

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

Editor: June J. Staton, Ph.D.



Brentwood Chapter #1697
Established March 9, 1978
Charter Date: September 1, 1980

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

Theresa Rodwell
Secretary

Willie Levenston
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 – (10/11 and 10/17)

Attendees October 11:

Annette Coleman, Bryan Collins, Charles Anderson, Charles Goings, David Parson, Deborah Brown, Dan McGrath, June Staton, Justin Saunders, Raymond Orland, Raymond Staton Sr., Janet Freeman, Lolita Albergottie, Janice Kenley, Valene Williamston, R.J. Holmes, Emily Sherron, Congresswoman Elaine Luria

Attendees October 17:

June Staton, David Parson, Charles Goings, Theresa Rodwell, Raymond Staton Sr., Lyle Thoburn, Annette Coleman, Barbara Brooks, Ethel Highsmith, Linda Fletcher

Proceedings:

The President called the meetings to order. On October 11, our Chaplain gave the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. On October 17, our Program Chair gave the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reports and Discussion:

The President welcomed new members and guests at both meetings and introduced Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) representatives, Ms. Linda Fletcher, Ms. Ethel Highsmith, and Ms. Barbara Brooks. On October 11, Vice President introduced invited guests and *Congresswoman Elaine Luria*.

Announcements:

- Reminder: FEHB Plan Open Season is November 14 through midnight December 12, 2022, ET.
- The 2022 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) is 8.7% for CSRS annuitants and 7.7% for FERS annuitants.
- November 4 - Chapter Recruitment Event at BCBS Health Fair Chesapeake Conference Center.
- November 17 – Chapter Recruitment Event at FBI in Chesapeake (Attendees – President & Program Chair)
- Medicare Part B premiums will decrease to \$164.90. The annual Part B deductible will also decrease to \$226 in 2023, from \$233 during 2022.

Summary of Chapter Discussions

Congresswoman Elaine Goodman Luria

- American politician and US Navy veteran.
- Virginia U.S. representative second congressional district since 2019. Luria's congressional district currently encompasses all of Accomack, Northampton, and York counties, all of the cities of Virginia Beach and Williamsburg and parts of the cities of Norfolk and Hampton.
- Committee Membership:



- House Committee on Armed Services
- House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
- House Committee on Homeland Security
- House Select Committee to Investigate the

January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol

- Topics discussed included her priorities (veterans, health care, education seniors, environment); enacted legislation and bills sponsored and recently introduced.
- Discussions concluded with questions from the chapter members on federal pay parity, migrant problems at the southern border and senior technology issues and challenges.

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) Federal Employee Program (fepblue.org) Presentation



BCBS consultant, Ms. Linda Fletcher delivered the presentation with discussions on the following topics:

- “My Blue Wellness Card,” a wellness incentive program that can earn \$ that you can use toward qualified medical expenses such as copays and prescription drugs. The discussion included a review on how to create a “My Blue” account.
- 2023 Rates - Reviewed FEP Blue Focus, Basic and Standard options monthly premiums for 2023 and the increase in each option and gave a brief comparison of the options.
- Advantages of the integration of Medicare with a BCBS Service Benefit Plan.
- Medicare Reimbursement Account for Basic Option members - \$800 for those individuals enrolled in both Medicare Parts A & B and the BCBS Basic Option.
- Distributed 2023 Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Employee Program Benefit Information for Annuitants Pamphlet to participants describing 2023 changes for all options.
- Distributed handouts to individuals interested in BCBS FEP Vision coverage and BCBS FEP Dental coverage.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership report as of 10/18/2022

- 73 Chapter Members
- 162 National Members in the Chapter Area
- 235 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).

UPCOMING EVENTS

NARFE Brentwood Chapter 1697 Program Schedule (Tentative):

November 14, 2022	GEHA Health Insurance
December 12, 2022	Christmas Luncheon
January 9, 2023	Chesapeake Fire Department
February 13, 2023	H & R Block
March 13, 2023	FBI



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 (j.staton@cox.net).