

National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Association (NARFE)

Brentwood Newsletter September 9, 2024

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: 1 PM - 2 PM

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

Tina Bracy
Membership Chair

Vacant
Legislative Officer

Annette Coleman
Alzheimer Officer

David Parson
Public Relations

Annette Coleman
Hospitality Chair

Janet Freeman
Chaplain

Dan McGrath
MD Past President

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CHAPTER NEWS

MINUTES

Attendees:

Tina Bracy, Deborah Brown, Annette Coleman, Alonzo Coleman, Carolyn Collins, Janet Freeman, Melodie Graham, Dwight Graham, Willie Levenston, David Parson, June Staton, Lois Vance, and Ronald Vance.

Proceedings:

- The President initiated the meeting and Annette Coleman led the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The President welcomed everyone back from summer break, thanked them for attending, and welcomed three new active-duty members to NARFE and our chapter: Joseph Allen, Devin LaSalle, who transferred from NARFE National, and Sherri Clayborne. Sherri's bio is provided below.
- The Vice President, who also serves as the Virginia Federation NARFE (VFN) State Legislative Chair, gave an update on the VFN 2025 State Legislative Plan and shared information on Virginia Voting. Additionally, she reported on the FEDCON 2024 conference she attended in August. (See details below).



- David, the Program Chair, distributed fifteen tickets from the City of Chesapeake for Sheriff Jim O'Sullivan's Annual Senior Support Services Seminar on Wednesday, September 11th, at 9:00 AM at the Chesapeake Conference Center. He also presented updates to the calendar of events (see Calendar of Events below). Note that our meetings in October and November will be scheduled for the third Monday due to the Columbus and Veterans Day holidays. Representatives from Blue Cross and Blue Shield will present an update on 2025 health benefits at our next meeting.

- Karen Kristy, Director of Chesapeake Parks and Recreation, distributed 30 NARFE t-shirts sponsored by the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office. Tina distributed the shirts to the members who were present, the remaining shirts are available for pick-up at the next meeting. We agreed to wear our T-shirts at the Senior Seminar.



Discussions:

- The President revisited the decision to increase chapter dues. After deciding to create a budget to determine the need and appropriate amount for the increase, Dwight was appointed to head the committee to review our expenses and income, with support from the President and Treasurer.
- NARFE kicked off the annual Fall Membership Drive on September 1. The program will run through December 31, 2024. Current members earn \$10 for each new member they recruit and other prizes.
- The President distributed copies of the redesigned membership brochure, F-135.

The meeting was adjourned.

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TREASURER REPORT

09/09/2024

DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION

CHK NO	DATE	CHECKING
	Beginning Balance 8/1/2024	2806.05
	08/26/2024 ACH Deposit National AC196 Payment	89.80
	Ending Balance 08/31/2024	2895.85
	Actual Balance	2895.85

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Update on the VFN Virginia 2025 State Legislative Plan:

The areas below have been proposed for inclusion in the 2025 Trifold. Once approved, Area Vice Presidents will receive copies for distribution at the October VFN Board meeting in Harrisonburg.

- # 1 – Repeal of Sunset Provision for Virginia's Current Standard Deduction Amounts
- #2 – Virginia Age 65 and Older Deduction
- #3 – Nursing Home Priorities
- #4 – Exempting a Segment of CSRS Pensions Equivalent to Social Security Retirement

Virginia Voter Information Guide: Click on the link below for detailed information:

https://www.elections.virginia.gov/media/formswarehouse/2024-voter-outreach/voter-pocket-guide/11.5.24-VPG_English.pdf

Report on FEDCON 2024:

This year's conference was held August 18th-20th in St. Louis at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch. Each day was filled with amazing speakers, workshops, and activities. I was fortunate to attend the following, all of which



were filled:

- Maximizing the After-Tax Value of Retirement Savings
- Evolving Advocacy: NARFE's Grassroots Toolbox for Today and Tomorrow
- Best Practices for Chapter and Federation Communication
- Advocacy Update: What's the Latest and What's Ahead

For an overview of the schedule, see the Schedule at a Glance at <https://fedcon.narfe.org/schedule-at-a-glance/>.

HOSPITALITY REPORT

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a wonderful summer. September was originally the seventh of ten months on the ancient Roman calendar which began with March. After the reforms that resulted in a 12-month year, September became the ninth month but retained its name. The birthstone for September, sapphire, has

"TOGETHER WE WILL SUCCEED"

Serving Current, Former and Retired Federal Civilian Employees -Spouses and Survivor Annuitants

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traditionally symbolized sincerity, truth, faithfulness, and nobility.

Join the “Walk to End Alzheimer’s” on 21 Sep, 8:30, at Chesapeake City Park. Walk one or two miles.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS: Carolyn Collins, Theresa Rodwell, and Alonzo Coleman.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership report as of 09/16/2024

- 75 Chapter Members
- 150 National Members in the Chapter Area
- 4 New Chapter Members
- 1 New Prospective Members
- 225 **Total Membership**

NEW MEMBER - BIO

Sherrri Clayborne is a Department of Defense (Navy) Management Analyst. She worked in the private sector for over 20 years before joining the federal government in 2020. She intends to continue working for another 20 years, depending on her health and lifestyle. Her retirement date may be influenced by her husband's retirement in seven years. Aside from her professional work, Sherrri is actively involved in the community through memberships in her sorority and the NAACP. She hails from Chesapeake and currently resides in the Deep Creek area.

2024-2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

September 10 th /11th	City of Chesapeake 34 th Annual Senior Support Services Seminar
October 21 st	BCBS Presentation
November 18th	GEHA Presentation (Pending)
December 9th	Luncheon (TBA)
January 13th	City of Chesapeake Sheriff’s Self-Defense Course
February 10 th	Federal Income Tax Updates (TBA)



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