

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



FY-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

(July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015)

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

Area I

Peninsula 682
Colonial Williamsburg 685
Middle Peninsula 1757
Northern Neck 1823

Area II

Metro 5
Tidewater 66
Virginia Beach 974
Eastern Shore 1175
Seaside 1827
Monticello 2361

Area III

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

Area IV

Portsmouth 63
Churchland 1293
Chesapeake 1682
Brentwood 1697
Suffolk 1743

Area V

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

Area VI

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

Area VII

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

Area VIII

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

Area IX

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

Area X

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	1
Executive Committee Reports	
President’s Report.....	2
1 st Vice President’s Report.....	3
2 nd Vice President’s Report.....	4
Secretary’s Report.....	6
Treasurer’s Report	7
Area Vice Presidents’ Reports	
Area I Report	9
Area II Report	11
Area III Report.....	12
Area IV Report.....	14
Area V Report.....	15
Area VI Report.....	16
Area VII Report	18
Area VIII Report.....	19
Area IX Report.....	21
Area X Report.....	23
VFC Committees Chairs’ Reports	
National Legislation Committee Report	25
State Legislation Committee Report.....	26
Membership Committee Report.....	27
Service Committee Report.....	30
Public Relations Committee Report.....	31
Alzheimer’s Committee Report	32
FY-2016 VFC Board	35

Introduction

This Annual Report of the Virginia Federation has been prepared to identify events that occurred during this past VFC fiscal year (July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015) that members of the VFC Board believe are significant and worthy of note. It is hoped that you find the information provided in the following articles informative and useful.

Prior to the FY-2014 VFC Annual Report, it was the tradition to provide a report to attendees of the VFC Annual Conventions that was identified as an annual report. It covered the time period from one annual VFC convention to the following annual VFC convention. However, these reports, though they covered a 12-month period, were not really VFC annual reports, since they covered period April to April and did not match the VFC fiscal year (July 1 thru June 30). Both the immediate past VFC President, Luther Santiful, and I believed that the report should be a true annual report and should be distributed to all Chapters' officers and chairs, not just those attending the VFC Convention. Also, by making this change, the true annual financial report of the VFC could be included, not the three quarters financial report as was provided prior to April 2014.

Please note, the articles in this report were written by Virginia Federation members that held positions on the VFC Board from April 2014 thru April 2015. Most of them were re-elected or appointed to the VFC Board in April 2015, but not all. To ensure that significant events were addressed, I asked that the previous VFC Board members to write the articles, not the new VFC Board members who might only have been in office since April 2015.

Another change that was implemented was a schedule change for the publication of the VFC Notes, the name of the VFC newsletter. Instead of preparing the VFC Notes immediately after each scheduled quarterly VFC Board meeting, they are prepared quarterly based upon the VFC fiscal year. This change allows the VFC Notes to address issues and events throughout the Virginia Federation in a more-timely manner, and does not just include the discussions and presentations from the VFC Board meetings.

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

Richard Giangerelli, VFC President

Executive Committee Reports

VFC President's Report

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

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



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

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

Luther L. Santiful, VFC President

1st Vice President's Report

At the 2014 VFC Convention, we announced the location of the 2015 VFC Convention and the committee members began their meetings shortly after that time.

In August 2014, I joined other NARFE members from the Virginia Federation at the 33rd Biennial National Convention in Orlando, FL. I served as the Chair of the Rules Committee which turned out to be quite an experience. Since a convention cannot officially begin until it has adopted the rules that will govern the conduct of convention business, the Rules Committee played a pivotal role. After much debate, the rules were finally accepted and the convention began. The Virginia Federation was well represented on various committees at the convention. Area VII Vice President Steve Dansker served on the By-laws Committee and Area IX Vice President Pierce Johnson served as Chair of the Legislation Committee.

In the fall preparation officially began for the 2015 VFC Convention. I served as the Coordinator of the Convention and also handled the Supporter donations. Because of the change in venue there was much logistical coordination. The committee visited the new location in Fredericksburg many times and met with the conference event coordinator and the caterer. We also booked rooms at two adjoining hotels for the attendees. The 61st VFC Convention was held April 12-15, 2015 at the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center. Members arriving on Sunday evening attended a "Meet and Greet" Welcome reception. The Opening Session was on April 13. Guest speakers included Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Jessica Klement, NARFE's National Legislation Director and Tammy Flanagan, Senior Benefits Director for the National Institute of Transition Planning, Inc. "George Washington" (Mr. Arthur Hart) also stopped by to share some historical knowledge about the Fredericksburg area. We were also honored to have NARFE National President Dick Thissen join us for the convention.

The 2015 Convention Planning Committee led by Pierce Johnson did an outstanding job. It was a pleasure working with Committee members which included chapters from Area IX and incredible support from Mary Heck and Maureen Nolet from Chapter 90 (Area VIII) in Fredericksburg. With the help of NARFE members, volunteers, exhibitors, numerous businesses, personal and chapter ads and supporters, the convention was the most profitable one in years! New items this year included a special discount rate for NARFE exhibitors.

Workshops included use of the internet, social media, a personal trainer from Gold's Gym, financial planning, role of the service officer, state legislation, health and fitness, elder law and estate planning. The Memorial Service was conducted by Chaplain Margaret Yowell with music by the James Monroe High School.

Entertainment at the banquet was provided by the Tallwood Trio. Pat Taylor, Area I Vice President, was presented the 2014 R. David Smith Award. Numerous other certificates were presented to outgoing officers. I would like to thank the Area Vice Presidents who were recognized for their service on the Board. Carolyn Wilson dedicated many years to NARFE. She served as Public Relations Chair, VFC 2nd Vice President, VFC 1st Vice President and then as Area III Vice President. Del Dyer served as Area VI Vice President for several years and then took a break and came back this year to help out. Pierce Johnson

served six years as Area IX Vice President as well as Chair of the 2015 VFC Convention. Max Scruggs served as Area X Vice President and now is serving as Senatorial Legislative Liaison (SLL) for Senator Kaine.

I would also like to thank the Area Vice Presidents who are continuing to serve the Board: Pat Taylor, Alex Adkins, Bobby Whittington, Debra Laughon. Steve Dansker and Maureen Nolet.

I would like to welcome our new Area Vice Presidents: Jack McMurchy, who served several years ago, is back as Area III Vice President, Mark Fisher is serving as Area VI Vice President, Jim Little is serving as Area IX Vice President and Wilma Grant is serving as Area X Vice President as well as Chair of the 2016 VFC Convention. In their reports you will see highlights of chapter activities and events that are happening out in the chapters.



The 2015 VFC Convention Committee Members (pictured here) celebrated a successful convention at a luncheon at Paridiso's Restaurant in Alexandria, VA in May.

At the 2015 VFC Convention, I was re-elected as 1st Vice President and I am look forward to working again with the 10 Area Vice Presidents who act as liaison between the VFC and Chapters in their areas.

The VFC will sponsor Chapter Organization Training this fall with the following schedule:

October 21 – Areas III & VIII – Homewood Suites by Hilton, Fredericksburg, VA

October 22 – Areas I, II and IV – location – TBD

October 28 – Area V, VI and VII – location – TBD

October 30 – Areas IX and X – American Legion Fairfax Post 177. Fairfax, VA

The VFC Electronic Committee is working on recommendations to update and/or reorganize the data and displays/photos on our existing VFC website, so look for a new look later this year.

VFC Executive Board at 2015 VFC Convention in Fredericksburg



Left to right – Richard Giangerelli, President; Luther Santiful, Immediate Past President;
Kathy Arpa, 1st Vice President; Leslie Ravenell, 2nd Vice President;
Deanna Shepherd, Secretary and Raphael Wong, Treasurer

Kathy Arpa, VFC 1st Vice President

2nd Vice President's Report

For those of you who are new chapter officers in Virginia, this may be the first time you are reading the VFC Annual Report. This report documents all the activities of the VFC from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Some of the information in this report may be new and some of it you may have read in our VFC Notes. I am pleased to report to you on my activities throughout the year as well as highlight the activities of the six

VFC committees under my responsibility: National Legislation, State Legislation, Alzheimer's, Membership, Public Relations and Service Officers.

In July 2014 I attended my first Executive Board Meeting as VFC 2nd Vice President, having been elected in April. Well, it was an eye opener to say the least since we did not adjourn until 11:20 pm on a Sunday night! Nothing like jumping into the frying pan!

In August 2014, I along with more than 40 NARFE members from Virginia attended the NARFE National Convention in Orlando, Florida. This was only my second National Convention so I am still learning the ins and outs. But as I have said before, attendance at the National Convention is critical and I recommend attendance to all NARFE members.

In September I was on the road with Maureen "Moe" Nolet, Area VIII Vice President, and Alex Adkins, Area II Vice President, as we considered sites around the state for the upcoming NARFE Region X Conference, scheduled for September 28th through October 2nd 2015. We visited five hotels and reviewed information on three others. The final choice was the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Hotel at Virginia Beach, which was first recommended by Alex Adkins. I know that all of you who will be in attendance in September will enjoy this conference site.

The Holiday season was really a treat for me as I had the opportunity to visit two chapters that I had not been to before, Midlothian Chapter 2265 and Shenandoah Chapter 2358. And then it was back to business with the January Board Meeting in Fredericksburg. This time the Executive Board Meeting adjourned early, at 11:10 pm! Are we making progress? In October we said goodbye to the Koger Center in Richmond after meeting there for almost five years.

In March about 30 VFC members attended the NARFE National Legislative Training in Crystal City, VA. Many commented that this was the best Legislative Training to date. I took up the rear in a visit Congressman Rob Wittman's office on Capitol Hill. As always, it was a great visit.

With spring in the air we began the final plans for our VFC Convention (April 12-15, 2015), this year held in Fredericksburg, VA for the first time since 2005. The Convention evaluations praised the Convention committee for offering such an excellent overall program. It was my distinct honor to introduce many of the speakers, including our NARFE National President, Dick Thissen, and Congressman Rob Wittman. A first was the amount of funds raised for Alzheimer's research, the largest of any VFC Convention to date. Please read the report of Donna Shackelford, VFC Alzheimer Chair, for information on the Convention and the latest Alzheimer's research. Another first was the amount of funds donated for our NARFE PAC. Steve Ledford, the Senatorial Legislative Liaison (SLL) for Senator Warner, stepped in for Jim Brewer, the VFC National Legislation Chair, and led the charge. The PAC challenge and the success in meeting the challenge are documented in the National Legislative Report.

In May our VFC Services Officers, Connie and John Bails, conducted the first ever state-wide Service Officer training. It was well attended and well received. Their report below will provide more details.

Leslie Ravenell, VFC 2nd Vice President

Secretary's Report

The VFC Board of directors at their July meeting adopted a budget for the current fiscal year, with the inclusion of funds to support the attendance of all voting members of the Board at the 2014 NARFE National Convention in Orlando, Florida. The Board also adopted the State Legislation plan for the 2015 session of the Virginia General Assembly. The Board decided to retain the current \$0.55 level for VFC mileage reimbursement, and to increase the VFC reimbursement levels permitted for meals to \$15 for breakfast, \$20 for lunch and \$30 for dinner.

The Board approved the VFC Annual Report to be printed in color with a bound cover and be distributed to each VFC Chapter by the VFC Area Vice Presidents (AVPs). The Report will also be placed on the VFC website. The distribution list of the quarterly VFC newsletter, the VFC Notes, was changed to better utilize electronic distribution as much as possible, thereby reducing costs, and to provide a more useful and timely instrument for providing information to our members.

A proposed set of duties and responsibilities for VFC Federal Employees Education and Assistance (FEEA) Coordinator position for inclusion in to the VFC Organizational Handbook was discussed. However, after considerable discussion by the Board of cost and implementation, it was decided to remove the position from the VFC organizational structure.

The VFC Board decided to increase the registration fees for the 2015 VFC Convention. The approved registration fees are: registration with banquet \$55.00 if received before March 1, 2015; \$60.00 from Mar 1 to March 15, 2015; and \$65.00 after March 15, 2015.

The 2014 NARFE National Convention was well attended by VFC members and a number of VFC members served on several of the Convention committees.

Arrangements were made to hold the 2015 NARFE Region X Conference (September 29 through October 1, 2015) at the Wyndom Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, and it will be hosted by the Virginia Federation. Special room rates of \$94+ tax, which will add up to about \$114 per night, negotiated. All meeting rooms will be on one floor and centrally located, with restaurant one floor below. Region X Vice President Bill Shackelford will prepare the agenda.

The VFC Board voted to support the attendance of VFC Board members at the 2015 NARFE Legislative Training Conference at a rate not to exceed \$1,000 per attendee. This will include all VFC Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs), Senatorial Legislative Liaisons (SLLs), Area Vice Presidents, the National Legislation Chair, the State Legislation Chair, and the voting members of the VFC Executive Committee who are able to attend.

