

NARFE Peninsula Chapter 682 – HI-LITES

July-August Edition

July 6, 2024

July Meeting: Monday, July 8, 2024

Brittingham Midtown Community Center

JULY SPEAKER: Gary Sherman, Chairman, Membership & Marketing, Khedive Temple, Chesapeake – a personal story of the work of Shriners’ Hospitals

*******AUGUST LUNCHEON*******

Monday, August 12th 11:30am-1pm @ The Arbors in Port Warwick Cost \$18.00

INVITED SPEAKER: CONGRESSMAN BOBBY SCOTT (D-VA3)

Entrée: Lemon Pesto Salmon with Fried Shrimp and Herb Roasted Chicken with Bacon Herb Gravy

RSVP TO Joyce Rosser (757-897-1024) or Sylvia Rumsey (757-951-3858) BY AUGUST 5, 2024

Bring a Friend, Potential Member or Family Member!

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

Well, I hope everyone had a great 4th of July holiday. It was certainly hot enough. The fireworks were great. A good time to reflect on our shared democracy and its founding and origins. As Ben Franklin said a long time ago, democracy is great, if, we can keep it. In the last 248 years it has certainly been worth keeping, despite all the trials and tribulations the country has gone through we are still stronger than ever. We need to keep that spirit alive. The summer Olympics are coming up in a few weeks and it looks to be an exciting time for the good old USA. Have been watching some of the qualifying trials and we already have a number of new world records being established. Keep that spirit going and there is nothing we cannot overcome. Thanks, Mike Thurber, President Chapter 682 Newport News, Va.

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

On June30, 2024, the account balance was \$2294.48 (deposits: \$140 Alz pennies; drafts: \$313.25 VFN dues, \$802.38 NARFE ALZ Research).

National Legislation

This Congress enacted 27 public laws in 2023 and 39 (up from 37 last month) so far in 2024 (no private laws passed) – not much final action on our issues (or anyone else’s). 15,986 bills and resolutions have been introduced in this Congress. On average about 7% become law (1,119). This is not your average Congress. 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!

Support the Social Security Fairness Act, S. 597 Mark-up by the Senate Finance Committee

There has been significant progress in the fight to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). The House Ways and Means Committee held hearings on this issue back in November and most recently in April. Now, the Senate has taken a crucial step with S. 597 by holding a field hearing in June. This is an important moment for us to push Senate Finance Committee members to advance S. 597 and schedule a "mark-up" (a meeting to advance legislation) of the bill following the hearing.

Urge your Senators to push the Senate Finance Committee to advance S. 597, with a favorable recommendation, to the floor. This is an essential next step towards rectifying these inequitable provisions. At this time, our Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner are **NOT** co-sponsors. **Personalize your letter, explaining how you are affected by WEP and/or GPO. A personal story from a constituent goes a long way to gaining support.**

Your advocacy has been instrumental in getting us to this point.

NARFE-PAC

How does NARFE determine who received PAC funding?

Headquarters follows a consultative process prior to making PAC contributions to candidates. Federation NARFE-PAC coordinators are asked to provide a recommendation on candidates, after discussion with affected chapter NARFEPAC chairs and members. The process is explained in the following text. Overview NARFE-PAC seeks recommendations from federation NARFE-PAC coordinators prior to contributing NARFE-PAC funds to congressional candidates. The NARFE-PAC Board considers the recommendations, among other factors, when making final decisions for allocating NARFE-PAC funds. **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

NARFE Celebrates Exceeding \$16 Million Alzheimer's Fundraising Goal

NARFE Welcomes Largest Federal Employee Raise in 4 Decades (2023)

NARFE Disappointed With Biden's 2% Pay Raise Proposal (2024)

OPM Finalizes Rule to Protect Civil Servants from Schedule F Reemergence

NARFE Chapter 682 Meeting Notes – June 10, 2024

The Chapter met at Midtown CC in Newport News at 10:30 a.m. with eleven 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 introduced Bob Estremera, Director of Development for Literacy for Life.

Mr. Estremera gave a very informative overview of the nonprofit Literacy for Life. The organization began in 1975 by educators at the College of William and Mary who realized there were employees they knew who struggled with literacy. They started with the basic 3 Rs—reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. They needed basic educational skills for success in life and the work force. Today students also learn functional literacy: how to manage money, read and understand medical tests, write resumes, and use computers and the internet. They do this through programs of several organizations which are shared in small classes and one-on-one instruction by volunteer tutors. This brings together a diversity of people and cultures working together to further individuals' education for better employment, fulfillment, and community involvement.

He stated that low literacy costs us all when people are underemployed, can't help their children with schoolwork, miss educational opportunities, have higher health care costs, and/or live in poverty. He relayed that a mother's reading skills are the greatest determinate of her children's academic success and that 43 million Americans cannot read above the third grade level.

He showed videos of two successful students and stated that when people further their learning they become productive, inspired citizens in the community and are prepared for a better future. He said they "teach them how to elevate themselves" and how to "dream big." Students also often break generational cycles, i.e., a woman who learned to budget and save was then encouraging her son and grandson to do the same so they could see an earlier retirement date.

In Williamsburg there are a possible 11,000 people who need this service; currently there are 700-800 students. Last Summer a Peninsula site was opened and is serving 275 learners out of a possible 31,000 in our community who could benefit from this learning. They are always in need of tutors, each of whom would go through orientation and training before being matched with a student. Current tutors say it is most rewarding and that they love what they do. As a nonprofit, in addition to tutors they always need funds and would welcome financial contributions. For further information on the organization and how you might help, go to [Literacy for Life.org](http://LiteracyforLife.org).

Business Meeting: Treasury has a May 31 balance of \$3270.11; total membership is 174; Joyce Rosser reported the death of Iris Folkes Layton; Mike stated there is some movement in the WEP/GPO repeal bill; two board positions of First VP (Programs) and Second VP (newsletter) still need volunteers; Shirley Taylor reported donations of \$61 to Alzheimer's; raffle resulted in \$11 to Alzheimer's plus \$10 donated by the two raffle winners Audrey Williams and Mike Thurber.

Announcements:

July 8 meeting guest speaker will be Gary Sherman, who will be sharing a personal story of the work of Shriners' hospitals.

August 12 meeting will be a luncheon at The Arbors. Prepare to sign up at July meeting.

Marie Collins' 100th birthday will be August 9. For birthday cards, please send to 1028 Topping Lane, Room 29, Hampton, VA 23666-1922 before August 2 when her family will be here to celebrate.

National FedCon will be in St. Louis August 18-20.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Rumsey, Substitute Secretary

State Legislation

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 browndebbie20@aol.com

VFC-PAC Consider donating to our state PAC for General Assembly Candidates. Contribution forms and copies of the VFN State Legislative Plan will be available at our next meeting.

State Federation Contact Information

Our chapter representation on the VFN Board is **MARILYN RIDDLE**, AREA 1 VP. 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.

August speaker: Invited: Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-VA3)

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

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 Aug 5 (Schlesinger's Steakhouse) , *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