



NARFE Chapter 1116 Newsletter

Vienna-Oakton Chapter 1116
1708 Palm Springs Drive
Vienna, VA 22182-2330

MAY 2024

Next Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

1:00 PM

Vienna Community Center (VCC)

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2024

12 noon

3700 Golf Trail Lane, Fairfax VA

2024 Board

Chapter Officers

President

Kathy Arpa 703-205-9041
mkarpa@hotmail.com

Vice President & Programs

Ralph Dantine 703-938-9757

2nd Vice President &

Membership

Jayne Seidman 703-938-2274

Secretary

Nancy Burke-Sanow
703-869-4799

Treasurer

David Graf 703-938-2962

Board Members

Alzheimer's & Photographer
Mark Arpa 703-205-9041

Hostess Jayne Seidman
703-938-2274

National Legislation

Jim Hathaway 703-255-7135

State Legislation

Chris Gieseler 703-849-0008

Newsletter Team

Kathy Arpa, Dave Graf

Public Relations

Pec Chan 703-930-3596

Service Officer

Susan Larson 703-915-2566

Sunshine

Harriet Epstein 703-560-4137

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – KATHY ARPA

Spring is here although it felt more like summer last week. We had a successful VFN Conference in April at Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, VA. See report on pages 3-4.

In a few weeks there will be lots of activity – proms, graduations, weddings and a visit from Linda Colbert, Mayor of Vienna on May 14. She always gives us the latest information on development and new restaurants in Vienna. We will also have our annual ice cream social! And in June we will celebrate our 55th Anniversary! VFN President Frances Boatman and several members from the VFN Board and other local NARFE Chapters will join us. See page 7 to sign up!

Kathy

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JAYNE SEIDMAN

As of May 1, 2024, the membership for Chapter 1116 was as follows: Total Chapter members - 162, Total National Members in Chapter Area – 138, Grand Total = 300

TREASURER'S REPORT - DAVE GRAF

Since the April Newsletter, the Chapter received \$129.92 for membership dues collected by NARFE's National Headquarters for March. Payments for 15 members and guests have been received for the Chapter's 55th Anniversary Celebration. \$420.00 was deposited and \$30.00 was reimbursed to Harriet Epstein who won the Early Bird lottery for a free buffet.

There have been several expenses. The first expense was a \$292.25 payment for the annual per capita dues to the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN). The second expense was to reimburse Mark Arpa \$155.00 and Ralph Dantine \$680.89 for expenses they incurred when they attended the April VFN Conference in Harrisonburg, Va (as authorized in the approved Chapter budget). The 50/50 drawing for Alzheimer's Research raised \$41.00 at the April 16th Chapter Meeting. This donation will be sent to the VFN Coordinator for the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.

COMING UP

May 14 – Chapter Meeting – VCC - 1 PM - Guest speaker – Linda Colbert, Mayor of Vienna. Also, we will have the annual ice cream social.

June 11 – Celebration of our Chapter's **55th Anniversary** at Mulligan's Pub on the Green, 3700 Golf Trail Lane, Fairfax, VA (near Fair Oaks). See directions on page 7.

August 18-20 –
NARFE FedCon24
– St. Louis, MO.
Early Bird Special
ends May 17.



REGISTER TODAY! **AUGUST 18-20, 2024**
HYATT REGENCY ST. LOUIS AT THE ARCH

REPORT OF APRIL 16 CHAPTER MEETING

NARFE Chapter 1116 held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 16 at the Vienna Community Center. The meeting began at 1:05 p.m. Ann Shea led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chris Giesler introduced our guest speaker Patricia Brennan, Vice President of Lifetime Learning Institute/NOVA Annandale Campus. Patricia (pictured here) shared her love for this organization and highlights of a number of 90-minute classes taught by NOVA professors. Various special interest groups are available, such as bridge, mystery book club, tabletop games, finance, foodies and photography. LLI/NOVA is a non-profit, member-run organization offering stimulating virtual and in-person activities for adults 50+. The 12-month dues currently is \$110, increasing to \$125 on July 1st. For more information, go to the web site at <https://LLInova.org> or call 703-323-3746.



