

NARFE Peninsula Chapter 682 – HI-LITES

June 6, 2024

Meeting: Monday, June 10, 2024

Brittingham Midtown Community Center

SPEAKER: Bob Estremera, Literacy for Life

Bring a Friend or Family Member!

President's Message Mike Thurber, 803-651-4374

Hello Everyone! Hope you all had a great Memorial Day Weekend. Next up is 4th of July. We all need to remember the 101 critical days of summer. Be safe when driving around for the summer. Watch out for the crazys out there. Be safe, drink plenty of water, stay hydrated. We are getting into the 90 degree weather so use your sun screen, eye protection, and wear a hat for the sun. Gardeners watch out for the critters in the yard. I know I got attacked mowing the lawn in my shorts a few years back in my leg by a vole. I had never heard of them before. They look like a furry ping pong ball, he pops up out of the grass and nailed me. Few days later went to express med and got a tetanus shot. Think the critter was ticked off because I was running over his home with my mower. So be SAFE out there. Thanks and enjoy the summer. Bring a friend to our meeting on the 10th.

Treasurer's Report - Maggie Keator 757-812-0127

On May 31, 2024, the account balance was \$3270.11. No receipts or disbursements.

National Legislation

NARFE's 9 current issues – Long Term Care Relief; Social Security Fairness Act of 2023 (HR 82); Equal COLA Act {HR 866/S3194}; Federal Retirement Fairness Act (FREA) for Equal Retirement Benefits {HR 5995}; Saving the Civil Service Act (prevent Schedule F) {HR1002/S399}; Expand Federal Employer Paid Leave {HR 856/S7225}; Accurate Seniors' COL Adjustments {HR716}. **Note: this Congress enacted 27 public laws in 2023 and 37 (up from 24 last month) so far in 2024 (no private laws passed) – not much action on our issues (or anyone else's). It is on track to become one of the least productive in US history. Go to narfe.org and sign-up for the legislative alerts! It takes just a few minutes!**

NARFE does urge us to write/contact our US Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine to support a Merit Based Civil Service (HR1001/S399) – this legislation would safeguard our civil service system – selected based on merit rather than based on political affiliation.

NARFE-PAC

Help protect your retirement security by contributing to NARFE-PAC today.

The form is in your monthly NARFE Magazine.

WEP/GPO UPDATE

The House Problem Solvers Caucus now backs WEP/GPO (HR82) bipartisan support – equal number of Rs and Ds have signed.

If you haven't said thank you – please contact your house member - the 9 Virginia House members who have signed on to HR82 (WEP/GPO):

Abigail Spanberger (D VA7) Gerald Connolly (D VA 11) Jennifer Wexton (D VA10) **Rob Wittman (R VA1) Bobby Scott (D VA3)** Don Beyer (D VA8) Jennifer Kiggans (R VA2) Jennifer McClellan (D VA4) Ben Cline (R VA6)

The two who have not signed on: Bob Good (R VA5) and Morgan Griffin (R VA9)

Headlines that should encourage you to stay with NARFE and help increase our membership:

[DOL Finalizes Retirement Security Rule, Enhancing Protections for Federal Retirees](#)

[Urgent Call to Action: Support the Repeal of WEP/GPO Following Key Congressional Hearing](#)

[NARFE Advocates for Repeal of WEP/GPO at House Ways and Means Hearing](#)

[OPM Finalizes Rule to Protect Civil Servants from Schedule F Reemergence](#)

NARFE Chapter 682 Meeting Notes – May 13, 2024

The Chapter met at Midtown CC in Newport News at 10:30am with eight members in attendance. Joyce Rosser provided treats and beverages for our social time before the meeting. Mike Thurber, President, called the meeting to order; Sylvia Rumsey gave an invocation; and Mike led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike gave an overview of the Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) 2024 annual meeting and conference held April 7-10 in Harrisonburg, VA. Approximately 150 were present; theme of the conference was “Together We Will Succeed.” Day one there were many speeches beginning with welcoming words from VFN President Frances Boatman, Harrisonburg’s Mayoral representative, and a video from the Honorable Senator Tim Kaine. Donna Shackelford, VFN Alzheimer’s Chair, introduced guest speaker Brooke Gill, Alzheimer’s Association Central and Western Virginia Chapter. Frances Boatman gave her President’s Report and History of NARFE. VFN Past President and now National President Bill Shackelford was introduced and spoke to the group. Nominations for 2025 officers were called for and ballots cast. Afternoon guest speaker Audiologist Kelsey Trinkka’s topic was “Hearing Loss, Communication, and Solutions.” Breakout workshops addressed hearing

screening, wellness, household downsizing and decluttering, Road's Scholar, German POWs in the USA, parliamentary procedures, navigating the VFN website, and new members and first timers. There were 15 exhibitors—the most ever—and an Alzheimer's silent auction and raffle. BCBS sponsored an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres in early evening.

