



**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

June 2008

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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.

Creek United Methodist Church. Callers should turn in the names of those they are making reservations for to Darrell Williams, 913-755-4026, by Saturday June 7. Be sure to make a reservation if you plan to attend. If you make a reservation and do not attend, you will be expected to pay for the meal.

**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

**Legislation** - I am sure all of you have received your NARFE Magazine for the month of June. You are encouraged to read the article "OPM Calls for FEHBP Plan For Retirees Only" beginning on page 10. We all need to be aware of this. The best part to read first is on the top half of page 14, the last two paragraphs above By Dan Adcock, Legislative Director.

Also, on page 16 is an article "Medicare Physician Pay in Question," which you should read.

Since in most cases these changes are not for our benefit, we need to be aware of any proposed changes for Federal Employees and Retirees.

A Press Release was issued May 20, 2008, regarding NARFE's testimony in support of legislation to change rules for re-hiring Federal Annuitants. You can find this press release in its entirety by going to the web site and the press release appears at the top of the home page, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

The CPI-W increased 0.7 percent in April. The COLA index is currently 3.5 percent above the 2007 third quarter average. May figures will be released June 13.

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| Sen. Pat Roberts<br>11900 College Blvd., Ste. 203<br>Overland Park, KS 61210<br>(913) 451-9343 | Sen. Sam Brownback<br>612 S. Kansas Ave.<br>Topeka, KS 66603<br>(785) 233-2503 |
| <u>or</u>  | <u>or</u>  |
| 109 Harte Sen. Office Bldg.<br>Washington, DC 20510-1605<br>(202) 224-4774                     | 303 Harte Sen. Office Bldg<br>Washington, DC 20510-1604<br>(202) 224-6521      |
| Rep. Nancy Boyda<br>510 SW 10 <sup>th</sup> Ave.<br>Topeka, KS 66612<br>(785) 234-8111         |  |
| <u>or</u>  |  |
| 1711 Longworth House Office Bldg.<br>Washington, DC 20515-1602<br>(202) 225-6601               |  |

**May 13 Meeting** - There were 24 in attendance including one guest. The Treasurer reported \$395.98 in checking and \$807.24 in savings. The State Convention was held in Hutchinson April 27-29. All chapters were represented and a total of 204 attended which included seven from this chapter. New officers were elected and there were two guest speakers - Richard Thissen, National Region V Vice President, who addressed the need for recruitment, health care coverage, honorary memberships and the ongoing defense of annuitants benefits, and Chuck Timanus, National Officer of Public Relations, who talked about recruitment and attempts to get NARFE information out in forms of advertising. All four representatives now support Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP. NARFE will testify in support of legislation to facilitate temporary employment of annuitants. Currently re-employment occurs with their pay being offset by the amount of the previously earned annuity. New legislation would allow them to earn full pay plus their annuity. There is a large untapped group of possible members - current employees. Need to make present and future retirees aware that the benefits we have are not secure and can be taken away. Also, lack of knowledge of health care changes, state tax exemption, ongoing COLA, and the effects of GPO/WEP. Need to recruit and inform members and potential members of the benefits of NARFE. Suggested doing away with life memberships, honorary memberships, etc. It is projected that in five years there will be 40,000 honorary members. Lost 34,000 members last year due to non-renewal. Teresa Staley attended the Service Officer meeting at the convention and has agreed to assume the duties of Service Officer for our chapter. Increasing per capita dues by 50 cents was voted down. PAC contributions should be kept as a high priority as this money will help secure support for our issues in the political arena. This chapter contributed \$275 this year. Kansas led Region V with \$23,573 contributions to Alzheimer's last year. The 2008 goal is \$5.00 per member. The live auction and silent auction at the convention amounted to \$4,035. A memorial service was held for the 208 members who passed away this year - included our two members, John Jasper and Ferne Brand.

**Membership** - There is strength in numbers and only through continued membership gains can we keep up with the loss due to death and members being dropped for non-renewal. We need to promote dues withholding to protect long-term stability.

**New State Service Officer** - Mary E. Fritzson, 11755 School Creek Road, St. George, KS 66535-9601. Telephone No. (785) 494-2389

**Upcoming Events**

- July 8 - NARFE Chapter 2098 Meeting (location not available at this time)
- September 7-11 - 2008 NARFE National Convention  
Louisville, KY

**Next Meeting** - June 10, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at the Plum