President Giangerelli indicated that we need to identify additional suitable candidates for the VFC CDL positions, since positions for three of the eleven Virginia Congressional Districts are currently vacant.

A training sessions for Chapter officers was incorporated into the agenda of the 2015 VFC Convention and

additional training sessions will be conducted in October 2015. A special training session for Chapter service officers was conducted in May 2015. Preliminary plans for membership training in FY-2016 was discussed.

William Schmidt, VFC Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

I am happy to report that at the end of Fiscal Year 2014, the VFC is in sound financial condition.

The end of the year (EOY) expenditure to date is 66% of the approved FY-2015 budget. There were some adjustments made to the approved VFC budget to accommodate two new line items approved at the January 2015 Board Meeting that did not impact the FY-2015 budgeted total expenditure. The new items are the study on how to enhance the VFC website and the planned Service Officers' training.

<u>FY-2015 TREASURER'S REPORT SYNOPSIS as of June 30, 2015</u>		
Approved Budget	\$143,745	
Actual Income		\$86,005
Actual Expenditures		\$94,580
Additional funds required from savings account		\$8,575

In addition, the contributions collected for the VFC State Political Fund from January 1 thru June 30, 2015 was \$325.00.

Raphael Wong, VFC Treasurer

Area Vice Presidents’ Reports

Area I Report

Although VFC Area I chapters decreased in size by 60 members in FY-2015, I'm proud to say all four chapters in Area I have officers who have moved to new positions and members who are officers for

the first time. It was a joy visiting these chapters and listening to the discussions as they worked to fill these chapter officer positions. The support and encouragement from their fellow members brought a sense of confidence and enthusiasm as members agreed to serve.

Overall chapter meetings attendance has shown an increase and there is a growing sense of camaraderie. Creating a welcoming environment is essential and seems to be thriving in Area I. When you enter meetings at all four chapters, you are met by an official "greeter" or a host of members who welcome you and start making introductions.

There is renewed interest among members on both state and national legislative issues. Members of Congress and the General Assembly have been speakers at chapter meetings (i.e., Keith Hodges, Delegate for the 97th Commonwealth District, at Chapter 1757, and Rob Wittman, Virginia Congressman for the 1st Congressional District, at Chapter 1823). Three members from Chapter 682 met with the Regional Director for Senator Tim Kaine's Virginia Beach office. Programs continue to be interesting and well received.

Recruitment has been a concerted effort in Area I. Several members were recruited at Health Fairs worked by members of Chapter 682 (six health fairs were held and material was provided for those who attended the events). Several members were recruited through the NARFE new member incentive program also. Chapter 1757 "found" a retiree who had been assigned to the E-chapter in error two years ago by NARFE Headquarters. They quickly corrected that mistake, and that member attended their holiday luncheon. And, of course, B.J. McMillan, the VFC and Chapter 1823 Membership Chair, continues to keep all of our members alert to new ways to recruit and retain members.

There is renewed interest in raising money for Alzheimer's Research. A retirement facility volunteered to host the Peninsula Chapter 682 holiday luncheon. The chapter sold tickets and then the facility, Warwick Forest, donated all the ticket revenue to NARFE Alzheimer's Research on behalf of the Peninsula Chapter (approximately \$1,800). Warwick Forest also paid for live entertainment and for door prizes. I suggested that other Area I chapters ask for similar support. Middle Peninsula Chapter 1757 will be having their own fundraiser at Warwick Forest in the near future – and I'm certain Williamsburg Chapter 685 will be doing the same very soon. This is a wonderful way to raise money for a great cause! Also chapter members participated in their respective community Alzheimer's walks during the fall. The coordinator for the Peninsula Walk was invited as a guest to the luncheon at Warwick Forest, and she graciously personally donated \$100 to the chapter's fund to recognize the work and dedication of NARFE to Alzheimer's fund raising efforts!

Advocacy is gaining more attention and increased momentum in Area I. Visits to offices of state and national representatives are occurring regularly; and several members of Chapter 682, along with representatives of approximately 50 other organizations, are serving on a committee to address establishing procedures to encourage members of the Virginia General Assembly to provide transparency when bills are being discussed, thus eliminating closed door committee sessions. Information on this program is being forwarded to Chris Farrell in NARFE Headquarters, who now reports directly to NARFE National President Dick Thissen. President Thissen obviously sees the benefit of working on the state level through this new initiative.

As spring approaches, all four Area I chapters will be scheduling additional events and will be planning to participate in the 2016 VFC Convention in April. Plans are underway to encourage increased attendance of Area I members at the Convention. We are currently working on a consolidated one page ad for the Convention program book and are raising contributions from chapter supporters.

I will once again close by saying it is my honor to represent Chapter 682, 685, 1757, and 1823 on the VFC Board by serving as their Area I Vice President.

Patricia Taylor – VFC Area I Vice President

Area II Report

Although VFC Area Chapters decreased in size by 57 members during FY-2015, the five chapters have continued to work in support their members and the NARFE mission; and members have stepped up to support the operation of the chapters.

During the past year, Joseph F. Murray began his second term as President of Virginia Beach Seaside Chapter 1827. Other elected officers include 1st Vice President Peter Amante, Secretary Annette Hall, and newly elected Treasurer Richard Bourdon. Committee chairs include Dick Edwards (National Legislation, Membership, E-mail and Web Coordinator), Nancy Craft (State Legislation), Betty Atkinson (Alzheimer's Research), Willard Bussard (Public Relations), Joseph Murray (Service Officer), Richard Bourdon (Programs), Peter Amante (Telephone committee), and Ken Gimbert (NARFE PAC). Joseph Murray served as the chapter's delegate to the 2015 VFC Convention.

Margie Mitchell is continuing as President of Tidewater Chapter 66 and Mary Asby has taken over as Secretary. The chapter Treasurer is Vera Merritt, who took over the position after the passing of Earl Mitnaul. Committee chairs include Arlene Arthur (Service Officer), Betty Mitchell (Membership), Rosemary Whitehurst (Legislation) and Margie Mitchell (Public Relations).

Virginia Beach Bayside Chapter 974 has re-elected and installed Alex H. Adkins as President, Charles Chapman as 1st Vice President, Burnley Rhue as 2nd Vice President, Fran Sansone as Secretary, and Donald Warren as Treasurer. Committee chairs include Gregg Ferrito (Legislation), Betty Warren (Public Relations), Burnley Rhue (Service Officer), Priscilla Adkins (Hospitality), Myrtle Durham (Sunshine), and Sylvia Butler (Alzheimer's Research). Alex Adkins, Betty Warren and Donald also served as chapter delegates to the 2015 VFC Convention.

Shirley Driver Kinchen continues to serve as President of Monticello Chapter 2361 and her husband, Alonzo D. Kinchen, serves as Secretary and Treasurer. The membership of Chapter 2361 consists primarily of active federal employees and Shirley Driver Kinchen is working hard to recruit new members for the chapter.

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

Lynne Pipis will be resigning as president of Metro Chapter 5 and Judy Bosnengo is expected to replace her. Jim Brewer has volunteered to serve as 1st Vice President and Betty Mitchell from Tidewater Chapter 66 is prepared to assume duties of Membership Chair. A search is underway to find someone to serve as Secretary-Treasurer. Judy Bosnengo served as the chapter's delegate to the 2015 VFC Convention.

Significant events during the past year include a September meet the candidate's forum for local elections

in Virginia Beach sponsored by Chapter 974. NARFE members from four area chapters attended the meeting. Seven candidates for contested Virginia Beach city council seats gave 10-minute presentations followed by 5 minutes of questions and answers. The meeting also attracted several candidates for the Virginia Beach school board. After the questions and answers, refreshments were served and the candidates mingled with chapter members to discuss issues pending before the city council. For many of the attendees, having direct access to city council members in a casual environment is an important benefit of NARFE membership.

During November, local NARFE members manned recruiting tables for health fairs at the U.S. Postal Service Distribution Center in Norfolk and the Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) at the Norfolk Naval Station.

Chapter 974 hosted a Holiday Luncheon for all local NARFE members on the 12th of December at Grand Affairs Catering in Virginia Beach. At \$25 a plate it was more expensive than some of our past luncheons, but it is a beautiful facility with excellent food and service. Fifty-three members and their guests from all local chapters attended the luncheon. As has been done in the past, the luncheon included numerous door prizes and entertainment.

Seaside Chapter 1827 held its February meeting at the Westminster Canterbury Retirement Community in Virginia Beach. A conference room on one of the upper floors of one of the facility's tower was made available for the meeting. The speaker came from the History and Genealogy branch of the Virginia Beach Public Library. She gave an interesting presentation on our local history and efforts by the library to create a digital collection of historic pictures and documents. The digital collection is available online and includes a vast assortment of pictures and documents.

Seaside Chapter 1827 had its annual Spaghetti Luncheon on the 1st Thursday of March. Contributions from chapter members who attended the luncheon were donated to Alzheimer's Research.

Tidewater Chapter 66 had interesting speakers at its February and March meetings. A master gardener spoke at the March meeting. He offered helpful information on landscaping and gardening in our local climate and soils, including what to plant to attract butterflies and other desirable insects. The March speakers gave a presentation on reverse mortgages.

Alex Adkins, VFC Area II Vice President

Area III

Area III now consists of six chapters after the close of South of the James Chapter 1138 and is 138 members smaller than it was last year. The six remaining chapters are Petersburg Chapter 28, Richmond Chapter 60, Colonial Heights Chapter 1472, Imperial Plaza Chapter 1510, Tuckahoe Chapter 1727 and Midlothian Chapter 2265. All of these chapters elected a full slate of officers. New presidents were elected at the Imperial Plaza Chapter (Edward Hefflin replaced long time president Bettye Thornton, who is now the Treasurer) and at the Midlothian Chapter (Helen Willis replaced Tony Michalek). Five of the chapters do not meet in July and August. The Midlothian Chapter is the only chapter meeting all 12 months. However, all chapters continued to have a wide variety of interesting and timely programs.

Unfortunately after a lot of effort by then Area III VP Carolyn Wilson, South of the James Chapter 1138 closed in April 2015. Ms. Wilson and VFC President, Dick Giangerelli, worked hard to place the members in other nearby chapters. About one third chose to transfer to other VFC chapters and the remainder (who did not pick a new chapter) were transferred to the E-NARFE chapter.

The 2015 winter weather was not kind to the Area III chapters. Several chapters could not meet for one month and some couldn't meet for two months. This had a negative impact on the chapters' contributions to and the number of the chapters' delegates for the 61st VFC Convention. In addition, attendance for monthly meetings declined. However, all of the chapters have improved their rate of resigning members who previously had been dropped for nonpayment of dues. In addition, Area III chapters continued their efforts to recruit new members for NARFE. Area III participated in four recruiting efforts during this year. Ms. Wilson and Tom Reid, the President of the Tuckahoe Chapter, had a table at the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DODDS) Convention held in Richmond. Ms. Wilson also had a table at the UPS Supervisors Convention in Richmond. Jack McMurchy and Roy Beasley, from the Petersburg Chapter, had a table at a Fort Lee health fair. And the Midlothian Chapter had a table at the Chesterfield TRIAD Senior Day.

Area III continued to support NARFE activities. The members provided donations for Alzheimer's research, with the Midlothian Chapter raising \$2,586 (the most in Area III) and the Petersburg Chapter raising \$1,300. It had five delegates attend the NARFE National Convention in Orlando, Florida, in August 2014 (two from the Petersburg Chapter, one from the Colonial Heights Chapter and two from the Tuckahoe Chapter). The Midlothian Chapter had one member attend the National Legislative Training at Crystal City, Virginia, in March 2015. Eighteen members from Area III attended the 61st VFC Convention in Fredericksburg, Virginia (five from the Petersburg Chapter, one from the Richmond Chapter, one from the Colonial Heights Chapter, two from the Imperial Plaza Chapter, three from the Tuckahoe Chapter, and six from the Midlothian Chapter). Three Area III chapter service officers attended the VFC Service Officer Training in May 2015. Four Area III members of Area III participated in the VFC State Legislative Planning meeting in June 2015.

Carolyn Wilson & Jack McMurchy, Past & Current VFC Area III Vice Presidents

Area IV

The VFC Area IV consists of five medium sized chapters: Portsmouth Chapter 63 (74 members), Churchland Chapter 1293 (154 members), Chesapeake Chapter 1682 (149 members), Brentwood Chapter 1697 (95 members) and Suffolk Chapter 1743 (153 members). However, VFC Area IV chapters are 41 members smaller than last year. All chapters meet monthly for ten months of the year, with no meetings during July and August. In addition a quarterly President's Breakfast for Area IV chapters' presidents is held to discussing issues, goals, and problems.

Area IV chapters have been active in the support of NARFE and VFC goals and objectives. In addition, two Area IV members participated in the VFC State Legislation Planning meeting in June 2015. Chapter representatives also supported the State Legislative objectives by meeting with state representatives and/or staff to discuss VFC issues and providing copies of the VFC State Legislative Plan tri-fold.

