

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

Yolanda Hill  
Newsletter Editor

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



**Brentwood Chapter #1697**  
Established March 9, 1978

**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)

**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*

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## CHAPTER NEWS

### MINUTES – (04/11/2022)

#### Attendees:

June Staton, Deborah Brown, Yolanda Hill, John Hill, Lyle Thoburn, David Parson, Annette Coleman, Janet Freeman, Dan McGrath, Vincent Graham, Willie Levenston, Theresa Rodwell, Charles Goings, Velvet Preuitt, and Andrea Roby.

#### Proceedings:

- The President called the meeting to order.
- The Chaplain began the meeting with an opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The President introduced and welcomed perspective new member Andrea Roby.
- Due to a last-minute scheduling conflict, the Chesapeake Fire Department cancelled its presentation scheduled for today. We will reschedule the presentation for a future meeting.
- The Program Chair gave a presentation regarding the activities and mission of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). (See “Summary of Chapter Discussions” below.)
- The treasurer submitted the “Treasurer Report.” (see below).
- The Program Chair reviewed the schedule for upcoming 2022 Chapter 1697 meetings. (See “Upcoming Events” below.) Our 2022-2023 Program schedule will include a financial advisor and various federal health care providers (e.g., BCBS and GEHA) and an income tax preparation organization.
- The Hospitality Chair recognized Chapter members with April birthdays. [Ages not disclosed.]
- The Hospitality Chair summarized the planning for Chapter 1697’s June luncheon. The luncheon will be at the Crazy Buffet & Grill, 1745 Parkview Dr (in the Parkview Shopping Center at the corner of South Military Hwy and Greenbrier Pkwy), Chesapeake VA, on Monday June 13 at 12:00 noon.
- The Hospitality Chair also shared the contents of a funny urban “helpful tips” article [not serious science or medical advice] about the potential healing effects of various spices. For example: Thyme eases coughs; Cumin retards cancer; Ginger calms nausea; Rosemary improves memory; Turmeric curbs inflammation; Garlic reduces cholesterol; Nutmeg lowers blood pressure; and Basil fights colds.
- The Legislative Officer noted that Congress breaks for its first extended recess in April from 4/11 through 4/22. Senators and House Representatives will spend time back in their home districts, providing additional opportunities for NARFE members to engage their lawmakers.
- Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) regulations regarding mandatory withdrawals from various retirement accounts (such as the Thrift Savings Plan and traditional IRAs) are expected to change in the near future. “SECURE Act 2.0” passed in the House of Representatives on 3/29/22 on a vote of 414 to 5 and is now on the way to the Senate where passage is anticipated. Amongst other things the bill raises the age at which distributions start, from 72 to 73 (then later to 74 in 2030, and then to 75 in 2033). The bill also changes the catchup contribution limits for such retirement accounts for those over 62 years of age to \$10,000/year (from the current \$6,500/year limit). NARFE supports passage of these changes.
- The Legislative Officer also noted that Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is transitioning to a new administrative service provider. As a result, certain transactions and services will be temporarily unavailable beginning Monday, May 16 till early June (i.e., submitting a request for a loan, withdrawal, distribution from your

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account, including “My Account “and the “ThriftLine.”) The transition period ends the first week of June. Then every TSP participant will need to set up new login credentials to access their account for the first time after the transition. Not all legacy documents and messages will carry over to the new system; therefore, you should review these before May 16 and copy/download any you wish to save. TSP claims that after the transition “you will have options for accessing and managing your account, with a fresh look and feel, new tools, and more ways to connect with TSP through live chat and virtual assistance. You will also be able to download an official TSP Mobile App with the option to use biometrics.”

- May 1-7, 2022 is National Public Service Recognition Week. An observance held for the last 36 years. It is meant to honor individuals serving in Federal, State, County, and Local governments. A time to issue proclamations, hold award ceremonies, special tribute events and deliver messages about the value of public service.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### Membership report as of 4/11/2022

- 76 Chapter Members
- 164 National Members in the Chapter Area
- 240 Total

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](http://www.vanarfe.org/Membership/Reinstatement%20Form.pdf).

