



NARFE NEWS

ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 111

2024 OFFICERS

<p>President Frances Boatman (540) 774-3031 feboatman@live.com</p>	<p>1st Vice President Carolyn Tucker (540) 797-5037 cptucker1212@gmail.com</p>	<p>2nd Vice President Karen Simmons (540) 525-1043 ksim285032@aol.com</p>	<p>Secretary Ellie Long (540) 772-0468 lalaw1986@gmail.com</p>	<p>Treasurer Mark Fisher (540) 772-0984 mcfisher2@cox.net</p>
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TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR OPM: 1-888-767-6738 (M-F, 7:40 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Websites: NARFE: www.narfe.org FEDHub

Chapter 111: <https://www.vfn.org/Chapter-111> VFN: www.vanarfe.org

VFN Facebook: [NARFE Virginia Federation | Facebook](#) [NARFE Virginia Federation | Facebook](#)

VFN National Legislation Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vfnatleg>

VFN State Legislation Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vfnvaleg>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. I look forward to working with each of you to make this the best year possible for Roanoke Valley Chapter 111.

There is strength in numbers, and thanks to NARFE and our members, proposed cuts to our earned federal benefits were averted, but we need to remain diligent in 2024. Make your voice heard in Congress: Use the NARFE Legislative Action Center to send letters to members of Congress on a variety of issues, sign up for action alerts and track NARFE-related bills and votes. Remember "Silence = Acceptance".

Our 2024 VFN State Legislative Plan has been developed and the tri-fold distributed. The Virginia General Assembly convenes on January 10th. Please take time to become familiar with the issues and contact your State legislators to encourage them to support our agenda. Delegate Sam Rasoul is sponsoring a bill on Nursing Home regulations – one of our priorities.

The 2024 NARFE VFN (Virginia Federation of NARFE) Conference will be held April 7 - 10 at Hotel

Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA. This year's theme is "Together We Will Succeed". Excellent speakers and workshops are being arranged. Senator Tim Kaine and Congressman Ben Cline have accepted invitations to speak, schedules permitting. Dr. Leon Vinci is the Advertisement Chair and Bill Ketron is assisting him. Wanda Ware is in charge of the Memorial Service. Phyllis Scruggs is assisting with Registration. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Nominations are being accepted for the VFN offices of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please let me know if you are interested. I have agreed to be a candidate for re-election as President. All conference information will be posted on the [Virginia NARFE Website](#).

Let's make 2024 the best year ever for Roanoke Valley Chapter 111.

Happy New Year!

Frances Boatman
President



LEGISLATION

Federal

The Senate returns to business on 1/8 and the House on 1/9. They'll have just 10 days to avert a partial government shutdown. The first deadline is January 19. Funding for the rest of the government expires on February 2. Negotiations continue between Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer and Speaker of the House Mike Johnson. According to Forbes Magazine online, the event forecasting site Kalshi puts the chance of a January shutdown at around 35%.

The Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, The Social Security Fairness Act, [H.R.82/S.597](#) would fully repeal the WEP and GPO. H.R.82 has 301 co-sponsors. S.597 has 49 co-sponsors including Senator Tim Kaine.

Virginia

Tri-fold copies of the VFN 2024 State Legislative Plan were distributed to attendees. Please review and share with your state Senator and Delegate.

Frances and I met with Delegate Sam Rasoul in December and presented him a \$500 check for his campaign fund for his continuing support of NARFE legislative issues. The check is from the VFN Pac Fund.

Bill Ketron Legislation



Members presented* and emailed Distinguished Service Citations for having reached at least 20 years of NARFE membership:

Alpha Sue King*	Suzanne Hamilton
W.T. Altizer	Mollie D. Hester
Martha Barnas	Gary S. Kalagian
Shirley R. Basham	William Ketron*
Charles Brinkley	Ora McCoy
Elaine H. Caudill	Betty S. Poff
Daniel Celin	Rita Rufty
Richard Finger	Roger M. Seale
Ganel O. Gregory	Charles C. Waybright



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

NARFE Chapter 111 will not meet when either the Roanoke City or Roanoke County Schools are closed because of hazardous road conditions due to snow or ice.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Account as of December 31, 2023
CHAPTER NUMBER 111
Roanoke Valley, Roanoke VA

Beginning Bank balance **\$3349.64**

Receipts

Dues collected \$79.88

Alzheimer's (YTD \$781) \$0

50/50 - \$0

Donations - \$0

Programs

Basket \$0

Christmas Luncheon \$40

Subtotal \$119.88

Total receipts \$3469.52

Disbursements

Officer Expenses \$0

Office Expenses \$0

Program Expenses

Luncheon \$178.83

Alzheimer's \$0

Speaker's Lunch \$0

Newsletter \$100.04

Subtotal \$278.87

Total disbursements \$278.87

BANK BALANCE \$3190.65

Total Obligations \$0

Balance on hand for use \$3190.65

**Mark Fisher
Treasurer**

JANUARY 2024 MEETING MINUTES

NARFE Roanoke Valley Chapter 111, Area VII, met on Friday, January 5, 2024 at Jersey Lily's restaurant. Frances Boatman, President conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:47 a.m. with 29 people in attendance including three guests and our guest speaker. A quorum was present to conduct chapter business.

