

VOLUME 60 - Number 1	VFC AREA IX	February - March 2025
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PRESIDENT

Otis Langford

owlangford@outlook.com

703-975-2520

VICE PRESIDENT

Diane Howard

TREASURER

John G. Olsen

Asst. TREASURER

Jim Wagner

SECRETARY

Marcy Stennes

**ALZHEIMER'S
Margaret Yowell**

MEMBERSHIP

Gerry Frazier

LEGISLATIVE

Michael Moore

OUTREACH

Joanie Capella

SUNSHINE

Debbie Pumphrey

IMMEDIATE

PAST PRESIDENT

Naomi Fauntleroy

WEBMASTER

Stan Palen

stan@vanarfe.org

Greetings, Springfield Chapter 893, and Happy New Year! Let's hope 2025 is a prosperous year for us all.

Chapter President Otis Langford is travelling and as the newly elected Vice President, I'm filling in (and this message is brief as a result!). The Chapter's elected (or re-elected) officers are:

President	Otis Langford
Vice President	Diane Howard
Treasurer	John G. Olsen
Secretary	Marcy Stennes

While Otis, John, and I were elected in the November meeting, there were no candidates willing to run for secretary at that time. However, NARFE requires that each chapter must have a president and a secretary, so after the November meeting, Marcy Stennes offered to serve in that position. The chapter's recently-revised bylaws authorize the Executive Committee to approve any replacement to a vacated office – with the exception of the office of the president. The EC approved Marcy's election at the end of December, and she is officially the chapter's secretary. Thanks to Marcy for agreeing to take on this important position.

The chapter committees are listed along the side of this newsletter. The committee chairs and elected officers serve as the Executive Committee (Chapter Bylaws Article VII; past officers and committee chairs may serve on the EC as appropriate). Please note that we have a new committee, Electronic Communications, which is described in a separate article in this newsletter.

To reiterate what Otis said in his message in the last Newsletter, if you have a specific interest or skill, there's likely a committee for you. We hope more of you will contribute your time and talent to supporting the Chapter's activities – and that we will see many more of you at our meetings in 2025.

Diane Howard
Vice President



ALZHEIMER'S

Thank you, Chapter 893! While we did not quite make our goal of \$4,000 for 2024, with your donations and the support of the raffles and 50/50 drawing at our Holiday Luncheon (\$155), we raised a total of \$3,687 for the year. Our donations go a long way in the support of research and new medications: treatments are increasing – you are part of making that happen!! Start 2025 off with a donation now – all amounts are wanted, needed and appreciated. Our goal will remain at \$4,000 for this year – let's make it happen in 2025!

Please make your checks to **NARFE/Alzheimer's Research and note Chapter 893 in memo line** (so our Chapter gets the credit). Mail to **Margaret Yowell, 5822 Fitzhugh Street, Burke, VA, 22015**. Let's reach our goal together! Please contact me with any questions at Fitzhughlady@aol.com or 703-451-3287.

Margaret Yowell, Alzheimer's Chair

SUNSHINE

If you know of a Chapter member who has lost a loved one, or a member who is sick or injured, please let Debbie Pumphrey know at debbiepdc@gmail.com or 703-337-4548, so she can send out an appropriate card.

SAVE A CAT'S LIFE – FOSTERING IS EASY

Sometimes all it takes to save a life is to open your home for a few weeks by taking in an abandoned cat or kitten until an animal rescue group or local shelter can put the kitty up for adoption. You provide a safe, warm, comfortable home and they will reward you tenfold. Without assistance, many times they will have to live outside alone for their entire lives. Your kindness and compassion will make a difference. Your home, or even a spare bedroom, will ensure the little guy has a place to adjust and will welcome your friendly interactions. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Gina Lynch at Gina.Lynch@verizon.net or 703-780-9424. Thank you for your kindheartedness.



THE LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA (LTA)

Matilda Wormwood is an exceptionally gifted child with an extraordinary love of books, an incredibly vivid imagination, and just plain rotten luck in the parental department. Along with her friends and her teacher, Miss Honey, Matilda stands up for justice against the headmistress (appropriately dubbed “The Trunchbull”) and other adults who “can’t be bothered with the affairs of “wretched, filthy children.” Running time is estimated at 2 hours and 30 minutes with an intermission.

Join your fellow NARFE members to see this production of “**Matilda**” on Friday, February 7, at 8pm. To reserve free tickets, email joancapella@yahoo.com (preferred) or call 571-213-9056 and leave a message.

Set against the jazzy streets and festive vibes of modern-day New Orleans, William Shakespeare’s timeless Rom-Com “**Much Ado About Nothing**” comes to life. “There is a merry war” between the sharp-tongued Beatrice and Benedick, whose playful banter masks their growing affection for each other while their friends conspire to bring them together. Meanwhile, the earnest Claudio and Hero’s romance is put to the test by a series of deceptions. With vibrant characters, clever plot twists, and a delightful mix of love and laughter, this romantic comedy promises an exhilarating ride from start to finish. Get ready for a fantastical romp filled with clever quips, spirited antics, and a heartwarming finale! This production opens in late March. Once we have a specific date for NARFE attendance, it will be announced via FEDHub.

