



NARFE NEWS

ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 111

2024 OFFICERS

<p>President Frances Boatman (540) 774-3031 feboatman@live.com</p>	<p>1st Vice President Carolyn Tucker (540) 797-5037 ctucker1212@gmail.com</p>	<p>2nd Vice President Karen Simmons (540) 525-1043 ksim285032@aol.com</p>	<p>Secretary Ellie Long (540) 772-0468 lalaw1986@gmail.com</p>	<p>Treasurer Mark Fisher (540) 772-0984 mcfisher2@cox.net</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 FEDHub
 Chapter 111: <https://www.vfn.org/Chapter-111> VFN: www.vanarfe.org
 VFN 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



Urgent! Congress will go back in session on September 9 and have just THREE weeks before breaking for the elections. NARFE's top priority is getting our members to support bringing H.R.82, The Social Security Fairness Act to the floor for a vote by filing a discharge petition. **WE need 218 house members to support the petition. Please contact your Representative and ask them to support the petition.** You can use this link to send a letter to your representative; please add comments if you are impacted by the WEP/GPO. <https://www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/>

NARFE Elections. For more info go to: <https://www.narfe.org/2024-narfe-national-election/>
 You can vote online at: <https://vote.escvote.com/narfe/>
 or mail in the paper ballot in the September 2024 edition of NARFE magazine. Chapter 111 members will vote from among four candidates for President, two for Sec/Treasurer, and two for Region X Vice President. Ranked choice voting will be used for President.

You Write the Bill. Delegate Sam Rasoul is offering his annual "You Write the Bill Workshop" on Tuesday September 24th, 5:30 p.m., at the Melrose Branch Library Community Room. You'll be able to learn about how a bill becomes law here in the Commonwealth, as well as work with others that share your passion to draft bills. All are welcome! The Melrose Branch Library is located at 2502 Melrose Ave NW Suite D, Roanoke VA 24017.

Nominating Committee. Ellie Long will chair the Committee with members Anne Cepeda and Gloria Clark. If you are interested in serving as an officer or program chair in 2025, please let one of them know.

The 2025 VFN Conference will be held in Harrisonburg, VA April 6-9, 2025. If you plan to attend, consider volunteering to help with tasks prior to, or during the Conference.

Celebrate Constitution Day September 17th; view the three part series [A More or Less Perfect Union](#)

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 326 co-sponsors. S.597 has 62 co-sponsors including both Virginia Senators.

On August 7th, Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Social Security, and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), urging them to bring the Social Security Fairness Act, S. 597, to the Senate floor for a vote.

Leon discussed how a bill moves through Congress. When it's introduced, it's assigned to one or more committees. In the House, the speaker typically works with leaders to set the agenda, and decides which bills or resolutions will or won't get a vote. Most legislation originates in committees, which then vote to send bills to the floor for final approval. But lawmakers can "discharge" legislation that's been sitting in committee if 218 members, a majority of the lower chamber, sign a petition to do so, effectively bypassing the speaker to bring a bill before the full House for a vote. NARFE has two "asks" for members regarding H.R.82. The first is to **ask** your representative to vote for the discharge petition. If the discharge petition is successful and H.R.82 comes up for a vote on the full house floor, **ask** your representative to vote yes for approval of the bill.

Saving the Civil Service Act, [H.R.1002/S. 399](#) would prevent the return of Schedule F, a statutory loophole created by the previous administration that would have bypassed the system of rules ensuring civil servants are hired and fired based on merit. H.R.1002 referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability; 53 co-sponsors. S. 399 referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; 17 co-sponsors.

The Equal COLA Act, [H.R.866/S.3194](#), would provide Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees with full cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). By bringing the FERS COLA in line with the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Social Security beneficiary's annual COLA adjustments, this bill would guarantee fair treatment for federal retirees who have dedicated their careers to public service. H.R.86 referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability; 62 co-sponsors. S. 3194 referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; 8 co-sponsors.

The **Boosting Benefits and COLAs for Seniors Act** would direct the Social Security Administration to adjust benefits based on the Consumer Price Index for Americans 62 years of age and older (CPI-E).

In August, several Chapter 111 members attended separate SW VA rallies for Senator Tim Kaine. We thanked him for his support of S.597, the Senate companion bill to H.R.82. One Chapter 111 member attended the annual Buena Vista, VA Labor Day Festival where candidates and elected officials from both major parties were in attendance.

