



APPR 07/15/24

Minutes 2024 Conference All Member Meeting  
Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg, VA  
April 8 - 10, 2024

In accordance with Virginia Federation of NARFE Bylaws ("VFN") the Annual Member Meeting was called to order at 9:10 am, April 8, 2024, by President Boatman after a brief AV delay. Sgt-at-Arms Bails called for Presentation of the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, and National Anthem by Brittany Weiler & Deena Gakos. Invocation given by Ora McCoy followed by a warm welcome by President Boatman. She indicated that it is an honor to have each and every one present as we begin the next few days activities that have been carefully designed by the Conference Committee to give networking, educational, and fellowship opportunities that are of interest to all. The team was recognized for their efforts to work together and produce the wonderful event that we will all enjoy in the next few days.

Eddie Baumbaugh, Director of Public Relations for Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center welcomed everyone to the fairly new facility located amid James Madison University. Built for small groups and visiting college families, it seems to be the right fit for our group. The brief history of the facility gave comfort that the Conference Discovery Team selected the perfect venue for our conference.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President McIlwee introduced past VFN Presidents who were in attendance were, Kathy Arpa, Dr. Constance Bails, Ann Collins, Robert Martin, Leslie Ravenell, Luther Santiful, and William Shackelford. In addition, our former past president, William Shackelford is the current National NARFE President. We were also pleased that our Region Vice President, Robert Allen was able to join us.

Secretary Fisk gave the Roll Call of Officers and in accordance with the VFN Bylaws Article VI – Annual Meeting – Section 6 - Quorum, a quorum was established, and the meeting proceedings began. President Boatman announced changes to the Program Book. Registration Chair Bowman reported that there were 104 Chapter Members, 2 NARFE HQ's, 6 National Only, and 2 Guests present for a total of 114 attendees. Sgt-at-Arms Bails presented the "Meeting Standing Rules." Committee Chair Groppe presented the Program Book and President Boatman acknowledged a MOTION from the floor and hearing no objections the MOTION was adopted.

Vendors participating in the conference were recognized by Dr. C. Bails and T.Pasek. Please refer to the Program Book which can be found on the [vanarfe.org](http://vanarfe.org) website for a complete list. A short video recording sent by the Honorable Senator Timothy Kaine was presented wishing all attendees a successful and rewarding conference.

President Boatman and Treasurer Rachele gave standard reports on the condition of the VFN. Specific information is contained in minutes as published on the website, [vanarfe.org](http://vanarfe.org).

Alzheimer's Chair Shackelford introduced Brooke Gill, Senior Program Manager Alzheimer's Association Central and Western Virginia Chapter. Ms. Gill's presentation was down to earth, with specific

information on the struggles one usually encounters in dealing with a person with dementia. President Boatman gave a presentation on the History of NARFE.

Secretary Fisk reported on the current VFN Voting Procedures followed by Nominating Committee Chair Santiful's report. The 2023-2024 Nominating Report sent a slate as follows:

President – Frances E. Boatman  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – J.Larry McILwee & Deborah O. Fisk  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Patricia Wolfe  
Secretary – Doris McAdams  
Treasurer – James Little

President Boatman recognized each officer position and asked for nominees from the floor. Hearing no one for President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, the candidates listed above were officially elected by acclamation as the 2024 – 2025 Virginia Federation of NARFE officers to take office July 1, 2024. There were no additional nominees from the floor for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and President Boatman referred the names J.Larry McILwee and Deborah O. Fisk to the Ballot & Teller Committee.

Bylaw Chair Little presented the Bylaw Amendments that were received during the past year. Please refer to the complete statement online at <https://vanarfe.org/elections-2/proposed-bylaw>. However, in general:

Article IX, Section 2 – Eliminate Tenure Limitation on Bylaws Committee Members  
Article IX, Section 4 – Eliminate Tenure Limitation on Nominating Committee Members  
Article XI, Section 1,A – Bylaws Changes Proposal Submission Date Change

Immediate Past President Martin introduced the NARFE National President and former VFN President William Shackelford as our Keynote Speaker. President Shackelford traced the history of NARFE, current struggles and future growth. Membership is key in the coming years. His administration has worked to find energetic staff and to implement innovative ideas that are commensurate with today's changing market.

