



NARFE NEWS

ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 0111

2025 OFFICERS

<p><u>President</u> Frances Boatman (540) 774-3031 feboatman@live.com</p>	<p><u>1st Vice President</u> Carolyn Tucker (540) 797-5037 cptucker1212@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>2nd Vice President</u> Karen Simmons (540) 525-1043 ksim285032@aol.com</p>	<p><u>Secretary</u> Ellie Long (540) 772-0468 lalaw1986@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Treasurer</u> 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



With the passage of The Social Security Fairness Act in the House and Senate, this is the perfect time to recruit new members for NARFE. We can point to this legislative success to demonstrate the power and effectiveness of our organization on Capitol Hill. There is strength in numbers and with a new administration, federal employees and retirees may have a renewed interest in protecting their earned pay and benefits.

The Northern Neck chapter invited me to their December meeting as a guest speaker and to install their 2025 officers. On that trip, I also stopped at five different post offices and handed out membership packets.

The Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) presents monthly training via Zoom at 2:00 PM on the first and fourth Wednesday of the month. The first Wednesday is Electronic Communications training and the fourth Wednesday is general training on topics of interest to the VFN community. Training announcements are

issued via FEDHub to all VFN members with an email address on file with NARFE.

Virginia Federation Training Committee

January 22, 2025, 2:00-3:00 PM

Membership

Learn about strategies to increase membership.
 Speaker: Frances Boatman, VFN Membership Chair

Electronic Communications Committee Training

January 8, 2025, 2:00-3:00 PM

AI Electronic Scams

Learn how to protect yourself from email, phone, and AI generated scams.

February 5, 2025, 2:00-3:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Etiquette

Learn tips and tricks on how to successfully conduct and participate in Zoom meetings.
 Speaker: Dr. Constance Bails, EC Chair

Frances Boatman
President



LEGISLATION

Federal

The Social Security Fairness Act of 2023, H.R.82, the Social Security Fairness Act passed the House on November 12 by a 327-75 vote and passed the Senate in the early hours of Saturday, December 21 by a 78-28 vote. Prior to passage, the Senate voted against several amendments that would have prevented the bill from becoming law. It will now go to the president to sign into law. Both Virginia senators voted for it. Thank you Senators Kaine and Warner! Thank you to all our chapter members who contacted their congressmen and senators to co-sponsor and vote for this bill. Congressional passage of the bill is a historic victory for NARFE, which has been advocating for repeal of WEP and GPO for 40 years. It will bring substantial financial relief to federal retirees (as well as state and local government employees) who have been unfairly penalized for their public service for decades. **The Social Security Fairness Act repeals WEP and GPO for benefits payable after December 2023.** The President is scheduled to sign the bill Monday, January 6, 2025. When will you see your money? Be patient. Frances will send any updates on implementation through FEDHub. You can also sign up for [Daily News Clips](#) which should have articles on implementation as well.

[Editor Update]

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**President Joseph Biden signed
The Social Security Fairness
Act, H.R. 82, into law Sunday,
January 5, 2025.**

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In other news, the 2025 COLA is 2.5% for CSRS retirees and 2.0% for FERS retirees.

The 119th Congress convened today, January 3, 2025. Bills introduced in the previous 118th Congress that didn't receive any legislative action will need to be reintroduced in this new session. Refer to the NARFE magazine Bill Tracker for new legislation in this session. Major issues pending for the new 119th Congress are passing a 2025 budget and raising the debt ceiling limit.

State

The [Virginia General Assembly](https://lis.virginia.gov/home) convenes January 8, 2025 for a 30 day session. Bills introduced in this session can be found at <https://lis.virginia.gov/home>

**Bill Ketrone
Legislation**



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 December 31, 2024
CHAPTER NUMBER 111
Roanoke Valley, Roanoke VA

Beginning Bank balance	\$2135.92
Receipts	
Dues collected	\$107.80
(Partial AMS Update)	
Chapter Transfer In	\$0
Alzheimer's (YTD \$429.00)	\$0
50/50 - \$0	
Donations - \$0	
Personal Checks passed through not deposited - \$0	
Programs	
December Luncheon	\$125.00
Total receipts	\$232.80
Subtotal	\$2368.720
Disbursements	
Officer Expenses	\$0
Office/Chapter Expenses	\$300.00
VFN Conf. registration reimbursement	
Program Expenses	\$431.02
Holiday Luncheon Deposit	
Alzheimer's	\$0
Speaker's Lunch	\$0
1 st Timers and pass through	\$0
Newsletter	\$92.66
Subtotal	\$823.68
Total disbursements	\$823.68
BANK BALANCE	\$1545.04
Total Obligations	\$0
Balance on hand for use	\$1545.04

**Mark Fisher
Treasurer**

JANUARY 2025 MEETING MINUTES

NARFE Roanoke Valley Chapter 0111, Area VII, met on Friday, January 3, 2025 at Olive Garden. Frances Boatman, President, conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:44 a.m. with 24 people in attendance including our guest speaker. There was one new member and two guests. A quorum was present to conduct chapter business.

