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1921

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National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees
Virginia Federation of Chapters
Chapter 595
Serving Colonial Beach, Westmoreland, and King George

Volume 28 Issue 8

October 2023

President's Letter

Dear Members of Colonial Beach Chapter 595,

So, of course it is time to get ready for our Harvest Supper which will be held at the Colonial Beach Moose Lodge on Saturday, November 4, 2023 starting at 5:00 pm. We have a great committee starting to get to work. The tickets are being printed and the cost is \$20.00 in advance or \$25.00 at the door. Once again the Moose Lodge has been secured for our event The DJ is all set. DJ Turtle said he is happy to come back. The tax ID letter and flyers are ready to start going out to vendors. Last year our charity event for Alzheimer's was so successful. Please come to our meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 to get your tickets and sign up for how you can help and tell us what tempting dish you will bring to the Harvest Supper.

Can you believe it is early voting in Virginia? What a great idea! Rich and I vote in Montross. We go have lunch at the local pizza restaurant and then go to vote. No waiting, no lines. It takes less than 10 minutes. Please vote whether you vote early or on Election Day.

I think I mentioned at the meeting in September that Loy and Ann will not be able to plan our Holiday celebration in December. So now it is up to you to come up with some new ideas! What do you think?

So I hope to see you at our next meeting, Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at the Hunan Diner in Colonial Beach. If you can't make it and need tickets for the Harvest Supper, please call me at 804 224-3069.

Leslie Ravenell, President

Colonial Beach Chapter 595

This month Food Bank items go to St Mary's Episcopal Church.

Notes From the First Vice President:

We're pleased to welcome Ms. Ann Kloeckner this month. Ms. Kloeckner is the Executive director Legal Aid Works. LAW provides legal services in civil proceedings in the Fredericksburg. She graduated from Swarthmore College and Villanova University School of Law. As a practicing, she is licensed in four states, including, of course, Virginia.

MEETING NOTICE

October 10, 2023

12 PM at the Hunan

**Our speaker this month is Ms Kloeckner Executive
Director of Legal Aid Works**

The following is from FEDweek of September 28, 2023:

Enrollee Share of FEHB Premiums to Rise 7.7 Percent on Average for 2024

The enrollee share of FEHB premiums will rise 7.7 percent on average for 2024, OPM has said, with a reduction in the number of plans from 271 to 159, largely due to the dropout of Humana regional plans.

The increase is slightly below the 8.7 percent average increase for this 2023, which had been the largest jump in more than a decade. As always there will be variation within the overall average, with higher increases in some plans and the costs in some others essentially flat or decreasing a bit.

“Major cost drivers of the program generally align with those in the commercial market,” OPM said. Traditionally that has meant increases in health care costs generally, and especially for prescription drugs, which accounts for about a quarter of costs in the program. The specific rates your plan is available at Fed-week.com.

Report Warns of Legionnaires’ Disease Risk in Federal Buildings

In the latest of a series of warnings about safety risks in federal office space, the inspector general of the GSA has said the agency “must take immediate action to address the risk of Legionella contamination in water systems across GSA-controlled (owned and leased) buildings.”

In an alert memo to agency management, the IG said elevated levels of Legionella bacteria—the primary cause of Legionnaires’ Disease—was found in six buildings in recent months and warned that the risk is broader.

“The elevated levels of Legionella have occurred at a time of reduced building occupancy levels. Reduced occupancy can cause water stagnation in buildings and allows Legionella to grow and spread, thereby increasing the likelihood of Legionella contamination in other GSA-controlled buildings,” it said.

Reminder: Standard Per Diem Lodging Rate Rising

Effective with the start of fiscal year 2024 on October 1, the standard lodgings rate for federal travel destinations without their own rates will rise from \$98 to \$107 while the rates for some destinations with their own rates also will increase.

Lodgings rates vary for what will be 302 destinations in fiscal 2024; in some, those rates vary seasonally, as well.

Follow our chapter on FaceBook at www.facebook.com/narfecbkg

NARFE Chapter 595
8283 Oak Wood Dr
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Meeting Date
October 10
At the Hunan

Address Correction Requested

We are on the Web
[https://www.vanarfe.org/
Chapter-595](https://www.vanarfe.org/Chapter-595)