Area X Vice President Pasek introduced Kelsey Trinko, Au.D, an audiologist at Hearing Associates of Northern Virginia. She emphasized the importance of hearing tests and gave an overview of technology that can help each of us in the unfortunate occurrence that we may experience hearing loss.

Monday afternoons are reserved for Work Shops and there were several to choose from. Members had an opportunity to select two 45-minute workshops from a list of seven available. Following the afternoon workshops the Area Caucus Meetings were held. Area Caucus meetings are a great way for areas to interact, ask questions, and share information. Per our VFN Bylaws an election can take place at this caucus meeting (presumably there are a sufficient number of members present to represent the Area adequately) or an area meeting can be called by the current Area Vice President after the Conference. At the Area Caucus Meeting a primary and alternate member should be selected to serve on the Nominating Committee. Information from this meeting should be sent to the Secretary.

The Welcome Reception was enjoyed by all for the evening.

President Boatman reconvened the meeting at 9:00 am, Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Registration Chair Bowman reported that there were 104 Chapter Members, 2 NARFE National Members, 6 National Only,

and 2 Guests for a total of 114 attendees. Secretary Fisk announced the results forwarded her from the Area Vice Presidents as follows:

	2024-25 Vice President
Area I	Marilyn Riddle
Area II	Betty Warren
Area III	Wynn Hasty
Area IV	Graylin Taylor
Area VII	Ruth Greene
Area VIII	Bob Martin
Area IX	Carol Campbell
Area x	Ted Pasek
	Nominating Committee 2024 – 2025
Area, I	Carol Brown John Hodges
Area II	Margie Mitchell Joe Murray
Area III	Marjorie Dixon Rosa DeWitt
Area IV	Edgar Owens June Staton
Area VII	Phyllis Scruggs Caroline Tucker
Area VIII	Lorie Henderson Leslie Ravenell
Area IX	John Bankson
Area X	Pat Myers

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Wolfe introduced the Program Chairs: Alzheimer's – D.Shackelford, Membership – F.Boatman, National Legislation – G.Gianni, Public Relations – D.McAdams, and State Legislation – D.Brown. There is currently an opening for a Service Officer. Please contact 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Wolfe if you have an interest in learning more about leadership roles on the board of directors. We have a capable but very over-worked Membership Chair so there would be much appreciation for another person to join her team.

Electronic Communications Chair Bails introduced her team and with much appreciation for their hard work during the year they were presented a Certificate of Appreciation. Recognized were F.Boatman, K.Arpa, T.Pasek, J.Bails, S.Palen, D.Fisk, F.Sansone, D.Brown, W.Levenston, C.Graunke, E.Long, J.Bankson, and N.Palmerino.

Ora McCoy presided over our Annual Memorial Ceremony. We gather annually to honor and remember members who died in 2023. Taking a moment to reflect on their lives, their impact on our lives, and the memories we hold dear. We were also privileged to have two exceptional musicians participate in the ceremony, Larry McIlwee, soloist and Mark Arpa, Violinist. With great reverence our membership paid their respects during this memorial ceremony.

9<sup>th</sup> District CDL, Vinci introduced the Honorable Ben Cline, U.S. House of Representative. Representative Cline gave a very cordial and interesting outline of his duties and responsibilities in his service to our government and especially the 6<sup>th</sup> District. He was very careful to explain reservations he had in regard to safeguarding the Social Security Trust for all; but understood the current plight of NARFE in supporting H.R. 82 Repeal of WEP and GPO. He was very aware of our advocacy for this bill and promised to co-sponsor the Bill, which he did promptly upon returning to the Hill. We are very appreciative of Rep. Clines' support.

