

## October 16, 2024 – CCREA Member Meeting Minutes

Updates given included:

- November 20 meeting – Dr. Jackie McMorris will update us on the status of the County and we will address the request for a stipend increase.
- Nominating Committee Chair, Roswell Story, presented the committee's recommendations for 2025 CCREA officers. John Reida and Judy Sheppard also served on this committee. No additional nominations were suggested from the floor, so it was moved to proceed with a vote. The slate for 2025 was approved as follows, with all 2024 officers returning:

President – Sam Heaton

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Ty Mitchell

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Carolyn Ferrell

Co-Treasurers – Mike Ball and Melvin Holton

Secretary – Julie Arnold

Tressie Bloodworth gave updates on medical coverage and answered questions regarding Via Benefits.

- Current Medicare recipients should contact Via Benefits from Oct 15 – Dec 7 with any changes, the earlier the better. If there are no changes, there is no need to do anything. There are no significant changes to coverage for 2025.
- As a reminder, your stipend is automatic if you are enrolled with Via Benefits. If you enroll for health insurance through any other organization you will lose your stipend.
- Kaiser is not offered by Via Benefits but is grandfathered in. Contact Via for more information if this applies to you.
- It's possible for older retirees to have a balance in your stipend account that would be available to pay for additional insurance charges such as Medicare Part D. Contact Via Benefits to check on it.
- If you have issues with your stipend or have other concerns, you can email Tressie at [Tressie.bloodworth@cobbcounty.org](mailto:Tressie.bloodworth@cobbcounty.org) to escalate it. She will respond more quickly to emails than to phone calls.
- Non Medicare-eligible retirees will receive a packet from Houze mailed the 1<sup>st</sup> week in November regarding open enrollment from Nov 11 – 22. If there is no change, there is nothing you need to do. Be aware there is a premium increase.
- The Cobb Retirees website has helpful information you can access any time: <https://www.cobbcounty.org/human-resources/cobb-retirees>

Stacey Weldon of Houze & Associates gave updates regarding dental and vision opportunities.

- 2025 dental benefits are changing to Metlife, which has a much larger network with a premium reduction of 2.5%. If you currently have dental benefits they will continue, but you will receive a new card.
- Vision plan will remain the same

Ty Mitchell said there was a possible data breach with some Medicare recipients. If you receive a new card in the mail it is not a scam. You can call 1-800-Medicare to confirm.

It was also suggested that folks consider using a GoodRX card, as it often gets you a cheaper price than Medicare Part D. However, be aware that purchases through GoodRX will not post toward your out-of-pocket Medicare expenses. You will have to manually submit the receipt to via benefits to be reimbursed.

Raffle Gift Card of \$25 was distributed by Melvin Holton

Minutes submitted by Julie Arnold, CCREA Secretary