Dave Graf presented the Treasurer's Report and read the minutes from the March meeting. Board members provided reports on membership and legislation. Kathy gave a report on the recent VFN Conference. See report on pages 3-4. Kathy presented Kay Dellinger (pictured here) with a certificate signed by Frances Boatman, acting VFN Membership Chair, thanking Kay for her new member recruitment efforts. Dave Graf provided up to date information on the 55th anniversary celebration and many members signed up during break.

Before the meeting ended, there was a drawing for the free buffet lunch at the 55th anniversary celebration and Harriet Epstein (pictured here) was the lucky winner.



The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

SUNSHINE REPORT – HARRIET EPSTEIN

Shirley Martin, who fell in February and broke her hip, continues to recuperate at home. Kathy Arpa visited her a few weeks ago. She enjoys visitors and receiving phone calls at 703-938-6580.

Get well wishes to Mark Arpa who spent a few days in Fairfax Hospital recently. If you know of someone who needs a little sunshine, please call me on 703-560-4137.

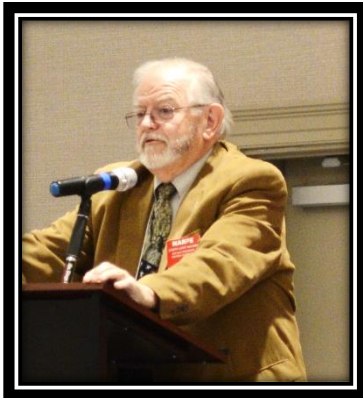
REPORT ON 2024 VFN CONFERENCE – KATHY ARPA

The conference was held from April 7-10, 2024 at Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, VA on the campus of James Madison University (JMU). Attending from our Chapter were Kathy and Mark Arpa and Ralph Dantine. The conference began on Monday morning with a welcome from the Director of Public Relations for the Hotel Madison. We watched a video from U.S. Senator Tim Kaine who continues to push for repeal of WEP/GPO. Speakers during the conference included: Brooke Gil, Senior Program Manager from the Alzheimer Association's local region; Kelsey Trinka, Hearing Audiologist (spoke at one of our meetings earlier this year); and two professors from JMU. The Honorable Ben Cline (Virginia's 6th Congressional District) was the keynote speaker. He is a member of the Judiciary, Appropriations and Budget Committees and committed to sign on as a co-sponsor for WEP/GPO repeal. From NARFE headquarters we heard from Bill Shackelford, NARFE National President, and Nora McDonald, Director of Member Engagement. Nora discussed what her department is doing to enhance membership recruitment and retention. Robert Allen, Region X Vice President, stated that the Virginia Federation has 10,000 members of the total Virginia membership of 18,000. Bill and Robert reminded members about attending the FEDCON coming up in August in St. Louis, MO.

After we heard statements from all the VFN Candidates, Doris McAdams was elected Secretary and Jim Little was elected Treasurer. Frances Boatman was re-elected President, Pat Wolfe was re-elected Second Vice President and Ted Pasek (pictured on the right) was re-elected as our Area 10 Vice President.



There are two candidates for First Vice President: Larry McIlwee, the current First Vice President and Debbie Fisk, the current Secretary. (pictured below).



The Ballot and Teller Committee is preparing a ballot for voting for the First Vice President and for several by-laws changes. The ballot will be emailed to Virginia Federation members shortly. [To request a paper ballot: contact Jim Little, 11759 Buckley Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192-5725.] Details will also be on the VFN website at www.vanarfe.org under Elections. You can also find the candidates' statements on this website.

During the Memorial Service for deceased members led by Ora McCoy, Mark Arpa (pictured here) provided violin music while 1st VP Larry McIlwee was soloist. Our chapter memorialized three members (John Horejsi, Ray Johnson and Nancy Linn).