**Bill Ketron
Legislation**



TREASURER'S REPORT

Account as of August 31, 2024
CHAPTER NUMBER 111
Roanoke Valley, Roanoke VA

Beginning Bank balance **\$2443.23**

Receipts

Dues collected \$147.80
Chapter Transfer In \$204.50
Alzheimer's (YTD \$295.00) \$50.00
50/50 - \$23.00
Donations - \$27.00
Total receipts \$402.30

Subtotal \$2845.53

Disbursements

Officer Expenses \$0
Office Expenses \$175.00
FEDCon24 Early Bird Registration
Program Expenses \$0
Alzheimer's \$50.00
Speaker's Lunch \$0
Newsletter \$89.51
Subtotal \$314.51

Total disbursements \$314.51

BANK BALANCE \$2531.02

Total Obligations \$300.00
VFN Registration Reimbursement

Balance on hand for use \$2231.02

**Mark Fisher
Treasurer**

SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES

NARFE Roanoke Valley Chapter 111, Area VII, met on Friday, September 6, 2024 at Jersey Lily's restaurant. Ellie Long, Secretary, conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. with 20 people in attendance. There were no new members or guests. A quorum was present to conduct chapter business.

September birthdays were recognized.

Wanda Ware, Chaplain, discussed the history of Labor Day. She then led us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's minutes for the August 2024 meeting were approved as published, motion made by Don Conner, seconded by Dr. Leon Vinci.

Ellie Long, Secretary, reported one member death. If you carried FEGLI (life insurance) into retirement and you'd like to know the amount left on your policy you can do so by using the Retirement Services online website or by calling OPM.

Ellie gave the August 2024 treasurer's report.

Ellie gave the membership report. Currently there are 151 chapter members. Welcome to new member **Carl R. Williams** who transferred in from the Beaufort, SC chapter.

Ellie reviewed programs. Our October program is the 2025 VFN Legislative Plan with speaker Deborah Brown, VFN State Legislation Chair. A new issue has been added to the Plan: urging the Commonwealth to maintain the higher state standard deduction that is scheduled to end after December 31, 2025. The remaining issues in the 2025 Plan are similar to those in the 2024 Plan. We have invited State Delegates Sam Rasoul and Joe McNamara and State Senators David Suetterlein and Chris Head, all who represent the Roanoke Valley in the General Assembly. Sam Rasoul has responded to our invitation and will be attending; Joe McNamara has responded and is unable to attend. No word yet from the Senators. In November we have our annual FEHBP Open Season session. We usually have a rep from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield and will try to get multiple speakers who represent other plans.

Dr. Leon Vinci, CDL, 6th District, had an informal contact with Congressman Cline just to touch base about NARFE issues.

Ellie gave the President's report.

Ellie discussed the Nominating Committee. Frances, Ellie, and Mark will run again in 2025 for their current positions. Phyllis, Anne, Wanda, Bill, Leon and Mark plan to continue in their Committee Chair positions in 2025 unless someone else is interested. The slate of Officer candidates will be announced at the October meeting.

Ruth Greene mentioned the annual [Roanoke Alzheimer's Walk](#) in Wasena Park at 10AM on September 28th. She's

registered as the [Greene Team](#) and you can join her team or make a donation.

Bill Ketron gave a recap of FEDcon24. [Alex Sheen](#), founder of non-profit, "[because I said I Would](#)" spoke. His father taught him to keep promises and he developed promise cards.

John Hatton, NARFE Staff Vice President, Policy and Programs, spoke on advocacy and what's ahead. 5.5 million Federal employees and retirees make up only 2% of the voting age population. The current climate in Washington with political polarization, more dysfunctional government, and more anti-government sentiment makes it more difficult for NARFE. We must stay non-partisan, use all traditional advocacy methods, promote trust in government, use new technology (social media), and continue to protect earned rights, pay, and benefits of employees and retirees.

Bill attended a workshop, "Best Practices in Chapter and Federation Communications" presented by Jenn Rafael, NARFE HQ Director for Communications. We use Chapter newsletters, e-mails, chapter communities on FEDHub, Social media (Facebook, X, Instagram), websites, advertising in local newspapers, branding, and Microsites (chapter websites on the NARFE platform) to get our mission and message out there.

This was a fully packed conference, with lots of good networking and interaction with members of Chapters and Federations across America and NARFE HQ staff.

Again, Bill and Leon both discussed the importance of contacting your representatives regarding the passage of the discharge petition

The 50/50 (Alzheimer's Fund) drawing was won by Phoebe Schuyler. There was no gift basket drawing.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.
(Ellie went home and took a nap.)

Ellie Long
Secretary



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

14 Daniel Celin

26 Rita Rufty

Birthday information comes from each member. If you would like to add your name to the list, or if anything published is incorrect, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

IN MEMORIUM

Earl W. Davis, 91, of Bedford, VA, died Monday, August 5, 2024. He served in the United States Army and spent a career with the U.S. Postal Service.

We extend our condolences to the family.

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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	vacant
Service Officer	Mark Fisher (540) 772-0984

NEXT NARFE MEETING

Friday, October 4, 2024

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

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

**SPEAKER
Deborah Brown
VFN State Legislation Chair**

**TOPIC
2025 VFN Legislative Plan**