



National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association
NASHVILLE CHAPTER 227
 Newsletter November 2022

Chapter Officers

Mike Mellish, President, 615-832-9192 | **Leo Baghdoian**, Vice President, 591-2558
Nancy Wells, Treasurer, 218-1003 | **Betty Waters**, Secretary, 661-5980 | **Carol Allen**, Sunshine Chair, 370-3060
Clarence Bennett, NARFE-PAC Chair | **Newsletter Editor: Mike Mellish**, mmellish227@gmail.com

NARFE's mission has remained the same since 1921, to protect and improve the benefits of federal retirees, employees and their families.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Mike Mellish, President, called our November meeting to order. Eleven members participated. Norris Alderson led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. For the devotional, the group observed a moment of silence. Our guest speaker was Stacie Ledridge, Field Service Representative for BlueCross BlueShield (BCBS) of TN's Federal Employee Program. Stacie provided updates for their FEHB and FEDVIP plans for 2023 (see table). The enrollee shares of monthly premiums for the BCBS Standard and Basic "self only" and "self plus one" plans will be 8.1% to 11.7% higher than in 2022. Premiums for the BCBS Focus plans, which are primarily designed for healthy individuals with very modest health care expenses, are set to increase by only 2.0%. As a point of reference, the average increase across all FEHB plans will be about 8.7%.

Premiums for BlueCross BlueShield Plans

FEHB Plans	Code	Enrollment Type	Monthly Premium*		
			2022	2023	Change
Standard	104	Self Only	\$276	\$309	+\$32
Basic	111	Self Only	\$174	\$188	+\$14
Focus	131	Self Only	\$115	\$117	+\$2
Standard	106	Self + One	\$627	\$691	+\$63
Basic	113	Self + One	\$425	\$472	+\$47
Focus	133	Self + One	\$248	\$253	+\$5

*All amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Enrollees in the BCBS Basic plan will once again be reimbursed up to \$800 per year, or \$66.67 per month, for their Medicare Part B premiums (up to \$1,600 per year per couple). Stacie also highlighted a new online tool (fepblue.org/drugcosts) that can be used to find what medications are covered under each BCBS plan and at what cost.

If you have any questions you can call BlueCross BlueShield's National Information Center at 800-411-2583 (M-F, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. CT) or FEP Customer Service (Tennessee) at 800-572-1003 (M-F, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT). We may also reach out to Stacie directly by phone (615-760-8735) or email (Stacie.Ledridge@bcbst.com).

Remember, this year's FEHB Open Season, which began on Monday, Nov 14, ends on Monday, Dec 12 at 10:59 p.m. Central Time. One way to explore your options is to visit NARFE's Open Season Portal: <https://www.narfe.org/open-season/>. You can also visit the U.S. Office of Personnel's Federal Benefits Open Season page at: <https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/open-season/>.

Next Meeting
 Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.
 (Online Zoom Session)

Our next meeting will be virtual once again (our 27th monthly meeting via Zoom), and will feature the swearing in of officers for 2023. The master of ceremonies will be immediate past chapter president, Norris Alderson. A summary of the TN Federation Board/Chapter Presidents meeting, scheduled for December 5-6, will also be provided. Members can join the meeting by computer or phone.

Online meeting participation via computer:
 Below is the unique link for our December meeting. Depending on how you sign in, you may be asked to enter the unique meeting ID and passcode.

Zoom Meeting Link:

xxxxxxxxxx

Meeting ID: xxx xxxx xxxx

Passcode: xxxxxx

Call-in meeting participation via conventional phone call:

- 1) Dial the following phone number: **312-626-6799**
- 2) Enter the unique meeting ID for our meeting followed by a hashtag: **xxx xxxx xxxx#**
- 3) When asked for Participant ID simply type in a hashtag: **#**
- 4) Enter the unique password for today's meeting: **xxxxxxx**

While in a Zoom meeting, enter ***6** on your phone's keypad to mute or unmute your conversation.

OFFICER REPORTS & OTHER NEWS

Nancy Wells, Treasurer, reports that the chapter has \$3,203.55 in its Truist checking account. There were no deposits or disbursements during the most recent reporting period (Oct 19 - Nov 15).

We plan to hold a post-holiday luncheon in early January to ring in the new year! Our organizer, Raymond Schmidt, is obtaining bids from several Franklin and Brentwood restaurants near an I-65 exit with ample parking. We anticipate hosting up to 20 diners (member plus one guest), but would of course prefer an even a bigger group. As in the past, the chapter will subsidize a portion of the total cost for each attendee. Members, please join us for our December Zoom meeting when Raymond reports back with dates, menu, and pricing options and to cast your vote on where and when to hold this informal gathering. Details will be sent via email

once they are approved but in the meantime, **so we can get a tentative head count, please contact Mike Mellish either by email or phone if you are interested in attending.**

The chapter welcomes Virginia Witt, who came on board as a new member earlier this month.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to report the passing of two of our chapter members: [James Lee Allen](#) and [William "Bill" Colvin](#). Our hearts go out to the family and friends of both.

James was a member of NARFE for nearly 39 years, and was honored as a Distinguished Member in October 2017. He passed away on November 17, 2022 at the age of 97. James was a WWII veteran and served with the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific. Following his military service, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 32 years, holding the position of Postmaster at the Lewisburg Post Office during his last 9 years.

Bill, a member of NARFE since February 2016, passed away on August 7, 2021 at the age of 72. He worked in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville office and was a resource manager at J Percy Priest. Bill retired in December 2012 and was a dedicated volunteer at several local charities. A couple of NARFE members from neighboring chapters and former work colleagues remembered Bill as a great guy.