



Doubletree by Hilton - 1021 Koger Center Blvd. Richmond VA, 23235, 804-379-3800

VFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING, JULY 12, 2021

ATTENDEES

Constance Bails, Ph.D., President	Jeanne W. Garrison, Area I Area VP
Robert Bob” Martin, 1 st Vice President	Julia Hobbs, Area II Area VP
Frances E. Boatman, 2 nd Vice President, Acting(Z)	Wynn Hasty, Area III, Area VP
Esther L. Nash, Secretary, Acting	Raymond “Ray” Orland, Area IV Area VP
William “Bill” Martin, Treasurer, Acting	Luther Santiful, Area VII, Area VP
Thomas A. “Tom” Rachele, Treasurer	James R. “Jim” Little, Area IX, Area VP
Leslie Ravenelle, Immediate Past President	Theodore D. “Ted” Pasek, Area X, Area VP
William “Bill” Shackelford, Region X Vice President	Linda Smallwood, Parliamentarian (A)
Gaston L. Gianni, National Legislation (Z)	Marilyn Riddle, Chaplain
Deborah “Debbie” Fisk, State Legislation	John Bails, NARFE Net Coordinator
Doris McAdams Public Relations	Stan Palen, VFN Web Master
Arlene Arthur, Service Officer	Joseph “Larry” Mcilwee, Nominating
Donna Shackelford, Alzheimer’s	

Meeting Call to Order 10:00 am by President, Constance T. Bails, Ph.D.

Invocation: **Chaplain, Marilyn Riddle**

Pledge of Allegiance led by Sergeant at Arms, John Bails USN-RET.

Roll Call: conducted by Secretary Acting, Esther Nash

Welcome & Swearing New Treasurer: **President Bails**

President Constance T. Bails, Ph.D. welcomed the Board of Directors to the 2021 July Board Meeting... followed by welcoming and swearing in Thomas A. “Tom” Rachele, the New Treasurer, of Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN). Frances E. Boatman, VFN 2nd Vice President, Acting and Esther L. Nash VFN Secretary, Acting.

Approval of Agenda:

- The President called for a motion for the approval of the agenda. A motion was made by Immediate Past President Leslie Ravenell that the agenda be approved and seconded by Treasurer Thomas Rachele Motion carried.

President's Comments

- Due to this year's first full in person attended board meeting due to the pandemic. Connie requested that everyone introduce themselves this included their board positions, committees and chapter position.
- That as a professional courtesy that five-dollar charge be made for those talking on the telephone disturbing of the meeting by telephone ringing or buzzing, will pay five dollars to the Sergeant of arms who in turn will give it to the Alzheimer's Chair. Discussion followed. The board was in agreement.

- Connie expressed her pleasure with the board meeting in person, felt more could be accomplished in person. Training and meetings are being accomplished through Zoom. Members felt that it was a good way to be in touch. Pleased with the Electronic Communications Committee progress and that they are ensuring Zoom Training is available. She stressed that we must continue to reach out to the chapters to keep open communications.

- Discussed the parliamentary class conducted on Zoom, comments were offered. Robert's Rules of Order should be brought to every meeting. Discussion was held on the Budget for Region X Conference scheduled to be held September 2021. Discussion. Leslie Ravenell made a motion, the sum of \$9,000.00 be allotted to the budget for the Region X Conference for the reimbursement of individuals attending. First Vice President Robert Martin seconded. Motion carried. Discussion: Reimbursement up to \$1,000.00 based on voucher.

- Suggestion was offered during the Alzheimer report that a 50/50 at a Board could be done at the board meeting. **OPEN**

- Discussion: What would benefit a group concept with several VFN Areas and Chapters coming together in a group to bond under the umbrella of the Federation. This is because the decrease size of Areas and chapters. She explained what they could be doing in their Chapters and Areas and group activities that might allow for a more cohesive group. President Bails suggested a committee be formed to develop this concept. For a committee to see if it would make sense to implement such an endeavor, each group probably would be different due to location and size of Areas. **OPEN**

Parliamentarian Comments:

Linda Smallwood (absent)

Minutes:

Secretary, Esther Nash

Summary of April 13, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting- Bob made motion that minutes be accepted as read, Leslie 2nd. Motion carried.