## TREASURER REPORT

### Summary of Account for March 2022:

Beginning Balance	\$ 6884.85
National Payment	\$ 39.96
Deposits	\$ 34.00
Checks	\$ (33.13)
Interest	\$ 0.06
Ending Balance	\$ 6925.74

## SUMMARY of CHAPTER DISCUSSIONS

### US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Presentation

- The Program Chair made a presentation highlighting activities and missions of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). While giving an overview of the Corps he interlaced numerous examples and applications from the Hampton Roads area. These included: Craney Island, the Great Dismal Swamp, Lake Drummond, the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, Great Bridge Locks and Park, the Jordan Bridge project, beach restoration in Virginia Beach, extending the Downtown Norfolk Floodwall, converting existing buildings into alternate medical care facilities, and Plumb Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge.
  - The USACE traces its history back to the revolutionary war era and George Washington. At one time the only engineering school in the country was the US Military Academy at West Point, NY. That history being reflected in the USACE logo of a white castle on a red background. The USACE

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moto is “ESSAYONS.” A French phrase meaning “Let us try,” a nod to the French engineers who aided the American army during the Revolutionary war.

- The USACE has three main mission areas: The Engineer Regiment, military construction, and civil works. The Engineer Regiment consists of the army’s combat engineers (and other special units) needed to prosecute military missions (such as breaching obstacles, establishing roadways and bridging, constructing fortifications, mines and explosive expertise, and route clearing operations). The military construction mission relates to the construction of military base facilities and worldwide installations.
- The USACE is well-known for its civil works mission. Besides such notable items as building the Pentagon and the Manhattan Project during WW II, the Corps was responsible for construction of the Washington Monument, the Panama Canal, and NASA’s launch facilities.
- The USACE is responsible for maintaining safe, dependable, efficient, environmentally sustainable waterborne transportation systems throughout the country. It owns and operates over three hundred dams, is the largest generator of hydropower and renewable energy in the country, maintains 12,000 miles of inland and intracoastal shallow-draft navigation waterways, 13,000 miles of deep-water channels for commerce, is responsible for 190 waterway lock sites, and maintains and dredges the majority of US ports and harbors.
- USACE considers itself the nation’s environmental engineer, restoring degraded ecosystems and managing environmental cleanup projects.
- USACE is one of the nation’s leading federal providers of outdoor recreation with more than four hundred lake and river projects in forty-three states where visitors can enjoy hiking, boating, fishing, camping, hunting, and more.
- USACE also works with FEMA as a member of the federal team responding to major disasters. The USACE focus is on providing temporary emergency power, debris management, critical public facilities, temporary housing, temporary roofing (i.e., “Operation Blue Roof”), infrastructure assessment, and urban search and rescue.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NARFE Brentwood Chapter 1697 Program Schedule (Tentative):

May 2022	A presentation by Senior Home Care Services
June 2022	Luncheon at the Crazy Buffet & Grill
July 2022	No Meeting
August 2022	No Meeting
September 2022	Welcome-Back – Business Meeting

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## NARFE

**2022 NARFE Election:** Elections for NARFE National President, National Secretary/Treasurer and Regional Vice Presidents will be in August 2022. All candidates can 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.

**FEDcon22:** FEDcon22 will be take place August 21-23, 2022 @ the Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale, AZ. FEDcon22 is a premier conference for federal employees and retirees to enjoy unparalleled excellence in advocacy training in the fight to protect federal benefits. Registration at "Early Bird prices" is now available through May 13, 2022.

## NARFE WEBINARS

**Managing Your TSP in Retirement**  
Thursday, May 05 | 2 p.m. EDT

**Understanding FERS Deferred/Postponed Retirement Options**  
Wednesday, June 08 | 2 p.m. EDT

**Understanding Military and Civilian Federal Service Credit**  
Thursday, July 07 | 2 p.m. EDT

Webinars are free for NARFE members, but you must register at [www.new.narfe.org](http://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](mailto:hilljpj@cox.net)).