



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

May 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

April 8 Meeting - There were 31 in attendance including one guest. Norman Minden showed an interesting film regarding the Railway Mail System. We have \$388.17 in the checking account and \$807.24 in savings. The CPI-W was up 0.2 percent in February which means 1.8 percent toward the next COLA. Three of the four representatives support both GPO and WEP. Roberts and Brownback support Premium Conversion. The only non-supporter is Tihart. Basically Premium Conversion will permit federal civilian and military retirees to pay premiums with pretax dollars. Carrier or Call Letter is a new pilot program that was introduced and has to do with federal health benefits geared to what OPM wants to try on older retirees - HSAs for a healthier individual - higher deductible and lower premium. There has never been a FEHBP plan based on retirement status or age. In order to get the \$600 rebate you have to file an income tax return or submit a form 1040 or 1040A noting Stimulus Payment at the top to be on the rolls to get it. As of the meeting date we had 103 members. One has been dropped and six or seven have received second notices. One member went on dues withholding and one wants to reinstate. Lawrence Boehm is improving and several members have had the flu. Will receive reports from those who attended the State Convention at the next meeting. Auctioned off a couple dozen eggs brought by a member and we now have \$16 toward our Alzheimer's goal this year.

Next Meeting -May 13, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at the Lutheran Church in Paola. Callers should turn in the names of those they are making reservations for to Norman Minden, 913-294-3139, by Saturday May 10. 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.

Legislation - Our number one priority is preservation of our current earned benefits. Each of you is encouraged to continue contacting your legislators as well as Congress in our efforts to retain our current benefits. The CPI-W increased 0.9 percent to 209.147 for March which is 2.7 percent above the 2007 third quarter average of 203.6. As or April 25 another Senator was added as a cosponsor for Premium Conversion and now totals 61 compared to 64 during the 109th Congress. House legislation now has 329 cosponsors. This is 13 less than

the number reached at the end of the 108th Congress. Enactment of this legislation would allow civilian and military retirees to pay for their health insurance premiums on a pre tax basis and would save the typical retiree enrolled in FEHBP an average of \$820 per year.

On May 10 the National Association of Letter Carriers and allied postal crafts will conduct its 16th annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. In 2007 this drive supported by NARFE delivered 70.7 million pounds of non-perishable items donated by patrons of local food organizations. NARFE members are urged to collect and bag non-perishable food items and place the bag by their mailbox for the letter carrier on Saturday, May 10.

Legislation has also been introduced to improve family and medical leave for federal employees. The bill also requires GAO to study the feasibility of offering disability insurance to federal workers. This bill would amend the existing law to provide four weeks of paid parental leave for all federal employees and employees would also be allowed to use accrued sick leave for an additional eight weeks of paid leave for parental leave.

Public Service Recognition Week is May 5 - 11. A House Resolution 1073 was introduced to raise the awareness of future generations about the vast rewards that come from working for federal, state, and local governments.

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| 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 |
| <u>or</u> | <u>or</u> |
| 109 Harte Sen. Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-1605
(202) 224-4774 | 303 Harte Sen. Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510-1604
(202) 224-6521 |
| Rep. Nancy Boyda
510 SW 10 th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 234-8111 | |
| <u>or</u> | |
| 1711 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-1602
(202) 225-6601 | |

Membership - We now have 102 members and 2 National only members. Region V has a higher percent on Dues Withholding than any of the other nine regions. Lets see if we can increase that even more. This region also has 10.4 percent of total members who are active Federal employees .

Upcoming Events

- June 10 - NARFE Chapter 2098 Meeting at the Plum Creek United Methodist Church
- September 7-11 - 2008 NARFE National Convention
Louisville, KY

HUMOR

A golfer set up his ball on the first tee, took a mighty swing and hit his ball into a clump of trees. He found his ball and saw an opening between two trees. He thought he could hit through. Taking out his 3-wood, he took another mighty swing; the ball hit a tree, bounced back, hit him in the forehead and killed him. As he approached the gates of Heaven, St. Peter saw him coming and asked "Are you good golfer," to which the man replied: "Got here in two, didn't I?"