James Company to provide a unique web site for the use of VFC chapter members to learn more about specific legislative issues which affect our members. In addition we have put out a weekly summary of actions of the Legislature to give members an insight into issues not generally covered in local media.

The State Legislation Committee and chapter members will need to exercise extreme vigilance this summer and fall, and to be diligent in monitoring the 2010 session of the General Assembly. The solutions found this session to balance the budget relied on many onetime fixes which will not be available in 2010 to fill the holes in the budget. A general increase in taxes and a further diminution of the senior's tax deduction could very likely be sought to fill the void.

A greater emphasis must be made on increasing the level of the VFC political fund. The current amount will be insufficient to give the VFC credibility with members of the General Assembly.

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Dennis Martin, Membership Chair

There was good news and bad news in 2008. Unfortunately the bad news outweighed the good news. For the year, 1,853 new members were recruited which was the largest state number in the nation. The VFC lost a few from more transferring out than transferred in to the Federation. And, unfortunately, nearly 350 members passed away during the year. The biggest membership loss was in the “non-renewal” area and totaled slightly over 3,000 or 3.8%.

The good news is Dues Withholding. Over the past year, we have seen a 8.4% increase in the number of members with dues withholding – meeting the VFC goal of a 5% increase. There are 1,978 members or approximately 10% of the VFC membership with dues withholding. We will continue to place emphasis on dues withholding.

One of the biggest membership loss factors was the result of non-renewal of “Credit Union” members which hit the VFC in mid-year. Although this NARFE initiative was not as successful as hoped, the VFC did retain nearly 14% of the “Credit Union” members through renewals.

Speaking of renewals, through the efforts of chapter Membership Chairs and others, the reinstatements totaled nearly 700 members. This effort is to be commended! The VFC also picked up 32 members through the transfer of deceased memberships.

The VFC Board is increasing its support to the membership program, by establishing two subcommittees. One will focus its efforts on retention by attempting to determine why members didn't renew and at the same time to soliciting them to reinstate their membership. The second will focus on adding new retiree and current federal employee members to the Federation.

Pat Taylor, Public Relations Chair

Another VFC year is winding down, and it's time to look back at what's been accomplished and to look ahead at plans for the coming year. As usual there were visits to Chapter and Area meetings, and I worked health fairs and the Suffolk Peanut Festival (which is a great event!). I attended the state Convention and the quarterly Board meetings. At all of these events, I met some great NARFE/VFC members and had a chance to talk about what their chapters have been doing – what works and what doesn't work, etc. I heard the same things over and over – we recruit new members but we aren't retaining them and attendance at chapter meetings is dwindling.

At this point, the first thing that comes to your mind is probably - "Why is the PR Chair talking about membership?" Membership and PR are closely related. I can assist you with sending out announcements and submitting newspaper articles, with working events and handling out brochures, and with applying for matching funds. But - each and every one of us must become ambassadors for NARFE. We must talk to our friends, our families, our neighbors, to encourage them to join NARFE. Then our job is "half done"! We must find ways to retain members. With this thought in mind, it was agreed at the October Board meeting that we need to work on a VFC Membership Retention Plan. Shirley Keyes, Membership Chair, and I agreed to tackle this project. We asked for input from several members, and I met with long-time members Vince and Marlene Agnelli and Janie Michel to ask questions about past retention efforts. I read and absorbed facts and figures until I was slightly overwhelmed. Shirley and I put some of this information together and submitted it for review by the Board in January, but to date we still don't have a firm "retention plan" in place. Work on this project will resume after the Convention when incoming Membership Chair Dennis Martin will be bringing his ideas and suggestions to the project!

One point is absolutely clear – we aren't doing our jobs on the chapter level!!! When new members are recruited and attend a chapter meeting, someone should meet them at the door and welcome them. Again, that is only part of the job – you should walk around with the new members and make some inductions. Encourage someone to sit with them during the meeting so they can provide comments that would help the new members better understand what's being discussed. And always encourage them to attend the next meeting. Each new member should be asked to fill out a simple questionnaire that will help chapter officers determine which committee can best use their expertise, then "assign" them to a committee. If you don't take this step, they'll probably be too reluctant to just walk up and volunteer. Get them involved quickly and continue to keep them involved!

