



# NARFE NEWS

## ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 0111



### 2024 OFFICERS

|  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b><u>President</u></b><br/> <b>Frances Boatman</b><br/>                 (540) 774-3031<br/> <a href="mailto:feboatman@live.com">feboatman@live.com</a></p> | <p><b><u>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</u></b><br/> <b>Carolyn Tucker</b><br/>                 (540) 797-5037<br/> <a href="mailto:ctucker1212@gmail.com">ctucker1212@gmail.com</a></p> | <p><b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</u></b><br/> <b>Karen Simmons</b><br/>                 (540) 525-1043<br/> <a href="mailto:ksim285032@aol.com">ksim285032@aol.com</a></p> | <p><b><u>Secretary</u></b><br/> <b>Ellie Long</b><br/>                 (540) 772-0468<br/> <a href="mailto:lalaw1986@gmail.com">lalaw1986@gmail.com</a></p> | <p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b><br/> <b>Mark Fisher</b><br/>                 (540) 772-0984<br/> <a href="mailto:mcfisher2@cox.net">mcfisher2@cox.net</a></p> |
|--|---|--|---|--|

TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR OPM: 1-888-767-6738 (M-F, 7:40 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

**Websites:** NARFE: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) [FEDHub](http://FEDHub)  
Chapter 0111: <https://www.vfn.org/Chapter-111> VFN: [www.vanarfe.org](http://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



**2024 was an eventful year** for our Chapter with informative programs on Newspapers, Medicare & Social Security, The Brain and its Development, Gainsboro Library, Appalachian Trail, Virginia Navigator, Recap from our members attending FEDCon24, State Legislative Plan, FEHB Open Season, and our Holiday Luncheon.

**Jersey Lily’s Restaurant** closed two days before our October meeting, but we met via Zoom. We are fortunate that Olive Garden has an available room for our meetings now.

**NARFE National Elections** in September with William “Bill” Shackelford of Virginia our newly re-elected National President. We look forward to his continued leadership.

**Membership Drives** in October at the Roanoke Post Office, Carrier Annex, and Anthem BC/BS Health Fair at Vinton War Memorial. Thank you to all who helped.

**Election of Officers for 2025** was held in November and they were installed by VFN Area VII Vice President Ruth Greene in December at our Holiday Luncheon. Secretary Ellie Long

maintains our records, keeps us informed and issues a great newsletter each month, Treasurer Mark Fisher maintains our financial records, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Carolyn Tucker maintains our Membership, and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Karen Simmons (along with Ellie Long and Anne Cepeda) schedules great speakers for our monthly program. Chaplain Wanda Ware gives us inspiration, Bill Ketron updates legislative issues, Mark Fisher serves as Service Officer, and Phyllis Scruggs collects our Alzheimer’s.

**Thank you** to those who served as officers and committee chairs, as well as members who worked behind the scenes in 2024, and to all members who attend the meetings and support our Chapter. I look forward to continue working with each of you in 2025. Together we will succeed.

**Virginia Federation of NARFE’s 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2025** will be celebrated at our Annual Meeting and Conference April 6 – 9, 2025 at Hotel Madison, Harrisonburg, VA. Hopefully, you will be able to attend.

**Happy Holidays!**

**Frances E. 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 had 330 co-sponsors. S.597 has 62 co-sponsors including both Virginia Senators.

On November 12, we witnessed a historic moment with the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, to repeal the windfall elimination provision (WEP) and the government pension offset (GPO), passing the House with overwhelming majority 327-75. Now it's essential that we keep our advocacy strong in working to have S.597 be brought to the Senate floor. Only seven legislative days remain in the current session of Congress. If the senate bill doesn't come to the floor for a vote, or doesn't pass if it does, we start all over in a new 119<sup>th</sup> Congress and a new administration. None of the legislators in the House and Senate who introduced the bills in each chamber will be returning in the next congress.

The momentum for repealing WEP and GPO is strong. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are calling on Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to schedule a vote on the bill that would expand Social Security benefits to roughly 2.8 million retirees. Schumer, a Democrat and cosponsor of the legislation, could invoke a Senate rule that would skip a committee hearing and send the bill directly to a floor vote by the full Senate. "With just eight legislative days remaining in the 118th Congress, Sen. Schumer, a cosponsor of Senate bill S.597, must now step up and take action.

In an impassioned speech, Louisiana Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy called on Schumer to schedule a vote, saying lawmakers would approve the legislation. "If Schumer brings it up, it'll pass," Cassidy stated of the bill.

If you haven't already done so, please go to <https://www.narfe.org/advocacy/legislative-action-center/> and ask Senators Kaine and Warner to support bringing the bill to a floor and voting for its passage.

A copy of the slide presentation **VFN National Legislative Program: Update & Challenges** presented by VFN National Legislation Chair Gaston Gianni, was emailed to chapter members

**Bill Ketrone  
Legislation**



Thank you to our members who generously brought gifts for Catawba Hospital patients. Thank you to Wanda Ware for delivering them.