National Legislation Chair Gianni introduced his team of SL's and CDL's. The 118<sup>th</sup> Congress will be complete on December 31, 2024, and currently NARFE Advocacy is accepting proposals for legislation for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. Currently there is a representative for every District and Senator.

Senator Warner	Charles Kawecki
Senator Kaine	Eddie Eitches
District 1	Marilyn Riddle
District 2	Raymond Orland
District 3	Maggie Keator
District 4	Deborah Fisk
District 5	Joanne Hirsch
District 6	Leon Vinci
District 7	Bob Martin
District 8	Thomas Hart
District 9	Frances Boatman
District 10	Dennis Freeman
District 11	Judy Thorne

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President McIlwee introduced the current Area Vice Presidents.

Area I	Marilyn Riddle
Area II	Betty Warren (interim)
Area III	Wynn Hasty
Area IV	Graylin Taylor
Area VII	Missy Groppe
Area VIII	Bob Martin
Area IX	John Bankson
Area X	Ted Pasek

Electronic Communications Chair Dr. Constance Bails team gave short presentations on websites, social media, zoom and FEDHub.

Conference Chair Groppe introduced Dr. Edna Reid, adjunct professor at James Madison University. Dr. Reid gave a very robust presentation on cyber crime and how each of us is exposed to some sort of dangerous activity every day, usually without even knowing it. She opened our eyes to what to look for and to question everything.

We adjourned into afternoon committee meetings and training. Each Program Chair conducted 45-minute presentations on the work they do and leadership opportunities for anyone who would like to serve.

Tuesday evening and the much-awaited banquet. Dinner was served but Awards were the highlight. President Boatman gave two awards. The VFN Management Award was presented to Stan Palen and the Presidents Leadership Award was presented to Thomas Rachele. Immediate Past President Martin presented Dr. Constance Bails with the 2023 VFN William Martin Management Award. Region Vice President Robert Allen presented an appreciation award to Bob Martin, Past President of the VFN. After dinner a local group, "Little Bear Jazz Trio", was on hand to liven up the party.

The meeting reconvened, Wednesday April 9, 2024, at 9:00 by President Boatman and Registration Chair Bowman reported that there were 105 Chapter Members, 3 NARFE National Members, 6 National Only, and 2 Guests for a total of 116 attendees. Alzheimer's Chair Shackelford pulled the final winners from the drawing and auction. A total recap of the money collected will be presented at the next board meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President McIlwee introduced the Region X Vice President, Robert Allen. VP Allen spoke about current membership strategies, progress on updating the AMS database, policy on allowing federation mergers, advocacy, and dues categories. There continue to be items that need attention but there are also many issues that have been resolved or are on task for completion.

Conference Chair Groppel introduced Dr. Timothy Walton who spoke on "A Perspective on Intelligence: The CIA, Past and Future". He kept us entertained with stories about people we had actually heard of. The interworking of the CIA is classified, and stories are told long after the crisis has been averted. To hear stories from years ago, times when we were involved in the workforce was interesting.

Our final speaker was the much-awaited Nora MacDonald, Director, NARFE Member Engagement. She gave her perspective of what is currently being done to engage and recruit members. She has been with NARFE for 1 year and already we are seeing slight increases. It is incumbent on everyone to actively engage in membership. Never let an opportunity pass to let someone know who we are and how they can join and/or get involved.

In closing, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President McIlwee gave a review of the overall conference attendance before the final closing remarks of President Boatman. Throughout history we have found that great leaders value coming together and finding a common goal, pursuing the mission of NARFE, the only organization solely dedicated to the general welfare of all federal workers and retirees. NARFE delivers valuable guidance, timely resources, and powerful advocacy. With appreciation for everyone who attended and deep gratitude for their continued involvement in NARFE the meeting was adjourned at 12:05.

*Deborah O. Fisk*, VFN Secretary

05/30/2024