



Roanoke Valley—Chapter 2297
Chapter News



Volume 3, Number 9

December 2008

Merry Christmas—Come Celebrate

This is just another reminder that the Chapter’s Christmas Party is less than a week away. Since our normal meeting day is only two days before Christmas Day, our Christmas Party and December meeting will be Friday, December 19th at the Lloyd Andrews Building at the corner of 7th and Jackson Streets in Roanoke Rapids. We’ll gather at 1:00 PM. So mark your calendar for that date.

As in the past, this will be a covered dish event with the Chapter providing the drinks, the entree and bread. Please RSVP and coordinate the dish you plan to bring with Marg Prescott at 586-3453 or (prescotta@schoolink.net) as soon as possible so that we can get an accurate head count. Also, please bring a serving spoon for your dish.

See you there!

NOTE: This is a change from our normal meeting date.

Area IV Leadership Development Session

In past years, each area in the Federation has conducted a one-day officers training session in early January. This year’s session—which is being termed simply as an “Area Meeting”—will be held Thursday, January 8th, 2009 at the NC State University Club in Raleigh. And, as in past years, the meeting is open to all chapter members—not just officers.

The meeting will be in a workshop-oriented format with four rotating breakout sessions. The first session will be oriented by chapter positions: (1) Chapter Presidents, VPs, and others who use the same basic information; (2) Secretaries, Treasurers, Service Officers, and the other service programs; and (3) those who are primarily involved in outreach operations. After the initial session, the three groups will rotate into the Data and Information Services, Membership Issues, and Legislative Program sessions.

The meeting will start at 9:00 AM and run until about 4:00 PM. Lunch will be served. There will also be coffee, donuts and ham biscuits in the morning. Cost is \$12.50.

So, mark your calendar and plan on attending. Please let Mike McCoid (537-2096 or mmccoid@embarqmail.com) or me (Tim Stone) (586-4864 or tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com) know by December 31st if you plan to attend so that we can provide Area IV VP Bennie Saunders a head count.

Upcoming Events

Chapter meeting

Friday, December 19th,
 1:00 PM
 Lloyd Andrews Building,
 7th & Jackson Streets

This is not our normal meeting date

Officers Meeting

TBD

Area IV Leadership Development Session

Thursday, January 8th, 2009
 9:00 AM
 NC State University Club
 Raleigh

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FEHBP Open Season

The FEHBP Open season has been extended until January 31st, 2009 because of concerns over Blue Cross Blue Shield out of network reimbursements. The following is from the NARFE Legislative update of December 12th, 2008.

As first explained on pages 37-38 of the December NARFE magazine, which most members received before Thanksgiving, federal workers and annuitants enrolled in BC/BS standard option in 2009 would be responsible for paying 100 percent of the billed amount, up to \$7,500 catastrophic limit per procedure for surgery performed by out-of-network physicians and 100 percent of the bill, up to a maximum of \$800, for anesthesia provided by an out-of-network anesthesiologist.

BC/BS's definition of surgery includes the treatment of fractures and dislocations including casting, biopsy procedures, removal of tumors and cysts, treatment of burns, obstetrical care including childbirth, and diagnostic colonoscopy and other endoscopic procedures.

NARFE Headquarters distributed the following via the GEMS system on December 14th.

OPM announced FEHBP enrollees will have up to January 31, 2009, to make a change in their health, dental and vision coverage. They are taking this extraordinary action in response to concerns over Blue Cross Blue Shield out of network reimbursement that would have enrollees paying a \$7,500 co-pay for out -of- network surgeries. To ensure enrollees have an adequate time to evaluate any changes, OPM is allowing employees and retirees to make belated changes through January 2009.

Enrollees who make a belated open season change should be aware the change is effective January 1, 2009, just like regular open season changes. Any medical services rendered after January 1, 2009, should be billed to your new plan, if you made an open season change. Your new health plan identification cards will be mailed to you by the plan within 30 days after they receive your new enrollment change from OPM. In the meantime, if you need to use you new plan and you do not have your new identification card to show your provider, use the enrollment confirmation letter you received either from your agency or OPM.

Premium adjustments for open season changes in health insurance, dental and vision coverage will also be effective January 1, 2009. This means that retirees whose belated open season change does not get processed by OPM in time to make the payroll cut off for the February 1, 2009, check will see their new premiums first deducted from their payments dated March 1, 2009. Any adjustment between the old premium amount and the new premium amount for the two months of January and February, will also be included in the March 1, 2009, payment.

For retirees, the open season number to call for materials and to make changes is 1-800-332-9798. Employees need to visit their agency Human Resources office.

