

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 #33

November-December 2009

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CHAPTER 2077 OFFICERS

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CHAPTER MEETING, "Monday, December 7, 2009, "New Greenery" North State Street. 11:30 A. M. Lunch followed by a program provided by Pam Maxwell, "BC/BS" providing an update on Health Insurance, & the close of Health Insurance Open Season. The Chanute NARFE Chapter and Ft. Scott Chapter members have been invited. Lets have a good showing from the Iola Chapter. Monday January 4, 2010 at 11:30 will be the first meeting of the New Year. Location, New Greenery on North State Street, Hwy 169, Program to be announced. (Congratulations to "Iola Chapter #2077" for hosting a chapter meeting every month since organized in Spring 1985, except for two "monthly meetings". One several years ago due to a snow storm, and the September meeting this year which was a scheduled picnic and was rained out. A "Thanks" goes to Jeanice Cress for seeing that we have excellent programs in addition to a lunch & Business Meeting.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: NARFE members have received the 2010 Calendars. Contributions made by NARFE members for the Calendar goes to NARFE projects such as the NARFE Scholarship fund. NARFE Member's children and grandchildren are eligible to compete for these Scholarship Funds for College. Future NARFE Magazines will provide information about these scholarships.

NARFE members should watch their mail during the coming months for correspondence on Annuities, Social Security, Income Tax Withholdings, Changes in Health Benefit Rates which will be mailed sometime starting in January. NOTE: "Your" CSA or CSF Number will appear on these notices. The number is a ready reference whenever OPM is to be contacted in reference to your benefits. No one else has a like number.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Open Season, November 9, ends Monday, December 14, 2009. "Your" November 2009, NARFE Magazine, provides you "with all kinds of information on Health Insurance", Rates, Companies that offer Health Insurance for Working Federal Employees, Retirees, & Survivors. (Take time to read this issue.) See page 42, if you want to consider a change of plans or even if you do not desire to change. There is information on Health Insurance and Benefits.

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ALZHEIMERS: The Kansas NARFE Alzheimer year ends, December 31, 2009. NARFE members have less than 60 days left this year to contribute. Kansas's goal for 2009 is \$5.25 Member. Make checks payable to, "NARFE Alzheimer Research" and send to Joan Beck, 1012 Meadowbrook Rd. E. Iola, Ks. 66749. August 24th, Kansas Ranked 2nd of 54 Federations, Missouri 8th and Iowa 9th, with Virginia ranking 1st.. Our Region V. ranked 2nd Nation wide. Lets keep Kansas in the lead.

LEGISLATION: President Obama has signed into law the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Authorization Bill. The new law allows federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity; permits Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) workers to credit half, and in 2014 all, of their unused sick leave toward retirement; provides for retirement equity for federal employees in Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Territories, ends the Defense's pay-for performance personnel system and includes other civil service provisions. This will provide the same benefit to FERS employees retiring as is provided CSRS retirees.

NARFE Supports House Bill HR.3631 to protect all Medicare Part B beneficiaries from a premium increase in 2010, including federal retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security Benefits. NARFE members should help, "close the deal" by urging their Senators to quickly pass HR.3631 to allow the Medicare agency to prepare for 2010.

PAC Funds for 2009-2010 Cycle: Kansas NARFE Members have contributed \$4,368 through the 3rd quarter of 2009. Of the 50 states, only (6) Six states exceed the Kansas NARFE membership contributions to date. If you have not contributed to NARFE PAC you can do so by clipping the coupon on Page 18 of the November 2009 NARFE Magazine; complete the form and submit the form with a check, or you can make the contribution with your Credit Card as outlined on the coupon. Help keep Kansas at the top of the ratings for PAC Contributions.

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ME:MBERHIP: Your Iola Chapter has 83 chapter members. Of this number 30 are on Dues Withholding. That means their NARFE dues are deducted one month at a time, and the cost of membership is \$4.20 less per year by being on DW. There are 12 life members who have paid up National NARFE dues for life, and pay their chapter dues annually Plus (4) Life National Members Only. Do you have a NARFE Membership Number? Answer is yes. That number appears just above your name on the mailing address, followed by your chapter number which is 2077.

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NARFE DUES REFERENDUM: The 2009 Dues Referendum calls for the establishment of \$40 yearly membership dues. Members who are on Dues Withholding will pay \$36 P/Y, receiving a 10% Discount. Ballots will be mailed to Chapter Secretary with the Chapter voting to approve or disapprove the By-laws change. Every chapter has one vote for every 50 chapter members or fraction thereof. (Correction) Breakdown of dues will be: \$9.00 p/y to Chapter.- \$4.00 ply to Federation, balance to NARFE. Dues Withholding \$8.00 p/y to Chapter and \$3.60 p/y to Federation. Continue to save \$4.20 per year in dues. CFE members (Federal Employees) continue at their current dues rates until they retire. NOTE: Your August NARFE Magazine, Pages 42/43 provides additional information on the referendum. Take a few minutes and read the hi-lite information on the proposed dues change. Background information: Last Dues Increase was in 2003. Cost of living adjustments to NARFE Retirees since then has been (2004--2.7%---2005--4.1 %---2006--3 .3%---2007--2.3%---2008--5.3%). \$100.00 a month annuity in 2004 is now \$118.00. Costs of operating NARFE Headquarters, including Publishing the NARFE magazine and salary of the NARFE staff that provides us with Membership Services, Legislative Information, Service Officer Services, free NARFE materials, all costs have risen.

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