- Summary of July 11, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting discussion on the length of time for staying in office. Two AVP would have to decide whether they would remain in office for eighteen months. Election at Area Caucus, it was noted that it is hard to elect with a small amount of people. To implement a new voting system would require a bylaw change. Discussion followed on when they would take office. Will discuss at Tuesday meeting. Parliamentarian will be called and asked for guidance. Robert Martin made motion the minutes be accepted as read by Secretary. Motion was seconded . Motion carried.

Region X Vice President's Report:

Bill Shackelford

- Region X Conference being held September 21 – September 23, 2021, Room rate \$119.00 at Frankfurt, Kentucky. See Bill for additional information. Deadline for registration August 28, 2021.
- All CDL positions are filled.
- VFN budgeted for Region X Conference, approximately six to eight members intend to attend conference. A maximum amount would be allotted but not exceeding, depending on travel voucher.
- Provided an in-depth report of NARFE Headquarters' status of Region X. Bill emphasized NARFE's focus for the 117th Congress to advocate for: ● A federal pay increase in 2021 and beyond ● Modifying postal reform proposals to preserve health care choices for postal retirees ● Enacting full colas for FERS retirees ● Supporting current efforts to reform the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) ● Ensuring adequate oversight of proposals to reorganize the Federal government ●
- Bill ended his report thanking the board for their membership, leadership, and for everything they do to help NARFE be a better organization.

Treasurer's Report: (subject to audit) – **Treasurer Bill Martin/Thomas A. Rachele**

- Bill provided a detailed financial category report to the board.
- Revenue Source \$45,074.29, expenses. (See documents distributed in meeting)
- PAC payment was made early, no issues. Miscellaneous Income (source of funds) of \$3,000.00, will remain in that account. Budget for FY 22 is \$96,190.

NOTE: Dr Bails thanked Mr. William "Bill" Martin, the VFN Acting Treasurer all of his tireless dedication and time for stepping in assuming the role of Acting Treasurer.

Budget Review:

Discussion held on Region X Conference budget continued: increasing it to \$1,000.00 per person. Discussion continued. Lesile made motion to increase the Region X Conference up \$9,000.00. Seconded. Discussion followed. Question why the increase? Increase would allow payment up to \$400.00 additional funds per person in the budget to cover the cost depending on travel voucher turned in. Depending on the distance \$1,000.00 will not cover the entire trip. Question - How many in favor of allocating \$9,000 to Region X budget., majority agreed to the increase and motion carried. Nine people are intending to attend. Leslie made the motion that proposed budget FY22 be accepted as presented with the additional of \$4,000.00 be added for the Region X Conference Budget. Seconded By Donna. Motioned carried.

1st VP Comments & AVP Reports:

Robert Martin

Areas have been having zoom meetings and they discussed a number of issues. Each Area Vice President will give activities in their areas. Suggested joint area meetings in future.

Area I:

Jeanne W. Garrison

- Most chapters are having zoom meetings.
- Stated that Zoom have been of no use to Area I.
- Chapter 682 has had no activity, met as a board discussed when meeting would return to in person.
- Chapter Boards continue to have meetings.

