



# KANSAS STATE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

“CHAMPION OF THE FEDERAL RETIREE”

Volume XX

NARFE Tri-River Chapter No. 2098

March 2008

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NARFE Tri-River Chapter No. 2098 meets the second Tuesday 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:

- John McCoy, President, (913) 731-4175
- Sterling Hornbuckle, First Vice President, (913) 837-4434
- Jean Nickell, Second Vice President, (913) 755-4309
- Winona Hornbuckle, Secretary, (913) 837-4434
- Irene Hodge, Treasurer, (913) 557-5581
- Robert Hodge, Legislative Chair., (913) 557-5581
- Elizabeth Smith, Membership Chair., (913) 294-2249
- Helen Morrison, Alzheimer's Chair., (913) 755-4020
- Darrell Williams, NARFE-PAC Coord., (913) 755-4026

**February 12 Meeting** - Met at the Whistle Stop Café in Osawatomie with 33 attending. The Amazing Grace Singers provided the entertainment. Visitors recognized were Dr. Bennie Cashman and Ann Beattie. Jean Nickell, Elizabeth Smith, Darline Laws and Helen Morrison will be Delegates to the State Convention and John McCoy will be the Delegate-at-Large. The Chapter voted to pay the registration fee of \$11 for each delegate and to provide \$10 for the drawing. Items are needed for the Alzheimer's Auction and should have a value of at least \$5. The Chapter also voted to have an ad in the program book the same as we had last year. The National Convention will be in Louisville, KY, September 7-11. Registration forms, etc., were in the January NARFE Magazine. August 15 is the registration deadline. The rebate checks package made it through the House and Senate Finance Committee. They sent it on February 8. Tax rebate checks would go to veteran and low income retirees. No extension of unemployment benefits and low income housing cleared the House and Senate. There are no major changes to annuities or the health care system. NARFE opposes HSAs which tend to attract younger and healthier employees from other plans. No reductions in retirement or health benefits. Russell Folken and his wife Jennie were able to attend today. Attention was called to the dues withholding article on page 46 of the February NARFE Magazine. Collyn Peterson of Louisburg reported he is involved with Aging and the Life Care Center in Miami County and for any who are Alzheimer's care givers there will be a program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association beginning July 10 and every Thursday for six weeks from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Next Meeting** - March 11, 2008, 6:00 p.m. at the Cadmus Grange Hall, 21981 Highway 7 (northwest of LaCygne). Callers should turn in the names of those they are making reservations for to Jean Nickell, 913-755-4309, by March 8.

**Sunshine** - Carol Minden is having back problems, Mary Boehm had a heart problem and a stint was put in, and Richard Koopman is able to get out some now. We need to remember these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

**Sympathy** - We express our condolences to Jerry and Lucille Scherman whose son Daniel passed away February 26 and whose services were held March 1 at the Catholic Church in Paola.

**Legislation** - The CPI-W increased 0.5% in January to 206.7 which is 1.5% above the 2007 third quarter average base index of 203.6. The next indices will be released March 14. The FECA January index is 0.5% higher than the December base of 205.7 and as a result these beneficiaries will see a 4.3% COLA in their April 2008 benefit payment.

Premium Conversion gained three new cosponsors in February for a total now of 307. GPO/WEP added two for a total of 339. Seven Senators and 34 representatives are lapsed cosponsors of Premium Conversion. Recovering these Senators would set a new Senate record for NARFE.

The legal challenge to the National Security Personnel System has been withdrawn since the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act restores collective bargaining rights to employees of the Department of Defense.

You will have an opportunity to meet with your legislators and/or their staff the last two weeks of March as the House and Senate are scheduled to be out of Washington for the Easter District Work Period.

Sen. Pat Roberts 11900 College Blvd., Ste. 203 Overland Park, KS 61210 (913) 451-9343	Sen. Sam Brownback 612 S. Kansas Ave. Topeka, KS 66603 (785) 233-2503
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<b>or</b> 109 Harte Sen. Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510-1605 (202) 224-4774	<b>or</b> 303 Harte Sen. Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510-1604 (202) 224-6521
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Rep. Nancy Boyda  
510 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612  
(785) 234-8111

**or**  
1711 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515-1602  
(202) 225-6601

**Membership** - We welcome two new members, Jennie Folken and Bennie Cashman who signed up last meeting. Jennie is going on dues withholding. We also welcome the Hamiltons back with us. According to my calculations, we now have a total of 105 members.

**NARFE-PAC** - This is one of the most potent tools we have to help elect those committed to defending the earned retirement benefits of active and retired federal employees. NARFE President, Margaret Baptiste, is urging members to make a generous contribution to NARFE-PAC. Those donating \$20 or more will receive a 2007-2008 NARFE-PAC lapel pin.

### Upcoming Events

- April 8 - NARFE Chapter 2098 Meeting at Beagle United Methodist Church
- April 27-29 - Kansas Federation Convention, Hutchinson, KS
- September 7-11 - 2008 NARFE National Convention Louisville, KY