When new opportunities come along within a chapter, encourage *perspective leaders* to step up. All too often the same people do the same jobs year after year. This offers little opportunity for newer members to learn and/or to participate. Go to a member, speak one on one, and seek their *active* participation; don't ask them in front of a group where there's little chance to discuss what's expected, time requirements, etc. In other words, make each member feel that they are a vital link to success, and they just may step up!

ALWAYS encourage potential leaders. Provide training opportunities and mentoring so that members can assume leadership roles sooner and hopefully they will remain members for many years! When appointing your nominating committee to establish a slate of offices, don't put the same folks on the committee! New insight, new objectivity, and new approaches – all of these points can help in identifying and recruiting future officers. A chapter must have strong, innovative officers if they are to keep members interested and active. When you start seeing fewer members at meetings, have a Board meeting and discuss what's happening – deal with the problem quickly; don't let the chapter drift for months because members will disappear! Activity (i.e. social events, day trips, interesting programs, etc.) is the best way to get members to come out month after month. At times you may need to re-assess your meeting location and time. Lots of members can't (or won't) drive at night or for long distances; some can't afford the cost of meals at a particular restaurant. Get input and make decisions based on what works for the most members. Keep them involved, keep them interested – and hopefully they'll renew their membership each year. Or better yet, get them to sign up for dues withholding!!!

Continued--

Pat Taylor, Public Relations Chair (continued)

All of these suggestions are “internal” forms of PR! We’re identifying ways to utilize PR within our own chapters so that we may recruit AND retain members. An increase in membership results in a stronger organization and provides more leverage when we talk to state and national representatives about supporting legislation that benefits our members, and we should always remind them that NARFE members VOTE!!!

Now let’s get that “VFC Membership Retention Plan” in place, find innovative ways to publicize NARFE, and acquaint others with the value of the work our members perform within our communities.

m spat1942@aol.com

Barbara Nugent, Pre-Retirement Seminar (PRS) Coordinator

During the past year, I had the opportunity to participate in a number of pre-retirement classes, Virginia conventions and fairs, as well as serve as Congressional District Liaison and found all very rewarding. Each event was an opportunity to provide NARFE information and recruit new members.

May 7, 2008- Chesterfield TRIAD attended by 1,000. Dennis Nugent and Carolyn Wilson assisted me at the NARFE table.

May 26, 23, 30 – Richmond, Defense General Supply. Provided NARFE information at Pre-Retirement Classes.

June 12 – Ft. Lee. Provided NARFE materials at retirement luncheon.

July 13-15. Staffed a NARFE table at Virginia Postmasters Convention, Charlottesville.

Aug. 6, 8 – Richmond, Defense General Supply. Provided NARFE information at Pre-Retirement Classes.

Nov. 12 – Richmond, Defense General Supply. Provided NARFE info at Pre-Retirement Class.

Dec. 10 – Richmond, Defense General Supply. Provided NARFE info. at Pre-Retirement Class.

Mar. 7-10, 2009 – Attended NARFE National Legislative Training Conference, Arlington, VA As 4th Congressional District Liaison, visited Office of Cong. Randy Forbes, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. to discuss the NARFE Legislative Program for the 111th Congress.

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Sue and Jim Righter, Co-Service Chairs

Four years ago, we became co-service chairs for the Virginia Federation of Chapters, with instructions to expand the range of services available to members of NARFE. Here are some ways we have done that.

Our first opportunity, we found, was to update and distribute the “Essential Information,” packet of information and forms for NARFE members. We added specific steps for immediate survivors/executors, the Virginia Medical Directive, and new forms for FERS claimants. That proved to be the most popular program resource. In training sessions, chapter presentations, and by mail we gave interested people more than 700 copies. We also put the information on our website to be downloaded by chapters and individuals as needed.