Area IV chapters have been very active in events for recruiting NARFE members. In June, 100 bags of NARFE materials were passed out from a booth at the Smithfield 'Olden Days' Celebration. In early fall, the

Suffolk Chapter manned a booth for four days and nights, passing out NARFE recruiting materials along with cups of peanuts at the annual Peanut Festival. During November, the Churchland Chapter passed out 500 bags of NARFE materials at federal employee health fairs at the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center, the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and the Norfolk FBI field office. Area IV has made reservations for these events for the coming year and has added an event at a local Coast Guard installation. We are united in supporting VFC initiatives.

All Area IV chapters' members were fully represented at the 2015 VFC Convention – either by members attending or by providing a voting proxy. At the Area IV caucus meeting, I was again selected as the Area IV Vice President for the year; and Dillard Horton (Suffolk Chapter) and June Staton (Brentwood Chapter) volunteered to serve on the VFC Nominating Committee. Prior to the convention, I served as a member of the R. David Smith Memorial Award committee. Mr. Horton has volunteered to serve as the VFC Congressional District Liaison (CDL) for Virginia Congressional District 1.

Monthly chapter meetings have continued to focus on NARFE and VFC actions and plans; but, have also striven to be entertaining and mind broadening by having guest speakers from a variety of occupations and backgrounds, such as congressional staff, financial advisors, elder care/senior living, music (singing, etc.) and sporting activities.

Bobby Whittington, VFC Area IV Vice President

Area V

Area V consists of six relatively small chapters - Lynchburg Chapter 110, Danville Chapter 1011, Bedford Chapter 1068, Martinsville/Henry Chapter 1882, Southside(South Hill) Chapter 2079, and Piedmont (Farmville) Chapter 2080. Four of these chapters have less than 50 members. Area V is also 28 members smaller than it was a year ago.

I found this year to have been very challenging at best. Area V had chapters that could not get members to attend chapter meetings, had chapter officers resigning and trying to close the chapter without notifying the chapter members, and had chapters that did not meeting at all during the year. Then, there were chapters that reorganized, elected new officers, and are growing and meeting monthly.

When the year began, only one chapter was meeting on a regular basis - the Piedmont Chapter. They have a full slate of officers and they have good attendance at their meetings. In October, I called each member of the Lynchburg Chapter 110 and invited them to a reorganizational meeting. The then current chapter officers no longer had any interest in meeting and were trying to find new officers. At the reorganization meeting, the chapter was able to elect and install a chapter president and a secretary/treasurer, and since have been meeting regularly, weather permitting. In December they held a Christmas social to meet and greet other members of the chapter. Immediate Past VFC President Luther Santiful attended, along with about 20 chapter members. This chapter is growing and doing well. The Piedmont and Lynchburg Chapters sent their chapter presidents to the 2015 VFC Convention; and they actively participated in the convention workshops and took many ideas back to their chapters.

I met with members of the Southside (South Hill) Chapter and they stated that they did not want to close the chapter. The chapter, however, is having a problem finding members that have the time to be a chapter president and treasurer. At a meeting March 2015, at which 12 members were present, most attendees stated that they have other obligations and several stated that, at their age (63-93), they didn't feel like they had energy or knowledge to take on the responsibilities of a chapter officer. In the Fall, I plan to continue to work with this chapter to help them remain open and functioning as a successful chapter.

It is my goal for 2016 to get the remaining three chapters to meet and elect chapter officers.

All Area V members recognize NARFE as a beneficial organization and most members see the need for local NARFE chapters. Personal contact by phone has been successful with the two chapters I have had time to work with this past year. My plan is to not have any Area V chapters close this year.

As always, I am here to assist the Area V chapters and represent them and their interests on the VFC Board. If you have any ideas or recommendations, please feel free to contact me at 540-587-5752.

Debra Laughon, Area V VFC Vice President

Area VI

The VFC Area VI currently consists of four chapters of various sizes - Roanoke Valley Chapter 111 (329 members), New River Valley Chapter 1134 (141 members), Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837 (46 members), and Southwest Highlands Chapter 2330 (43 members). During this past year, the number of NARFE members in Area VI decreased by 51 members.

During this past year, three of the chapters (the Roanoke Valley Chapter, the New River Valley Chapter, and the Wilderness Trail Chapter) have met on a continuing cycle. The Southwest Highlands Chapter has requested to close and has not had any meetings this past year. All of the chapters are having problems getting members to set up and run for the chapter officer positions.

1837 - The next project will be a booth at the senior fair day in Wytheville. Del at the VFC convention provided material to hand out. Their program was a lady speaking about AirMedCare, a membership program that covers the cost of air transportation to the three regional hospitals that have level 1 trauma care for a reasonable price. Quarterly Meetings were held in September 2014 - Annette Clark from the Alzheimer's Association. December 2014 - Keith Wray & Brian Likens from Blue Cross Blue Shield. March 2015 - Drew Lumpkin, Regional Director for Senator Mark Warner and June 2015 - Roxanne Watson, Air Medical Care Network. Service Chair, Richard Johnson, attended the March 6 Roanoke Chapter meeting with VFC Service Officers, Connie and John Bails. Chapter President, Mary Kelley, representing the chapter attended the VFC Convention in Fredericksburg in April. Members of the chapter put together several items for the Alzheimer's Silent Auction at the VFC Convention. Our chapter had a booth at the annual Wytheville Seniors Day on June 18 in Wytheville to encourage eligible people to join NARFE.

111 - 3 representatives to the National Convention August 24-28. Although our March meeting was cancelled because the Roanoke City Schools were closed because of inclement weather; however, the speakers, scheduled for that meeting, were already in town and decided to come and speak to whoever

showed up. We had 13 in attendance including a guest, Richard Johnson, Service Officer for the Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837. The speakers were John and Dr. Constance Bails, VFC Co-Service Officers. They spoke about the duties of the service officer and the important steps survivors should know. The chapter was able to send representatives to VFC Convention in April. Those attending from our chapter were Wanda Ware, Elaine Drewry, Mark and Carolyn Fisher and Alta Conner.

1134 - Chapter 1134 continues to hold board meetings on the even months and membership meetings on the odd months throughout the year. Three of our officers had serious health problems and continue to be in maintenance mode throughout the year. Other members of the Board carried the load. Chapter 1134 planned to have representatives at the Service Officer training session offered by Chapter 111. The event was cancelled due to inclement weather. Two members and their spouses attended State convention. There is a full complement of officers and committee chairs. Membership continues to erode as we lose members to death and have been unable to recruit their replacements, let alone grow. Membership stands at 143. Attendance at meetings averages 18 per meeting. We feature speakers from the political world and from major non-profits serving our area. The Chapter is in the hunt for new officers and committee chairs for the coming year.

During the time of 1 July 2014 through 12 April 2015 Area VI was represented by Del Dryer and he missed one state board meeting due to illness. I attended the VFC state convention in April 2015 and was elected and installed on the board at the VFC banquet; and attended my first board meeting the following day. I was unable to attend the state legislative in June and unable to find a representative to drive the distance for the four hour meeting,

On May 1, 2015 I attend our monthly meeting of Roanoke Valley 111, was introduced as newly elected VP; talked about convention and new emphasis on state legislative matters. The following Tuesday on May 5, 2015 I was at our board meeting of chapter 111, noted that I was the only board member to continue in office (Treasurer). Recommended and approve that a letter be mailed to all members expressing concern and the new for people to "step up" for various positions to keep the chapter going.

Wanda Ware is trying to set up a visit of Jessica Klement for late summer early fall with newspaper ads to attract active employees and retiree to discuss what is being proposed on Capitol Hill to reduce our benefits

May 14, 2015 saw me attending bi-monthly meeting of the New River Valley chapter 1134 at the Bull and Bones Restaurant in Blacksburg. Del introduced me to all members. Having noted that they had a state delegate as guest speaker again emphasizes the VFC's position on state matter and express that they consider attend the June meeting. Also talked about what chapter 111 is proposing for later.

Finally on June 9, 2015 I attended quarterly meeting of the Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837 (round trip 150 miles) at the Shoney's in Wytheville. It was a small gathering and introduced myself to members. Mary

talked about the VFC convention (had nothing to add). Talked with members present and their board will be running again for the following year. The next project will be a booth at the senior fair day in Wytheville. Del at the VFC convention provided material to hand out. Their program was a lady speaking about AirMedCare, a membership program that covers the cost of air transportation to the three regional hospitals that have level 1 trauma care for a reasonable price.

The following highlights were provided by the chapters:

Wilderness Trail Chapter #1837

Quarterly Meetings were held in September 2014 - Annette Clark from the Alzheimer's Association. December 2014 - Keith Wray & Brian Likens from Blue Cross Blue Shield. March 2015 - Drew Lumpkin, Regional Director for Senator Mark Warner and June 2015 - Roxanne Watson, Air Medical Care Network

Other activities included; Service Chair, Richard Johnson, attended the March 6 Roanoke Chapter meeting with VFC Service Officers, Connie and John Bails. Chapter President, Mary Kelley, representing the chapter attended the VFC Convention in Fredericksburg in April. Members of the chapter put together several items for the Alzheimer's Silent Auction at the VFC Convention. Our chapter had a booth at the annual Wytheville Seniors Day on June 18 in Wytheville to encourage eligible people to join NARFE.

Roanoke Valley Chapter 111

Our chapter had 3 representatives to the National Convention August 24-28.

The Chapter's Christmas Party was held at Tanglewood Holiday Inn on December 5. At that Time Del Dryer Area VI VP installed the elected officers. Also donations of large and extra-large size underwear, sweat pants and sweat shirts (new) collected to be taken to Catawba Hospital following our Christmas Party.

Although our March meeting was cancelled because the Roanoke City Schools were closed because of inclement weather; however, the speakers, scheduled for that meeting, were already in town and decided to come and speak to whoever showed up. We had 13 in attendance including a guest, Richard Johnson, Service Officer for the Wilderness Trail Chapter 1837. The speakers were John and Dr. Constance Bails, VFC Co-Service Officers. They spoke about the duties of the service officer and the important steps survivors should know.

The chapter was able to send representatives to VFC Convention in April. Those attending from our chapter were Wanda Ware, Elaine Drewry, Mark and Carolyn Fisher and Alta Conner.

Blacksburg Chapter1134

Chapter 1134 continues to hold board meetings on the even months and membership meetings on the odd months throughout the year. Fifty two members and guests enjoyed a social in the form of a home cooked meal by a local woman's group at their fellowship hall. Three of our officers had serious health problems and continue to be in maintenance mode throughout the year. Other members of the Board carried the load. Chapter 1134 planned to have representatives at the Service Officer training session offered by Chapter 111. The event was cancelled due to inclement weather. Two members and their spouses attended State convention. There is a full complement of officers and committee chairs. Membership continues to erode as we lose members to death and have been unable to recruit their replacements, let alone grow. Membership stands at 143. Attendance at meetings averages 18 per meeting. We feature speakers from the political world and from major non-profits serving our area. The Chapter is in the hunt for new officers and committee chairs for the coming year.

Mark Fisher, VFC Area VI Vice President

Area VII

Area VII centers on the Shenandoah Valley in far Northwestern Virginia. We are composed of 6 chapters: Winchester, Shenandoah County (meeting in Mt. Jackson), Page Valley (Luray), Harrisonburg, the combined Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro, and Charlottesville. We number approximately 1090 in strength as of May 2015 (the latest figures available). The membership has dipped a little over 7% again this past year, but members still have been vigorously attempting to bring in new members, and bring back those who have lapsed. Our goal is to increase our numbers to back over 1200 by the end of 2015.

The VFC 2015 Convention held in April was once again a resounding success. My own chapter, Shenandoah County #2358, contributed to the financial success by soliciting over \$2,500 in commercial ads. My chapter has been in the forefront of commercial ad solicitations for the past four years and we will continue to do so as long as there are VFC Conventions. However, it appears that there is a move afoot to do away with Federations at the 2016 NARFE National Convention, thus there may be only two more VFC Conventions. Time will tell if this will come to pass.

As you can imagine, after the release last year of the Future of NARFE (FON) Suggestions, there has been a flurry of comments generated within Area VII chapters. Most of these concern the idea that chapter membership will not be essential. I, along with the vast majority of Area VII members, still think that this is a huge mistake. In fact, the NEB gave in to this criticism and withdrew this idea from the 2014 NARFE National Convention held in August in Orlando. The only item which was of importance voted on at the National Convention was the reduction of paid Nationally-elected Officers from 4 to 2. That passed easily, since many members believed that the amount paid to National Officers had been excessive anyway.