There were a variety of workshops and exhibitors. The popular Alzheimer's Research Fund Room had over 25 raffle baskets and other raffle items. During breaks and during the buffet lunches on Monday and Tuesday we had time to socialize, visit exhibitors and check on bids in the Alzheimer's Room.

Many thanks to Chapter 1116 members for being "Supporters" of the 2024 Conference.

Six of the past VFN Presidents attended this year's conference: Luther Santiful, Bill Shackelford (the current NARFE National President), Ann Collins, Kathy Arpa, Leslie Ravenell, Dr. Constance Bails and Robert Martin.





The banquet was on Tuesday night. We got all dressed up! The elected officers were installed by Bill Shackelford. Awards were presented to Donna Shackelford, Stan Palen, Thomas Rachele and Dr. Constance Bails.

Everyone enjoyed the location and hotel. On Wednesday, the VFN Board voted to return to the same hotel for next year's conference.



LEGISLATION REPORTS

National Legislation – Jim Hathaway

Minimum Staffing Rule for Nursing Homes

The Biden administration has issued a groundbreaking **minimum staffing rule** for nursing homes, as announced by Vice President Kamala Harris. This mandate requires nursing homes that receive Medicare or Medicaid funding to provide a minimum of **3.48 hours of nursing care per resident per day**. This includes specific periods of care from both registered nurses and nurse aides. [For instance, a facility with 100 residents would need at least two or three registered nurses and at least 10 or 11 nurse aides, along with two additional nurse staff \(who could be registered nurses, licensed professional nurses, or nurse aides\) per shift.](#)

The primary goal of this rule is to address the chronic understaffing issue in nursing homes, which can result in sub-standard or unsafe care. When facilities lack adequate staffing, residents may go without necessities such as baths, bathroom trips, and meals. [Moreover, it poses life-threatening risks during medical emergencies.](#)

Key points about the new rule:

- **Minimum Staffing Requirements:** Nursing homes must meet the minimum staffing standard of 3.48 hours per resident per day, including from registered nurses and nurse aides.
- **Registered Nurse Onsite:** A registered nurse must always be present.
- **Phased Implementation:** The rule will be phased in over three years, with rural communities given up to five years.
- **Exemptions:** Temporary exemptions are available for facilities facing workforce shortages that demonstrate good faith efforts to hire staff.

Not surprisingly, the nursing home industry has expressed concerns. Many operators argue that they already struggle to fill open positions, and this requirement could potentially force some facilities to close. According to an analysis by the American Health Care Association, more than 94% of nursing homes were not meeting at least one of the proposed staffing requirements. The cost of hiring additional nurses and nurse aides to meet the mandate is estimated at almost 7 billion dollars annually (about \$22 per person in the U.S.).

While the intent behind the federal staffing mandate is well-meaning, critics argue that it may exacerbate the nursing crisis by placing an impossible burden on providers. [Policymakers must address funding and infrastructure to effectively counter the chronic shortages faced by nursing home providers.](#)

NOTE: The above initiative is on the 2024 Virginia State Legislation Plan.

House Hearing regarding WEP and GPO

Here is a summary of the key points from the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security hearing regarding the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO):

