



NARFE NEWS

ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 0111

2025 OFFICERS

President Frances Boatman (540) 774-3031 feboatman@live.com	1st Vice President Carolyn Tucker (540) 797-5037 cptucker1212@gmail.com	2nd Vice President Karen Simmons (540) 525-1043 ksim285032@aol.com	Secretary Ellie Long (540) 772-0468 lalaw1986@gmail.com	Treasurer Mark Fisher (540) 772-0984 mcfisher2@cox.net
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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



Many chapter members are receiving their one-time lump sum and increased monthly payments from Social Security. Use this link for [WEP/GPO](#) information, updated April 1, 2025.

Use the [NARFE Advocacy](#) website to communicate with your representatives your concerns about the negative effects of the numerous Executive Orders affecting the federal community and your concerns about cuts to federal and retiree benefits.

We submitted a VFN PAC Fund Request to provide \$500.00 for Delegate Sam Rasoul. That request will be voted on at the VFN Board meeting on April 6, 2025.

Electronics Communication training is presented the first Wednesday of the month and general training is presented the fourth Wednesday of the month. These training opportunities are announced via FEDHub.

FEDHub is NARFE's online community for active and retired federal employees. Members can connect to share advice, solve challenges and develop new approaches. You can join any number of Communities that are of interest to you: Leadership, Membership, U.S. Postal Service, Social Security, Advocacy, and the Virginia Federation; there are dozens that you might find informative and useful. We now have a

Roanoke Chapter Community. If you have an email address you will be included, but can opt out. This will be another way for us to communicate with chapter members in the future about events, programs, and meetings, or share information relevant to Federal employees and retirees in the Roanoke Valley.

New Member Welcome Webinar, Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 2:00 p.m. ET New to NARFE? Join us for a webinar to get acquainted with all the benefits of membership and learn more about its three pillars: Advocacy, Education, and Community. All webinars at: <https://www.narfe.org/federal-benefits-institute/narfe-webinars/>

Keep up to date with the latest federal employee and retiree information by subscribing to the [Daily News Clips and weekly NARFE NewsLine](#). Well worth it for a variety of current topics. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Happy Easter!



Frances Boatman
President



LEGISLATION

Federal

These bills are the only ones currently listed on the NARFE Bill Tracker.

The Equal COLA Act, [H.R.491](#), would amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes. Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; 47 cosponsors.

Saving the Civil Service Act, [H.R.492](#), would prohibit the establishment of schedule F of the excepted service, and for other purposes. Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; 73 cosponsors.

The FAIR Act, [H.R.493/S.126](#) would increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 4.3 percent, and for other purposes. H.R.493 referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; 28 cosponsors. S.126 referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; 21 cosponsors including Senator Tim Kaine.

The House of Representatives passed a Republican budget resolution, H.Con.Res.14, on February 25 along party lines, 217-215, that sets the stage for budget reconciliation to enact \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts, **and \$2 trillion in spending cuts, including \$50 billion aimed at earned federal retirement and health benefits.** NARFE **opposed** the budget resolution due to its instruction to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to cut at least \$50 billion in mandatory spending under its jurisdiction. Given the only major mandatory spending under the committee's jurisdiction is federal retirement and health benefits, cuts of such a magnitude would necessarily come from cuts to federal retirement and health benefits.

Specific proposals that could be enacted pursuant to the budget resolution include the following:

- Shifting substantial health care costs onto enrollees, by changing the FEHB program's premium share model to a voucher system where the government would pay a flat amount that would not increase at the same rate as premiums.
- Requiring all FERS employees to contribute 4.4% of their salary towards retirement with no additional benefit, a substantial increase from the current 0.8% contribution for pre-2013 hires.
- Ending annuity supplement payments for FERS retirees who retire before age 62.
- Basing annuities of future retirees on a High- 5 instead of the current High-3.

The President issued an executive order ending collective bargaining with federal unions based on national security reasons. Here is NARFE's [response](#) to that action. An executive order issued by President Kennedy in the 1960s created the right to form federal unions; I wonder if it is challenged legally if that challenge might be overturned?

Bill Ketron Legislation



TREASURER'S REPORT

Account as of March 31, 2025
CHAPTER NUMBER 0111
Roanoke Valley, Roanoke VA

Beginning Bank balance	\$1575.95
Receipts	
Dues collected	\$241.88
Alzheimer's (YTD \$296.64)	\$50.00
50/50 - \$36.00	
Donations - \$14.00	
Personal checks passed thru not deposited	\$130.00
Programs	
Basket	\$56.00
Chapter Donations	\$0
Subtotal	\$347.88
Total receipts	\$347.88
Subtotal	\$1923.83
Disbursements	
Officer Expenses	\$0
Office/Chapter Expenses	\$0
Program Expenses	\$0
Alzheimer's	\$50.00
Speaker's Lunch	\$0.00
1 st Timers and pass through	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$100.04
Subtotal	\$0
Total disbursements	\$150.04
BANK BALANCE	\$1773.79
Total Obligations	\$0
Balance on hand for use	\$1773.79

**Mark Fisher
Treasurer**

APRIL 2025 MEETING MINUTES

NARFE Roanoke Valley Chapter 0111, Area VII, met on Friday, April 4, 2025 at Olive Garden. Frances Boatman, President, conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. with 19 people in attendance including our guest speaker. There was one new member in attendance. A quorum was present to conduct chapter business.

