

# Chapter 111 Roanoke Valley VFN Conference Report

**"Together We Will Succeed"**



*“Chapter 111 just blew the socks off the VFN at the Annual meeting”*

*Dr. Leon Vinci.*

## **National President Calls Grand-Slam**

NARFE President Bill Shackelford happily said “Our great organization got a grand-slam” at the VFN Annual Conference when US Congressman Ben Cline committed to sign-on and endorse [H.R.82](#), The Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, key legislation supported by NARFE.

Upon an invitation from VFN President Frances Boatman, Congressman Cline attended the annual meeting to make a keynote address to the VFN conclave and during his remarks he announced his action to the audience. At that point in his address, he received a standing ovation from the crowd.



Dr. Leon Vinci, Congressman Ben Cline, and VFN President Frances Boatman

In his talk the Congressman also discussed other important national issues and goings-on at the Nation’s Capitol. He concluded his presentation with a Question and Answer period. During the Q and A, several members of the VFN community asked questions and shared relevant experiences which emphasized the importance of getting this legislation passed. Congressman Cline responded accordingly and continued to dialogue with our conference attendees.

Chapter 111 Conference attendees were Frances Boatman, Ruth Greene, Bill Ketron, Ora McCoy, Phyllis Scruggs, Karen Simmons, Dr. Leon Vinci, Carolyn Tucker, and Anna Yu.

Phyllis Scruggs volunteered to serve on the VFN Nominating Committee and Carolyn Tucker will be an alternate.

Ruth Greene and Carolyn Tucker were presented certificates and \$10 for recruiting new Chapter 111 members. Ruth also won an Alzheimer's gift basket with \$350 worth of gift cards.

Ruth Greene volunteered for, and was appointed Area VII Vice President. Her term begins July 1, 2024.

There were informative presentations by Dr. Kelsey Trinka on Hearing Loss; Dr. Phillip Frana of James Madison University (JMU) on Artificial Intelligence; Dr. Edna Reid, (JMU), on Cyber Security for Seniors; Dr. Tim Walton (JMU) on The CIA: Past and Future: and Greg Owen on German Prisoners of War in the United States During World War II.

Workshops/training were given throughout the Conference and our Chapter 111 members attended many of those topic areas including State and Federal Legislative issues; Membership; Household Downsizing & Decluttering, Navigating the VFN Website, Alzheimer's, Public Relations, and Electronic Communications.



### **Comments from attendees:**

Carolyn Tucker mentioned the conference was an excellent learning experience and she particularly enjoyed the presentation on the CIA. She noted it was very beneficial to have a variety of subject matter experts from James Madison University for speakers. The facilities and food were excellent. (Note: Next year's conference will be at the same location, Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, VA.)

Bill Ketron said he has attended a half dozen conferences and this was by far the best. A fast paced event, chocked full of relevant information sharing and great attendees' participation and socialization.

Phyllis Scruggs enjoyed the practical and varied number of workshops, particularly Senior Scams.

New NARFE/Chapter member Anna Yu met up with members from other chapters around the state and enjoyed the presentation about the German POWs during World War II.

**Thank you Frances Boatman and the 2024 VFN Conference Committee**

**WE DID SUCCEED!**