

## **January 2022 Newsletter**

### **Health/ Insurance----- Joe Polce**

#### **Medicare Update**

**All changes are effective January 1, 2022.**

In the November 2021 newsletter I reported on the impending changes with Medicare premiums and deductibles for 2022. That information was incorrect. The 2022 Medicare deductible is \$233.00 which is an increase from the 2021 deductible of \$203.00. The deductible is a one-time expense and must be paid before Medicare begins to pick up 80% of the cost of a claim. The Medicare Part B premium for 2022 is \$170.10 per month which is an increase from the 2021 premium of \$148.50. This is the largest increase in Part B premiums in many years. I apologize for the incorrect information.

#### **Social Security Update**

The Social Security increase for 2022 is set at 5.9%. This is the largest in the past 40 years. The increase is tied to the Consumer Price Index and is known as the cost of living adjustment or COLA. Of course the above information will eat into that increase as well as the continued rise in inflation.

#### **Medicare Open Enrollment**

There will be many TV ads and snail mail about Medicare open enrollment programs and benefits. Please disregard all of this information. You are enrolled in a medical and prescription program through FCPS. An enrollment in any other plan will cancel your FCPS plan of which there is no return.

#### **Delta Dental**

The Delta Dental contract expires on June 30, 2022. The Insurance Council is in the process of preparing bid specifications for a new dental plan. The new plan will take effect on July 1, 2022.

#### **Insurance Plan Year**

The retiree medical and dental insurance plan year is from January 1 to December 31. All medical and dental benefits will reset on January 1 of any year. The insurance plan year for active employees is July 1 to June 30. There have been some problems reported with the payment of claims due to misinterpretations by members and providers of the plan year.

#### **Vision Provider Update**

Costco is now an in-network provider for the Davis vision plan.