



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

July 2009

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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:

- 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
- Pat Erickson, Membership Chair., (913) 557-9405
- Helen Morrison, Alzheimer's Chair., (913) 755-4020
- Darrell Williams, NARFE-PAC Coord., (913) 755-4026

June Meeting - We met at the Plum Creek United Methodist Church near Osawatomie. President McCoy showed slides of he and Helen Morrison's trip to Padre Island and Mexico earlier in the year. The Federal Budget contains no cuts in Federal retirement or health care. The President has called on Congress to pass comprehensive health care legislation which could affect our health care benefits. It also opens an opportunity to hook premium conversion on which might slip through. This would save the average federal worker \$820 a year. John Surritte sent copies of a letter he sent to the House and Senate and got on board with the House on Premium Conversion. A thank you note was sent fo supporting us on Premium Conversion and giving us GPO/WEP repeal support.

Sunshine - We continue to remember the Folkens and Darline Laws and any others we are not aware of.

Next Meeting - July 14, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 504 Pacific, Osawatomie. Callers should turn in the names of those they are making reservations for to Elnora Henness, 913-755-3568, by Saturday July 11. 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 - We hope each of you took the opportunity to contact your Representative and two Senators regarding the Federal and Military Retiree Health Care Equity Act, H.R. 1203 and S.491.

The CPI-W increased 0.4% in May. On June 17 it was 208.7 for May. May's index 208.7 is 1.9% higher than the December index of 204.8.

A bill has been introduced and recommended that the federal civil service annuity calculation be based on the highest 5 years of salary instead of high 3 years and it was also recommended the annuitant could not retire until age 62. Also, that income tax be paid by you on the part of the health insurance now paid by the government. NARFE HQ is working to set up a means for current feds to use the NARFE Web site to contact their members of Congress to protest this proposal.

The August NARFE magazine will contain a sample ballot for NARFE Dues Referendum. Headquarters expects the sample ballot to stimulate discussion about the issue at NARFE chapter meetings.

The amendment that would have allowed federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity was sidetracked. Also, this amendment would have allowed FERS participants to credit their unused sick leave toward retirement.

The President signed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act on June 22 which requires newly hired federal employees be automatically enrolled in the Thrift Savings Plan and be eligible to receive an immediate contribution from their employing agency. It also gives the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board authority to add a Roth type option which would allow participants to make after-tax contributions to TSP accounts and withdraw their earnings tax-free upon retirement. It also authorizes the Board to allow participants to invest their accounts in mutual funds outside those currently offered by the TSP.

Grass Roots Advocacy Month is coming up August 1 through September 7. Each member should make an effort to make contact with their members of Congress either by writing or calling their Representative and two Senators during the month. This should remind them of the significant numbers of federal worker and annuitant activists who live in their district.

Sen. Pat Roberts 11900 College Blvd., Ste. 203 Overland Park, KS 66210 (913) 451-9343	Sen. Sam Brownback 612 S. Kansas Ave. Topeka, KS 66603 (785) 233-2503
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or

109 Hart Sen. Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-1605
(202) 224-4774

or

303 Hart Sen. Office Bldg .
Washington, DC 20510-1604
(202) 224-6521

Rep. Lynn Jenkins
3550 SW 5th St.
Topeka, KS 66606
(785) 234-5966

or

701 N. Broadway St.
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(620) 231-5966

Membership - As of the last meeting we had 102 members. Two were removed due to death and another was dropped. Two have been added and another went on dues withholding which makes 102. We must all work together to increase our membership and get those who dropped out to renew.

Alzheimer's - Our entertainment at the July meeting will be playing bingo. Donations will go to Alzheimer's. Everyone should bring a prize for bingo. No information has been received as to the auction that was held at the convention.

Upcoming Event - The College of NARFE Knowledge will be held August 24-26, 2009, at the Marina Inn, South Sioux City, Nebraska. Registration deadline is August 15. After that the late registration fee is \$75. Checks should be mailed to Richard Thissen, P. O. Box 485, Lake Ozark, MO 65049, made payable to NARFE College.