Please remember that tickets to LTA shows are for **SENIORS ONLY**.

Joanie Capella, Theatre Community Liaison

MEMBERSHIP

We are not able to update our membership changes at this time due to the ongoing computer data base update at NARFE HQs which has made it impossible to download membership numbers. This should be rectified by the next newsletter.

WEP/GPO

(From An article in Federal News Network by Drew Friedman, January 5)

President Joe Biden signed the Social Security Fairness Act into law Sunday afternoon. The legislation repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset.

WEP reduces Social Security payments for anyone who receives an annuity from their time spent working in government, but who also worked in a Social Security-covered job. The provision impacts roughly 2 million individuals, including federal retirees in CSRS.

GPO impacts Social Security payments for the spouses and surviving spouses of individuals who receive a government pension. If two-thirds of the pension's value is higher than the value of the Social Security payment, then GPO will fully eliminate the benefit. The provision affects about 750,000 beneficiaries nationwide.

Though it's been reintroduced in Congress for decades, the Social Security Fairness Act gained significant momentum in just the last year. The legislation [cleared the House](#) in November after Reps. Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.) and Garret Graves (R-La.) filed a discharge petition and successfully pushed the bill to a floor vote. The Senate followed suit several weeks later and [passed the bill](#) in late December...

...eliminating WEP will increase monthly Social Security payments of impacted individuals by \$360, on average, by December 2025. Eliminating GPO will increase monthly payments by \$700 for impacted spouses, and \$1,190 for impacted surviving spouses, on average, by December 2025. The monthly payments will increase over time due to annual cost-of-living adjustments.

... the Social Security Administration is expected to soon publish more details about the law's implementation. The payments to impacted individuals are expected to be backdated to January 2024

OTHER LEGISLATIVE NEWS

A CSRS Bill has been proposed that aligns with the VFN Virginia 2025 State Legislative Plan. Senator Bill DeSteph is the Primary Sponsor and Senator Christie

New Craig is the Cosponsor. Full details are available by clicking on the link provided below:

<https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/SB943/2025>

Now is the perfect time to reach out to your state legislators and invite them to sign on as Cosponsors of SB943. To confirm your legislator, please click the following link for details:

<https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Sixteen members enjoyed food and fun at the annual Holiday luncheon held at La Fiamma.



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee (EC) for NARFE 893 recently established an 'Electronic Communications Committee.' As NARFE moves towards FEDHub Communities, the EC believed that we needed to devote additional time towards this endeavor. We want to make sure that our members are getting the most current information in a timely manner and, in addition, provide a work-around for the NARFE defunct email system. This does require additional time to attend Area Electronic Communications meetings/training as well as working out the kinks in the system. As mentioned in the November Chapter Meeting Minutes, our Chapter was given the opportunity to create a FEDHub Community. This Community is up and running. You should have already been receiving emails from FEDHub. If you have not already done so, please go to: fedhub.narfe.org Click on 'Communities'. Click on 'My Community'. It should

take you to NARFE 893 page. This FEDHub Community will become our way of communicating with you. You can control the frequency and format of emails. To learn more, click on Help/FAQs. We will move away from sending emails from our NARFE893 gmail account and instead use the FEDHub Community. We will keep you informed of additional developments.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE – ALL CHAPTER MEETINGS WILL BE IN PERSON AT LA FIAMMA RESTAURANT, 6124 FRANCONIA ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA PLEASE ORDER YOUR FOOD BETWEEN 12:00-12:15 SO THAT THE MEETING CAN BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 1PM.

February 5, 2025, ExCom Meeting, 12:30 pm.

February 12, 2025, Lunch/General Meeting, 12:00 pm. Our speaker is Wes Gewehr, a volunteer tax preparer with AARP. Wes graduated from Lehigh University with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering ('69) and a Master of Science in Management Information Systems ('72). After graduating, he served with the Air Force at the Department of Defense Computer Institute until 1976.

His career then took him to the Department of Commerce, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, where he served as Administrator for Information Dissemination and retired as the Deputy Chief Information Officer in 2004. He then moved to the private sector as a consultant with Robbins-Gioia where he served as the R-G executive site lead supporting the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection's large scale information technology modernization program. He retired again in 2011. Wes began volunteer tax preparation service with the AARP Tax-Aide and IRS VITA programs in 2010. He was a site manager for a Tax-Aide tax preparation team in Arlington for several years and now serves as the Virginia state training specialist. In addition, he has worked for George N. Woglom, CPA, as a Registered Tax Preparer since 2010. Wes is a member of the National Association of Tax Professionals.

March 5, 2025, ExCom Meeting, 12:30 pm.

March 12, 2025, Lunch/General Meeting, 12:00 pm. Our program is tentatively Avoiding Scams and Frauds, Crime Prevention, Fairfax County Police Department.

Our speaker for January, Jennifer Gittins-Harfst, who was unable to attend due to illness, will be our speaker for the April meeting. She is the owner of No Frills Organizing and will present a how-to on Organizing for Seniors.

NARFE Springfield Chapter 893
P. O. Box 523118
West Springfield, VA 22152-3118

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