We researched nine topics of interest, delivered presentations to chapters, and produced sheets of information on topics relevant to NARFE members:

- “Avoiding the Most Common Elder Scams and Frauds”
- “How Long to Keep Your Important Records and Papers”
- “How to Get Out of Debt and Stay Out of Debt”
- “How to Manage Life for Your Own Personal Safety”
- “Lowering Your Risk of Identity Theft”
- “Preparing for Care-giving”
- “Reasons to Have a Chapter Service Officer”
- “Signs of Elder Abuse / Standards of Elder Care”
- “Understanding Your Need for a ‘Survivor Kit’”

Local chapters were very responsive to our presentations on these nine topics of interest.

In the annual training session for service officers at the conventions, we explained the importance of their role in the local chapter, how to offer condolences to bereaved survivors and families, how to order additional service materials, and the importance of staying current on OPM and other agency contact information.

One concern that emerged was to find new methods of outreach to active employees and to retirees not active in local chapters. We suggested:

- Local chapters meet at times and places more accessible to active employees.
- Online 24/7 “E-Chapters” be established for current employees and for retirees.
- Outreach to federal employees in FERS must become a primary survival strategy.

The future growth of NARFE, we believe, depends upon a smooth transition in leadership and in membership from the CSRS generation to the FERS generation.

We have enjoyed attending board meetings, visiting local chapters, and providing resources and information to individuals who needed information that as service officers we had at our fingertips. Thank you for these four years we could be of service.

VFC Annual Report - 2009

Richard Giangerelli, Acting Alzheimer's Chair

Calendar year 2008 has been a crazy and confusing year for the VFC and the Chapters relative to Alzheimer's contributions. We were in the midst of many changes. After 6-1/2 years as Alzheimer's Chair, Wilton Ward turned over the Committee Chair to Barbara McDiarmid in November. But she soon moved out of Virginia to a new home and in early January 2009, I took over as Acting Alzheimer's Chair while we searched for a new Chair.

Yet, during all of this confusion, Alzheimer's research contributions kept coming in from the Chapters to reach a new high record of \$66,333.86, exceeding the calendar year 2007 total of \$60,048.81 by 10.5 percent. Also surpassed was the VFC goal of \$55,000. You all deserve a hearty congratulation and pat on the back. Nationally, NARFE donations since the inception of the Alzheimer's program in 1985 through mid-March 2009 totaled over \$8 million, well on the way to reach the next goal of \$9 million by 2011, when NARFE celebrates its 90th birthday.

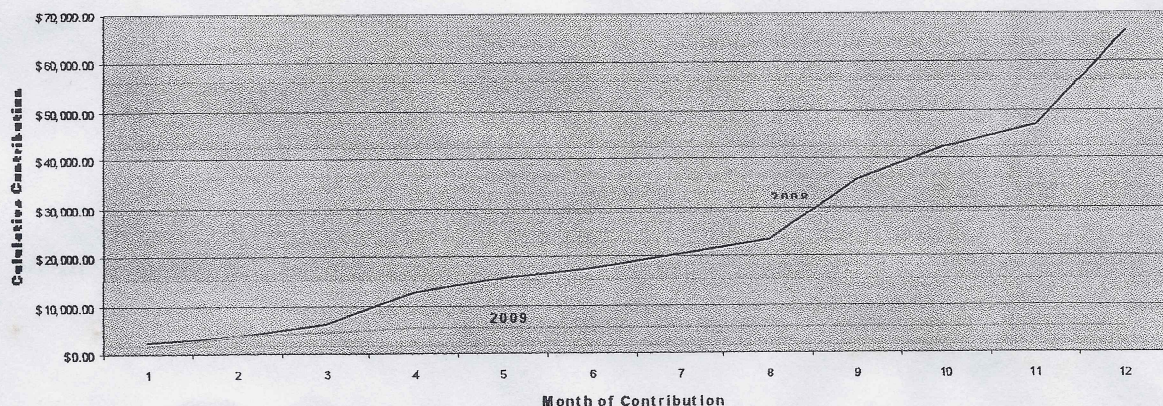
But, problems are also opportunities. VFC has been able to improve the tracking and reporting of Alzheimer's contributions. Computerization of the record keeping will allow Alzheimer's Chairs to spend less time on record keeping and more time on presenting information on latest research and findings relative to this increasing problem for an aging population. In May 2009, Shirley Keyes will assume the position of VFC Alzheimer's Chair.

