

NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
MEUNIER-PERRY CHAPTER 1015  
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA  
Minutes of November 9, 2023 Chapter Meeting

The November 9, 2023 Chapter meeting was called to order at Damon's Grill, Myrtle Beach SC by President Billie Nichols at 11:42 a.m. Officers present were President Nichols, Treasurer Joe Arsenault, and Secretary Cathy Linta-Leader. Also present were Irving Rudy, Debbie Arsenault, Mary Brady, Carolyn Vos, Ken Trinkley, Linda Jo Pagani, Zella Smith, Morris Zupan and guest, Bill Fizet, Becky Hyman and guest, Peggy Wicker, Margaret McKenrick, Ann Marie Cwalina, Blake Crawford, Bruce Lake, Ray Forcier, Joyce Jones, Charlotte Downey, Jim Brock and guest, and Gail Seavey. Two members from other Chapters also attended. A quorum of at least twenty members was established.

Billie Nichols led members with the Pledge of Allegiance; Chaplain Linda Jo Pagani led us in prayer.

Bud Jones, AETNA representative, and Ann Marie Usher, Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative, were the guest speakers. Mr. Jones explained the various AETNA programs and distributed plan brochures. He informed members they could schedule a one-on-one appointment with him or a colleague by emailing [aetnafedslive.com](mailto:aetnafedslive.com). Members can also visit [www.aetnafeds.com/Retiree Plans](http://www.aetnafeds.com/RetireePlans) or call 855-277-4356. Ms. Usher distributed plan brochures and discussed in detail the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program. She suggested anyone receiving huge discounts on their medication to opt out of the program. Members can dis-enroll any time of the year. They will automatically be enrolled every year even if they opted out the previous year. She is available at [ann.usher@bcbssc.com](mailto:ann.usher@bcbssc.com) and/or 843-763-7506.

Cathy Linta-Leader distributed via email a draft copy of the October minutes to members who were in attendance during the October meeting asking for corrections/additions. No changes were made. During the meeting, Secretary Cathy Linta-Leader suggested, in the essence of time, we dispense with the reading of the minutes. Jim Brock made a motion to approve; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Members will be notified when the approved copy is recorded.

Treasurer's Report dated November 9, 2023, Joe Arsenault (see attachment)

Beginning Balance	\$5350.89
Receipts	104.76
Disbursements	<u>25.00</u>
Balance on Hand 11/9/23	\$5430.65

Receipts include the Chapter's share of 50/50, Headquarters (HQ) reimbursements, and dues from Tina Calo. Disbursements include payment of the speaker's lunch and Tina Calo's dues to HQ.

Treasurer Arsenault also shared a Certificate of Appreciation received from the Hibernians for sponsoring a hole at their golf tournament.

Sunshine Committee, Carolyn (Lyn) Vos – Sympathy and birthday cards sent to several members.

Membership Report – Billie Nichols - Currently 114 Chapter members and 156 national members.

Billie Nichols

- Recruitment ad is in the Horry Independent newspapers. No bill as of yet.
- Holiday party is scheduled for December 14, 2023 at Jiggy's Bistro. Members will be asked to RSVP once the menu/price are determined. No one volunteered to serve on a committee. Joe Arsenault made a motion to allot \$100 towards raffles. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- November 9, 2023 was the last day to vote on the revised bylaws which will be subsequently sent to the Federation and Headquarters for approval.
- Mary Brady offered to serve as the Nominating Committee Chair.
- Officer nominations were taken. Nominations include Joe Arsenault as President, Becky Hyman as Vice President, Cathy Linta-Leader as Secretary, and Mary Brady as Treasurer. Nominations will continue to be accepted.
- Billie Nichols offered to remain as Membership and Public Relations Chairs, and Newsletter Editor. Linda Jo Pagani and Morris Zupan agreed respectively to serve as Chaplain and Legislative Chair.

Alzheimer's Report, Billie Nichols for an absent and excused Alice Villavicencio (see attachment)

Beginning Balance October 1	\$ 50.00
October Receipts	43.00 (meeting collections)
October Disbursements	<u>43.00</u> (sent to Federation Alzheimer's fund)
Balance on Hand October 31	\$ 50.00

Cathy Linta-Leader participated in the November 4 Walk to End Alzheimer's and estimated the Chapter raised over \$3200.

Legislative Report, Morris Zupan

- In the interest of time, referred members to the November newsletter which outlined potential legislation.
- Social Security Fairness Act, H.R.82 and S.597, address eliminating the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO). Early January 2023, H.R. 82 was sent to the House Ways and Means Committee. Three other bills also pertain to WEP and GPO. He believes H.R.4583/S.2280, Social Security 2100 Act, carry more weight than the other bills because they expand Social Security.
- H.R.716, The Fair COLA for Seniors Act, bases COLA on the elderly Consumer Price Index.
- Equal COLA Act, H.R.866, provides FERS retirees the same COLA as CSRS retirees.
- House Speaker was elected since the October meeting.

Mary Brady, 50/50 Co-Chair, announced \$80 was collected for the 50/50 drawing. The Chapter received \$40; two members received \$20 each.

A motion was made to adjourn by Cathy Linta-Leader and was seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.



Cathy Linta-Leader, Secretary