



# NARFE NEWS

## ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 111

### 2024 OFFICERS

<p><b>President</b>  <b>Frances Boatman</b>            (540) 774-3031  <a href="mailto:feboatman@live.com">feboatman@live.com</a></p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>  <b>Carolyn Tucker</b>            (540) 797-5037  <a href="mailto:cptucker1212@gmail.com">cptucker1212@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>  <b>Karen Simmons</b>            (540) 525-1043  <a href="mailto:ksim285032@aol.com">ksim285032@aol.com</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary</b>  <b>Ellie Long</b>            (540) 772-0468  <a href="mailto:lalaw1986@gmail.com">lalaw1986@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b>  <b>Mark Fisher</b>            (540) 772-0984  <a href="mailto:mcfisher2@cox.net">mcfisher2@cox.net</a></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](http://www.narfe.org) FEDHub

Chapter 111: <https://www.vfn.org/Chapter-111> VFN: [www.vanarfe.org](http://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



The Virginia Federation of NARFE Conference in Harrisonburg was a huge success with 123 registered attendees. I am very proud of our Roanoke Valley Chapter members and their participation. Details are included in the enclosed Chapter 111 VFN Conference Report insert. Thank you to all who supported the Conference. The [2024 VFN Conference Book](#) is available on line.

**Virginia Federation Officers** for 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025 were elected as follows: Frances Boatman – President; Pat Wolfe - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Doris McAdams - Secretary, and Jim Little – Treasurer. The office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President has two contestants, which requires a ballot vote: incumbent J. Larry McIlwee and Deborah Fisk. Candidate statements are on the VANARFE website under [Elections](#). Voting details will be issued regarding voting online, as well as via a paper ballot. Every member has a vote.

**VFN Bylaws Proposals** will also be voted upon and are posted on the VFN website (If accepted, these will be determined by the VFN Board and covered in the Handbook):

1. Eliminate from the Bylaws the 3-year limitation for Bylaws Committee members.

2. Eliminate from the Bylaws the 2- year limitation for Nominating Committee members.  
 3. Change the time frame for submitting Bylaws Amendments.

**WEP/GPO Repeal: H.R. 82 Update** – Congressman Ben Cline spoke at our Conference and announced that he is a cosponsor of H.R. 82. As of May 3, we have 319 cosponsors. Please contact Congressmen Good and Griffith and ask them to add their names as cosponsors. Let them know how it affects you personally.

**A Certificate of Appreciation** was presented to Eleanor C. Long. “The Virginia Federation of NARFE extends its sincere gratitude for your Outstanding Support as a member of the Electronic Communications Team.” Thank you, Ellie.

I look forward to seeing you at our August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting - we do not meet in June or July.

Happy Mother’s Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day!

**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 319 co-sponsors. S.597 has 53 co-sponsors including Senator Tim Kaine.

The House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security held a critical hearing on the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) on April 16, the second hearing this Congress focused on these issues. With 319 cosponsors for the bill to repeal WEP and GPO in the House, and continued committee attention, momentum is building to address these longstanding issues.

While the hearing featured think tank witnesses rather than representatives from those directly impacted, NARFE National President, William “Bill” Shackelford, and National Secretary/Treasurer, Kathryn Hensley, attended the hearing in person, demonstrating steadfast support for the repeal of WEP and GPO. Shackelford submitted [testimony for the record](#) on behalf of NARFE, and NARFE continues to work with the lead sponsors of the repeal bill and other allies to press for further action.

The hearing focused on the significant and longstanding effects WEP/GPO have on federal retirees citing many examples of disproportionately affected public servants who experience undue hardships from these provisions unfairly reducing their retirement benefits they, for years, have paid into.

The hearing included testimony from several witnesses who acknowledged how these provisions harm public servants, identifying how the outdated formulas used to calculate the WEP and GPO create unfair outcomes for beneficiaries affected by one or both policies. Witnesses and committee members also discussed solutions that advocated for more modest reforms rather than a full repeal. NARFE commends the many members who have also submitted written testimonies, helping to strengthen the call for change.

This hearing was a significant step in NARFE’s ongoing advocacy efforts to correct the injustices of the WEP and GPO, ensuring that all public servants receive the full Social Security benefits they rightfully deserve.

**Bill Ketron**  
**Legislation**



## **Chapter 111 Roanoke Valley Memorial Service**

Carl E. Bradford	Peggy D. Markham
Colene S. Cromer	Donald W. Moore
George J. Flick, Jr.	Thomas O. Paulette
Ozella B. Grogan	Virginia C. Porter
Robert Lee Hadden	Rosalie F. Sanchez-Motley
Mary S. Hobbs	Norma J. Sigmon
Lloyd Holfield	Kenneth H. Stanley
Clarence E. Lee	James R. Zinck



### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Account as of April 30, 2024  
CHAPTER NUMBER 111  
Roanoke Valley, Roanoke VA