On Tuesday morning ballot results were announced and officers elected. Keynote speaker, the Honorable Ben Cline, U.S. House of Representatives, was introduced. He is one of the co-sponsors of the WEP/GPO repeal bill. (See May newsletter comments by Mike concerning this bill and the Merit Promotion System.) Afternoon speakers were Philip L. Frana, Ph.D., who spoke on "Deep Tech for Good: AI for Sustainability and Prosperity" and Edna Reid, Ph.D., whose topic was "Cyber Security for Seniors." Both are professors at James Madison University (JMU). Evening banquet included installation of officers, special presentations, and musical entertainment.

Wednesday brought Alzheimer's awards and drawings and introduction of NARFE Region X Vice President Robert Allen and Missy Groppe, VFN Conference Chair, Area VII Vice President, and professor at JMU, who introduced guest speaker Timothy Walton, Ph.D., also from JMU, who spoke on "A Perspective on Intelligence: The CIA, Past and Future." President Boatman introduced Nora MacDonald, Director, NARFE Member Engagement, who spoke about membership engagement. Conference adjourned at noon.

Next year's conference will also be at the Madison Hotel in Harrisonburg, so plan now to attend. It will be a worthwhile experience as you learn more about our relationship with other chapters and connection to the VFN. Besides, there are a lot of great restaurants in Harrisonburg!

Business Meeting:

Treasury has an April 30 balance of \$3270.11; total membership is 175; Mike stated WEP/GPO repeal bill is still in committee; two board positions of First VP (Programs) and Second VP (newsletter) need volunteers; no new status on Zoom meetings; we have started our 70th Mile of Pennies; Walk to End Alzheimer's is Oct 19; only one ticket was sold for raffle and donated to Alzheimer's as was \$20 from Shirley Taylor.

Announcements:

June 10 meeting guest speaker will be Bob Estremera speaking on Literacy for Life.

Marie Collins' 100th birthday will be August 9. For birthday cards, please send to 1028 Topping Lane, Room 29, Hampton, VA 23666-1922.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Rumsey, Substitute Secretary

Virginia Legislation

Copies of the VFN State Legislative Plan will be available at our June meeting.

As the Administrator of the VFN NARFE PAC, the State Legislation Committee seeks your opinion regarding candidates we should support with our dollars and ensure that we have a real voice in the state legislature. Please check the VFN website regularly as we respond to legislation that is important to you. State Legislative Chair Deborah Brown browndebbieb20@aol.com

VFC-PAC Consider donating to our state PAC for General Assembly Candidates. Contribution forms will be available at the next meeting.

Our chapter representation on the VFN Board is **MARILYN RIDDLE**, AREA I VICE PRESIDENT.
HER CONTACT INFO:

mriddle@cox.net

682 Newport News 1757 Gloucester
685 Williamsburg 1823 Northern Neck

Miles of Pennies

We have started our 70th Mile! Under the guidance of Marie Collins, Chapter 682 began saving pennies in 1999. When we completed the 69th Mile, **Chapter 682 had contributed \$32,947.40** to help NARFE reach our \$16M Alzheimer's Research Program goal. Save those pennies! **Please send any checks for our penny fundraiser to the Treasurer, Maggie Keator, 301 Burnham Place, Newport News VA 23606. Please note Alzheimer's Research in the memo line. Call Maggie (757-812-0127) or Shirley Taylor (757-349-1677) if you need someone to pick-up your donation!**

Peninsula Alzheimer's Walk 2024

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024

NEWPORT NEWS/WILLIAMSBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

You can make donations for the 2024 walk by going to the website: act.alz.org/site – search for NARFE Chapter 682.

July speaker: Gary Sherman: a personal story of the work of Shriners' Hospitals

Calendar

Chapter Meetings: 2024 (usually 2nd Mondays – note *changes)

May 13, June 19, July 8, September 9, October 14, *November 18

10am social, 10:30am program – Brittingham Midtown Community Center

Luncheon Meetings: August 12 and December 9 - time and location TBA

Board Meetings:– Northampton Library, Big Bethel Road – 10-11am (open to all members) usually first Monday of each month – note *for changes: **June, July and August – the Board will meet for Breakfast**

June 3 (Monty's Pengiun), July 2 (Tommy's Restaurant), Aug 5 (Aromas NN City Center) , *Sep 3, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2

VFN Annual Conference – April 2025 date tba, Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg VA

FedCon24 – August 18-20, 2024, St. Louis MO