1. **Date and Context:**
 - The hearing took place on **April 16, 2024**.
 - It was the **second hearing** in this Congress specifically focused on WEP and GPO issues.
2. **Momentum for Repeal:**
 - There are **318 cosponsors** for the bill aiming to repeal WEP and GPO in the House.
 - Continued committee attention indicates that momentum is building to address these long-standing issues.
3. **NARFE's Involvement:**
 - NARFE National President, **William "Bill" Shackelford**, and National Secretary/Treasurer, **Kathryn Hensley**, attended the hearing in person.
 - They demonstrated steadfast support for the repeal of WEP and GPO.
 - Mr. Shackelford submitted testimony on behalf of NARFE.
4. **Impact on Federal Retirees:**
 - WEP/GPO disproportionately affect federal CSRS retirees.
 - Many public servants face undue hardships due to these provisions unfairly reducing their earned Social Security benefits.
 - These individuals or spouses have contributed to Social Security for years.
5. **Outdated Formulas and Unfair Outcomes:**
 - Witnesses highlighted how the outdated formulas used to calculate WEP and GPO create unfair outcomes.
 - Committee members discussed solutions, including more modest reforms rather than a full repeal.
6. **NARFE Member Testimonies:**
 - NARFE commends members who submitted written testimonies.
 - All members were encouraged to submit their testimony by **April 30**.
 - By sharing experiences and insights, they strengthen the call for change.
7. **Advocacy Efforts:**
 - This hearing represents a significant step in NARFE's ongoing advocacy efforts.
 - The goal is to correct the injustices of WEP and GPO, ensuring that all public servants receive the full Social Security benefits they rightfully deserve.
8. **Legislation Prospects:**
 - Prospects for action remain uncertain (iffy).
 - The hearing focused on the House bill (HR-82) to fully repeal both reductions, a measure that has more than 300 cosponsors, well more than a majority. A Senate counterpart (S-597) has 53 cosponsors, also a majority but short of the 60 needed for most votes in the Senate. However, even with this level of support in prior Congresses, no bills have yet been brought to floor votes.

Virginia State Legislation – Chris Gieseler

For the Chapter's April 2024 newsletter, I focused on how busy Governor Youngkin was at that time, given that he had hundreds of bills to take action on by COB April 8, 2024. He acted on all the bills, signing most of them, but also vetoing 153 and returning 117 bills with his recommended amendments (for a total of 270 bills) back to the General Assembly. Chief among the latter were the Budget Bills, for which hundreds of amendments were recommended.

The General Assembly did not accept the budget amendments. The Governor then called for a Special Session to be held on May 13, 2024, in order to pass changes to the current state budget that will end on June 30th of this year (HB 29) and to adopt a budget that will run from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026 (HB 30). The General Assembly met in a "Reconvened Session" (aka a "veto session") on April 17, 2024, to consider the 270 bills that the Governor had returned without his signature. For about five to six hours, the General Assembly addressed all 270 bills and then they adjourned *sine die*.

The legislative session results were:

- All 153 vetoes were sustained (97 of the bills had originated in the House of Delegates, and 56 bills in the state Senate). The vetoed bills will *not* become law.
- HB 29 and 30 (the Budget bills) were returned to the Governor by a unanimous House via a procedural vote. These bills will be addressed in the upcoming Special Session.
- Of the remaining 115 bills with the Governor's recommended amendments, 72 bills had originated in the House. The House addressed the Governor's recommended amendments to those bills. The House accepted, in whole or in part, the amendments to 41 of those bills, so the bills then went to the Senate, which concurred on all but one of the bills. That bill was HB 568, which would eliminate certain tax exemptions for some specified Confederacy-related organizations. Except for HB 568, those bills are *considered enacted into law*, and they do not go back to the governor. HB 568 will go back to the Governor for his action by COB May 17, 2024.
- The 33 remaining House bills with the Governor's recommendations were rejected, so the bills go back to the Governor (without his recommended amendments) for his action (approve, veto or let them become law without his signature) by COB May 17th.
- The Senate took up the 43 bills with the Governor's recommended amendments that had originated in that body. The Senate accepted 23 of those bills, so the bills then went to the House. The House accepted all but two of the Senate's bills. The 21 bills that the House concurred on will *become law*, and the two rejected bills will go back to the Governor for his action by COB May 17, 2024.

Some of the bills that had been passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor include:

- HB 18, which adds discrimination based on ethnic origin to the Virginia Human Rights Act;
- HB 49, which prohibits employers from discharging or discriminating against employees who use cannabis oil for approved medical conditions, but the employer can fire the employee if the employee is impaired at work from use of the oil; the employer can also prohibit possession of cannabis oil during work hours; and
- HB 330, which prohibits financing the purchase of dogs and cats unless the financing process complies with state and federal consumer credit laws.

