

## **November 2021 Newsletter**

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

#### **Medicare Update**

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

2022 Deductible is projected to increase to \$217.00. The 2021 deductible is \$203.00. Enrollees who receive Part B covered treatment during the year must pay the part B deductible before Medicare starts to pick up 80% of the cost of care.

Medicare Part B premiums are projected to increase to \$158.50 per month. The premium is \$148.50 for 2021. Part B premiums are income based. More information can be found at Medicare.gov.

#### **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 higher deductible and increased premiums will eat into that increase somewhat as well as the continued rise in inflation.

#### **Medicare Open Enrollment**

There will be many TV ads and snail mail ads 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 reset on January 1 every 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.