David Snell, Director

Retirement Benefits Service Department

If you have concerns in this area, plan on attending the Chapter's January 27th, 2009 meeting because Joyce Echols from North Carolina Blue Cross Blue Shield is our scheduled speaker.

Minutes of the November 2008 Chapter Meeting

President Micheal McCoid called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM, November 25th, 2008 at the New China Restaurant in Roanoke Rapids. He led the Chapter members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections to the minutes of the October meeting as distributed in the November newsletter.

Old Business

None

New Business

- The following officers were elected for 2009:
 - President: Michael McCoid
 - Vice President: Virginia Shell
 - Secretary: Tim Stone
 - Treasurer: Barry Van Scoyoc
- Barbara Dow has agreed to serve as Membership Chair and Hal Gardner has agreed to continue as Service Officer.
- The Chapter members discussed the proposed date and location for the Chapter's Christmas party. Since several members had conflicts on December 17th, it was decided to move the Party to Friday, December 19th at the Lloyd Andrews Building.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Tim Stone
Secretary

Updating the Chapter Directory

Please note that this newsletter has a complete directory of Chapter members. Please review your information and notify me (Tim Stone) of any needed corrections.

If you got this newsletter through the regular mail even though you have a valid e-mail address, there are a couple of possible explanations—the membership directory lists an incorrect e-mail address or your spam blocker is keeping the e-mail with the newsletter from being delivered into your mail box. To fix the problem:

1. Forward your correct e-mail address to me (Tim Stone) at tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com
2. Set your spam blocker so e-mails from that address get through to your mail box.

Chapter 2297 Officers

The following individuals are serving as the chapter officers for 2008

| Office | Incumbent | Telephone | E-mail |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| President | Micheal McCoid | (252) 537-2096 | mmccoid@embarqmail.com |
| Vice President | Virginia Shell | (252) 537-1713 | virginiashell@gmail.com |
| Secretary/Newsletter | Tim Stone | (252) 586-4864 | tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com |
| Treasurer | Barry Van Scoyoc | (252) 410-0433 | big.bear@earthlink.net |
| Membership Chair | Mary Luck | (252) 586-5879 | None |
| Service Officer | Harold Gardner | (252) 586-7896 | beth_gardner@embarqmail.com |



Roanoke Valley Chapter 2297

Membership Roster

In accordance with the National Bylaws, Article I, Section 5-B, "Under no circumstances shall the phone numbers e-mail addresses of Association members or potential members be provided to anyone other than Association Officials and members."

Name/Address Telephone/e-mail

Andrews, Robert
235 North Brown Rd
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-3959
boba@lakegastoncc.org

Barrett, Donald
360 Windward Dr
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 519-4193
drbarrett@embarqmail.com

Belfield, Viola
138 Popular St
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870

Boham, Lillian
23141 Marble Way
California, MD 20619
(850) 995-9858

Branch, Edward
157 Three Chopt Rd
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-7270

Branch, Sylvia
157 Three Chopt Rd
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-7270

Chance, Patricia
184 Wildwood Circle
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-0184

Copeland, Novella
1330 Charlotte St
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 308-0298

Name/Address Telephone/e-mail

Darnall, Clayton
354 Woodlandhurst Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850-8970
(252) 586-4403
tcdarnall@embarqmail.com

Davis, Penny
8768 Hwy 561
Halifax, NC 27839
(252) 826-0482

Deanhardt, Jo
27 Parrot Circle
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-2925
joandron@deanhardt.com

Deese, Ed
521 Roanoke Ave.
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 537-6167

Diehl, Karen
1078 Osprey Point
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-5024
krwdiehl@embarqmail.com

Dow, Barbara
141 Wrays Ct
Gaston, NC 27832-9556
(252) 537-8627
dowhome@peoplepc.com

Feild, Josephine
115 Horseshoe Bend Rd
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-3931
jodyf@embarqmail.com

Feild, Thomas
115 Horseshoe Bend Rd
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-3931
tomgaston@embarqmail.com

Name/Address Telephone/e-mail

Foster, Durward
169 Pinecone Dr
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 535-4044
durfoster@lakegastoncc.org

Gardner, Harold
478 Ridge Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-7896
beth_gardner@embarqmail.com

Gibbs, Karen
179 Alma Gardner Ave
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-3392
northshoremom@embarqmail.com

Glover, Aleta
312 Enos Slaughter Rd
Roxboro, NC 27574
(336) 599-0715

Harris, Pauline
239 Enterprise Rd.
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-6691

Hayes, Rosa
161 Yankee Ln
Woodland, NC 27897
(252) 587-7561

Hines, Ruth
894 Timbercreek Dr
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-6856
ruth71747@aol.com

Howell, James
240 Linda's Way
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 536-3410
jhow1107@gmail.com

