

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
Brentwood Newsletter March 2021**

Yolanda Hill
Newsletter Editor

June J. Staton, Ph.D.
Co- Editor



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings NARFE members,

In my last message I talked about my goal to set up virtual meetings using ZOOM with our executive committee members to plan how we want to move forward virtually during these trials and challenges. We held our first ZOOM meeting on February 12th. Only two members were able to attend the meeting. I plan to hold another meeting this month and hopefully we can make some progress. It goes without saying, but I know it is going to take a while before we get to full attendance, along with so many other aspects of our lives and uncertainties, we have a lot to manage. Trying to manage these challenges at a time when our health and well-being is more important is a challenge within itself.

Before moving forward, I must recognize the hard work and dedication of two of our chapter members: Irvin Askew and his spouse, Claire Askew. Last month both members resigned from their positions due to health issues. Claire Askew was our Hospitality Chair and Irvin was Chaplain. I want to personally thank Claire for all the support and loyalty she provided the chapter. From the moment she took the position, she was up and running – setting up our meeting room, scheduling our July and December luncheons, acknowledging member birthdays, and so much more. Thanks, Claire! On behalf of the chapter, I thank Irvin for stepping up as our Chaplain and performing his duties in an exemplary manner. We are very appreciative of their support to the chapter. With both positions now vacant, I look forward to having those filled this fall.

In closing, I just want to remind everyone to stay safe and be on the lookout for opportunities to tell a friend or prospective member about NARFE. I look forward to seeing you virtually.

Best Regards.

Brentwood Chapter #1697

Established March 9, 1978

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

*June Staton, Ph.D.
President*

*Florence Claggion
Vice President*

*Yolanda Hill
Secretary*

*Ella Anderson
Treasurer*

*Jeff Rau
Service Officer*

*Raymond Staton Sr.
Membership Chair*

*John Hill
Legislative Officer*

*Lyle Thoburn
Alzheimer Officer*

*David Parson
Program Chair*

*Irvin Askew
Chaplain*

*David McGrath
MD Past President*

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership report as of 02/06/2021

- 85 Current Membership
- 5 Members Dropped for Non-Renewal
- 3 Members Sent Second Renewal Notice
- 2 New Prospective Members
- 4 Members Renewed.
- 8 Changes to Address, Phone Number, or Email

PLEASE NOTE: To reinstate your membership, complete the M-1 card that is accessible by clicking:
this link: <http://www.vanarfe.org/Membership/Reinstatement%20Form.pdf>.

Raymond Staton Sr., Membership Chair

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

How to Contact OPM

You can contact OPM one to four ways:

Email: retire@opm.gov

On-line: www.servicesonline.opm.gov

Report a death online: <https://rsreporting.opm.gov/annuitantdeath>

Phone: 1-888-767-6738 (Hours of operation 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time - Monday through Friday)

Mail: Office of Personnel Management Retirement Operations Center P. O. Box 45 Boyers, PA 16017 – 0045

Life's Events – YOU MARRY ...

Write to OPM (Boyers, PA) and send a certified copy of your marriage certificate showing the date of the marriage and the name of your spouse. Ask OPM for information about how to provide a survivor annuity. To change to a family health benefits enrollment, contact OPM any time from 31 days before your marriage to 60 days afterward. Otherwise, you will have to wait until the next health benefits Open Season to make the change. If you already have a family plan, contact your health benefits carrier to include your spouse in the coverage. You may also want to have OPM change your Federal or State income tax withholding. You may also want to change your designation of beneficiary for life insurance or for retirement. This must be in writing on forms provided by OPM.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Deadline

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) 2021 Scholarship deadline is **Thursday, March 25th, at 3 p.m. ET.**

NARFE is proud to support FEEA's scholarship program with 10 scholarships of \$1,000 each. This program provides awards to children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of NARFE members pursuing higher education. To date, NARFE has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships in partnership with FEEA. For more information and to apply, click, <https://www.voterve.net/BroadcastLinks/3gukaaaDg7bp7i-tad5eA>.

This competition is open to high school seniors only. FEEA also offers scholarships to civil servants and their spouses, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and to those whose parents were victims of domestic terrorist attacks in the line of federal duty. For more information and to apply, click: <https://feea.org/our-programs/scholarships/#scholar>.

TRAINING: Volunteer Opportunity

President Constance Bails would like to have a representative from each of the Areas to serve on the Training Committee. This committee will suggest interesting topics they think members would like to have training on, scheduling the training and seeking presenters who are knowledgeable about the subject being presented. This training has been successful and would be a good endeavor to support. Being on the Training Committee would also include training at the conference(s) and attending the scheduled Training Committee meetings if you can. Please send me an email (j.staton@cox) by **March 15th** if you are interested.

NARFE Webinar - Tax Planning for Federal Retirees

Join us on Thursday, March 18, at 2 p.m. ET, as Mark Keen, CFP, shares strategies federal retirees can use to maximize the after-tax value of their federal benefits. You will learn how Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) withdrawals are taxed and how to minimize those taxes, as well as how stealth taxes from Medicare Part B and income related monthly adjustment amounts (IRMAA) can cost you if you are not careful. For federal retirees, it is vital to incorporate tax planning into your overall financial strategy. Knowing how to maximize the after-tax value of your hard-earned savings can turn a good retirement into a great retirement. Click here to register.

BCBS Wellness Event - Virtual Live Cooking Demonstration - March 17th

Please join me and our Wellness Nurses for a virtual live cooking demonstration. Please forward the invitation to your NARFE Chapter members! All are invited, regardless of their carrier choice. Our nurses will share a great recipe while they discuss the anti-inflammatory benefits of fresh greens.

Date: March 17th, 2021
Time: 11:30am - 12:15pm CST

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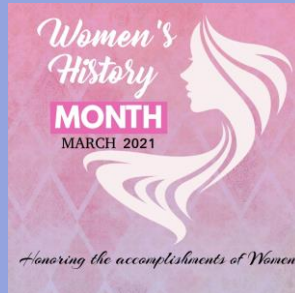
To register, go to - <https://anthem.cvent.com/events/bcbs-wellness-days-with-blue-live-cooking-demonstration-keep-it-clean-eat-your-greens/event-summary-bd1d96243cf4463e8ca9e08a60178397.aspx>.

After registration you will be provided the link to join the live demonstration. All registered attendees will receive an item to assist them with eating healthy! **REGISTER BY MARCH 15.**



I would like to hear what is important to you. Please send any questions or suggestions, topics, or articles you have for our newsletter to the Chapter President (j.staton@cox.net). Your enthusiasm and contribution to our newsletter is highly valued.

Women's History Month



National Women's History Month traces its roots to March 8, 1857, when women from various New York City factories staged a protest over poor working conditions. The first Women's Day celebration in the United States was in 1909, also in New York City. More than seven decades later, Congress in 1981 established National Women's History Week to be commemorated annually the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month, and every year since has passed a resolution (and the president has issued a proclamation) designating March Women's History Month. See stats from Census Bureau surveys highlighting how women's employment has changed over the years. at: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2021/womens-history-month.html>.