Because of the 2014 primaries & elections, Area VII chapter members energized their activities to let our Senators and Congressman know how we felt regarding the proposed cuts to our earned pay & benefits. I was involved in political campaign appearances and election preparations. Although I was no longer an Election Official here in Shenandoah County, I attended political party activities. The Virginia National Candidates came to our region in vast numbers, holding fundraisers as well as numerous indoor & outdoor activities. Our chapters attended all of them during the summer and fall. It seems that Western Virginia was a hotbed of activity because we were considered a "state-in-play". Much attention was given to us and we appreciated it. And as before, all through the year, nationally, I have been very vocal in writing and speaking directly to our 6th District Congressman, Bob Goodlatte, and our two Federal VA Senators to keep our pay & benefits in line with the rest of the Country, and not to single us Federal employees out for cuts. I'm not sure this campaign was totally successful (given the 2015 Congressional Budget submittals); however the cuts could have been a lot worse. This is an on-going battle that I fear will consume our membership for years to come.

Individually, as in the past, I visited all six chapters multiple times during the year. Being the President of the Shenandoah County Chapter meant that I was absent there a few times a year to attend other chapter meetings that had conflicting schedules. Our chapter officers carried out their duties well without me, particularly our VP, Bob Lowerre. Plus, we have had the advantage of having the VFC Immediate Past President, Luther Santiful, attend our chapter meetings for all of this fiscal year, even though he has since moved his membership over to Area VII's Staunton chapter.

In June, Area VII held its annual conclave at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg as we did last year. As has been the practice, all six chapters sent their officers to get together among equals and share experiences. In addition to voicing their concerns and relating their successes, chapter officers received training conducted by Sarah Weissmann, the NARFE National Headquarters Grassroots Chair. We also had the honor of recognizing Luther Santiful, the VFC Immediate Past President.

During 2014 and in the first quarter of 2015, I have outlined the accomplishments of the Area VII individual chapters in the Quarterly Notes. However, since the last Quarterly Notes in March 2015, there have been several noteworthy occurrences.

Shenandoah County chapter #2358

To begin with, my Shenandoah County chapter in April welcomed Isaac Server, the Outreach Coordinator from Senator Warner's Office. In May, we were instructed by Gary Yew, Shenandoah County Fire & Rescue Chief, on home safety. At our Annual June picnic, we were briefed by Gwen Mason, Senator Kaine's Shenandoah Valley Regional Director on the Senator's priorities. While back in May, several of our chapter's officers attended the annual TRIAD conference which briefs county residents on senior's issues, highlighting local programs and topics.

Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro chapter #178

At the May Staunton-Augusta County-Waynesboro chapter meeting, members listened to Lisa Blythe, the Senior Programs Coordinator for the Augusta County Parks & Recreations Department.

Page Valley chapter #1793

In April, the Guest speaker for Chapter meeting was Charlie Hoke, Luray Town Manager, outlining the State of the Town of Luray, highlighting Luray's highly rated water treatment system and the upcoming 2016 project to rebuild the Main Street Bridge and plans to mitigate its effect on business and tourism. Also this month, Vice President Pat Joyce represented Chapter 1793 at the VFC Convention, Fredericksburg, VA. Pat gave a thorough report at the Chapter meeting on conference highlights, with emphasis on the need to increase NARFE membership through grassroots-up efforts.

In May, the Guest speaker for the Chapter meeting was John Robbins, President, Luray-Page Chamber of Commerce, reporting on Luray/Page County's many opportunities for tourism, how the Chamber supports business and tourists, and impressive supporting statistics. Also, the Chapter made a \$100 contribution to Alzheimer's in memory of our past longest serving Chapter President Neil McKendry who succumbed to this dreaded disease.

In June, the Chapter President, Vice President and Treasurer attended the Area VII conference, Harrisonburg, VA, highlight of which was an excellent presentation by Sarah Weissmann of NARFE HQ giving tips for contact with members of Congress. The Chapter's guest speaker for June was Magda Bullock, MS, RD, and Clinical Dietitian for Shenandoah and Page Memorial Hospitals, subject: Eating for Brain and Heart Health.

Harrisonburg chapter #164

In April, the Harrisonburg chapter listened to Dr. John F. Sloop, Chaplain of the Valley Family Forum. The mission of the Valley Family Forum is to inform and mobilize the Valley in support of public policies that promote faith, family and freedom.

In May, the Harrisonburg chapter meeting featured Dr. Rexrode, daughter of member Margaret Rexrode. Dr. Rexrode is a musician and country doctor with a family practice in Franklin, West Virginia.

In June, the Guest speaker was Lt. Steve Powell, Training Officer, Rockingham County Fire and Rescue Department, who explained and demonstrated the latest CPR techniques

On June 27, the Harrisonburg chapter set up a recruitment table at the Virginia Rural Letter Carriers State Convention at the Harrisonburg Holiday Inn.

Charlottesville chapter #135

At the April chapter meeting, Brian Collins from One Virginia gave an excellent briefing on redistricting in the State of Virginia. Bob Drake extended the time for the briefing because of the quality of the presentation and importance of the subject matter presented. Members in attendance expressed their thanks for such a wonderful program.

In May, Jan Wolfe, owner of The Elderberry in Charlottesville, told them about alternative medicines. Jan is a Nurse Practitioner and Certified Herbalist.

In June, Liz Leukroth and Joanne Hirsch attended an Area VII caucus meeting in Harrisonburg, VA facilitated by Steve Dansker. Also, Ed Berkowitz, the State and National Chapter Legislation Chair of Chapter 135, participated in the State Legislation Planning Meeting held in Fredericksburg, VA. The recommended issues that resulted from the meeting very well aligned with our chapter's priorities.

Winchester chapter #180

At the April chapter meeting, they were briefed on the latest developments by Jenny Crooms, Director of Cancer Research.

At the May chapter meeting, they were entertained by David Smith performing songs of Sinatra/Cumo.

At the June chapter meeting, they were entertained by Sally Seabright, violinist.

Late last year, all six Area VII chapters held chapter elections. Only one chapter, Winchester, elected a new president, Tom Cooper, although other new officers were elected for the first time elsewhere. All other chapters re-elected their present president.

Finally, once more, I would like to express my appreciation to all members of Area VII Chapters for your continued support. This has truly been a wonderful year for our Area and me in particular. Thanks to all of you, we had a glorious year. I was re-elected for another year at the 2015 VFC Convention in April and am looking forward to serving you again this next year as your Area VP.

Steve Dansker, VFC Area VII Vice President

Area VIII

This past year has been quite a learning curve and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I do believe it takes a year or two just to get things in perspective and up and running. During this past year, I visited chapters 595 Colonial Beach; 2112 Caroline; 1549 Fauquier; 2343 Falls Run; 1885 Lake of the Woods; 2065 Louisa and since I am also president of chapter 90, there was no special visit here. All chapters have elected a new slate of officers.

The chapters seemed to be working quite well and any situations they had, were similar to other chapters in other areas. Some chapters had some difficulty in finding people to step forward to fill officer positions but they succeeded.

Chapter 2065 hosted two candidates for Virginia's 7th District seat at a picnic at Lake Anna. Chapter 595 was once again very successful with their annual boat trip to Cobb Island, MD & their annual Big Band Dance for Alzheimer's. Chapter 1549 has added new members as a result of advertising. They also corrected their chapter name back to Fauquier. They are diligently working on some of the members on eNARFE, asking if they had a choice to join the chapter or just eNARFE. They have been successful in some of the members switching over to the chapter. Chapter 1885 continues their bus trips to Charleston, WVA & providing interesting speakers at their meetings. This chapter is now established on Facebook and also has developed a video. Chapter 2112, (thanks to Bill Shackelford in my absence) assisted them on their concern about the lack of attendance/interest in the meetings and the declining membership. Chapter 90 is continues to improve their financial situation. Their soup fund raiser continues to raise money for Alzheimer's research. All of the chapters are in good standing and working hard to keep the chapters functioning.

We had representatives from all the Area VIII chapters at the VFC Convention in April. At the convention, I served as Facilities Chairperson and wore other hats as needed. I was also elected to be VFC Area VIII VP for another year. During this past year I have thoroughly enjoyed being Area VIII VP and I feel fortunate that my chapters have elected me once again. I look forward to working with all of the chapters and having the chapters work together.

Maureen Nolet, VFC Area VIII Vice President

Area IX

Area IX includes six chapters of the southern region of “Northern Virginia”

- Chapter 232 Alexandria, Nick Andrus, President (continuing)
- Chapter 1159 Annandale, Mary Lou Vroman, President (new)
- Chapter 401 Falls Church, John Restall, President (continuing)
- Chapter 356 Manassas, David Doliber, President (continuing)
- Chapter 893 Springfield, Deanna Shepherd, President (new)
- Chapter 1270 Woodbridge, Linda Force (new)

Area IX has the benefit of leadership continuing and new blood “sweeping” in.

Area IX is home of

- Gaston Gianni (Woodbridge), who serves as VFC Public Relations Chair
- Gaston is also the Congressional District Liaison (CDL) for Congressman Wittman
- Margaret Yowell (Springfield), who serves as the VFC Chaplain
- Jim Little (Woodbridge), who was elected Area IX Vice President at the annual VFC Convention in April
- Steve Ledford (Annandale), who is the CDL for Congressman Connolly. Steve is also the Senate Legislative Liaison (SLL) for both Senators Warner and Kaine

It is most gratifying to see the warm and close relationship our CDLs and SLL, along with other chapter members, have with their contacts on Capitol Hill as well as in the field. Many thanks to each of them!

Chapters in Area IX range in size from 331 (Manassas) to 1,290 (Springfield). Area IX has the two largest chapters in Virginia (Springfield and Alexandria), with 1,290 and 1,028 respectively. Consequently, Area IX has over 25% of the membership of Virginia. However, all Area IX chapters are continuing to experience drops in membership, yielding nearly a 10% drop in Area IX for the year 2014.

This year hundreds of photographs were sent to NARFE headquarters for the 2016 Photo Contest. We are very pleased that out of the 18 photos that will appear in the 2016 calendar, two of the photos were sent in by members from Area IX. They were “Harbor Reflections” by Phyllis Maguire of Burke, VA (Chapter 0893) and “Proud as a Peacock” by Jim Little of Woodbridge, VA (Chapter 1270). Congratulations to Phyllis and Jim!

There are continuing concerns about declining membership, not only in Area IX, but in the state and the nation

- To help address membership issues, Gaston Gianni (Woodbridge) is serving on the national NARFE Strategic Planning Committee, which could foreshadow significant changes in the national (and local) organizations
- Two Area IX chapters are struggling to find leadership volunteers
- John Restall (President, Falls Church) has announced that he is retiring in December 2015 and has started the process of reaching out to all chapter members to encourage someone to step forward to take a leadership position for the chapter and avoid the process of closing the chapter and relocating its members.

- In the fall of 2014 Woodbridge once again held its Meet-And-Greet” coffee reception affair at the Four Seasons Community Center in Dumfries to reach out to current and retired Federal employees in the community to encourage joining NARFE. New members joined during the event.
- Springfield is focusing its efforts on public relations in 2015 to encourage membership retention and outreach, including revising the Chapter's website, newsletter input, enhanced special events, and scheduling interesting and relevant speakers at monthly meetings

With a decline in membership, all chapters are faced with declining membership dues revenues and have had to resort to cost-cutting measures and increasing revenues, including:

- Eliminating the mailing and printing of newsletters (Woodbridge and Manassas)
- Encouraging members to provide an email address to reduce printing and postage costs and to ensure members receive timelier valuable NARFE and chapter-specific information. Chapters that have eliminated postal mailing of printed newsletter copies are providing printed copies to members who attend their meetings
- Continuing an agreement with Amazon.com that provides Annandale a fee for each purchase on the Amazon portal, made through the link on Annandale’s website

Area IX is extremely proud of its contributions for Alzheimer’s Research this year and in the past

- Woodbridge was recognized at the 2015 VFC Convention for having raised the most among all chapters in Virginia with nearly \$7,000 donated
- Through May 2015, Area IX chapters’ donations recorded by NARFE Headquarters totaled \$10,501 for Alzheimer’s fundraising, which is 39 percent of the total raised by the entire VFC
 - Springfield raised nearly 40 percent of this amount
 - Woodbridge raised 33 percent
 - Annandale raised 20 percent
 - These numbers do not reflect receipts not posted in June (which are significant, according to reports by the chapters)
- All Area IX chapters are to be recognized for their innovative methods of raising money for Alzheimer’s Research (50/50 tickets, paper shredding, social outings, boat cruises on the Occoquan, and more)
- Area IX is also proud of its contributions to the Alzheimer’s Silent Auction at the 2015 VFC Annual Convention

Area IX is making good strides in “cross-pollinating” its fundraising ideas and successfully encouraging participation by members of other chapters in their events, increasing camaraderie and Alzheimer’s contributions.

