



NARFE NEWS

ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 111

2024 OFFICERS

<p><u>President</u> Frances Boatman (540) 774-3031 feboatman@live.com</p>	<p><u>1st Vice President</u> Carolyn Tucker (540) 797-5037 cptucker1212@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>2nd Vice President</u> Karen Simmons (540) 525-1043 ksim285032@aol.com</p>	<p><u>Secretary</u> Ellie Long (540) 772-0468 lalaw1986@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Treasurer</u> 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/vfnnatleg>
 VFN State Legislation Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vfnvaleg>

PRESIDENT’S REPORT



Thanks to all our officers, committee chairs, and members who attend the meetings for making our Chapter successful. Each of you is important to our overall success.

The VFN Conference is in Harrisonburg April 7-10. We will nominate candidates for VFN offices and review changes to the Federation By-Laws. If there is more than one candidate for an office, internet voting and ballots will be provided and each of you will be able to vote for the candidate of your choice for Virginia Federation Officers as well as any VFN By-law changes. I urge you to all exercise your vote and let your voice be heard.

"Together We Will Succeed"



Ten of our Chapter members will attend the Conference and report back in May.

National NARFE is also 'one member, one vote' and you will be provided ballots to vote on National President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Region X Vice President. The NARFE website has statements by four candidates for National President, one for Secretary-Treasurer, and two for Region X Vice President. Voting information can be found at: [NARFE National Election](#)

VFN Training – Please mark your calendars for April 24 at 2:00 p.m. VFN Training has scheduled via Zoom a “Town Hall Meeting” with the VFN President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President. You will have an opportunity to express what you expect from the Virginia Federation and how we can better serve our member needs. Please plan to attend.

Happy Spring!

Frances Boatman
President



LEGISLATION

Federal

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 311 co-sponsors. S.597 has 53 co-sponsors including Senator Tim Kaine. There has been no action in either chamber though co-sponsors from both continue to sign on to their respective bills.

Biden administration finalizes rule to prevent return of Schedule F
(Edited from the [Federal Times article](#))

The rule does three things in an attempt to prevent a return of Schedule F, the ultimately unfulfilled attempt to reclassify tens of thousands of federal employees into at-will status, thereby making them easier to dismiss and more akin to political appointees. First, the regulation guarantees employment protections unless a worker voluntarily waives them. It also ensures that any future administration cannot apply broad descriptions of positions, like those of a “confidential” or “policymaking” nature, to career civil servants for the purpose of converting them. Finally, the rule sets up hoops an administration would have to jump through anytime it wants to move positions out of the protected competitive service. And in the event that an employee is reclassified against those safeguards, it guarantees an appeal process. In addition, the final rule explains that members of the Senior Executive Service have separate adverse action protections. The rule by the Office of Personnel Management has been highly anticipated by good government groups, federal unions and employees themselves. The draft rule, published in September last year, received more than 4,000 comments and has been in the works for the last 18 months. It is important to note that the process this rule went through not only makes it strong ... but also because it means the rule cannot simply be undone by an executive order. Administration officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity ... said they are confident this law can stand up on its own, with or without supplemental legislation currently pending in Congress. But experts said having legislation to further safeguard any attempts to override the rule would bolster its viability.

Saving the Civil Service Act, [H.R.1002/S. 399](#) would prevent the return of Schedule F, a statutory loophole created by the previous administration that would have bypassed the system of rules ensuring civil servants are hired and fired based on merit. The bill would also block any position in the federal competitive service, created after September 30, 2020, from being reclassified

outside of merit system principles without the express consent of Congress and install a cap on the number of conversions to the frozen excepted service schedule (Schedule C), with the cap not to exceed more than one percent of the total number of employees, whichever is greater. And to ensure transparency, the bill would require the consent of the employee and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) before transfer to an excepted service can occur, requires OPM annual reporting, and gives Congress additional oversight. H.R.1002 referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability; 33 co-sponsors. S. 399 referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; 17 co-sponsors.



TREASURER’S REPORT

Account as of March 31, 2024

CHAPTER NUMBER 111

Roanoke Valley, Roanoke VA

Beginning Bank balance	\$2948.45
Receipts	
Dues collected	\$125.88
Alzheimer’s (YTD \$158.00)	\$42.00
50/50 - \$24.00	
Donations - \$18.00	
Programs	
Basket	\$25.00
VFN Donations	\$10.00
Lunch	\$15.00
Total receipts	\$217.88
Subtotal	\$3166.33
Disbursements	
Officer Expenses	\$0
Office Expenses	\$0
VFN Donations	\$10.00
Program Expenses	\$0
Alzheimer’s	\$42.00
Speaker’s Lunch	\$11.12
1 st Timers & pass thru	\$28.12
Newsletter	\$100.04
Subtotal	\$191.28
Total disbursements	\$191.28
BANK BALANCE	\$2975.05
Total Obligations	\$525.000
VFN Registration Reimbursement	
Balance on hand for use	\$2450.05

Mark Fisher
Treasurer

APRIL 2024 MEETING MINUTES

NARFE Roanoke Valley Chapter 111, Area VII, met on Friday, April 5, 2024 at Jersey Lily's restaurant. Frances Boatman, President conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. with 21 people in attendance including one new member and our guest speaker. A quorum was present to conduct chapter business.