January birthdays were recognized.

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

The Secretary's minutes for the December 2024 meeting were approved as published; motion made by Joanne Hawley, seconded by Ruth Greene. Motion approved by acclamation.

Ellie Long, Secretary, gave an update on Mark; we wish him well in the next few months. She provided a "Be Prepared for Life's Events" booklet to a new member, and discussed the Local Office on Aging (LOA) upcoming Soup for Seniors event. We usually collect food for drop off, but this year our February meeting occurs after the event. A flyer listing drop off sites was routed to meeting attendees.

Ellie gave the December 2024 treasurer's report.

Carolyn Tucker, 1st VP, gave the membership report. Currently, on paper, there are 150 chapter members. Welcome to new member **Melinda Lewis**. We have four new members who haven't been posted yet to AMS and one listed from Oklahoma who shouldn't be there.

Karen Simmons, 2nd VP, discussed the January and February programs.

Bill Ketron gave the Legislation report.

Frances gave the President's report.

Ruth Greene, Area VII VP, reminded us about the [VFN Conference](#) April 6-9, 2025 in Harrisonburg. She asked for volunteers from Chapter 0111 attending to help at the conference. Frances reviewed how to [register](#) for the conference. Ellie volunteered to handle canvassing for chapter supporters.

Ruth also mentioned Dr. Leon Vinci is having major health issues, which is why he wasn't at today's meeting. Leon, we hope you're feeling better and are back with us soon.

Our guest speaker was Ernie Dale of Roanoke Tours, Inc. Several of our members have gone on trips with his company. They do overnight and day trips by motor coach and train and also partner with Botetourt and Roanoke County Parks and Recreation. He provided handouts and a description of current overnight trips.

-Noah, Lancaster, the Dutch Country, & Philadelphia. Monday to Friday, April 7-11, 2025, by motor coach. Philadelphia highlights include: Independence Hall,

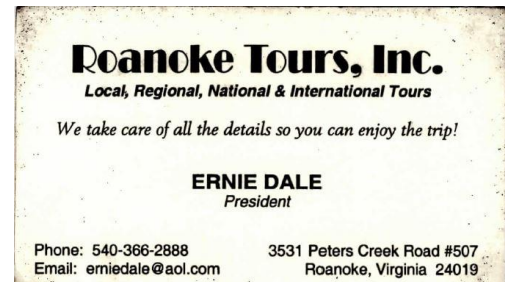
Betsy Ross House, U.S. Mint, Federal Reserve, Holocaust Memorial, Logan Circle, Penn's Landing, the "Rocky Steps", the Liberty Bell, and the Independence Visitor Center

-Easter Train to Michie Tavern & Charlottesville, Saturday, April 19, 2025, travel by train to Charlottesville, VA. The bus will pick us up at the train station and take us to Michie Tavern. After lunch, the group can visit the various historical buildings on the grounds. We will also take you by bus on a local sightseeing tour of the Thomas Jefferson Parkway. The motor coach brings us home.

-Mother's Day Train to Michie Tavern & Charlottesville, Saturday, May 10, 2025, travel by train to Charlottesville, VA. The bus will pick us up at the train station and take us to Michie Tavern. After lunch, the group can visit the various historical buildings on the grounds. We will also take you by bus on a local sightseeing tour of the Thomas Jefferson Parkway. The motor coach brings us home.

-Boston, Salem, & Cape Ann, Thursday-Tuesday, June 12-17, 2025, motor coach to Boston, MA. Site visits to John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, a full day guided tour of Boston, USS Constitution, Cambridge, guided tour of beautiful Coastal Massachusetts, Salem, scenic Cape Ann, Gloucester, Rockport, and a guided tour of Lexington and Concord.

-New Orleans, Monday-Saturday, October 13-18, 2025, motor coach to New Orleans, LA. Guided tour of New Orleans, National World War II Museum, guided tour of a Louisiana Plantation, Mardi Gras World, Riverboat Cruise on the Mississippi River, and visit to Historic New Orleans French Quarter.



The 50/50 (Alzheimer's Fund) drawing was won by Phyllis Scruggs. The basket drawing was won by Bill Ketron.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Ellie Long
Secretary



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

14 Fran Bono

19 Jean Mays

15 Mary Anna Page

**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

2025 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

NEXT NARFE MEETING

Friday, February 7, 2025

**Olive Garden
925 Valley View Blvd NW
Roanoke, VA 24012**

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

**SPEAKER
Shannon Abell**

**TOPIC
Medicare and
Social Security Updates**