Area IX has been aggressive in its efforts to keep chapter members and the community informed on local politics and current events

- In October 2014, with Annandale as the lead chapter, the principal candidates vying for the 11th Congressional District seat in the November elections – Congressman Gerry Connolly (D), incumbent, and Suzanne Sholte (R), challenger – participated in a Candidates Forum. This was organized as a “joint” Forum and was sponsored by six NARFE chapters with members in the 11th District (Annandale, Alexandria, Fairfax, Springfield, Woodbridge, and Vienna-Oakton). Also invited were fellow constituents of the 11th Congressional District who were members of other NARFE chapters
- In May 2015, Annandale held a “Report from Richmond” program with Senator Dave Marsden (37th State Senate District) and Delegate Kaye Kory (38th House District) participating. They gave a thorough assessment of this year’s General Assembly actions. Both have been supportive of the VFC’s State Legislative Plan, and Ms. Kory has sponsored legislation in support of VFC legislative agenda items
- At the June 2015 Annandale Luncheon, Mike Collins, Fairfax Outreach Director, and Katherine Parker, Constituent Services Representative, both from the Office of Congressman Gerry Connolly, attended. Mr. Collins spoke briefly to the members about the various services provided by the office
- In June, several Area IX members participated in a “Town Hall” conference call with Senator Mark Warner

Other highlights reported by Chapters this past year include:

- Annandale’s publicizing the NARFE brand by participating in the Virginia Department of Transportation’s Adopt-A-Highway program (two signs were erected in return for members picking up litter at least four times a year)
- Woodbridge’s annual parade contingent in the Dale Independence Day Parade (photo right)
- Annandale’s field trip to Otium Cellars winery in Purcellville, VA, observing grapes being harvested in field and a wine tasting
- Woodbridge’s annual “Take-Me-Out-To-The Ballgame” with the Potomac Nationals minor league ball team
- Woodbridge’s annual document shredding Alzheimer’s fundraising event
- Linda Force and Betty Koger (Woodbridge) were guests on the Federal News Radio Show “For Your Benefit,” hosted by the world renowned Mike Causey and co-hosted by Bob Leins and Tammy Flanagan (Woodbridge Chapter 1270)



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- Woodbridge’s boat cruise on the Occoquan River, another Alzheimer’s fundraiser, highlighting the significant historical and natural factors of the river and environs
- Several of these activities were attended by members of multiple chapters

Chapters in Area IX have been focusing on their communication efforts to get the word out about NARFE and to educate members on current issues

- Each chapter produces a monthly newsletter and most maintain a website accessible from the VFC website
- Some chapters have Facebook pages
- Annandale has an Email/Chat/Discussion list, allowing members to go online and discuss topics of mutual interest, ask and answer questions, share resources, convey news, and increase a sense of shared community

Monthly chapter programs and speakers run the gamut from entertainment, especially at luncheons and holiday parties, to medical information and advice, legislative updates, and historical and cultural topics

Some specific topics have included:

- Funeral Planning (Manassas)
- “Seven Steps to Better Brain Health,” focusing on the geriatric population (Annandale)
- “Protecting Your Personal Privacy” (Annandale)

Both Jim Little and Pierce Johnson have been privileged to visit each chapter a number of times during the past year and have thoroughly enjoyed their programs. Every chapter celebrated a holiday social; each was very well attended by their members and enjoyed by all. Pierce installed the officers in most of the Area IX chapters

- At Alexandria’s June 16 summer luncheon, both former Area IX Vice Presidents, Pierce Johnson and Bill Masterson, representing 13 years of service collectively, joined Jim Little and the Alexandria contingent at the famous Paradiso restaurant in Franconia(photo right)



Members of Area IX chapters participate in just about every activity that either National NARFE or the VFC sponsor

- At the 2014 National Convention, attendees were:
 - Nick Andrus and Bob Miller (Alexandria)
 - Pat and Ann Harahan, and Deanna Shepherd (Springfield)
 - Gaston Gianni, Joyce Pieritz and Pierce Johnson (Woodbridge)
- At the 2015 NARFE Legislative Training Conference
 - Pierce Johnson headed a delegation of 11 Area IX members
 - During the session the delegation met with Congressman Connolly and a staffer on March 16th for 40 minutes after Congressman Connolly's remarks at the conference luncheon. The delegation and over 20 other VFC members met separately with Senators Warner and Kaine and members of their staff on March 17th for about 35 minutes each. Individual chapter members met with Senators Kaine and Warner, Congressmen Wittman and Connolly (both formally and informally), and at other times with members of their staffs.
 - During NARFE's "Grassroots Advocacy" month last August and throughout the year, most chapters met with or hosted Congressional members or their staff, as well as Virginia General Assembly members, at their chapter meetings
 - Individual Chapter members also contact their congress person and both senators concerning NARFE issues and budget matters; also, congressional staffers frequently attend chapter meetings to ensure good communications
 - Through Area IX donations to VFC-PAC, as well as NARFE-PAC, our legislators have become very well aware of NARFE's "Protect America's Heartbeat" Campaign
 - In May, Springfield and Annandale each had chapter members attend the Service Officer training,
 - In June, Woodbridge, Springfield, and Alexandria participated in the VFC State Legislative Planning meeting held in Fredericksburg to develop the 2016 State Legislative Plan
 - For the entire reporting period, Area IX was fully engaged in planning for the Statewide VFC Convention at the Fredericksburg EXPO and Conference Center in April 2015, with the theme **Embracing Change.**

The results were FANTASTIC, due in no small measure to the outstanding participation from the Area IX chapters' leadership and members. Area IX had the most attendees at the Convention. Each helper was highlighted in last quarter's report, but we would specifically like to mention the following:

- A total of 53 Area IX members attended, representing more than 25% of total attendance
- Doug Jones (Annandale) served as the Advertising and Sales Chair
- Pat Harahan (Springfield) served as the Exhibitor Chair
- Jack Shipley (Manassas) handled registration
- Mary Lou Vroman (Annandale) handled Credentials and Ballot and Tellers
- Deanna Shepherd (Springfield) was the banquet and decorations chair

- Nick Andrus (Alexandria) served as the Entertainment Chair
- John Restall (Falls Church) tabulated the evaluations
- Mary Heck and Mo Nolet (Fredericksburg Chapter 90 – both from outside of Area IX) compiled the Program Book and served as Facilities Management respectively
- Jim Little served as the database manager
- Kathy Arpa, VFC First-Vice President served as the Convention Coordinator and also tracked the many supporters, generating \$4,200.

Many others also participated (before, during, and after the convention) and contributed to the success of the event. The overwhelming success of the earnings from the convention resulted in a tidy sum to many of VFC chapters' treasuries. While attendance exceeded the number who attended the 2014 VFC convention, there was a tremendous amount of time and effort expended to present a convention where only 200 attended from a statewide membership of about 15,000!!! ***Is the time and effort expended by a few worth the outcome?*** Some chapters were able to pay the way for attendees, either fully or partially; however, many chapters are unable to assist financially because of budgetary constraints

Area IX has shown a great dedication to the community. Some examples, which may have been referenced previously, include:

- In November 2014, Annandale, supported by Gaston Gianni, VFC Public Relations Officer, sponsored a NARFE information table at Congressman Gerry Connolly's Annual Open Season Workshop held at the Fairfax County Government Center. Members who participated were able to discuss NARFE's mission with attendees and distribute NARFE Magazines, Membership Applications, and literature on various topics of interest as well as "goodies" with the NARFE logo
- Annandale continued its representation on the Fairfax County Senior Citizens Council (SCC) with a Permanent Member to the SCC. Being a member of the Council allows networking with different county organizations, gives visibility to NARFE, and lets members become informed and educated about local senior issues and topics.
- In May 2015, Doug Jones, immediate Past President of Annandale, and Springfield's Treasurer, Andrew J. (Jim) Wagner, were honorees at the 46th Annual Senior Recognition Ceremony for Senior Clubs and Organizations sponsored by the County and Senior Citizens Council, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.
- For the second year in a row, Annandale sponsored a food drive for the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) – a local, non-profit coalition of 26 churches that serve Annandale community needs through programs designed to meet the emergency and critical needs of clients regardless of religion, race, or ethnic background. At the September, October and November meetings, the chapter collected nonperishables (both food and some personal items) to stock ACCA's shelves for Thanksgiving and on into the holidays. The chapter donated a total of nine large boxes of food and checks in the amount of \$175

- For several years, Woodbridge members have brought non-perishable food and necessity items to its annual Holiday Party for donations to Prince William County's Action in Community through Service (ACTS) charitable organization. ACTS is a non-profit serving Prince William County, Manassas, and Manassas Park, serving the needy in the community. This year the chapter brought in several hundred pounds of non-perishable food and other necessity items.
- Annandale continued its support of the Annandale community by participating in the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Adopt-A-Road Program. The chapter did five road clean-ups in the area during this period in what has become a successful effort to tidy up the neighborhood
- Woodbridge held its annual document shredding fundraising event which raised \$2,478 in donations for Alzheimer's research

It is an honor to take over the leadership of Area IX, and I will be challenged to follow in Pierce Johnson's footsteps. I am confident that with the leadership of all six chapters' officers and committee chairs, that Area IX will remain strong. I look forward to the challenge.

Jim Little, VFC Area IX Vice President

Area X

This comprises my first annual report as the newly-elected (April 2015) Area X V-P and VFC 2016 Convention Chair.

Area X consists of seven chapters: Chapter 489 (McLean-Great Falls), Chapter 737 (Fairfax), Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton), Chapter 1241 (Dulles) and Chapter 1665 (Metro NoVA). Chapters range in size from around 200 to over 800 members. Unfortunately Chapter 1133 (Loudoun) closed in December 2014 because of declining membership and lack of members willing to serve as officers.

The last couple of months have kept me very busy learning about our chapters, participating in area meetings about next year's convention, completing service officer training, and I took several road trips to check out hotels and meet with hotel sales/catering representatives from Dulles to Williamsburg, VA, with 1st V-P **Kathy Arpa** and member **Vicky Duarte**. Conventions and meeting planning are topics I have gained valuable volunteer experience in over the last 40 years for a variety of other organizations: Assn. of Reporters of Judicial Decisions – President; Xplor International – Chairman of the Board; Cosmopolitan Associates, Inc. – 1st V-P and National Convention Chair. I have planned and held conventions in DE, MD, NJ, NY, VA and Alaska, and I have been a speaker at several more so this is not a new topic for me.

I would like to pass my thanks to **Bill Schmidt**, who was kind enough to represent Area X for me at the State Legislative Conference while I embarked on my “retirement” cruise to the Western Caribbean in June.

Representatives from all Area X Chapters were engaged and present at one or more of the following NARFE activities:

NARFE National Convention in Orlando, FL; VFC Convention 2015, Fredericksburg, VA; National Legislative Training Session, Crystal City, VA; State Legislative Meeting, Fredericksburg, VA; Service Officer’s Training, Fredericksburg, VA; Northern VA Caucus of NARFE Chapters’ Meeting: Members made the effort to attend from all Area X chapters, however one Chapter reported that Service Officer Training was held on the day of their scheduled meeting, this prevented member attendance.

VFC Convention 2016: I am happy to report that several members have already volunteered to assist with VFC Convention 2016 and have been actively involved at area meetings held for this purpose by 1st V-P **Kathy Arpa** at **Neighbors Restaurant**, in Vienna. Area Chapter members joined together first to discuss VFC Convention 2015 pros/cons and then pre-select their convention-related volunteer tasks for VFC Convention 2016. If you are a member who would like to help, please contact Pat Wolfe at Wolfepatriciam@aol.com. The next Committee meeting will be in September.

The following are activities from chapters in Area X:

Chapter 7

First Vice President and Legislative Chair, **Ed Weiler** and member, **Pam Daragan** attended the National Legislative Training Session in Crystal City, VA.

Newsletter Editor, **Mary Knox** attended the NARFE National Convention in Orlando, FL.

Five Chapter members attended the VFC Convention 2015 in Fredericksburg, VA. They were: our former Publicity Chair, **Mileva Hartman**; our Secretary, **Nancy Palmerino**; our Newsletter Editor, **Mary Knox**; and our President, **Mark McLachlan**; another member, **Max Scruggs**, attended as the 2014-2015 Area 10 Vice President.

Our First Vice President and Legislative Chair, **Ed Weiler**, attended the June State Legislative Meeting, held in Fredericksburg, VA. He introduced an “issue nomination”.

CHAPTER PROGRAMS:

2014-----

After taking a break for the summer, we resumed our meetings in September with speakers on Alzheimer's research, health insurance, and a Smithsonian research project. We wrapped up the year with our December Holiday Luncheon at a different restaurant on a Saturday, and enjoyed increased attendance and an interesting speaker - the author of The Arlington County Chronicles.

CHAPTER PROGRAMS:

2015-----

We kicked off the new year with a presentation by two Arlington County detectives on Scams, followed by a speaker on Sustainable Residential Redevelopment. In April, one of our members and past President, **Ed Robinson**, spoke about his Experience as a Volunteer in the National Parks. Two insurance specialists spoke about Insurance Claims and what to expect from your insurance company. We wrapped up the year with a speaker at our June luncheon on Lifestyle Transitions: Aging in Place vs. Resettling.