The top five Chapters in 2008 in total contributions and on per-member contributions for Alzheimer's research in the VFC are as follows:

Chapter	Total Contributions	Chapter	Contributions Per Member
Woodbridge	\$7,339.00	Falls Run	\$64.76
Springfield	\$7,116.00	Louisa	\$11.09
Falls Run	\$5,871.64	Imperial Plaza	\$9.75
Fairfax	\$4,058.00	Woodbridge	\$9.63
Winchester	\$3,511.25	Page Valley	\$9.03

Even though Wilton Ward has stopped visiting VFC Chapters, Alzheimer's contributions continue, though at a decreased rate. This could be due to the economic downturn, but more likely VFC Board and Chapter meetings are missing the personal "Wilton" touch. The following chart indicates contributions as of early April 2009 relative to 2008.

VFC Alzheimer's Contributions



OTHER COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND APPOINTEES*

Chaplain	Deaver Carr
Constitution and Bylaws Chair	Betty Warren
Newsletter Editor and Data Base Coordinator	Mary Ann “Mag” Garth
Nominating Committee Chair	Shirley A. Atkins
Parliamentarian	Mary E. Swain
Pre-Retirement Seminar (PRS) Coordinator	Barbara Nugent
Sergeant at Arms	Charles W. Casey
State Legislative Representative	J. Carroll Graham
Travel Coordinator	Jann Masterson
VFC Co-Webmasters	Stanleigh W. Palen Sidney Sachs
VFC Net Coordinator	Richard F. (Dick) Edwards

***Non-Voting Board Members. Reports are not provided except for the Pre-Retirement Seminar (PRS) Coordinator.**

TEN THINGS THE VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS (VFC)

DOES FOR YOU

1. **REPRESENTS** federal retirees/employees within the state. The VFC/NARFE is the only organization lobbying for our earned rights/retiree benefits at the state level. Bear in mind that no U.S. Congress or Virginia General Assembly can be relied upon to treat us fairly or with concern...the VFC has to take the initiative.
2. **PROVIDES** a unified voice in Richmond when dealing with the Governor and the General Assembly and educates state legislators and local officials about concerns of federal retirees/employees. It helps state legislators refine proposed bills affecting us all.
3. **PROMOTES** the objectives of NARFE throughout Virginia. The VFC is the logical organization to set specific and attainable goals for the chapters to support within the state, *in accomplishing the objectives of National Headquarters*. The VFC speaks for all Virginia members on National NARFE policy issues.
4. **FACILITATES** effective group action to accomplish common objectives. By establishing a viable political base at the grassroots level, it channels member efforts so as to avoid personal agendas, narrow political viewpoints and pet peeves.
5. **TRAINS** local NARFE chapter officers, committee chairs and area coordinators in order to provide top quality leadership skills for the furtherance of common goals.
6. **COMMUNICATES** with members and the public-at-large about issues of concern to federal retirees/employees. The VFC provides a larger voice than that of any single chapter.
7. **MAINTAINS** a state political account (VFC State Political Account) to support political candidates who share the VFC's legislative goals.
8. **MOBILIZES** volunteer resources existing in chapters in ongoing support of causes vital to NARFE members. Advocates NARFE's national legislative agenda and the VFC's state legislative agenda.
9. **ADVISES** chapters on effective ways of carrying out various functions such as membership, services, and public relations benefiting federal retirees/employees. The VFC has the unique capability through its area vice presidents to monitor chapter activities and provide assistance when needed.
10. **SERVES** as a vehicle for the exchange of ideas among members about programs/actions of benefit to federal retirees/employees through the VFC annual convention, the VANARFE VFC official email network, the VFC web site, www.vanarfe.org, and "VFC Notes" (the VFC newsletter).

VFC SERVES 57 LOCAL CHAPTERS
Representing some 20,000 NARFE Members in Virginia



VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

www.vanarfe.org

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

The Virginia Federation has 56 member chapters with membership about 20,000.

The state 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 to conduct business of the Federation.

The Federation Constitution conforms to the overall objectives of NARFE, with its By-Laws 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 state to minimize travel requirements.

For more information, contact:

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