Some things interesting about HB 568 (discussed above) are that the House accepted only one of the two recommended amendments from the Governor. There was only one other bill where that happened in this Regular Session. Moreover, when the Senate took up the remaining amendment, there was a 20-20 tie in the Senate's vote on the amendment. The Chair (presumably Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears) broke the tie by voting to accept the amendment. But then the Senate unanimously voted to reconsider their vote on the bill. Upon re-vote, the Senate rejected the amendment. (For what it is worth, the Senate had passed a bill identical to HB 568 and received the same recommended amendments from the Governor. The Senate voted against those amendments with the same 19-21 vote.) So, the Lieutenant Governor did vote to break the tie, but it did not last for long.

I will monitor Virginia state legislative developments during the month of May and will provide updates at the upcoming Chapter meeting, Board meeting and the June 2024 Chapter newsletter.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Have you gotten a text message saying you owe money for unpaid tolls, such as E-ZPass charges? **Don't fall for it! It's a scam.** The Virginia Department of Transportation [wants drivers to know about this scam](#) that's been reported in at least three other states. While VDOT says Virginia residents haven't been targeted yet, be on the lookout. If you get one of these fraudulent texts, don't click on the link. Report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center on their [IC3 website](#).



**NARFE Chapter 1116 (Vienna - Oakton)
55th Anniversary Celebration
Tuesday, June 11, 2024**



We invite you to join us on Tuesday, June 11th as we celebrate the **55th Anniversary of Chapter 1116** at **Mulligan's Pub on the Green**, 3700 Golf Trail Lane, Fairfax, VA 22033. (near Fair Oaks Mall).

DIRECTIONS

- From Pan Am Shopping Center, take Nutley Street North to Merge onto I-66 West toward Front Royal. Take exit 57B toward Fair Oaks/US-50 West. Go for 0.9 mi. Continue on US-50 West (Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy) for 0.3 mi. Take the ramp onto West Ox Road (VA-608) North toward West Ox Road. Go for 0.6 miles. Turn right onto Penderbrook Drive. Go for 0.5 miles. The road name changes to Golf Trail Lane. Continue for 0.2 miles to the end of the road - *3700 Golf Trail Lane, Fairfax.* There is a large parking lot on the left. The entrance to Mulligans (and the Golf Pro Shop) is at the right hand corner of the parking lot (as pictured above).
- **To avoid Route 66**, coming out of the Pan Am Shopping Center take a left onto US 29 West (Lee Highway) to Fairfax Circle. Merge onto Fairfax Blvd (US-50 West). Go about 5 miles. Take the ramp onto West Ox Road (VA-608) North toward West Ox Road. Go for 0.6 miles. Turn right onto Penderbrook Drive. Go for 0.5 miles. The road name changes to Golf Trail Lane. Continue for 0.2 miles to the end of the road - *3700 Golf Trail Lane, Fairfax.* There is a large parking lot on the left. The entrance to Mulligans (and the Golf Pro Shop) is at the right hand corner of the parking lot (as pictured above).

A social hour/cash bar will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a buffet lunch to follow at 12:00 noon. The buffet includes three entrees (two meat and one seafood dish), a vegetable, scalloped potatoes, beverage, and dessert. The price of the buffet luncheon is **\$30.00**. Beer and wine are available at the cash bar. We are inviting several guests. A short program is also planned. There will be a 50/50 raffle for Alzheimer's Research and door prizes! The event will end by 2:00 p.m. There is ample free parking on site and the restaurant is handicap accessible. Members and guests are welcome. **Reservations must be received by June 1, 2024.**

To make reservations, please complete the form below and send a check payable to "NARFE Chapter 1116". Mail it to our Treasurer, David Graf, at the address below or bring it to our Chapter Meeting on **May 14**. Call Dave at 703-938-2962 if you have any questions or **any special dietary needs/restrictions.**

**Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton) 55th Anniversary Celebration Reservation
Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

Name: _____ Member
 Name: _____ Member
 Name: _____ Guest
 Phone Number: _____
 Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please send your check for \$30 for each luncheon to:
David Graf, Treasurer
1708 Palm Springs Drive
Vienna, VA 22182

All reservations must be received by June 1.