Alzheimer's Research Fund Raising – Using various techniques, like raffles at our monthly meetings and a 50/50 raffle at our luncheon, plus piggy banks, the Chapter continues to raise money for Alzheimer's Research.

Other – Members of our Chapter have attended the Northern VA Caucus of NARFE Chapters' meetings. Three members, **Mary Knox**, **Nancy Palmerino**, and **Max Scruggs**, have already volunteered to assist with the 2016 VFC Convention. Mary will be compiling the program book and Nancy will receive and tally the sponsor contributions.

New & Returning Officers – There have been a couple of changes in the Chapter 7 Officer Line-Up. Many thanks to **John Duran** for his hard work over the past 2 years as our Second Vice President and Membership Chair. He will be succeeded by **John Harms**, our Treasurer last year. **Bill Thomson** has agreed to be our Treasurer and Social Chair for 2015. We're lucky to have **Ed Weiler** returning as First Vice President, **Nancy Palmerino** as Secretary, **Madge Selinsky** as Sunshine Chair, **Bonnie Franklin** as Alzheimer's Chair, **Mary Knox** as the Newsletter Editor and Distribution Manager, **Norbert Erickson** as Program Chair, **Elsie Cunningham** as Historian, and **Richard Simpson** as both Parliamentarian and Service Officer.

Chapter 489

Pat Mowry was presented with the Distinguished Annuitant Award by Malcolm Gaskins (CareFirst Blue Cross & Blue Shield), at the June Luncheon meeting. The citation that was read described Pat's service as:

(1) both skillfully and actively served as the Chapter Secretary and Assistant Secretary. She has used her skills as a secretary and proofreader to assist Chapter Presidents and other officers to produce quality written products;

(2) active in her church where she serves as a greeter, and helps proofread its newsletter. She is also a member of the church's "Care Bears," a group that does charity work in the community; and

(3) following an exciting career that included working at the first Nuremburg trials and working in Tokyo after World War II, Pat retired from the Department of Defense. She then served for 8 years as a full-time volunteer at the White House where she was a member of the First Ladies Correspondence Office. Pat then spent the next 6 years as a full-time volunteer for a U.S. Senator's office where she continued to use her proofreading, secretarial and bookkeeping skills.

CHAPTER PROGRAMS:

2014-----

July – **Thomas C. Tang Memorial Fund:** This was established at the suggestion of **Linda Tang**, to honor **Tom Tang** (passed 9/23/14). Friends and family contributed almost \$1,000 to celebrate Tom's commitment to Idylwood Presbyterian Church (IPC) with the purchase and dedication of a new communion service. On July 6th, the communion service was presented at the IPC's worship service, and utilized for the first time by Pastor Mary Ann Dana as she offered communion to the congregation.

October 1– Rick Rio, certified Real Estate Specialist in Real Estate Planning for Retirees, spoke to us on Retirements from the Real Estate Viewpoint. He says retirees are now staying in place (*i.e.* staying in your home) rather than going to a retirement home. Creation of a Plan for Aging is essential and modifications to your existing home, suitable for your retirement years, are essential. The modifications need not be done all at once but doing it incrementally is the best approach based on individual financial situations. Here are some features: plenty of storage space, windows that open easily, and larger bathrooms with grab bars, are just a few that he mentioned. Rick also handed out a syllabus with various topics that he could discuss in future presentations.

In November our guest speaker was Carlon M. Ocel, a Certified Navigator, who works for Enroll Virginia, a one-year project, funded by the federal government to provide outreach and enrollment assistance to uninsured Virginians. Most of the members attending were not very interested in the subject matter; however, several members did find the presentation very informative. My message to you is to be thankful

for your FEHBP coverage, but remember benefits can be changed. Assist NARFE in fighting for our benefits by maintaining your membership and encouraging other qualified family members and friends to join NARFE. Now they can get a free six-month membership! Mention this to your friends and relatives.

2015-----

January – The presentation speaker was Katy Gorman (from Silver Line Metro) as Marcie McAllister was not available. Katy spoke of what’s happening with the Silver Line Metro. It is unfortunate that not many members attended to hear about the current Silver Line and future plan extensions to Dulles and Ashburn.

February – The presentation speaker was **Raphael Wong**, Chapter President, who presented his perspective on the recent **World Dragon Boat Competition in Hungary** in 2013 with Team USA. He also showed some clips of actual races that he participated in giving the members a better understanding of what the World Competition and the competitiveness of racing against the best of the best athletes of the world. Q/A was provided with answers to interesting questions from the members.

March – The presentation speaker was Susan Hatter from the Fairfax County Area on Aging. Her presentation was excellent in providing the members with information about the various services that they provide to seniors.

April – The presentation speaker was Carolyn Stevens from the McLean Senior Source who spoke on the wider network of organizations that are part of the entire McLean Community Village. Her presentation was excellent in providing the members with greater knowledge of associated organizations and the various services that they provide to seniors in the McLean area.

May – Our own member, **Lorna Lagarde**, spoke about her unique experience from being a singer in a choral group in the Philippines to her new home in America. Her choral group had performed in high-ranking venues not only in the Philippines but included other countries, such as China. She graduated as a Pharmacist in the Philippines and eventually was offered a position as a Pharmacist in the military – choosing the Army at Walter Reed Medical Center over other services offered. Lorna retired from the Joint National Capital Area Medical Service where she provided support to the Department of Defense, Department of State, and military personnel stationed overseas. Her work involved, implementing medication descriptions and mail order prescriptions to the Department of Defense, had been recognized and Congress had passed laws to implement them for the general population. Her presentation was excellent in providing members a glimpse of what Lorna had done while working in the Department of Defense as well as providing pharmacy services during the initial days of 911 at the Pentagon.

During FY15, our chapter members attended the 2014 NARFE National Convention, the NARFE 2015 National Legislative & Training Conference, and the 2015 VFC State Convention in Fredericksburg.

Chapter 737

Program for Chapter 737 included:

September Tom Hart – Chapter 737 Legislative Chair

October Alzheimer’s Month with Speaker and Annual Silent Auction

November Veterans’ Day Presentation with Distinguished Flying Cross recipient Millard “Lefty” Palmer

December Christmas Musical Review

February Member discussion on "How To Bring New Life To Chapter 737" moderated by Dr. Constance Bails
March: "Elder Law" - - Evan Farr, Principal of The Law Firm of Evan Farr, P. C., Certified Elder Law Attorney & Three-time Best Selling Author

April Medicare and Insurance – Fairfax County Representative

May Virginia Legislative Update - David Bulova, Member Virginia House of Delegates, 37th District

June Bluegrass Sing Along - Peggy Hendrickson & Friends

At the March meeting, a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Mr. Preston Pierce honoring his many years of distinguished service as our Chapter Chaplain. Mr. Pierce celebrated his 90th birthday on April 20th. Chaplain Pierce received a standing ovation from the membership for both outstanding achievements.

A fundraiser held at the 29 Diner in Fairfax City provided income for the Chapter 737's Alzheimer's Research Fund.

Several members of Chapter 737 attended the national convention in Orlando. Bill Shackelford was elected Region X Vice President.

Several members attended the 2015 VFC Convention in Fredericksburg.

Kathy Loftin attended a VFC Convention Planning Committee Meeting and will serve on the 2016 Committee.

Chapter 1116

CHAPTER PROGRAMS:

2014-----

September – Dick Giangerelli, VFC President, was our guest Speaker.

October – Gayle Nelson, Blue Cross & Blue Shield was our guest Speaker.

October 16 – We co-sponsored a Candidates Forum with incumbent 11th Congressional District Representative Gerry Connolly (D) and his challenger, Suzanne Scholte (R).

October 24 – Kathy Arpa and I attended the Area 9/10 Caucus meeting

November – Tammy Flanigan, Senior Benefits Director, National Institutes of Transition Planning Inc., discussed Medicare Issues, as our guest Speaker.

December – Holiday Party and Installation of Officers for 2015.

2015-----

January – No meeting.

February – John Horejsi, a local lobbyist, spoke on an organization he founded, Social Action Linking Together (SALT). Their focus is to aid Virginia's welfare families, the elderly poor, the incarcerated, the homeless, the working poor and their children.

March – VFC Service Officers Dr. Constance Bails & John Bails were our guest Speakers.

April 12-15 – VFC Convention, Fredericksburg, VA – 5 members attended: Kathy Arpa, Mark Arpa, Ralph Dantine, Mary Margaret McGowan, Anne Shea.

April – Annual panel of candidates for Vienna Town Council spoke and answered questions from the audience.

May 8 – Member **Mary Margaret McGowan** was honored at Fairfax County’s Annual Senior Recognition Ceremony. Six members attended the ceremony.

May 12 – Arvette M. Reid, CARE Representative, spoke on Hospice & Palliative care. The meeting ended with an Ice Cream Social.

June – Annual Pot Luck Picnic. Area X Representative **Wilma Grant** joined us for the picnic and to celebrate the 90th birthday of Shirley Martin. A beautiful cake and plentiful desserts completed the occasion.

Annual Convention 2016 Planning Meetings – Several area meetings hosted by member (and VFC’s 1st V-P) **Kathy Arpa**, were held at **Neighbors Restaurant** in Vienna. Area Chapter members joined together to discuss VFC Convention 2015 and pre-select their convention-related volunteer tasks for the VFC Convention 2016. At least 5 members of our chapter were kind enough to volunteer their services. New Area X Representative **Wilma Grant** also attended these meetings.

Chapter 1241

CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT IN NARFE EVENTS:

National Legislative Training Conference: Dulles Chapter was represented by Treasurer **Joseph Irwin**.

National Convention: VFC President **Dick Giangerelli** and **Vicky Duarte** attended the national convention in Orlando.

2015 VFC Convention: VFC President **Dick Giangerelli**, VFC Secretary **Bill Schmidt**, **Vicky Duarte**, and newly-elected Area X **VP Wilma Grant** attended this event in Fredericksburg, VA.

Service Officer Training: Service Officer **Wilma Grant** attended the training.

State Legislative Planning Meeting: Chapter Legislative Committee Chair/Secretary **Bill Schmidt** and **VP Barry Walsh** attended. **Bill Schmidt** represented Area X on behalf of **Wilma Grant** who was on her scheduled retirement cruise to the Caribbean.

2016 VFC Convention Planning Committee: Area X **VP Wilma Grant** is the Chair and Chapter **President Patricia Wolfe** is the Committee Secretary. VFC President **Dick Giangerelli** is managing the database.

Community Involvement: Many of Dulles Chapter’s members are involved in a number of community activities individually. For example, **Ellie Fusaro** is a member of the Fairfax Council on Aging’s 50+ Action Plan. The chapter collected food items for local food banks at the December Holiday Party.

MEMBERSHIP:

As of June 1, 2015, Dulles Chapter 1241 had 749 voting members. An average of 30-35 members attend the monthly luncheon programs which are held at the **Amphora Diner Deluxe** in Herndon, VA. **Patricia Wolfe** serves as Newsletter Editor and produces a newsletter 9 months a year. The chapter does not meet in July and August and we distributed a combined newsletter issue for November-December. A survey was included in the May newsletter in an effort to increase attendance at the luncheons and get ideas for speakers and topics of interest. (40 responses were received with many great ideas.)

Elections were held in November 2014 with the following results: **Patricia Wolfe** – President; **Barry Walsh** – 1VP; **Bill Boning** – 2VP; **Bill Schmidt** – Secretary; **Joe Irwin** – Treasurer. **Wilma Grant** serves as the Chapter Service Officer, **Bill Schmidt** as the Legislative Committee Chair, **Shirley** and **Jerry Carpenter** serve as the Newsletter Distribution Team, **David LeRoy** serves as the Membership Chair and Chaplain, **Mary Ammons** serves as the Sunshine Committee Chair, **Sue Righter** and **Shirley Vaughn** served as Program Committee Chairs through the end of 2014 and **Patricia Wolfe** is currently acting as Program Chair, **Art Brophy** serves as the Alzheimer’s Chair and **Randy Sayles** serves as the photographer.

CHAPTER PROGRAMS:

2014-----

September – Republican Congressional Candidates
November – Walt Francis, Federal Health

October – Democratic Congressional Candidates
December – Holiday Party

2015-----

January – Bill Shackelford, 50+ Action Plan
March – Penny Halpern, Herndon Village Network
May – Tom Polhemus, Financial Crimes

February – Donna Shackelford, Alzheimer’s
April – U. S. Representative Barbara Comstock (R)
June – Jacqui Jeras, ABC WJLA Meteorologist

Chapter 1665

Our chapter has been experiencing severe financial difficulties for almost 2 years due to increased newsletter costs and declining membership revenue. To get us back on better financial footing we decreased our newsletter size to 1 x 2-sided page. Less than 50% of our members have email addresses. We can send them newsletters that way. But they still must be sent printed newsletters or we would lose our bulk mail permit resulting in even higher costs.