April birthdays were recognized.

Frances led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's minutes for the March 2025 meeting were approved as published; motion made by Ruth Greene, seconded by Karen Willis. Motion approved by acclamation.

Ellie Long, Secretary, reported one former member death; offered "Be Prepared for Life's Events" booklets; and distributed the updated Trifold Quick Guide to NARFE/VANARFE websites and social media accounts.

Ellie gave the Treasurer's report and gave an update on Mark; he's doing well. The Board approved the CY2025 Chapter budget. We spent about half of what we had last year and will be on a tighter budget this year.

Frances gave the membership report. Currently, there are 163 chapter members. Since January our chapter has gained 15 new members! Welcome new members **Ronald Gordon** and **Cheryl Ponce**!

Karen Simmons, 2nd VP, mentioned our May, August and September programs. Our August speaker will discuss The Bedford Boys and our September speaker is from the Roanoke Valley Bird Club.

Bill Ketron, Legislative Chair, gave the Legislation report.

Ruth Greene, Area VII VP, asked for any volunteers to serve as the next Area VII VP. If you want to contribute to the cost of the chapter's Conference Alzheimer's basket, Ruth will collect contributions.

Frances gave the President's report.

Ruth inquired if anyone would be interested in another Virginia Dare Cruise in July. There was interest and she will check dates available.

Frances asked for a motion to spend \$50 for the chapter Alzheimer's basket. Karen Willis made the motion, Phyllis Scruggs seconded. Motion approved by acclamation.

Phyllis will donate the raffle basket for the May meeting; Ellie will donate the raffle basket for the August meeting.

Our guest speaker was Dawn Sandoval, founder of The Least of These Ministry.

The Least of These Ministry (TLOT) is a non-profit organization that strives to make a positive difference in the

lives of the homeless community in the Roanoke Valley. Its mission is to meet men and women living on the streets and serve them with spiritual, physical, and emotional support. There are many circumstances that can bring a person to homelessness like job loss, natural disasters, mental illness, and more. Many homeless people receive disability checks but their income isn't enough to cover minimum living expenses. Many suffer from social anxiety and mental health issues that make it difficult to live in a shelter environment. Operating as a gap ministry, we work to meet needs that other homeless services in the area are unable to meet. Services we provided vary from assisting in finding housing, meeting immediate needs on the streets and providing a place to improve hygiene. Specifically, we 1) Assist eligible homeless friends in finding and securing affordable housing. 2) Address immediate needs on the streets through the ministry ambulance "Mercy Grace." Items such as cold weather gear, t-shirts, socks, hygiene items, sleeping bags, snacks, and more are provided when needed. 3) Open our building at 422 Luck Ave. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and allow unsheltered friends to take a shower. Soaps, razors, towels, and wash cloths are provided when needed. Showers are cleaned in between each use. Coffee, lunch and refreshments are offered while they wait. 4) Provide outdoor covered lockers in the parking lot next to its facility so homeless friends can store their personal belongings safely. We also provide combination locks. 5) Provide a place of refuge during nights when temperatures are below 40 degrees through two "warming buses." Stocked with blankets and snacks, the warming bus offers warmth, safety, and a place to get some rest in extreme temperatures. 6) Operate a former motel that provides affordable housing by the week or month. 7) Partner with multiple agencies and property managers to locate temporary or permanent housing. We always need volunteers and we accept donations.

The 50/50 (Alzheimer's Fund) drawing was won by Phyllis Scruggs. The basket drawing was won by Eileen Bartels Hadden.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Ellie Long
Secretary



MAY BIRTHDAYS

8 Lorena Garnand	26 Sharon Bidwell
19 Betty Poff	30 Carolyn Fisher
21 Linda Manns	

IN MEMORIUM

Former member **Paige Alley Jennings**, 93, of Roanoke, VA, passed away on Saturday, March 29. She retired from the Salem VA Medical Center.

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



**NARFE Stands With the Federal
Workforce**

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

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

NEXT NARFE MEETING

Friday, May 2, 2025

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

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

SPEAKER

**Allen Lawrence
General Manager
Salem Red Sox**

TOPIC

**Operating a Minor
League Baseball Team**