January birthdays were recognized.

Dr. Leon Vinci, CDL District 6, passed out an article about repealing the WEP/GPO bill published in the Richmond and Roanoke newspapers. Leon is Advertising Chair for the VFN Convention. The chapter buys an ad each year. Leon suggested we have a second, full page ad with Frances.

[IMPORTANT: The article reporter wants to do a follow up article and contacted NARFE national. If you are impacted by the WEB/GPO, and would like to be interviewed by the article reporter, please contact Frances. She will pass your contact info on to John Hadden at NARFE national.]

Wanda Ware spoke on New Year's Resolutions and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's minutes for the December 2023 meeting were approved as published by acclamation.

Ellie Long, Secretary, announced we will collect food for LOA's Soup for Seniors program at the February meeting. Distinguished Service Citations were presented to Alpha Sue King and Phyllis Scruggs.

Mark Fisher gave the December 2023 treasurer's report. In his role as Service Officer, he discussed his problems with the new Open Season Health care plans. He has copies of Be Prepared for Life's Events and offered them to new members.

Carolyn Tucker, 1st VP, gave the membership report. Currently there are 154 chapter members. Welcome to new members Sue Bowyer, Jane Compton, Elisabeth DuBerry, and Samuel Hubbard.

Karen Simmons, 2nd VP, thanked Wanda for assisting with the Holiday luncheon games

Bill Ketron gave the Legislation report.

Frances gave the President's report.

Guest Martha Hooker, Chair of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors spoke briefly on the importance of advocacy and staying involved in the legislative process.

Guest Doris McAdams, VFN Public Relations Chair, urged attendance at the VFN Conference and to follow her [NARFE Virginia Federation | Facebook](#) page.

Our guest speaker was Dwayne Yancey, Executive Editor of [Cardinal News](#), a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization serving Southwest and Southside Virginia. They are also active on multiple social media platforms. He spoke on the Changing Nature of Media Landscapes. Nationwide there are fewer journalists to cover local and state news. (No newspapers in Virginia have a dedicated person(s) to cover the General Assembly.) Newsrooms are a third of the size they were 20 years ago. Why? Consumers prefer getting news online. Newspaper's income is 85% from advertising, 15% from subscriptions. Over 20 years ad revenue is 1/5 of what it once was. Advertising revenue has gone away. Local advertising now goes to social media which better targets people interested in their products. With less revenue, expenses, primarily staffing, are reduced. This has happened nationwide. Small newspapers in Virginia have ceased publishing, including online. The newspaper industry has failed to adapt to technological change. Interest in news hasn't gone away, the delivery system has changed. The local daily newspapers are most impacted. Big papers benefit as they can sell and deliver subscriptions worldwide.

To fill the gap, there has been a rise of non-profit online news sites. Currently there are 425 such sites and this is where industry growth is taking place. These sites have no pay wall and are funded by multiple revenue streams. Mr. Yancey sees nonprofits becoming more prevalent over time.

Cardinal News is all virtual. Its goal is to build a business model with five revenue streams; newspapers have two. It is funded through donations, grants, philanthropy, sponsorships, and events. Their coverage is specific to Southwest and Southside Virginia politics, economy, culture, education, technology, and health care. They have five free newsletters available to readers on either a daily or weekly basis.

During the Q&A session, it was mentioned research has shown subscribers want a newsletter delivered to them daily. Pay walls limit the online growth of newspapers. Newspapers once locally owned or by publishing companies are now owned by media corporations or hedge funds. This provides fewer choices for stories.

The 50/50 (Alzheimer's Fund) drawing was won by Wanda Ware. The gift basket drawing was won by Phyllis Scruggs.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM.

**Ellie Long
Secretary**



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

14 Fran Bono

15 Mary Anna Page

16 Earl Davis

19 Jean Mays

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 111
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Alzheimer's	vacant
Sergeant at Arms	Anne Cepeda
Chaplain	Wanda Ware
Historian	Ellie Long
Internet Coordinator	Ellie Long
Legislative	Bill Ketron
Membership	Carolyn Tucker
Newsletter Editor	Ellie Long
Outreach	Bud Rawlins
Programs	Karen Simmons
Public Relations Officer	vacant
Service Officer	Mark Fisher (540) 772-0984

NEXT NARFE MEETING

Friday, February 2, 2024

**JERSEY LILY'S
1650 Braeburn Drive
Salem, VA 24153**

**Gathering at 11:15 a.m.
Meeting at 11:30 a.m.**

**SPEAKER
Shannon Abell**

**TOPIC
Medicare and
Social Security Updates**