

National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Association (NARFE)
Brentwood Newsletter February 2023

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

Theressa Rodwell
Secretary

Willie Levenston
Treasurer

Jeff Rau
Service Officer

Velvet Preuitt
Vacant

Deborah Brown
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 – (02/13/23)

Attendees:

Deborah Brown, Annette Coleman Bryan Collins, Linda Fletcher, Janet Freeman, Willie Levenston, Dan McGrath, David Parson, Jeff Rau, Theresa Rodwell, June Staton, Teresa Tomason and Cynthia Ballard (H & R Block representatives)

Proceedings:

- The President called the meeting to order. The Chaplain gave the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The President welcomed all members, and thanked our newest member, Linda Fletcher for joining our chapter. She also welcomed and introduced our guest speakers: Ms. Teresa Thomason, and Ms. Cynthia Ballard from H & R Block.
- The H & R Block Representatives delivered their presentation on “Federal and State Income Tax Updates” (See “Highlights” below.)
- The business meeting resumed at the end of the Income Tax presentation.

Officer Reports:

- The treasurer gave the “Treasurer Report.” (see below).
- VP/Legislative Chair: She gave updates on legislative meetings attended, and topics discussed at the meetings such as FERS equality pay, WEP and GPO status. Legislators are still actively engaged to help us in our fight to repeal the GPO & WEP from Social Security law!
- Program Chair: Next month the FBI representatives will be our guest speakers. The presentation is on financial scams to educate seniors who are most vulnerable and help them avoid falling victim, as well as give them ways to report these schemes to the proper authorities. We need to have twenty-five people in attendance, so please invite your friends and relatives.
- Hospitality Chair: All attendees were given valentine candy. Trivia questions on Valentine’s Day and Black History Month were asked to educate members on the history of the two occasions.
- Service Officer: BCBS Medicare reimbursement options were discussed and ways to receive the benefits.

Discussions: VFN Annual Conference April 23 - 5, 2023:

- Conference Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton, Hampton Convention Center, 1700 Coliseum Drive Hampton, Virginia 23666 The theme is “Evolving to Remain Relevant.”
- Our President will serve as the Greeters Chairperson for the conference. The following members will serve as greeters: Deborah Brown, Annette Coleman, Carolyn Collins, Linda Fletcher, Willie Levenston, Dan McGrath, and Theresa Rodwell. Greeters’ registration fees and hotel expenses will be covered by the chapter funds. Greeters are the first faces that attendees encounter. The greeters will guide attendees to the Registration Desk and all other venues using the Hotel Layout posters. They will assist attendees with information, times, and place of all events. All greeters will wear Greeter sashes and be ready to assist anyone in need, they will help in finding seats in the main sessions and during the Banquet.
- The President will provide “Greeters Job Description for the 2023 Conference” and make a chart detailing assignment, name, station, cell phone number and shift times.
- The Treasurer will submit appropriate forms and payments for registration fees, supporter donations, and chapter advertisement. Members will make their own hotel reservations and present receipts for reimbursement at the next meeting.
- Deborah Brown volunteered to represent Area IV on the VFN Electronic Communications Committee.
- The President adjourned the meeting.

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TREASURER REPORT

Balance as of January 31, 2023	\$ 6753.52
Chapter Dues (2021)	(145.25)
Chapter Dues (2022)	(134.75)
Deposit National Payment	115.84
Ending Balance as of 2/13/2023	\$ 6565.41

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership report as of 02/13/2022

- 79 Chapter Members
- 155 National Members in the Chapter Area
- 234 Total

Summary of Chapter Discussions

H & R Block Presentation Highlights

Ms. Ballard summarized the 38-page IRS Publication 554 Tax guide for Seniors: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p554.pdf>. Topics included:

- Increase in standard deduction amount increased for all filers.
- Elimination of age restriction for contributions to a traditional IRA; Alternative minimum tax exemption increased.
- Standard mileage rate increased. Increase in age for mandatory distributions; Some social security benefits may be taxable. Charitable contributions are deductible, only if itemized; Energy credits.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NARFE Brentwood Chapter 1697 Program Schedule (Tentative):

March 13, 2023	FBI
April 2 -5, 2023	VFN Conference
April 13, 2023	Spring Gardening Presentation (Not confirmed)



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).