



NARFE NEWS

ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 0111

2024 OFFICERS

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>President Frances Boatman (540) 774-3031 feboatman@live.com</p> | <p>1st Vice President Carolyn Tucker (540) 797-5037 cptucker1212@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 0111: <https://www.vfn.org/Chapter-111> VFN: www.vanarfe.org
 VFN Facebook: [NARFE Virginia Federation | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NARFE-Virginia-Federation/)
 VFN National Legislation Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vfnnatleg>
 VFN State Legislation Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vfnvaleg>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I want to thank everyone for their phone calls, flowers, and cards while I was in the hospital and recuperating at home. I also want to thank Karen and Ellie for presiding at the last two meetings.

Jersey Lily's has closed. We are actively seeking a new meeting space for November. Members with emails will be notified prior to the meeting and the new location will be published in the November newsletter.

2024 Membership Drive Began September 1 and Ends December 31 - Recruiters are awarded \$10 for each new member they recruit. To receive the incentive, the recruiter's membership ID number must be provided on the new member application. (Your membership ID can be found on the mailing label of your NARFE magazine.) To make certain our voices are heard by Congress, we need to strive to increase NARFE membership. To make certain our Chapter stays strong, we need new members as well. Our current membership is 150.

The results of the 2024 NARFE National Election are: National President: William "Bill" Shackelford; National Secretary/Treasurer: Cindy Renee' Blythe; and Regional Vice President - Region X: Robert Allen.

The BC/BS Member Event will be held at the Vinton War Memorial on October 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

2024 Federal Benefits Open Season Dates will run from November 9 through December 14. There's a wealth of information available at <https://www.narfe.org/open-season/>

Webinars:

*To B or Not to B: Is Medicare Part B Right for You?
 Thursday, October 17, 2024, 2:00 p.m. ET

*Open Season Preview w/ FEDVIP
 Thursday, October 24, 2024, 2:00 p.m. ET

VFN training via Zoom is presented on the first and fourth Wednesdays each month. Look for the email announcements in your inbox from VFN President Frances Boatman.

The Chapter 0111 Nominating Committee will present a slate of nominees for election in November. Nominations can also be made from the floor.

Have a Happy Columbus Day and Halloween.

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

The Social Security Fairness Act reached the required 218-signature threshold needed to force a floor vote through a discharge petition. Thanks to our chapter members who contacted their representatives, particularly Congressman Ben Cline who is a bill co-sponsor. While the discharge petition is closed after reaching 218 signatures, members can still cosponsor the bill. A majority of House members has signed the “discharge petition” to bring the bill to a floor vote even though it has not been approved at the committee level, a major development in the years-long effort to repeal those two provisions of Social Security. Once a discharge petition draws a majority of the House as signatories, there is a waiting period of seven legislative days, after which sponsors may request a vote that would have to be held within two legislative days after that. However, the House went into recess before that time and won’t be returning until November 12. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise has committed to bringing the bill up for a vote on the full house floor. A House vote would send the bill to the Senate, where a companion bill has enough sponsors to pass over a filibuster there, but has also remained pending in the committee level. Passage of this bill remains NARFE’s top priority.

**Bill Ketron
Legislation**

State

VFN 2025 State Legislation Plan

Repeal of Sunset Provision for Virginia’s Current Standard Deduction Amounts. For many years the allowable standard deduction for Virginia’s individual income tax was \$3,000 for singles and \$6,000 for married persons filing jointly. Between 2019 and 2024, the General Assembly approved several increases, such that the current amounts are \$8,500/\$17,000. These amounts are subject to a sunset provision whereby they will revert to the pre-2019 levels after January 1, 2026, unless reauthorized by the General Assembly. Two companion bills HB 88 and SB 108 in the 2024 Session of the Virginia General Assembly would have repealed the sunset provision. Both were recommended to be carried over to the 2025 Session by the respective finance committees. In summary, the General Assembly must repeal the sunset provision in current law in order to avoid inflicting significant financial pain on a wide swath of Virginia taxpayers.

Age 65+ Deduction. We urge the General Assembly to amend current tax law for the Age 65+ Deduction by either: 1)

eliminating all income limits in determining qualification for the Age 65+ Deduction or 2) changing the current formula for “Adjusted Federal Adjusted Gross Income” (AFAGI) and increasing the “Income Limits” to more fairly focus on the amount of income received without regard to source of such income. Currently, while all CSRS/FERS annuity and Wage/employment income are included in AFAGI, no Social Security benefits received are included. Our proposal will change (and simplify) the current AFAGI formula to more fairly calculate “qualifying income”: Adjusted Federal Adjusted Gross Income (AFAGI) = Federal Adjusted Gross Income (FAGI) + VA Conformity Additions — VA Conformity Subtractions. Our proposed new Income Limits are comprised of the maximum Social Security Benefit(s) payable in the tax year at issue, e.g. 2024 plus, the current Income Limit(s) of \$50,000 or \$75,000: Single Filers: \$108,476 (\$58,476 + \$50,000) and Married/Joint Filers: \$191,952 (\$116,952 +\$75,000). While the resulting AFAGI as proposed above would now include Taxable Social Security benefits received, those benefits would be offset by the increase to the existing Income Limit(s). With this proposal, “Income” qualifying for the Age 65+ Deduction would be more fairly based on income received rather than dependent on the income source as it is today, and no Single or Married/Joint tax filer currently eligible for the deduction would be excluded.

