

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

IOLA NARFE CHAPTER #2077, ORGANIZED SPRING 1985 AT IOLA, KANSAS 66749

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NARFE WEB SITE: www.narfe.org

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January-February 2010

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NEW LAW, & BENEFITS FOR FEDS, (FERS-SICK LEAVE CREDIT)Page 36, January Magazine

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NEXT CHAPTER MEETING, "Monday, February 1, 2010, 11:30 AM at the New Greenery on North State Street in Iola. Attend and learn more about NARFE, what NARFE is doing for you.

"Thanks" to all of the NARFE members from "Chanute" who took the time to attend the Iola December meeting and learned more about Health Insurance, as presented by Pam Maxwell a representative of "Blue Cross Blue Shield " Each year Pam provides the membership with an update on Health Benefits, changes that are being made, clarification & answering of questions asked by members in attendance. All it costs you, is your time and your noon lunch. Ft. Scott Chapter, you were missed at the meeting. Pam has been invited back next year for the first Monday in December.

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NARFE DUES Referendum; In case you have not heard the results of the NARFE Dues Referendum held the latter part of the year 2009, here is the report.. The membership spoke: 65.41 percent voted for, and 34.59 percent voted against. Having failed to receive the necessary two-third majority of votes cast, the referendum was defeated. NARFE mailed, 1,508 ballots to the chapters and delegates-at-large. Out of this total of 1,508 ballots, 224 ballots were invalid (wrong number of votes, no signature, etc.) and 256 ballots were not returned. (This means NARFE will continue with the dues structures that has been used during past years.) Instead of one simply dues structure paid by all Members, \$40 per year which paid for the NARFE Magazine, supplies ordered by chapters, postal costs, cost of operation of NAJLFEHEADQUARTERS. Salaries, etc, Members will have to continue to deal with a variety of dues structures as in the past.

. There was to be one dues rate for all members when recruited and thereafter. With the defeat of the new dues structure, there will be various dues rates when memberships are re-newed. Federations (States) (Some 50 of them) have an annual Per Capita Tax. Chapters some 1400 chapters establish their own chapter dues rates. Example: Kansas has 47 chapters and these chapters have (ten) 10 different chapter dues rates in addition to the dues designated by NARFE to operate NARFE Hq. There is no uniformity in the dues structure nationwide. It was hoped that through this Referendum Process NARFE members could have brought about a uniform dues structure, so after an individual joined NARFE all members would be in the same dues structure, paying the same dues annually with only minor modifications and not the hodge podge of rates that must be addressed today.

##A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out.##

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MEDICARE PREMIUMS: Those of you who have "Medicare Premiums" deducted each month from your Retirement Annuity, should check the recent notice received that listed the dollars and cents amount being deducted each month for "MEDICARE PREMIUM."

"YOUR NEW 2010 MEDICARE BOOK STATES" ON page 123, -----if your "Filed Individual Tax Return is \$85,000 or less for the year or will be for the year, \$96.40 will be deducted ***PER MONTH***PREMIUM for your Medicare. A couple filing jointly under \$170,000 "each" would Pay \$96.40 per month. (The amount that would be deducted for the monthly annuity) THE REASON THIS IS BEING CALLED TO 'YOUR ATTENTION IS', It has been found that some Federal Retirees and or Spouses are being "over billed" for their monthly Medicare Premiums each month.. If you find this to be true please contact your NARFE Chapter Service Office.. Or Your Regional Social Security Office. "Your Medicare Book for the Year 2010 will give you additional Phone Numbers to contact.. if you find an error. You may wish to go back and check previous years of your billings for Medicare Premiums to determine if this has been an on going error. The reason this is being called to your attention, this error has been found and some retirees are being over billed for Medicare Premiums.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM. "The Senate leaderships negotiated a compromise to get the 60 votes needed to pass health care reform. It contains language drafted and suggested by NARFE that would move to safeguard the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. The protective language was added by the Senate leadership in response to concerns raised by NARFE and federal-postal organization allies regarding a proposal that would have the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) play a significant role in national health care reform--partially administering a health care delivery system consisting of at least two national, private non profit insurance plans.

"Premiums of FEHBP and the proposed OPM-administered multi-state plans would be calculated in separate risk pools. "The OPM Director would be required to ensure that the multi-state plans are administered separately from the FEHBP. FEHBP insurance carriers would not be required to offer coverage through the multi-state program. Watch for more information in NARFE Publications.

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ALZHEIMER' s. As of October 31 Kansas chapters collected \$26,224.12 which averages \$5.53 per member. The 2009 goal was \$5.25 per member. Memorial contributions to date is \$1,224.00. Iola Chapter members are reminded to continue to collect "Best Choice Labels" in addition to their other contributions to Alzheimers. Submit to Joan Beck, 1012 Meadowbrook Rd. E., Iola, Ks. 66749.

**** Kansas will start a new year on Alzheimer collections as of January, 2010.****

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Your NARFE PAC Contribution helps fund the political arm of our NARFE organization in Washington whose sole purpose is to protect the benefits of individuals with a vested interest in civilian retirement system of the federal government. NARFE PAC funds is a separate, segregated fund of the Association comprised only of voluntary contributions from NARFE Members. FOR DETAILS ON CONTRIBUTING TO NARFE PAC FUND, See page 19, January 2010 NARFE MAGAZINE. \$20 will earn you a NARFE-PAC pin and at the same time you support NARFE's Legislation..

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