April birthdays were recognized.

Wanda Ware discussed the history of April Fools' Day and quoted passages from Proverbs and Romans about fools and foolishness. She then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's minutes for the March 2024 meeting were approved as published, motion made by Dr. Leon Vinci, seconded by Elaine Drewry.

Ellie Long, Secretary, reported two member deaths and passed around cruise brochures mailed to our NARFE P.O. Box.

Mark Fisher gave the March 2024 treasurer's report. As Service Officer, he has reached out to the family of Mollie Hester. He has copies of the F-100 for those who need one,

Carolyn Tucker, 1st VP, gave the membership report. Currently there are 156 chapter members. **Welcome to new member Thelma Martin.**

Karen Simmons, 2nd VP, asked the group if they would be interested in a December speaker who provides a program on a 1940's sentimental journey. A majority of hands were raised in favor. The Board will further discuss at today's meeting.

Bill Ketron gave the Legislation report.

Frances gave the President's report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Megan Mizak, Branch Manager of the Gainsboro Library, was our guest speaker. The American public library movement started in 1852. The American Library Association was established in 1876. Public libraries opened in northern states, but Southern states were two decades behind. In addition, the 13th and 14th Amendments were negated in Southern states by Black Codes and Jim Crow laws limiting opportunities for Black citizens in all aspects of life, culminating in the 1896 Supreme Court decision Plessy vs. Ferguson, resulting in the constitutional "separate, but equal" facilities for whites and blacks. Library services extended to whites only. Black leaders organized in the early 1900s to improve opportunities for Black education and libraries. The first freestanding library for, and owned, by Blacks was the Western Colored Branch Library in Louisville, KY in 1905. The first freestanding public library for, and operated, by Blacks in Virginia opened in 1921 in Norfolk. In 1920, Roanoke opened a main branch white's only library downtown. Black leaders successfully advocated for a Black library. The Gainsboro Branch Library

opened on December 14, 1921 in the basement of the Odd Fellows Building located in the largely self-sustaining, segregated, residential and business district of Gainsboro. It had 2,300 books and a trained librarian. No Black schools had a library. In 1928, Virginia Young Lee became Head Librarian. She was a graduate of Hampton Institute School of Library Science. She established a Black studies collection and displayed Black history exhibits. The city objected to these displays. She started a reading club. In the late 1930s, the library had outgrown its space and Roanoke city issued a \$20,000 bond for construction of a new library. Lee worked with St. Andrews Catholic Church to deed property to the city for the new library. Lee designed and sketched out the new library building. The new library opened in 1941 with 7,000 titles and 9,000 borrowers. Lee was informed by the city to dispose of her Black history collection or lose her job. Instead, she hid it in the library basement; the collection remained intact. The library survived urban renewal; much of Gainsboro did not. Lee retired in 1971. The library is still active today and is a VA State Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Records of the Gainsboro Library can be found online at: [Gainsboro Library Collection, Virginia Room](#)

Dr. Leon Vinci, CDL District 6, met with the staffs of Senators Kaine and Warner and Congressman Cline respectively in their Washington D.C. offices to review NARFE legislative priorities.

The 50/50 (Alzheimer's Fund) drawing was won by Carolyn Tucker. There was no gift basket drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Ellie Long
Secretary



MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Garnet Hypes	21 Linda Manns
8 Lorena Garnand	26 Sharon Bidwell
19 Betty Poff	30 Carolyn Fisher

IN MEMORIAM

Former member **Janice S. Dominick**, 95, formerly of Roanoke, passed away on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, in Lynchburg. She retired as a supervisor from the Social Security Administration.

Mollie Doreen Hester, 95 of Roanoke, passed away Sunday, March 24, 2024. She was born in London, England. Mollie survived the bombing of London during World War II. She was a proud GI War bride. She volunteered much of her time to community service including working the polls in the Arlington area.

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

2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Alzheimer's	Phyllis Scruggs
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, May 3, 2024

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

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

SPEAKER

Diana Christopulos

TOPIC

**Veterans, Federal Officials,
and the Appalachian Trail
in Roanoke, 1932-2024.**