## **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

NARFE Chapter 111 will not meet when **either** the Roanoke City or Roanoke County Schools are closed because of hazardous road conditions due to snow or ice.



### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Account as of November 30, 2024  
CHAPTER NUMBER 111  
Roanoke Valley, Roanoke VA

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Beginning Bank balance                             | <b>\$2435.58</b> |
| <b>Receipts</b>                                    |                  |
| Dues collected                                     | \$0              |
| (Due to AMS Update)                                |                  |
| Alzheimer's (YTD \$429.00)                         | \$55.00          |
| 50/50 - \$31                                       |                  |
| Donations - \$24                                   |                  |
| Personal Checks passed through not deposited - \$0 |                  |
| December Luncheon                                  | \$525.00         |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                              | <b>\$580.00</b>  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                    | <b>\$3015.58</b> |
| <b>Disbursements</b>                               |                  |
| Office Expenses                                    | \$232.00         |
| P.O. Box rental                                    |                  |
| Program Expenses                                   | \$500.00         |
| Luncheon Deposit                                   |                  |
| Alzheimer's  | \$55.00          |
| Speaker's Lunch                                    | \$0              |
| Newsletter   | \$92.66          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                                    | <b>\$879.66</b>  |
| <b>Total disbursements</b>                         | <b>\$879.66</b>  |
| <b>BANK BALANCE</b>                                | <b>\$2135.58</b> |
| <b>Total Obligations</b>                           | \$300.00         |
| VFN Registration Reimbursement                     |                  |
| <b>Balance on hand for use</b>                     | <b>\$1835.58</b> |

**Mark Fisher  
Treasurer**

## DECEMBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES

NARFE Roanoke Valley Chapter 0111, Area VII, met on Friday, December 6, 2024 at Holiday Inn Tanglewood. Frances Boatman, President, conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:48 p.m. with 24 people in attendance. A quorum was present to conduct chapter business.

December birthdays were recognized.

Wanda Ware, Chaplain, led us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's minutes for the November 2024 meeting were approved as amended. Motion made by Gloria Clark, seconded by Ruth Greene. Motion approved.

Ellie Long, Secretary, reported two member deaths. We had one member this year who received a Distinguished Service Certificate for 20 years of continuous chapter membership; congratulations to Bruce Anderson!

Ellie gave the November 2024 treasurer's report and an update on Mark. She has "Be Prepared for Life's Events" booklets available for those who want one.

Carolyn Tucker, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, gave the membership report. Currently there are 147 chapter members.

Karen Simmons, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, discussed programs for 2025. Working with Anne Cepeda and Ellie, we are planning new programs and speakers in 2025 along with a few familiar faces and topics.

Bill Ketron gave the Legislation report.

Frances gave the President's report.

Four of our five 2025 officers were sworn in by Area VII VP Ruth Greene; Frances Boatman, President; Carolyn Tucker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Karen Simmons, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; and Ellie Long, Secretary. Frances will swear in Mark Fisher, Treasurer at a later date.



Following the business meeting, we began our holiday activities. Unfortunately, our pianist was home with the stomach flu so no musical games this year.

Jane Compton won the candy jar contest coming closest without going over how many Hershey's kisses were in the jar. She guessed 122; there were 132!

Drawings were held for poinsettias. Winners included Ruth Greene, Phyllis Scruggs, Linda Watson, Sue Bowyer, Joanne Hawley, Anne Cepeda, Frances Boatman, Phoebe Schuyler, Anna Yu, Ellie Long, and Bill Ketron.

Members sitting at this table were the big winners of the day taking home the candy jar and three poinsettias.



A big thank you goes out to Karen Simmons for organizing our holiday activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

**Ellie Long**  
Secretary



### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 6 Paul Swecker   | 17 Fryda Powell   |
| 13 Maxine Joiner | 23 Rae Magee      |
| Sue Bowyer       | 25 Bruce Anderson |

### IN MEMORIUM

**Evelyn Irene Spurlock**, 96, of Roanoke, died September 16, 2024. As a young lady she moved to Washington DC and then to Alexandria, VA where she started her career with the Federal Government where she worked at the Pentagon for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Department of Defense before retiring from the Department of Commerce.

**Anna (Ann) Katherine Dodson Campbell**, 97, of Salem, died Saturday, November 2, 2024. She earned her living in the field of healthcare for many years as a Radiology Technician eventually retiring from the Salem VA Medical Center

We extend our condolences to the families.

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED  
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 111  
P O BOX 12703  
ROANOKE VA 24027-2703

NON-PROFIT  
U. S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT NO. 419  
ROANOKE VA

## 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 | <b>vacant</b>   |
| Service Officer          | Mark Fisher     |

## NEXT NARFE MEETING

**Friday, January 3, 2025**

**OLIVE GARDEN  
1925 Valley View Blvd., NW  
Roanoke, VA 24012**

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

**SPEAKER  
Ernie Dale  
Roanoke Tours, Inc.**

**TOPIC  
Travel Changes Everybody  
2025 Bus Tours**