SAN RAFAEL, CA – November 5, 2013 – National Alopecia Areata Foundation President & CEO, Vicki Kalabokes, has announced her retirement effective March 31, 2014. As of February 1, 2014, it will be 27 years that Vicki Kalabokes has had the pleasure of leading the National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF). She has brought the Foundation from a small national support group to an international research, support and awareness organization. She is leaving the Foundation in its most sound financial condition since inception and has launched a successful Alopecia Areata Treatment Development Program that has accomplished all of its goals in its first four years. She feels ready to leave her stable NAAF family to be with her growing personal family.

NAAF has in place an Executive Leadership Transition policy adopted by the Board of Directors in 2012 to address situations of executive change, planned or unplanned. This policy leaves the Foundation healthy, vital, and strong by addressing both fundamental and substantive issues as well as process issues related to an executive departure. In the three years of establishing this policy the Board assessed the organization and reorganized to create organizational capacity to move the Foundation forward without losing its current momentum. The Executive Transition Policy ensures organization stability, sustainability and evolution by providing a proactive orderly process for executive leadership transition.
This policy also sets in place a structure and timetable for hiring a new President and CEO ensuring the selection of a qualified and capable leader who will fit well with the Foundation’s vision, mission, values, culture, goals and objectives and who possesses the necessary skills, abilities, and talent to lead the growing Foundation into an even more positive future. There will be a crossover period with Ms. Kalabokes and the new CEO to ensure a seamless transition.

Alopecia (AL-OH-PEE-SHA) areata (AIR-EE-AH-TAH) is the most common autoimmune disease that may result in total or partial loss of scalp and body hair. Affecting over 6.5 million Americans, and 146 million people worldwide, alopecia areata currently has no cure, and no treatment that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration. It occurs in both sexes and all races and ages, but young people are affected most often. Alopecia areata usually starts with one or more small, round patches on the scalp. In some people, the disease can affect hair on the scalp until all of it is lost (alopecia totalis), or over the entire body, including the eyebrows and eyelashes (alopecia universalis).

NAAF, headquartered in San Rafael, CA, fundraises for research to find a cure or acceptable treatment for alopecia areata, supports those with the disease, and educates the public about alopecia areata. NAAF is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and has a prestigious Scientific Advisory Council. Founded in 1981, NAAF is widely regarded as the largest, most influential, and most representative foundation associated with alopecia areata.

To learn more about alopecia areata or the transition, please contact the National Alopecia Areata Foundation office at 415-472-3780 in San Rafael, CA or visit the NAAF website at www.naaf.org.

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