



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

May 2011

Winona Hornbuckle, Editor, 1201 N. Broadway, Louisburg, KS 66053-3540, 913-837-4434, e-mail - sterwin@mokancomm.net

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

Membership - We now have a total of 104 members. Two of these are national only. It was reported at the convention that 22,000 members were lost last year. We need to keep our membership up so we can fight a lot of things that will come up with what is going on in Washington, D.C. If people keep dropping out there won't be a NARFE in 10 years.

Alzheimer's - Our chapter received a citation at the convention for distinguished service. We raised \$13.10 per member last year. The state average was \$5.50 per member. Some chapters make money for Alzheimer's by having a penny jar and they count it at the end of the year.

Illness - Shirley Graham was recently hospitalized and Claude Taylor is in rehabilitation. Pat Erickson also had some foot surgery. Lets keep these members as well as any others in our thoughts and prayers.

Social Security Checks - The federal government retired paper Social Security checks and switched to electronic deposits for new benefit applicants on May 1. Paper checks are no longer an option for anyone applying for new federal benefits, whether through Social Security or other programs. Instead, applicants must arrange for direct deposit to a checking or savings account. Those who don't have bank accounts, or who simply prefer it, can receive their payments on a prepaid "Direct Express" debit card. New applicants for benefits should have their bank account information available including their checking or savings account and their bank's routing and transit number, a nine-digit number found on the lower left hand side of a paper check. Those already receiving benefits have about two years, until March 1, 2013, to switch. If you need help you can go to www.GoDirect.org or call a toll-free help line at 1-800-333-1795.

Legislative - We need to keep in contact with our state and federal representatives. Send mail to the Topeka office and it will get to th congressman or representative. They keep talking about taking our money and using it to keep the government going. We worked and paid for this and they should leave it alone. Keep telling that to your congressmen. There are 30 new congressmen and they don't know about us. Looking at a huge deficit.

NARFE is continuing its campaign to Protect America's Heartbeat. Many members and individuals have sent e-mail messages and printed letters to our Congressmen asking them not to cut our earned benefits.

The National Association of Letter Carriers and National Rural Carriers Association will conduct its Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on May 14. Last year this drive supported 73.1 million pounds of non-perishable items donated by postal 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 city or rural carrier to pick up on May 14.

The April and May issues of the NARFE magazine contain a form whereby you can order NARFE's Congressional Directory for the 112th Congress. The cost \$20.

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
---	--

Rep. Lynn Jenkins
3550 SW 5th St.
Topeka, KS 66606
(785) 234-5966 or
1001 N. Broadway St. #C
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(620) 231-5966 or
1122 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6601 Fax - (202) 225-7986

There will not be any cost-of-living adjustment to federal pension annuities in 2011. The CPI-W increased 1.1% for March 2011. The new index figure is 220.024 which is 2.1% above the 2008 third quarter average of 215.495. The last COLA occurred at the beginning of 2009. There was none for 2010 and there will not be one in 2011.

Federal employees and annuitants are being targeted to help reduce the federal deficit. Some proposals require employees and retirees to pay a higher share of their health insurance benefits – cutting federal spending by shifting costs to enrollees. Active and retired federal employees already pay 30 percent of the overall premium. We want to do our part but we don't want to be singled out for budget cuts when others are not asked to do likewise.

Next Meeting - May 10, 6:00 p.m., at the First Lutheran Church, 401 E. Pinkish, Paola. Calling list members: please report to Darrell Williams, 913-755-4026, by Saturday, May 7, 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.

A young boy was caught cursing by his schoolteacher. "Johnny," she said, "you shouldn't use that kind of language. Where did you hear it?" "My daddy said it," he responded. "Well, you don't know what it means." "I do too! It means the car won't start."