

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
Brentwood Newsletter February 2022**

Yolanda Hill
Newsletter Editor

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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings NARFE members and Prospective NARFE members!

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well. I would like to thank everyone who attended our meeting and the presentation given by H& R Block. The turnout was impressive! Your presence and active participation made the event successful and informative. The success of our meetings ties directly to the participation of our membership. I appreciate your support because we could not bring great events to our members without your help. We hope you will join us next month for a presentation from the Chesapeake Parks and Recreation on March 14th. Please read our Newsletter for more information about upcoming events. I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting, on March 14th.

Best Regards,
June Staton, Ph.D.

MEETING LOCATION:

Deep Creek Community Center
2901 Margaret Booker Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23323
Phone (757) 487-8841

TIME:

Executive Committee Meeting: 12:30 – 1 PM
Regular Meeting: 1PM - 2PM

Second Monday of the Month
(Unless that falls on a Federal Holiday
in which case the meeting will be on the
third Monday of the Month)

Brentwood Chapter #1697
Established March 9, 1978

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CHAPTER OFFICERS

June Staton, Ph.D.
President

Deborah Brown
Vice President

Yolanda Hill
Secretary

Ella Anderson
Treasurer

Jeff Rau
Service Officer

Velvet Preuitt
Membership Chair

John Hill
Legislative Officer

Lyle Thoburn
Alzheimer Officer

David Parson
Program Chair

Annette Coleman
Hospitality Chair

Janet Freeman
Chaplain

Dan McGrath
MD Past President



CHAPTER NEWS

MINUTES – (02/14/2022)

Attendees:

June Staton, Deborah Brown, Yolanda Hill, Jeff Rau, Velvet Preuitt, John Hill, Lyle Thoburn, David Parson, Annette Coleman, Janet Freeman, Dan McGrath, Charles Goings, Vincent Graham, Willie Levenston, Althea Campbell, Theresa Rodwell, Carolyn Collins, and Gale Ranson.

Proceedings:

- The President called the meeting to order.
- The Chaplin began the meeting with an opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The Hospitality Chair wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day and presented a grab bag of treats from which attendees each drew a small surprise.
- The President introduced and welcomed prospective member Althea Campbell and Gale Ranson.
- The Hospitality Chair recognized Chapter members with February birthdays. [Ages not disclosed.]
- The President introduced guest speakers Gabrille Planke and Teresa Thomason from H&R Block. Both speakers answered questions, provided handouts, and led discussions regarding the filing of income tax returns. (See “Summary of Chapter Discussions” below.)
- The Program Chair reviewed the current schedule for upcoming 2022 Chapter 1697 meetings. (See “Upcoming Events” below.)
- The Service Officer summarized a mutual fund window that will provide Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) participants with access to upwards of 5,000 mutual funds. [READ MORE](#)
- The Legislative Officer announced that the IRS has just recently changed its “Uniform Lifetime Tables”, recognizing that Americans are living a bit longer now-a-days. These changes affect, amongst other things, the “Required Minimum Distributions” (RMD) that individuals need to take from TSP, traditional IRAs, and other such retirement accounts.
- The Maryland Past Chapter President talked about National NARFE elections, the limits on terms, and informed us that candidates are preparing to announce their intentions and credentials.
- A reminder, in this electronic age, be vigilant for Scammers. Several Chapter 1697 members recently received similar phishing e-mails that posed as NARFE related business. Of course, the e-mails requested donations and appealed to one’s desire to help veterans and to participate in the COVID-19 fight. However, these were not official NARFE correspondence. In this particular case a misspelled name and an unfamiliar return e-mail address were clues that the correspondence was fraudulent, but that is not always going to be the case. Various officials report the scammers are becoming ever more skillful at disguising their presence. Names, addresses, titles, and other personal information is already readily available to scammers out there in the public domain which they use to target people.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership report as of 2/14/2022

- 79 Chapter Members

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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>.

TREASURER REPORT

Summary of Account for January 1, 2022:

Beginning Balance	\$ 6789.68
Deposit	\$ 25.00
Interest	\$ 0.05
CHECK NO 1171	\$ - 48.00
National Payment	\$ 59.48
Ending Balance	\$ 6826.57

SUMMARY of CHAPTER DISCUSSIONS

H&R Block Presentation

- Gabrille Planke and Teresa Thomason from H&R Block led a discussion regarding the filing of 2021 income taxes this year. Take-aways from the presentation:
 - Keep in mind when approaching your taxes that there were 3 pandemic relief payments.
 - There is an increase in the child credits available.
 - RMDs were reinstated in 2021. They were suspended in 2020 at the onset of the pandemic.
 - Some charitable donations are still deductible as a separate adjustment, in addition to the standard deduction, for those that do not itemize.
 - Earned Income Credit was previously capped at 65 years of age but is no longer “age” capped.
 - There is a back log at the IRS in processing paper returns. One may consider filing electronically to minimize delays.
 - There is a problem with scammers initiating phone calls and impersonating the IRS. MS Planke and MS Thomason reiterated that the IRS will not initiate contact with you over the phone unless responding to a call you made to them first. If you want, the IRS will assign you an additional unique number to help further protect yourself from scammers and identity thieves.
 - H&R Block provides training on tax preparation, usually starting in the fall (e.g., September)
 - Handouts related to Income Taxes were made available. These included “Taxable Social Security Benefits”, “Social Security and Medicare”, “Retirement Income”, Families with Children”, “Hobby vs Business”, and “Recordkeeping for Tax Purposes”.

NARFE NEWS

2022 NARFE Election Elections for NARFE National President, National Secretary/Treasurer and Regional Vice Presidents will be held in August 2022. All candidates are permitted to submit a statement for publication in the May 2022 issue of NARFE Magazine and use NARFE’s email messaging system to send members up to two messages between May 1 and July 14.

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Apply for the 2022 NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Program The NARFE-FEEA Fund Scholarship Awards Program is accepting applications for the 2022-23 academic year. Recipients will receive a one-time award of \$1,000. Applicants must be high school seniors; children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of NARFE members are eligible to apply. The application deadline is 3 p.m. ET on Thursday, March 24, 2022.

"Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 Passes House With Bipartisan Support" ("New Bill Introduced to Strengthen and Expand Social ...") On February 8, the House of Representatives voted on long-sought-after postal reform, passing the NARFE-supported version of the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022, H.R. 3076, with strong bipartisan support, 342-92. [READ MORE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

NARFE Brentwood Chapter 1967 Program Schedule (Tentative):

March 2022	City of Chesapeake Parks and Recreation presentation
April 2022	City of Chesapeake Fire Department presentation
May 2022	A presentation regarding Assisted Living Arrangements
June 2022	Luncheon at local Restaurant
July 2022	No Meeting
August 2022	No Meeting
September 2022	Welcome-Back – Business Meeting

NARFE WEBINARS

It's Not Magic: Target Your Best Retirement Date

Thursday March 15 | 2 p.m. EST

"Preparing Retirement Forms: Costly Errors and How to Avoid Them" ("Preparing Retirement Forms: Costly Errors and How to Avoid ...")

Wednesday, April 06 | 2 p.m. EST

Webinars are free for NARFE members, but you must register at www.new.narfe.org and click Federal Benefits Institute.



I would like to hear what is important to you. Your enthusiasm and contributions to our newsletter is highly valued. Send questions, suggestions, topics, or articles for our newsletter to the Newsletter Editor (hilljpj@cox.net).