<b>Beginning Bank balance</b>	<b>\$2975.05</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	
Dues collected	\$129.68
Alzheimer’s (YTD \$195.00)	\$37.00
50/50 - \$20.00	
Donations - \$17.00	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$166.68</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3141.73</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
Officer Expenses	\$0
Office Expenses	\$444.50
Chapter Insurance (\$100.00)	
VFN Reimbursement (\$75.00)	
VFN Dues (\$269.50)	
Program Expenses	\$0
Alzheimer’s	\$37.00
Speaker’s Lunch	\$15.33
Newsletter	\$100.04
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$596.87</b>
<b>Total disbursements</b>	<b>\$596.87</b>
<b>BANK BALANCE</b>	<b>\$2544.86</b>
<b>Total Obligations</b>	<b>\$450.000</b>
VFN Registration Reimbursement	
<b>Balance on hand for use</b>	<b>\$2094.86</b>

**Mark Fisher**  
**Treasurer**

## MAY 2024 MEETING MINUTES

NARFE Roanoke Valley Chapter 111, Area VII, met on Friday, May 3, 2024 at Jersey Lily's restaurant. Frances Boatman, President, conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. with 21 people in attendance including our guest speaker. A quorum was present to conduct chapter business.

May birthdays were recognized.

Wanda Ware discussed the journey of life. She then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's minutes for the April 2024 meeting were approved as published, motion made by Gloria Clark, seconded by Wanda Ware.

Mark Fisher gave the April 2024 treasurer's report.

Carolyn Tucker, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, gave the membership report. Currently there are 155 chapter members.

Ellie Long, Secretary, reported one former and one current member deaths. LOA's Let's Give Lunch is Friday, June 21.

Bill Ketron gave the Legislation report.

Wanda Ware, Carolyn Tucker, and Elaine Drewry conducted our annual memorial service.

VFN Conference Reports were given by Carolyn Tucker, Bill Ketron, Phyllis Scruggs, and Anna Yu. All encouraged attendance next year. It's a good opportunity to meet members from other chapters across the state. All reported excellent learning experiences about, and beyond, NARFE. Noteworthy were the CIA, senior scams, and German POWs in Virginia presentations. Facilities and food were excellent.

Frances gave the President's report.

Dr. Diana Christopulos, from the [Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club](#) (RATC) was our guest speaker. The club maintains 120 miles of the AT in our region. Her talk, "Veterans, Federal Employees, and the Appalachian Trail" was about the history of the AT and federal involvement. 1921-1937 Dreaming and building the original AT (NGOs); Benton Mackaye and Myron Avery were leaders in creating and building the AT. In 1925, MacKaye organized the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC), an all volunteer group. Avery, head of the ATC, moved along development efforts. The AT was finally connected as a continuous footpath stretching from Georgia to Maine in 1937, in some areas with CCC assistance. 1938-1968 Seeking better routes (NGOs and USFS/NPS); In 1938, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service sign the "Appalachian Trailway Agreement," providing for a protected strip of land 100 yards on either side of the Trail where it passed through federal government lands, and assistance from the U.S Forest Service and the National Park Service in the construction of shelters along the Trail on their lands. RATC and ATC work with USFS to plan 170-mile relocation in Virginia to USFS land wherever possible. From about 1950 to

1980, the vast majority of male maintainers on the AT were veterans. 1968-1990 Acquiring and building a national trail (federal and state involvement with NGOs); In 1968 The National Trails System Act is signed into law making the AT a national scenic trail under federal protection. With the 1978 National Parks and Recreation Act, NPS land-acquisition project begins in earnest. 1990s-present Protecting the Trail and large landscapes around it. (ATC, NPS USFS) Congress appropriates \$15.1 million to carry combined A.T. land acquisition through 2000, with 15 years of tract-based appropriations to follow. The Appalachian Trail Conference becomes the [Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#) to reflect the top priority of preserving the Trail corridor and its natural and cultural resources. In 2014, a large landscape initiative was launched. In 2015, the McAfee Vista Preserve ~ 850 acres was created.

The 50/50 (Alzheimer's Fund) drawing was won by Reinhard O'Neill. There was no gift basket drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

**Ellie Long**  
Secretary



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2 Gary Kalagian	18 Shirley Basham
7 Suzanne Hamilton	19 Julie English
8 Frances Boatman	20 Del Dyer
9 Elaine Caudill	28 Wanda Parker
12 Phyllis Scruggs	30 Jim Bono
14 Alpha Sue King	

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

6 Rebecca Hale	20 Elaine Drewry
8 Anna Campbell	22 Patricia Horning

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

6 Alta Conner	21 Charles Waybright
7 Joyce Rutledge	26 Jo Ann Dow
12 W. T. Altizer	30 Vada Henshaw
19 Ruth Greene	Claudine Ratcliffe

### IN MEMORIUM

**Charles "Bud" Brinkley** died November 3, 2023. He worked for the US Forest Service, served in the US Army, and worked for the US Army Corp of Engineers. He retired in 2005 with a total of 43 years of service to his country.

**George Chatman Hunt**, 93, of Roanoke, passed away on April 15, 2024. In 1948 he joined the Air Force where he learned the trade of electronics and served in Korea. He worked for the FAA using his skill of electronics for many years.

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED  
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 111  
P O BOX 12703  
ROANOKE VA 24027-2703**

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**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	<b>vacant</b>
Service Officer	Mark Fisher (540) 772-0984

**NEXT NARFE MEETING**

**Friday, August 2, 2024**

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

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

**SPEAKER  
Cindy Markham  
VirginiaNavigator**

**TOPIC  
Caregivers**

**Information on  
Transportation Options**