Area II:

Julia Hobbs

- Chapters are not holding regular meetings; they continue to look a place to hold regular monthly meetings.
- Special events are being held (1) ice cream luncheon at dairy store, which included a petting zoo. (2) Luncheon Golf Course, with 50/50 funding Alzheimer's, Blue Cross, Blue shield in attendance. (3) Chapters not holding events are continuing to newsletters out to stay in touch with membership.
- Will continue to participate in Zoom meeting s for chapter even though not well attended.
- Promotes NARFE and provides updates whenever possible.
- Will continue to support NARFE and her area of responsibility.
- Suggested Conference 2021 have healthcare personnel giving tip on healthcare emergency procedures,

AREA III:

Wynn Hasty

- Sent corrected Chapter 60 officers' information to Stan.
- June 9th Chapter 2265 held outdoor event at Rockwood Park with thirty-two in attendance. (1) First meeting held in fifteen months. (2) Business meeting held after event.
- Collected \$325.00 donations for Alzheimer's at picnic.
- Chapter 2065 June meet in-person.
- Sent update chapter officers to Stan.
- Banners will be discussed during September meeting. Cost will be a concern.
- Chapter 1727 first meeting in June since last year. Meeting held via Zoom and telephone. Shared NARFE information received. Executive Committee continues to plan.

AREA IV:

Raymond Orland

- There have been no person-to-person meetings. –
- All chapters have communicated during the pandemic by use of e-mails and newsletters.
- There have been some zoom meetings.
- All chapters are planning to resume in person meetings in September.

AREA VII:

Luther Santiful

- Area VII Vice President's Report
- All Area VII Chapters are meeting regularly by Zoom or in person
- Chapters have changed meeting locations due to closures because of pandemic.
- Have recruited a few new members but still losing more through deaths and nonrenewal. Although chapter membership is declining, no Area VII Chapter is at risk of closing.
- Chapters have been advised to review and update their input to the new website.
- An area meeting is planned following the VANARFE Board Meeting, to fully reengage chapters into the whole range of NARFE activities sorely missed during the past year.
- Expect significant interest in the upcoming conference scheduled for October.
- Chapters have reviewed previously submitted ads and updated them, accordingly, for the 2021 conference.
- Chapters have been encouraged to invite VANARFE Board Members to visit and discuss their areas of responsibilities.

AREA VIII:**Leslie Ravenell**

- Received a call and was asked to help out with Area VIII.
- Mary Heck will complete the program book for the conference.
- Informed the Board of tragedy that had fallen on Area VIII Board members, it was asked that prayers, cards be sent.
- There are five chapters in VIII and four out of five are active.
- On 21 August Fall Hill Chapter is having a zoom meeting to decide their future.
- Chapter 90 will be hold executive board meeting, the first since the pandemic.

AREA IX:**James R. Little**

- Jim reported that he was appointed Acting Area IX Vice President on May 7, 2021.
- In contact with each chapter president and attended the four chapters' monthly meetings at least since his appointment.
- They have also continued having their monthly programs via Zoom with guest speakers, including Congressman Rob Wittman; Virginia Senator David Marsden, and Virginia Delegates Vivian Watts and Kay Kory; Congressman Gerry Connolly's Outreach assistant.
- The chapters have also done community outreach activities as in food collections for the needy, and Annandale continues its Adopt-a-Road that it has conducted for many years.
- The area also participated in the LegCon 2021 with three attendees: Gaston Gianni, VFN National Legislative Chair, and Pierce Johnson and Jim Little. They participated in the Legislative Day with Zoom meetings with Rob Wittman's legislative assistant, and Senators Kaine's and Warner's legislative assistants. Unfortunately, none of the elected officials were present, But Jessica Klements did attend the session with Congressman Wittman.
- All chapters either held online elections or the 2020 officers volunteered to remain in office for the 2021 officer year. However, current officers are getting very frustrated in the lack of volunteerism. One chapter is very near to the breaking point.
- Jim commended his area for being the highest in Alzheimer's fundraising for the first half of 2021, as reported yesterday by Donna Shackelford.
- Provided status report on Annandale, Springfield, Manassas and Woodbridge.
- Jim also mentioned that all of the chapters continue producing newsletters.
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AREA X:

Theodore D. Pasek

- Area X has five chapters, two of which are active and the other three have not been meeting.
- Fairfax and Vienna-Oakton are active.
- The Arlington chapter has several active members who are attempting to get interest and sharing information with their members.
- The other two hope to resume meetings in September. Fairfax had an in-person picnic June 8 and has continued with zoom meetings through the spring
- Vienna-Oakton has been meeting in person and had a picnic at a Legion Post in June.

