



KANSAS STATE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
 NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
 "CHAMPION OF THE FEDERAL RETIREE"

Volume XXI NARFE Tri-River Chapter No. 2098 October 2011

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NARFE Tri-River Chapter No. 2098 meets the second Tuesday of each month at rotating sites with a luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. in January and February and dinner meetings at 6:00 p.m. the remaining months. The newsletter is published monthly.

Chapter Officers:

- Darrell Williams, President, (913) 755-4026
- Sterling Hornbuckle, First Vice President, (913) 837-4434
- Jean Nickell, Second Vice President, (913) 755-4309
- Winona Hornbuckle, Secretary, (913) 837-4434
- Elizabeth Smith, Treasurer, (913) 294-2249
- Robert Hodge, Legislative Chair., (913) 557-5581
- Pat Erickson, Membership Chair., (913) 557-9405
- Jean Nickell, Public Relations, (913) 755-4309
- Helen Morrison, Alzheimer's Chair., (913) 755-4020
- Darrell Williams, NARFE-PAC Chair., (913) 755-4026
- Glenn Alpert, Service Officer, (913) 849-3738

September Meeting - Met at the Cadmus Grange Hall. There were 27 in attendance. We now have 105 members. Following dinner our Alzheimer's Auction was held.

October Meeting - We will meet at 6:00 p.m., October 11, at the United Methodist Church, 504 Pacific, Osawatomie. Calling list members: please report to Darrell Williams,, 913-755-4026, by Saturday, October 8, the number on your list who plan to attend. If you make a reservation and do not attend you will be expected to pay for the meal.

Legislation - NARFE urges the United States Postal Service not to gamble with the health and retirement benefits of U.S. Postal Workers. NARFE is one of America's oldest and largest associations. It was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal workers. NARFE is the largest federal employee/retiree organization and represents the retirement interests of nearly 5 million current and future federal annuitants, spouses and survivors.

The debt deal is a threat to federal workers and retirees. Thanks to thousands of letters and phone calls, the recent Washington debt deal spares federal worker annuities and earned health benefits from immediate cuts. Don't be fooled. Active and retired federal workers who Protect America's Heartbeat still face very real threats in the coming months. The debt deal creates a "Super Committee" of legislators to find trillions of dollars more in cuts. These legislators have their eye on the benefits that retirees and federal workers earn through years of dedicated service.

Health Insurance - On September 27 OPM announced that federal employee health premiums will be increasing an average of 3.8 percent. They are relieved that the average health insurance premium for our country's federal employees is rising this year at a rate that is comparable to private and other public-sector health insurance premiums - up just 3.8 percent from the year before. The rate increase is the lowest since 2008. Enrollees with self only coverage will pay \$2.32 more per bi-weekly pay period and those with family coverage will

pay \$6.18 more. The 44 percent of participants enrolled in the Blue Cross and Blue Shield standard plan will pay about \$20 less for coverage in 2012. Enrollees in the basic option will pay \$102 more for single coverage and \$239 more for family coverage per year. Plans offered by the Government Employees Health Association will increase rates by five to seven percent. The 2012 open season for health, dental, vision and flexible spending accounts will go from November 14 to December 12.

CPI-W - increased 0.3 percent for August 2011. The CPI-W index figure is now 223.326 which is 3.63 percent above the 2008 third-quarter average of 215.495, which is the base figure for determining the next COLA. The last COLA occurred at the beginning of 2009. There was no COLA for 2010, and there will be none for 2011. Whether there will be one for 2012 depends on whether the average for the third quarter of 2011 is higher than the highest previous third quarter average which is the third quarter average for 2008.

Sen. Pat Roberts 1900 College Blvd., Ste. 203 Overland Park, KS 66210 (913) 451-9343 or 109 Hart Sen. Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510-1605 (202) 224-4774	Sen. Jerry Moran Washington, DC 1-866-220-0044 and ask to speak to Jerry Moran
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Rep. Lynn Jenkins
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Protect America's Heartbeat - The Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction has until November 23 to pass legislation that would reduce the deficit by at least \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. We need to make sure every member of Congress hears the voices of the federal workers and retirees who Protect America's Heartbeat. If you have not sent a message to your representative and senators do so now. Tell Washington - Don't single us out for debt-deal cuts. Also, President Obama proposed requiring federal workers to pay more for their retirement and ending the Federal Employees Retirement System annuity supplement for newly hired workers as part of his \$3.2 trillion 10-year deficit-reduction package. The threat to federal retirees and active workers grows every day.

Postal Employees and Retirees - There has been a recent proposal that would remove postal employees and retirees from the federal retirement and health benefits systems. Join NARFE President Beaudoin in speaking out against this proposal today. Contact your legislators.