We would like to be able to return to a four page newsletter in the future as two pages do not allow enough room for important information. We continue to lose members but seemingly at a slower rate, rather than a flood. However, we have not added new members as we would have preferred; doing so would be the solution to many of our problems. We are discussing ways to raise revenue, but do not want to increase the price of our luncheons.

That said we have continued to have good membership attendance at our monthly luncheon meetings at the **Portofino Restaurant** in South Arlington. Attendance usually runs between 20-25 members.

Marilyn Mautz and **Jeanette Pelton** attended the VFC 2015 Convention which was held in Fredericksburg. No members attended the National Convention, the Legislative Training Session, or the State Legislative Meeting and the Service Officer Training (both also held in Fredericksburg). The latter was held on our May meeting day which prevented our member attendance.

CHAPTER PROGRAMS:

We continue to have very interesting speakers at our monthly meetings; they have included:

2014-----

- July, August & September – No meetings.
- October – Bob Devine, Blue Cross & Blue Shield (CareFirst).
- November – Lori Young and Ann Lam, Goodwin House at Home.
- December – Annual Holiday Party.

2015-----

- January – Silent Auction for Alzheimer’s.
- February – Cancelled due to inclement weather.
- March – Ann Stone, Founding Member of the National Women’s History Museum.
- April – Dale Wilmot, Decluttering & Downsizing.
- May – Heather Hurlock, Arlington Police Department/Crime Prevention.
- June – Cindy Miller, Chair of Arlington’s Senior Adult Council.

Wilma Grant, VFC Area X Vice President

VFC Committees Chairs’ Reports

National Legislation Report

This has been a very challenging year for the VFC National Legislation Committee. Jim Brewer, Metro Chapter 5 was appointed as Chair in April 2014. He had served previously in 2011 and 2012. He basically hit the ground running but his biggest challenge was to find, recruit, and retain Congressional District Liaisons (CDLs) for the VFC. Some of you may remember that the Future of NARFE (FON) Report recommended that in the future all NARFE Federations establish a CDL system where each Congressional District in the state has an individual who maintains primary contact with the elected official for that District. Well, Virginia has been the fore-runner and has had this system in place for a number of years.

But in June of 2014 our CDL system was in need of help. Of the 11 VA Congressional Districts we only had five positions filled. This meant that six Districts did not have a CDL to perform the very critical functions that our VFC Legislative Program needs.

But as the year progressed so did the appointments of CDLs. We are thrilled to report that now we have only three CDL vacancies. Thanks to the following for staying on: Gaston Gianni, District 1, Ray Whipple, District 2, Shirley Driver-Kinchen, District 3 and Jon Joyce, District 10. Congratulations to Dillard H. Horton, Jr., District 4, John Tolleris, District 8, Mary Kelley, District 9, and Judy Thorne, District 11. Finally, thanks to Mary Lou Vroman who previously served in District 11.

So if you live in Congressional District 5, 6, or 7, please get the word out so the VFC can have a full complement of CDLs who can perform this very important work.

Our VFC Legislative Program also includes two Senate Legislative Liaisons (SLLs), one for each of the two senators. Steve Ledford is assigned to Senator Warner and Max Scruggs is assigned to Senator Kaine.

In February 2015 personal issues began to overwhelm Jim Brewer and he was unable to attend the NARFE National Legislative Training in March and the VFC Convention in April. We want to applaud Steve Ledford for his efforts in volunteering to work on behalf of Jim. First he attended the Legislative Training and headed up a very successful legislative meeting with both Senator Warner and Senator Kaine. Please read again Steve's comprehensive report of the meeting in our 3rd Quarter VFC notes.

Then Steve volunteered to man the NARFE PAC table at the April VFC Convention. During the convention Keynote Speaker, Jessica Klements, NARFE Legislative Director, told the Convention attendees that the Hawaii Federation had just raised \$3,000 for the NARFE PAC at their convention and she challenged us to beat that amount. Well, as many of you know, the VFC loves a challenge! What did we do? We raised more than \$4,000 for the NARFE PAC. Jessica was truly overwhelmed with our success.

To summarize we ended the year with the addition of four new CDLs and the largest NARFE PAC donation ever raised by the VFC. With these significant goals under our belt, we now need a new National Legislative Chair for the coming year. With it be you? Or someone from your chapter?

State Legislation Report

What a fantastic year for State Legislation! Although we did not succeed in full legislative victory for our four 2015 issues, we achieved many other smaller “victories” related to defining and improving the structure of our State Plan, alliance-building, increasing chapter awareness of our state legislative activities, and a new NARFE Headquarters focus on state legislation. Not bad!

“We support state legislation that strengthens fair and efficient governance and protects the rights, safety, and assets of Virginia’s seniors.”

2015 State Legislative Plan.

Only a handful of NARFE federations offer state legislative programs. NARFE-Virginia has traditionally been one of the very few federations to recognize the value of its state legislature in promoting a host of member quality-of-life issues.

For the first time in a ten-year history of State Plans, we framed our overall state legislative goals in a new “Statement of Principles.”

These new “Principles” aren’t really new at all. They only formalize in writing a broader strategy that we’ve practiced for many years. Our State Plans have consistently served the interests of not just federal employees and retirees but of all Virginians. And so again this year, our 2015 State Plan embodied that wider appeal. After all, who wouldn’t want to 1) pay lower state taxes by eliminating retiree health insurance premiums from Virginia income tax computation; or 2) deter the financial exploitation of vulnerable seniors; or 3) have the automatic right of “no-excuse” absentee voting at the age of 65+ years; or 4) reform corrupting practices associated with the undemocratic *gerrymandering* of our political districts?

Alliance-building. In addition to the many chapter-level efforts to increase awareness and support of NARFE’s mission, NARFE-Virginia joined a new statewide coalition of about 20 other nonprofit organizations tracking the Virginia General Assembly’s record of voting transparency and accessibility to its citizens. Called *Transparency Virginia*, the nonpartisan coalition focused on three areas during this past General Assembly cycle: the recording of votes in committees and subcommittees, the timeliness of notifications for meetings/hearings, and whether all bills received a fair hearing in committee. The coalition produced a well-written and well-publicized report on its findings. This alliance is a perfect example of how we can leverage our limited resources within a larger group to achieve more effective results. Many thanks go to Ms. Patricia Taylor, our Area I VP (Peninsula), whose pro-active efforts fostered this alliance-building initiative. To view the coalition’s report:

<https://transparencylvirginia.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/transparencyvareportreleased.pdf>

Increased Chapter Involvement in State Legislation. More of our chapters demonstrated interest and renewed activity in state legislation over this past year. The way this increased interest and activity is tracked is through the number and quality of questions, comments, or feedback received by the VFC State Legislation Chair throughout the year, but particularly during the General Assembly session; the numbers of chapters asking for the first time for copies of the State Plan’s glossy “trifold brochure” for their members or for meetings with allied organizations; the numbers of chapters ordering substantially more “trifold brochures” than in previous years; and review of chapter newsletters in which state legislation becomes a more routine activity and news item. Thanks go out to all of our chapters who participated in our state legislation efforts, whether through smaller means or in more significant ways.

New State Legislation Advocate at NARFE Headquarters. We were (and are) pleased that our NARFE National President, Mr. Dick Thissen, named Mr. Chris Farrell as NARFE’s new Senior Analyst. Chris Farrell’s primary duty is to assist NARFE

federations in state-level legislative advocacy. Headquarters’ stated reasons for encouraging this new focus are three-fold:

- **Recruitment:** Changing state taxation of federal annuities provides an opportunity for NARFE to provide dollar and cent benefits to current and future NARFE members.
- **Indoctrination:** State legislatures are the incubators for future Members of Congress.
- **Coalitions:** State legislative coalition membership puts a human face on a potentially alien group.

Since he took over this new position, Chris Farrell conducted the first nationwide NARFE conference call of federation state legislation chairs and presidents, provided NARFE-Virginia numerous references for sourcing information on our General Assembly, and set up on the NARFE national website’s Legislative Action Center a capability for members to identify their state legislative representatives. Great job!

Patricia (Patti) Downs, VFC State Legislation Chair

Membership Committee Report

In developing my plans for the upcoming year as Membership Chair, I factor in various statistics like the following (all of which are also available on an individual Chapter basis):

	Jan-May 2014	Jan-Dec 2014	Jan-May 2015
Total VFC Membership	-4.6%	-10%	-4.0%
-w/eChapter members	-3.5%	-7.9%	-0.6%
# of New Members in VFC	126	274	105
# of Prospects ID’d by HQ	947	2352	922
– Prospect Conversion Ratio	= 13.3%	= 11.6%	= 11.4%

# of Non-Renews in VFC	955	2070	801
# of Reinstatements	310	634	305
– <i>Reinstatement Rate</i>	= 32.5%	= 30.6%	= 38.1%
# of Deaths in VFC	144	369	188
# of Membership Transferred to Spouse	11	16	16
	= 7.6%	= 4.3%	= 8.5%

This helps me know where to focus my efforts – and to help individual Chapters focus their efforts – in trying to increase overall membership in NARFE. For example, the above statistics show that the rate of decline in Chapter membership in Virginia is slowing down, and that reinstatement efforts are starting to pay off. (Kudos to Area VIII with a 49% reinstatement rate!)

However, it is also clear that we need to do a better job of recruiting new members. One bright spot is the eChapter, which is growing at a rate of 22% in the first 5 months of this year. The Prospect info included in the reports from HQ is one potential source for new members. Yet only about 11% of these Prospects are being converted into actual new members. I urge all Membership Chairs to contact these people to encourage them to join NARFE. I also urge Chapters to reach out to any surviving spouses of members who have died, not only to offer help in answering their questions about survivor rights, but also to let them know that they can continue to protect their spousal benefits by transferring their spouse’s membership to themselves.

Other issues of the VFC Notes have summarized the results of the Membership Contest last year, the number of VFC Chapter members involved in recruiting even one new member (only 95!!) and the new membership materials posted at www.vanarfe.org, including Guides for contacting prospects, and a presentation at the April VFC Convention on “Using Social Media to Gain and Retain Members.” Sample letters to members who have not renewed their membership, written by Betty Warren, are also now available.

In the coming year, day-long training sessions for current or potential Membership Chairs with tactics and ideas for GAIN AND RETAIN - will be held in November, in three different locations. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE TOPICS you would like to see included. I also hope to schedule multi-Chapter sessions with Areas II, III and V. Betty Warren will be visiting several federal agencies on the Eastern Shore.

Please let me know if you would like me to: 1) visit your Chapter or Area-wide meeting to discuss ways to Gain and Retain members; 2) develop a profile of your Chapter area (# of potential members, new members and retention stats); 3) discuss ideas for Gain and Retain pertinent to your area, etc.

Finally, the VFC Board is redesigning the www.vanarfe.org website. Let me hear from you about features or items you would like to see included in the Membership area.

BJ Thomas McMillan

VFC Membership Chair

Service Committee Report

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

Accomplishments This Fiscal Year

- ✚ Participated in VFC Board Meetings
- ✚ Attended VFC Convention Fredericksburg
- ✚ Chapter Visit 1549 Warrenton Jan 13
- ✚ Chapter Visit 893 Springfield Feb 11
- ✚ Chapter Visit 110 Lynchburg Mar 4
- ✚ Chapter Visit 111 Roanoke Valley Mar 5
- ✚ Area IV Service Presentation May 5
- ✚ Chapter Visit 66 Tidewater May 12
- ✚ Service Officer Training Fredericksburg May 27

Services provided to VFC Chapters

- ✚ Responded to survivor inquiries from various Chapter Presidents and NARFE members
- ✚ Responded to referrals from various Chapter Service Officers
- ✚ Sent numerous get well/condolence cards
- ✚ Obtained F-100's for distribution at all Chapters visited
- ✚ Mailed F-100's to those without email access
- ✚ Provided Life Events and Your Retirement and Insurance Benefits For (Annuitants) OPM R1 38-126
- ✚ Provided Chapter Service Officers with Benefit Administration Letters initiated by OPM

Short Range Plan for the Next 12 Months Following 2015 VFC Convention

Goal – Establish a VFC Service Committee and Co-Ordinate Service Officer Training

- 1 – Continue to contact area VPs to develop a plan of action to acquire service ACs
- 2 – Establish Area Coordinators
- 3 – Meet with Area VPs and ACs to discuss plan of action to establish Chapter Service Officer (s)/Committees
- 4 – Hold Service Officer Training at designated areas

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

Public Relations Report

The VFC Public Relations Chair's primary function is **SERVICE** to NARFE Chapters in Virginia. The three ways we can serve Chapters are: First, provide materials (PR GOODIES) to Chapters to assist in their membership recruitment efforts; Second, to assist Chapters in getting matching funds for any projects directed at recruiting new NARFE members; Third, to be available to visit and speak at Chapter meetings and lastly to support and participate in VFC activities. During the past year, as detailed below, I was able to help a number of individuals and Chapters in the above activities. Hopefully, in reading this report, more Chapters will be better informed and will take advantage of these services during the coming year.