Note: Banners: Bob Martin brought up the discussion on chapter banner. More discussion next board meeting. **OPEN**

National Legislation Chair:

Gaston Gianni

Referenced NARFE's 2021 National Legislation Conference which was held on June 21-23, 2021. Because of the financial support of the VFN, 10 members of our 13 person VFN National Legislation team were able to attend this year's virtual conference and participated on June 26 in NARFE's virtual Advocacy Day with 12 of VA's 13 Congressional Delegation Offices. Plus, an additional five other VFN attendees. These are the NARFE Priorities we carried to the Hill and where the VA Congressional Delegation support is and where we need to do more work.

1) **Repeal** of WEP &GPO **HR 82**- Social Security Fairness Act,

S 1302-Social Security Fairness Act -

2) **Reform** WEP & GPO **HR 2337**-Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act,

3) **Postal Service Reform Act of 2021** **HR 3076**

S 1720- Need to determine what impact the bill would have on Federal Employees Health Benefits BEFORE considering to pass this bill.

4) **Fair COLA for Seniors Act (HR 4315) Issue Use CPI-E (Which better represents cost of the elderly)**

5) **HR 304 Equal COLA Act** (Treat FERS fairly and equally with other COLA recipients

6) **House Resolution 131-** To recognize NARFE's 100th Anniversary (2) Requesting that Area Vice Presidents and CDLs get word out to our NARFE members to encourage them to call their Representative and Senators office and ask those who have yet to sign on as cosponsors to now sign on as cosponsors.

(3) Consider sending out a NARFE email to both Virginia National and Chapter NARFE members to encourage them to call their representatives.

Alzheimer's:

Donna Shackelford

- Apologized to Area IX for not recognizing their outstanding support of Alzheimer's
- Checks should be made out to NARFE Alzheimer's Research but sent to her.
- Provided the status of VFN's donations. Provided the latest information on treatment for Alzheimer's (Drug called Aduhelm) Discussion followed.
- 2021 Conference will have the 50-50 drawings and Silent Auction.
- Advised the board to review her video on the website proving more information.

Public Relations:

Doris McAdams

- Attended all committee meetings and participated in VFN training.
- Appointed to the Training Committee and have promoted it on social media.
- Social media accounts are updated.

Service Officer:

Arlene Arthur

Thanked the VFN Board for their support during her time of need.

Provide monthly newsletters for Service Officers to connect with them and also to give them a tool with which to connect with their members.

- Since chapters went from monthly in person meetings to either no meetings or electronic meetings the need to stay connected felt crucial. OPM has 11 situations that affect members (annuitants), their spouses and/or their children. These situations are termed by OPM as Life Events.
- Since January my monthly Service Officer Connections have been covering Life Events, item by item. Eight of the Life Events were covered through June. Because of personal reasons the April through June newsletters were combined. The Service Officer Connections for April through July have been issued.
- The newsletter is sent to both chapter Service Officers and chapter Presidents (even if the chapter has a Service Officer).

- On Jan 21 I made Zoom presentation to Chapter 1270 Woodbridge on Life Events and I have an in-personal presentation scheduled for September with Chapter 685 Williamsburg.
- Received referrals and provided follow-up for 7 members/family members between Jan and June. For each referral they are personally contacted and provided information packets by mail and/or email.
- Encourage referrals from chapters that do not have a Service Officer or if a chapter Service Officer has questions or need assistance.
- Virginia has 24-chapter Service Officers on record as of 7/8/21.

Meeting will reconvene, July 13, 2021. at 9:00 am

Meeting adjourned.4:30 pm

Submitted,

Esther L. Nash
VFN Secretary