

National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Association (NARFE)
Brentwood Newsletter January 13, 2025

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

Deborah Brown
Legislative Officer

Annette Coleman
Alzheimer Officer

David Parson
Program Manager

Annette Coleman
Hospitality Chair

Janet Freeman
Chaplain

Dwight Graham
Financial Secretary

Ronald Vance
CO-Service Officer

Alonzo Coleman
CO-Chaplain

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CHAPTER NEWS

MINUTES

Attendees:

Tina Bracy, Alonzo Coleman, Annette Coleman, Carolyn Collins, Melodie Graham, Dwight Graham, Willie Levenston, David Parson, Gayle Robinson, Theressa Rodwell, June Staton, Graylin Taylor.

Proceedings:

- The President initiated the meeting, with Alonzo leading the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The President designated Alonzo as the Co-chaplain; welcomed the visitors and expressed gratitude for their attendance. The Lucky Winners of a Free NARFE One-Year Membership were announced: Camila Shoeibi from Virginia Beach and Anthony Rodgers from Chesapeake, VA.
- Area IV Regional Vice President Graylin Taylor performed the annual Installation of Officers. Our new officers for the year are Dwight Graham, Financial Secretary; Ronald Vance, CO-Service Office; and Alonzo Coleman, CO-Chaplain.
- The Vice President/State Legislative Chair was invited to speak at the Peninsula Newport News Chapter 0682 today.
- The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report. (See details below.)
- The Financial Secretary submitted his report. (See details below.)
- The Membership Chair announced the addition of three new members and gave her report. (See report below).
- The Hospitality Chair reported birthdays for November, December, and January. She shared some tidbits about New Year's including foods, superstitions, traditions, and its history. Dwight and Melodie shared Norwegian holiday tidbits and discussed a special treat for the holiday called *lefse* (See details on *New Year's Tidbits* below).
- The Program Manager discussed the Calendar of Events for 2025 (See details below). Dwight suggested we contact AARP next year for a Federal Income Tax Presentation.

Discussions:

Social Security Fairness Act: The new law repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), and Government Pension Offset (GPO) for benefits payable after December 2023. We are awaiting further details on the implementation. For updates from the Social Security Administration regarding the repeal of WEP and GPO, you can check <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html>.

2025 Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) Conference: The main focus of the discussion on the conference at the Hotel Madison & Shenandoah Valley Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA 22801 from April 6 – 9, 2025. The President reviewed the Conference Bulletin documents she received in the mail. The chapter will sponsor a van to provide transportation to and from the conference. Alonzo will drive the van. Members can sign up if they would like to go to the conference. Willie is the chapter point of contact for the VFN Conference Planning. The conference bulletin and all forms are on the website (<https://vanarfe/conf2025>). The following is a list of preliminary information and deadline dates of submission:

- Conference Theme: "Our Future – Stronger Together."

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- Hotel Information: Hotel Madison Harrisonburg VA, \$107 per night plus tax; (540) 564-0200; Deadline 3/17/2025. Group name and group code: Virginia Federation of NARFE.
- Registration/Banquet: The registration fee is \$95, if you register by 2/17/2025; after that date, \$120.
- Program Book Advertisement: the cost for ¼ page is \$35, form must be received by 3/15/2025.
- Multiple Supporters: Conference supporter's donations should be submitted by 3/15/2025.
- The meeting was adjourned.

TREASURER REPORT

01/13/2025

DESCRIPTION OF TRANSACTION

CHK NO	DATE		CHECKING
		Beginning Balance 12/1/2024	2895.85
	12/09/2024	Annette Coleman-Hospitality	-127.20
	12/09/2024	Pop's Diner - Hospitality	-213.46
	12/12/2024	ACH Deposit	28.00
Bank Balance			2725.62
		Outstanding Checks (1284,1285,1287)	-162.20
Check Book Balance			2563.42

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

01/13/2025

CHECKING	INCOME	EXPENSES
Beginning Balance 1/1/2024	3682.67	
Dates: 01/09 - 09/09/2024	3851.65	793.84

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership report as of 01/13/2025

Total Current Chapter Members	81
Total National Members in Chapter Area	150
Total Chapter plus National Members	230
Current Chapter Members Breakdown	
1 Year	39
2 Year	3
3 Year	9
Dues Withhold	25
Life Members	5

3 New Chapter Members:

WELCOME!

- Robert Burns
- Dan McGrath
- Penny McGrath

"OUR FUTURE - STRONGER TOGETHER"

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

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HIGHLIGHTS

American tidbits about New Year's:

New Year's foods: Black-eyed peas, collard greens, cornbread, pork, fish, and noodles.
New Year's superstitions: Eat black-eyed peas, collard, and cornbread as a symbol of luck, wealth, and prosperity.
New Year's traditions: Watching the ball drop on television or in Times Square.
New Year's history: The first New Year's celebration was about 4,000 years ago. Julius Caesar was the first to make January 1 a national holiday.

Norwegian Tidbits about New Year's:



Foods commonly eaten on New Year's Eve include turkey, lamb, pork, or reindeer, with side dishes, like potatoes. Lefse is a special treat for the holidays. It is an **iconic holiday food** served on the tables of Norwegian Americans on Thanksgiving and worldwide on Christmas. This **delicious potato bread** is akin to a tortilla, It is often served with toppings, such as butter, sugar, cinnamon, jellies, and even savory ingredients.

Here is a picture of Norwegian flatbread, made with potatoes, called lefse.

2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

February 6	Alzheimer's Association-Caregiver Connect New Galilee Missionary Baptist Church 1765 S. Military Hwy Chesapeake, 10 A.M. – 2 P.M. Call 800.222.3900 to register.
February 10	City of Chesapeake Sheriff's Self-Defense Course
March 10	Chesapeake Parks and Recreation
April 6 -9	VFN Conference
May	Chesapeake Health – Infectious Diseases
June	Luncheon at Pops Diners
July-August	Summer Break
September	TBD
October	BCBS Open Season Health Fair
November	Area II Annual Open Season Health Fair and FBI Health Fair
December	Luncheon at Pops Diner



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).

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