



# NARFE NEWS

## ROANOKE VALLEY CHAPTER 0111

### 2025 OFFICERS

<b>President</b> <b>Frances Boatman</b> (540) 774-3031 <a href="mailto:feboatman@live.com">feboatman@live.com</a>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b> <b>Carolyn Tucker</b> (540) 797-5037 <a href="mailto:cptucker1212@gmail.com">cptucker1212@gmail.com</a>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b> <b>Karen Simmons</b> (540) 525-1043 <a href="mailto:ksim285032@aol.com">ksim285032@aol.com</a>	<b>Secretary</b> <b>Ellie Long</b> (540) 772-0468 <a href="mailto:lalaw1986@gmail.com">lalaw1986@gmail.com</a>	<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Mark Fisher</b> (540) 772-0984 <a href="mailto:mcfisher2@cox.net">mcfisher2@cox.net</a>
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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](http://www.narfe.org) 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



**The Virginia Federation of NARFE 70<sup>th</sup>** Anniversary Celebration, Annual Meeting and Conference was held April 6–9 at Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg. It was a full schedule of business meetings, inspiring speakers, workshops, training, exchange of ideas, and great fellowship. We had 128 attendees, 31 First Timers. Seven of our Roanoke Valley members attended. Roanoke's Ruth Greene was re-elected as Area VII Vice President.

**The VFN Management Award** is presented each year to recognize significant leadership, and contributions of a VFN member. Our very own Ellie Long is the recipient of the 2025 VFN Management Award. She serves as Secretary of the VFN Electronic Communications Committee and assists Areas I and VII in working with chapter officers to maintain VFN systems such as monitoring the VFN calendar and making changes to their VFN websites. Ellie continues to make significant contributions to our Roanoke Valley Chapter in her roles as Chapter Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Network Coordinator, and Historian.

Ellie Long's exceptional contributions, leadership, and dedication make her a deserving candidate for the 2025 Management Award. Her impact on NARFE and our Roanoke chapter is inspiring and she is a role model for other members. Congratulations Ellie!

**My second term as VFN President** ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President of the Virginia Federation of NARFE for the past two years. Working with such an extraordinary group to accomplish the mission of NARFE has been a very rewarding experience. Best wishes to my successor in carrying on the goals we reached and beyond. "Together We Succeeded." Remember, "Our Future – Stronger Together."

**All Virginia NARFE members** will be eligible to vote for VFN President, 1st Vice President, and the Proposed VFN By-laws Amendment. Vote will be electronically or by paper ballot. Details will soon be available at [www.vanarfe.org](http://www.vanarfe.org). I urge you to participate in this election. VFN's Second Vice President Pat Wolfe, Treasurer Jim Little, and Secretary Doris McAdams were re-elected by acclamation.

**I hope to see you** at our June 18<sup>th</sup> Virginia Dare Lunch Cruise at Smith Mountain Lake.

Have a great summer!



**Frances Boatman**  
President



## LEGISLATION

### Federal

**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; 50 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; 75 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; 30 cosponsors. S.126 referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; 13 cosponsors including Senator Tim Kaine.

**H.Con.Res.14** –establishes the congressional budget for the United States Government for FY2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for FY2026 through FY2034. It directs the Oversight and Government Reform Committee to reduce the deficit by not less than \$50,000,000,000 for the period of FY2025 through FY2034. **NARFE opposes the resolution.** The Committee voted to push forward six proposals to be included in the GOP's budget reconciliation package. If adopted into the final version of the legislation, the proposals would make the following changes:

- Raise the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) contribution rate to 4.4% across the board
- Eliminate the FERS annuity supplement for all federal employees, except those in occupations subject to mandatory early retirement
- Change the FERS annuity calculation from "high-3" to "high-5" of an employee's salary
- Make all new federal employees "at-will" unless they accept an additional 5% FERS contribution
- Charge federal employees a \$350 fee to file an appeal with the Merit Systems Protection Board
- Require an eligibility audit of all Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) enrollees and remove any ineligible participants from the program

**The good news: The Committee members did exclude one earlier possibility for changing federal benefits. A proposal to convert the government's FEHB contributions to a flat-rate "voucher" model was taken off the table for the reconciliation package.**

**Bill Ketron**  
**Legislation**



We selected Wednesday June 18, 2025 for the [Virginia Dare Cruise](#). This wildlife lunch cruise is from 12 noon – 2 p.m., and you must arrive by 11:30. Click on the link in blue to make your reservation. Prices vary depending on if you want lunch or not. If the cruise is cancelled, your payment will be refunded.



### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Account as of April 30, 2025

CHAPTER NUMBER 0111

Roanoke Valley, Roanoke VA

Beginning Bank balance	<b>\$1773.79</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	
Dues collected	\$207.72
Chapter dues received	\$10.00
Alzheimer's (YTD \$332.14)	\$25.50
50/50 - \$16.50	
Donations - \$9.00	
Personal checks passed thru not deposited	\$10.00
Programs	
Basket	\$28.00
Chapter Donations	\$0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$271.22</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$271.22</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2045.01</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
Officer Expenses	\$0
Office/Chapter Expenses	\$100.00
Liability Insurance	
Program Expenses	\$0
Alzheimer's	\$25.50
Speaker's Lunch	\$0
1 <sup>st</sup> Timers and pass through	\$0
Postage	\$0
Newsletter	\$100.04
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$225.54</b>
<b>Total disbursements</b>	<b>\$225.54</b>
<b>BANK BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1819.47</b>
<b>Total Obligations</b>	<b>\$3</b>
Balance adjustment	
<b>Balance on hand for use</b>	<b>\$1816.47</b>

**Mark Fisher**  
**Treasurer**

## MAY 2025 MEETING MINUTES

NARFE Roanoke Valley Chapter 0111, Area VII, met on Friday, May 2, 2025 at Olive Garden. Frances Boatman, President, conducted the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:56 a.m. with 19 people in attendance including our guest speaker. There were no new members or guests in attendance. A quorum was present to conduct chapter business.

May birthdays were recognized.

Wanda Ware, Chaplain, spoke about Bible Batteries. When a flashlight grows dim, do you throw it away? No, you change the batteries. When a person finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? No, you help them change their batteries. Some need AA - attention and affection; some need AAA - attention, affection, and acceptance; some need C - compassion; and some need D - direction. And if they still don't seem to shine - simply sit with them quietly and share your light. She then offered related Bible passages, and led us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Ellie Long, Secretary, reported two member deaths. Distinguished Member Certificates will be mailed this month to Jeanne Logwood who joined Chapter 0111 on 04/04/2005 and Madeline Caldwell who joined Chapter 0111 on 04/20/2005; thank you both for twenty continuous years of NARFE / Chapter membership!

Ellie gave the Treasurer's report and gave an update on Mark; he's doing well and has been released from UVA to his local physician. "Be Prepared for Life's Events" booklets are available for any member who needs one.

Frances gave the membership report. Currently, there are 162 chapter members.

Karen Simmons, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, mentioned our August speaker will discuss The Bedford Boys and our September speaker is from the Roanoke Valley Bird Club.

Frances gave Bill Ketron's legislation report.

Ruth Greene, Area VII AVP, reported on the Virginia Dare cruise date, activities at the VFN Conference, and the upcoming Region X Conference.

We will hold our annual memorial service in August; Ruth, Ellie, and Wanda will coordinate.

Frances gave the President's report.

Frances presented Ellie with the VFN Annual Management Award.

Our guest speaker was Allen Lawrence, General Manager of the Salem Red Sox.

The Red Sox play 66 home games and a total of 132 games. The season starts with spring training and league play runs from early April through early September. The off season is their busy time. All the planning is done, including selling tickets (the stadium seats 6,200), lining up sponsorships and advertising, and planning promotions. There are daily promotions at each home game. Players are employees of the Boston Red Sox. Most players are 19 or 20; some are drafted out of high school. Most receive a signing bonus in seven figures before the decimal point and their salary averages around \$35,000 for six months. Boston provides financial advisors, English classes for players from foreign countries, as well as obtaining work visas as necessary for the season. The team is rebranding beginning next season and will have a new name, logo, and team colors but will still be a Red Sox affiliate. The new name will be announced in the fall.

The 50/50 (Alzheimer's Fund) drawing was won by Ruth Greene who graciously donated her share back to the Fund. The basket drawing was won by Pat Gwathmey.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

**Ellie Long**  
**Secretary**



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

2 Gary Kalagian	18 Shirley Basham
7 Suzanne Hamilton	19 Julie English
8 Frances Boatman	20 Del Dyer
9 Elaine Caudill	28 Wanda Parker
12 Phyllis Scruggs	30 Jim Bono
14 Alpha Sue King	

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

6 Rebecca Hale	22 Patricia Horning
20 Elaine Drewry	

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

6 Alta Conner	21 Charles Waybright
7 Joyce Rutledge	26 Jo Ann Dow
12 W. T. Altizer	30 Vada Henshaw
19 Ruth Greene	Claudine Ratcliffe

### IN MEMORIUM

**Dr. Leon Vinci**, of Roanoke, VA died April 18, 2025. He was an environmental epidemiologist who retired from the Centers for Disease Control. He served as the VFN Congressional District Liaison for District 6.

**Donie Mann** of Vinton died April 27, 2025, at the age of 92.

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

**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	<b>vacant</b>
Service Officer	Mark Fisher

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

**NEXT NARFE MEETING**

**Friday, August 1, 2025**

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

**Gathering at 11:30 a.m.  
Meeting at 11:45 a.m.**

**SPEAKER**

**Kenneth Parker  
Bedford Boys Tribute Center**

**TOPIC**

**The Bedford Boys**