Exempting a Segment of CSRS Pensions Equivalent to Social Security Retirement.

Under Virginia law, federal Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees are treated unfairly because of the retirement system to which they belong. Specifically, CSRS retirees pay more in Virginia income taxes than their counterparts in the Federal Employees’ Retirement System (FERS) pay because CSRS pensions/annuities are fully taxed at the state level, while Social Security benefits—the major portion of FERS benefits—are not taxed at all by Virginia. Thus, as a result, CSRS retirees pay more in Virginia income taxes than their similarly situated FERS counterparts. This situation is unfair against CSRS retirees. To eliminate the unfairness, we recommend that for CSRS retirees (and survivor annuitants) aged 62 and older, the General Assembly enact a subtraction of 60% of CSRS benefits. (The General Assembly could set a maximum for such subtraction, if it should choose to do so.) Alternatively, tax relief for CSRS retirees could be structured like the military benefit subtraction that Virginia enacted in 2022, which is currently being phased in. We note that several income-tax relief bills were carried over to the 2025 General Assembly. We ask that tax relief for CSRS retirees be considered as well.

Nursing Home Priorities.

Virginia needs to be proactive in addressing the growing needs of our elderly population. Each of these proposals are life-saving and/or life-enhancing legislation: (i) Enact minimum hourly nursing home staffing levels per resident, per day for nurses and nurse’s aides. (ii) Fund the Virginia Center on Aging Geriatric Education Center Initiative, to develop the skills and capacities of the gerontological and geriatric work force. (iii) Provide living wages, overtime pay and training for direct care workers to build a quality cost-effective work force.

OCTOBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES

NARFE Roanoke Valley Chapter 0111, Area VII, met on Friday, October 4, 2024 by Zoom. Frances Boatman, President, conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 2:17 p.m. with 18 people in attendance including our guest speaker and three guests, two who were from Winchester Chapter 0180. A quorum was present to conduct chapter business.

October birthdays were recognized.

Mark Fisher led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's minutes for the September 2024 meeting were approved as published, motion made by Dr. Leon Vinci, seconded by Ruth Greene.

Mark Fisher gave the September 2024 treasurer's report.

Carolyn Tucker, 1st VP, gave the membership report. Currently there are 150 chapter members. **Welcome to new member Nena Morgan.**

Karen Simmons, 2nd VP, will contact our November speaker about our November meeting location.

Ellie has the ["Be Prepared for Life's Events"](#) booklets to distribute when we resume in person meetings.

Frances gave the President's report.

Dr. Leon Vinci, CDL, 6th District, reported on H.R.82.

Ellie Long, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported all current 2024 officers will stand for re-election in 2025; no other candidates have come forward. All current Program Chairs have agreed to continue in their positions in 2025. Thank you!!

Our guest speaker was Deborah Brown, VFN Legislative Chair. She discussed the VFN 2025 Legislative Plan.

Elaina Corfield, Legislative Aid, for Delegate Sam Rasoul (D-District 38) attended and discussed his legislative priorities.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Ellie Long
Secretary



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Gloria Clark
5 Don Conner

19 Ken Redheffer
28 J. C. Taylor



The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) offers disaster relief grants to eligible federal employees when these disasters strike. FEEA has given over 14,000 grants since 1986, for wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters, as well as for groceries, fuel, and diapers during the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Account as of September 30, 2024
CHAPTER NUMBER 0111
Roanoke Valley, Roanoke VA

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Beginning Bank balance | \$2531.02 |
| Receipts | |
| Dues collected | \$89.88 |
| Chapter Transfer In | \$0 |
| Alzheimer's (YTD \$374.00) | \$59.00 |
| 50/50 - \$32.00 | |
| Donations - \$27.00 | |
| Personal checks passed through not deposited | \$20.00 |
| Total receipts | \$148.88 |
| Subtotal | \$2679.90 |
| Disbursements | |
| Officer Expenses | \$0 |
| Office Expenses | \$0 |
| Program Expenses | \$0 |
| Alzheimer's | \$59.00 |
| Speaker's Lunch | \$0 |
| Newsletter | \$92.66 |
| Subtotal | \$151.66 |
| Total disbursements | \$151.66 |
| BANK BALANCE | \$2528.24 |
| Total Obligations | \$300.00 |
| VFN Registration Reimbursement | |
| Balance on hand for use | \$2228.24 |

Mark Fisher
Treasurer

**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 0111
P O BOX 12703
ROANOKE VA 24027-2703**

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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, November 1, 2024

**Jersey Lily's has closed. We are
looking for a new meeting place.**

SPEAKER

**Morgan Canterbury Bowles
Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield**

TOPIC

2024 FEHB Open Season