REMEMBER: WE CAN'T HELP IF YOU DON'T ASK!

PR GOODIES: The VFC with the help of NARFE National Matching Funds purchases items embossed with NARFE membership information. Our supply includes such items as bags, pens, note pads, sticky notes, magnets, letter openers, and can openers. The items should be passed out to perspective members at various functions—Federal Health Fairs, County Fairs and other community events—along with NARFE Magazines and membership applications. This year, I had 18 separate requests from Chapters and we provide 18,600 items to be passed out. We will restock and get ready to meet your needs in the coming year.

MATCHING FUNDS: During the past year the VFC and NARFE National supported 7 Chapter Matching funds projects totaling \$2,400. Projects funded were as follows:

Midlothian Chapter 2265—Chesterfield TRIAD Senior Days

Harrisonburg Chapter 164—Rockingham County Fair

Suffolk Chapter 1743—Suffolk Peanut Festival

Woodbridge Chapter 1270—Fourth of July Parade Float

Shenandoah County Chapter 2358—Shenandoah County Fair Ad

Warrenton Chapter 1549—Warrenton Spring Festival

Colonial Heights Chapter 1472—DOD Schools Convention



Photo of NARFE Booth at Rockingham County Fair

In addition, we had a VFC-NARFE National matching funds project totaling \$7,500 to resupply our VFC PR Goodies. **Remember, MATCHING FUNDS help stretch Chapter funds.** (National provides 50%, VFC provides 25% and the Chapter picks up the remaining 25% of cost for eligible recruiting projects.) NEED HELP? Contact Gaston Gianni at 703-508-4339 or email gastongianni@aol.com .

OTHER PR EFFORTS: Visits to Chapters included Northern Neck Chapter 1823 annual picnic where candidates for Virginia’s 1st Congressional District spoke and Annandale Chapter 1159 where I swore in new Chapter officers. I attended the NARFE National Convention in Florida and the NARFE Legislative

Conference. At the Legislative Conference, as the 1st Congressional District Liaison, I lead a NARFE delegation from the 1st Congressional District to meet with Congressman Rob Wittman and talk about the need for his support for the many Federal Active and Retired Employees in his District. I also communicated important legislative information to the 12 NARFE Chapters with members in the 1st Congressional District.

During the year, I was also on the AREA IX planning team for the VFC's 61st Annual Convention in Fredericksburg, VA. Our convention theme "NARFE-EMBRACING CHANGE" set the stage for one of the best conventions with a powerful program of speakers and workshops. The following is one of the many pictures from the convention. (See the VFC web site for more pictures from the convention www.vanarfe.org)



Left to right: Bill Shackelford, NARFE Region X Vice President, Gaston Gianni, 1st Congressional District Liaison, Rob Wittman, 1st Congressional District Congressman, Richard Thissen, NARFE National President.

Finally, I was appointed to NARFE's National Strategic Planning Committee as the Region X Representative. The Committee, using last year's Future of NARFE (FON) Report as a starting point, is charged with developing a set of priorities and recommendations for inclusion in a NARFE strategic plan. The committee's work and that of the Strategic Planning Team will be presented to NARFE Federations and Chapters as it is developed and will need to be approved at the next NARFE National Convention in 2016. Please see the NARFE web site www.narfe.org under the Strategic Planning Banner for progress reports. **This is an important effort to ensure the future survival of NARFE.** All NARFE members are invited to review and comment on the materials shown.

Closing Quote: "Change is a process and not a destination, it NEVER ends!"

Professor James A. Belasco, Ph.D.

Alzheimer's Report

During the 2014-2015 time period, some very exciting events have occurred in the field of Alzheimer's research. One example is the potential of new vision screening technologies that use retinal imaging to measure amyloid plaque formation in the back of the eye. The brain-clogging amyloid plaques that is an indicator of Alzheimer's can also be seen in the back of the eye, considered a mirror for brain health. A researcher conducting clinical trials stated, "If this test works, then one day screening for Alzheimer's disease may be as simple as getting your eyes checked."

Researchers have discovered that older adults with too little vitamin D in their blood may have twice the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease as seniors with sufficient levels of the "sunshine vitamin." We don't know if increasing vitamin D levels would decrease the risk of Alzheimer's. We do know the vitamin is essential for maintaining bone health, and it is thought to moderate cell growth and help control immune function and inflammation. Definitely, this is an area of major interest to scientists in several fields.

The creation of "Alzheimer's in a Dish" happened late last fall. This is a petri dish with human brain cells that develop the telltale structures of Alzheimer's disease, allow for study of the progress of the illness and drugs to treat it. This procedure has been identified as "a real game changer."

All the breakthroughs and developments in research are so very important. Early detection of Alzheimer's disease is a key goal of current research because the treatments currently available to slow the progression of the disease are much more effective if started early.

Contributions toward that research from the NARFE members in Virginia ended in Fiscal Year 2014 with \$75,349.80 and we were the Number One federation in the nation. The total for the entire nation at that time was \$10,939,669.07 and we reached the goal of \$11 million collected during the month of September. We are now working on the next goal, \$12 million by 2016.

Here in Virginia, some of the chapters have been very creative in the fund raising area. We have continued to have shred drives, which involves a shredder company arriving in a central area, and chapter members being present to accept any and all voluntary donations from people who are utilizing the services. We have another chapter who collects miles of pennies, and has accumulated nearly 30 miles for Alzheimer's research. At least one chapter has partnered with a restaurant to get a percentage of the proceeds for a specified time. Many of the chapters have a monthly collection from the members. All of this adds up to keep our federation in first place.

The chapters contributed outstanding donations to the Silent Auction at the VFC Convention and we had great items for the raffle "purple bags." We set a record high dollar intake during my tenure as your Alzheimer's Chair, with \$3,306 being forwarded to the Association. The actual breakdown is:

Raffle	Purple Bags	\$ 397.00	
	Special (Quilt & Basket)	194.00	
Silent Auction		1,995.00	
50/50 and donations		695.00	
Fines for cell phones during sessions		25.00	
Grand Total			\$3,306.00

As of this writing, the members of the Virginia Federation have contributed almost \$63,000 for the year (July 1 - June 30) for Alzheimer's research. You are all doing an outstanding job.

Donna Shackelford
Virginia Federation Alzheimer's Chair

FY-2016 VFC Board

Executive Committee

President	Richard Giangerelli	Secretary	Raphael Wong
1 st Vice Pres.	Kathy R. Arpa	Treasurer	Raphael Wong
2 nd Vice Pres.	Leslie E. Ravenell	Im. Past Pres.	Luther L. Santiful

Area Vice Presidents

VFC Area I	Patricia A. Taylor	VFC Area VI	Mark Fisher
VFC Area II	Alex H. Adkins	VFC Area VII	Steve Dansker
VFC Area III	Jack W. McMurchy	VFC Area VIII	Maureen Nolet
VFC Area IV	Bobby L. Whittington	VFC Area IX	James R. Little
VFC Area V	Debra E. Laughon	VFC Area X	Wilma Grant

VFC Committee Chairs

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

Other Appointees

Chaplain	Margaret Yowell	Parliamentarian	Mary E. Swain
Constitution & Bylaws	Delwyn A. Dyer	Sergeant-At-Arms	Lee Barta
E-NARFE Coordinator	William Martin	State Legislative Rep.	Gregory Ferritto
Membership Retention	Betty Warren	Web Masters	Stan W. Palen
Newsletter Editor	Patricia M. Wolfe		Sidney Sachs
CDL, District 1	Gaston Gianni	CDL, District 2	Ray Whipple
CDL, District 3	Shirley Driver-Kinchen	CDL, District 4	Dillard H. Horton
CDL, District 8	John Tolleris	CDL, District 9	Mary F. Kelley
CDL, District 10	Jon Joyce	CDL, District 11	Judy Thorne
SLL, Senator Warner	Steve Ledford	SLL, Senator Kaine	Max D. Scruggs

VFC Constitution & Bylaws Committee

	<u>VFC Area</u>
Delwyn A. Dyer (Chair)	6
Jeanne Garrison	1
James Bradley	3
Jo Rice	7
Maureen Nolet	8
Margaret Yowell	9
Jeanette Pelton	10

VFC Nominating Committee

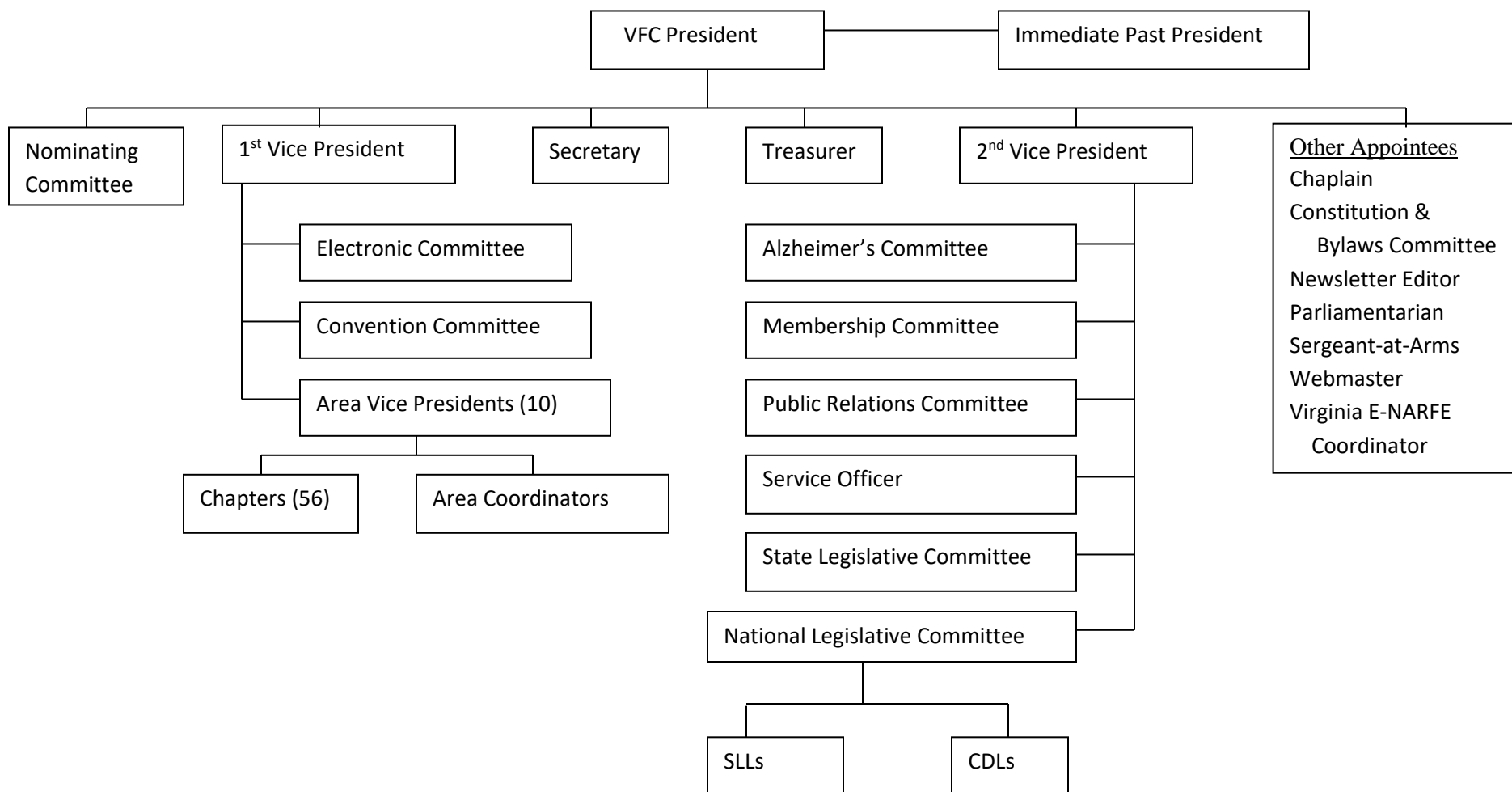
	Chair	William Martin
	Vice Chair	Marilyn M. Riddle
<u>VFC Area</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
I	Marilyn M. Riddle	Ray Whipple
II	Johnny E. Arthur	Judith Bosmengo
III	Mary Lykins	Tony Michalek
IV	June J. Staton	Dillard Horton
V	Mary Alice Preston	Duane M. Benton
VI	Wanda Ware	Arnold Travis Poole
VII	Jon Joyce	Patricia M. Downs
VIII	William Martin	Raymond G. Brandenburg
IX	Douglas Jones	Stephen Ledford

X

William A. Schmidt

Constance T. Bails

Virginia Federation Organizational Structure





Virginia Federation of Chapters

www.vanarfe.org

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

The Virginia Federation now has 56 member chapters with a total membership of approximately 14,000.

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact:

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E-Mail: narfe1241@gmail.com

NARFE Membership Benefits You!