**Name/Address
Telephone/e-mail**

Hutton, Olive
257 Greenbriar Ct
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-5619
williamson@lakegastoncc.org

Johnson, Milton
P.O. Box 1428
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 519-2061

Kay, Maria
154 Sandy Shores Dr
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 537-1227

Kramer, Norman
58 Becky Ct
Bracey, VA 23919-2508
(434) 636-4090
nsfnormankramer@netscape.com

Linkous, Ralph
446 Wildwood Circle
Littleton, NC 27850
252-586-5129

Lockerman, Alvin
P.O. Box 106
Gasburg, VA 23857
(434) 577-2601
alexjane@earthlink.net

Luck, Mary
101 E. Oak Grove Trl
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 586-5879

Masson, Joseph
205 Plantation Dr
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-1898
jojoe213@hughes.net

Mathews, Nina
P.O. Box 24
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 535-4016
vern68@embarqmail.com

**Name/Address
Telephone/e-mail**

Mathews, Vernon
P.O. Box 24
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 535-4016
vern68@embarqmail.com

McClellan, Richard
773 Woodcock Rd.
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 537-0954
sandyjmcclellan@earthlink.net

McCoid, Cindy
P.O. Box 266
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 537-2096
cmccoid@embarqmail.com

McCoid, Micheal
P.O. Box 266
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 537-2096
mmccoid@embarqmail.com

McGranahan, Johnnie
111 Red Bug Rd
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-6094
judymcg@embarqmail.com

McGrath, Thomas
116 Birch Ln
Littleton, NC 27850
(434) 917-0109
TOMKAT12000@YAHOO.COM

Moore, Carol
706 Wilson St.
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 537-3310

Nicewarner, Dorothy
2325 Cardigan Dr
Aiken, SC 29803

Nicholson, Nancy
152 Dogwood Knoll
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 537-7531
lakewoman@embarqmail.com

**Name/Address
Telephone/e-mail**

O'Neill, William
216 Chestnut Hill
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 537-5535
billoneill@embarqmail.com

Pennington, Dave
127 Tucker Dr
Henrico, NC 27842
(252)537-5494
ddpenn46@yahoo.com

Phillips, Neal
331 Woodland Hurst Rd
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-3493
ncphil@embarqmail.com

Phillips, Raymond
P.O. Box 411
Halifax, NC 27839

Podruchny, Jean
3023 Hwy 125
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 536-4690
fjpodr@embarqmail.com

Prescott, Alwood
105 Westhaven Ct.
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-3453
prescotta@schoollink.net

Quigley, Victoria
204 Crosscut Ln
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 578-7480
echoquebec@hotmail.com

Rogister, Enos (Bill)
5951 US 258 Hwy
Woodland, NC 27897
(252) 587-9791
billrogister@embarqmail.com

Russ, Francis
17 W Dogwood Trail
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-7293

**Name/Address
Telephone/e-mail**

**Name/Address
Telephone/e-mail**

**Name/Address
Telephone/e-mail**

Schaech, John
358 Windward Drive
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 537-1104
toolguyjas@embarqmail.com

Schmitz, Robert
163 Pine Cone Dr
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 537-4061
janbob@schoollink.net

Shell, A. Virginia
1120 Charlotte St
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870-
(252) 537-1713

Shinn, Stephen
247 East Summerwood Road
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-1247
steve023@embarqmail.com

Smalfelt, James
20 Gail Dr.
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-5135
pdsjls@embarqmail.com

Smigiel, Paul
132 Cove Manor
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 578-7177
smigielp@embarqmail.com

Stone, Doris
247 Parkway Dr
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-4864
tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com

Stone, Tim
247 Parkway Dr
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-4864
tfdnstoneagain1@embarqmail.com

Trelinskie, Edward
127 Bridgewater Dr
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 533-0397
edtrelin@embarqmail.com

Trueblood, Jean
24 Cedar St
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 535-4934

Trueblood, Kent
24 Cedar St
Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870
(252) 535-4934

Van Scoyoc, Barry
488 Windward Dr
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 410-0433
big.bear@earthlink.net

Vincent, Thomas
P.O. Box 56
Gaston, NC 27832-0056
(252) 537-5418
tlwsvncnt@wmconnect.com

Watson, Brenda
P.O. 202
Severn, NC 27877
(252) 585-0265

Wesley, Robert
121 Cedar Pointe Rd
Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-3427

Whitehead, Robert
P.O. Box 386
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 308-0994

Worley, Jean
411 Stanley Dr
Henrico, NC 27842
(252) 537-6534
jworley@coastalnet.com

Wright, Gwendolyn
1406 NC Hwy 48
Garysburg, NC 27831
(252) 537-6925