

IOLA NARFE CHAPTER #2077, ORGANIZED JULY 1985 AT IOLA, KANSAS 66749

@YOUR IOLA NARFE CHAPTER 2077 IS 25 YEARS OLD THIS JULY@

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NARFE WEB SITE: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

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May-June 2010

CHAPTER 2077 OFFICERS

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Chapter meetings, Monday, June 7, & Monday, July 5, at New Greenery, 11:30 AM; Iola, Kansas.

LOSS OF A MEMBER: Floyd Hangen, a regular attendee at the Iola Chapter meetings passed away a few weeks ago. Condolence is express to his family. He had attended the chapter meeting the month prior to his death. Like all members, who leave us "We will miss him."

FOOD DRIVE: The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers and supported by NARFE, is the nation's largest single-day food drive. Feeding America reports food banks in most areas of the country have precariously low food stocks and especially high demand. On SATURDAY, May 8<sup>th</sup>, the National Association of Letter Carriers and the National Rural Letter Carriers will conduct the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. In 2009 NARFE supported this drive, and 3.1 MILLION pounds of non-perishable food was donated by patrons to local food organizations. NARFE members are urged to collect and bag non-perishable food items and place the bag by your mailbox for your letter carrier-city or rural-on Saturday May 8, 2010. (Note due to the time of mailing this letter, you may run a day late on being aware of this Food need and your Editor would assume your letter carrier would still pick up your Food Items, May 10<sup>th</sup>.)

CSA OR CSN NUMBER: When a "Government Employee" Retires they are issued a CSA CLAIM NUMBER by OPM... This Claims Number is used as identification of the retiree, for notification of "Monthly Retirement Income", amount withheld each month for Health Insurance, adjustments you request in income tax withholdings and other changes that might be made in your retirement income. Changes in amount of annuity, health insurance rates, are normally issued by OPM in late December or the month of January. A card is issued after retirement providing the Retiree with a (CSA) Number. It should be filed with your permanent Retirement Records.

NOTE: Upon the death of the Retiree OPM must be notified at once. OPM will then provide the Survivor with a (CSN) number which will be their "Claim Number". This CSN number will appear on the Survivors records, the same as the CSA number did for the Retiree when they retired, .

"If your card is lost the number is still available to you on the documents mentioned above. The number should be kept with your Will or other permanent records. The annual notice from OPM, you should file with your Records, will carry your CSN or CSA number whichever fits your Benefits..

If you have questions feel free to ask your NARFE Chapter Service Officer? OPM can be contacted for a number if you desire?

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BIPARTISAN NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REFORM.

“The following report was provided NARFE and is considered Recommended Reading by all NARFE members, and (especially Chapter Officers.) Read the following report, then work with your NARFE Chapter Officers & members to assist in protecting your Retirement Benefits.

“The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, created by President Obama in February is scheduled to make recommendations to Congress by December of THIS YEAR on ways to reduce the deficit & control the long-term growth in the debt. The Commission’s recommendations would be considered in an expedited manner by the House and Senate on an up-or-down vote without Amendment. KEEP THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN MIND

1. During previous periods of entitlement reform, policymakers first discussed cutting the “big three” Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. However when lawmakers realized the political realities of cutting a program such as Social Security, which has 40 million beneficiaries (77million by 2023))they have turned to easier targets--including the “captive audience” of federal retirees-- a much small constituency (2.3million retirees and survivors). In fact during the budget crises of the 1980’s and early 1990’s, federal retirees and survivors lost in excess of \$50 billion in deferred, reduced and canceled cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) while Social Security) COLAs were preserved. A stark example was the application of the once-used sequestration process of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law which eliminated Civil Service COLAS but held “Social Security Recipients Harmless.”(NAMES/Addresses, your Senators/Congressman on the last Chapter Letter.)
2. Federal civilian retirement does not face the same solvency challenges as trust funds that support Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF) is fully funded and actuarially sound. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service. Using a 75-year projection period the Office of OPM estimates the total value of securities in the trust fund will grow through the proejection period, ultimately reaching about 4.2 times payroll, or nearly 18 times the amount needed to pay annual benefits. Under financing arrangements set out in current law, the system is not now and never will be “insolvent” or without adequate budget authority for payment of benefits. The cash required from the Treasury or taxpayers will never exceed the cost of those monthly payments.

Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid will consume two percentage points more than the Gross Domestic Product(GDP) over the next 10 Yrs, Civil Service Retirement’s share of the GDP will shrink by .06 percent, with the decline in the number of annuitants covered by the closed former Retirement system the Civil Service Retirement System.

ACTION REQUESTED FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: Can Federal/Postal workers and annuitants count on you to preserve COLA equity between all federal retirement programs and defend the integrity of a system that provides deferred compensation and benefits to individuals who have dedicated their careers to public service? “Every Federal Employee paid into their “Retirement” throughout their career, & there is more than enough to cover their retirement years. Upon retirement these individuals have and do pay into the Retirement System for their Spouses.

Are Federal Retirees State Income Tax in Danger? “YES“. Is there any way to stop unfavorable Legislation that might emerge out of either house or the conference with the Governor? Probably not. Have you expressed your opinion to your Kansas Senator and Congressman???

“Success is Getting Up One More Time.”