

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
IOLA NARFE CHAPTER #2077, ORGANIZED JULY 1985 AT IOLA, KANSAS 66749

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NARFE WEB SITE: www.narfe.org, _____#40

March 7, 2011

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Next chapter meeting April 4th, Greenery, 11:30 AM. Iola, Kansas --"THE 57TH KANSAS FEDERATION NARFE ANNUAL CONVENTION WILL BE APRIL 10-12, 2011, "Sunday, Monday, Tuesday", Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center, 310 Hammons Drive, Junction City;

Chapter NARFE members interested in attending the convention, should make their wishes known to Chapter President Spencer Ambler or Chapter Secretary, Joann Maxwell. See phone numbers above.-- Pre-registrations are required by no later than 11 March 2011_ Allen County Chapter is authorized (4) four voting delegates for the convention. All NARFE Members can register and attend. The convention begins Sunday afternoon, April 10 at 2:30 PM. with an open forum.

Richard Thissen, National Field Vice President will participate in the question and answer Series. Issues that will be address are Membership, Public Relations, Legislation, Alzheimer; NARFE PAC. and other current issues recently raised by Congress and the Administration_ One/Thousand one hundred twenty NARFE Members from 44 Kansas chapters contributed \$23,246 to NARFE PAC. coming from 44 Kansas chapters. ..#4.Barb Pretzer, National and Region V Alzheimer's Chair will Speak Sunday evening during the "Open Session" of the convention and will be available during the rest of the convention to answer questions.

Chuck Timanus, NARFE Public Relations Director of National Headquarters will speak at the Monday Morning, April 11th. Convention Session. Due to other commitments Chuck will not be in Attendance until late Sunday evening,

PAY FREEZE FINALIZED: A resolution providing funding for the day to day operations of the federal government passed Congress before it recessed. Efforts to negotiate a package to fund the government through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011, which ends September 30, 2011, faced a filibuster in the Senate, resulting in the need for a short term continuing resolution. The legislation capped agencies operating budgets at \$1.1 trillion. The bill includes a 1.4 percent pay raise for military personnel but froze federal civilian salaries for two years, in line with the Presidents proposal to hold non-military pay steady for 2011 and 2012;.

"The Pay Freeze will cancel cost of living adjustments to General Schedule (Federal Employee & other federal pay scales for 2011 and 2012 "which includes retirees.". "Congress has done this before:(COST OF LIVING INCREASES) were delayed for all of 1985, then delayed again for three months in 1994, 1995 and 1996, for the first three months of each of these years. (Retirees forfeited \$40 billion in "COLA") funds they would normally use to live on. "Federal Retirees and Spouses are paid from funds, they pay into their retirement system each pay period while working. Federal Employees Pay for their retirement, by using their earned income to invest in their retirement." ..

Funds in the Retirement system have been audited and determined to be adequate for many years. (Federal Retirees have had hits on their cost of living over the years and are now being hit again; "by" Congress having no sympathy, nor giving any recognition for the years of service provided by now retired employees.) Federal Employees have dedicated their lives to the service of their country and in many cases continue to contribute service to their communities during their retirement years without recognition, and penalized at the same time because they are Federal Retirees or Employees, or are spouses of Federal Employee or Retirees..

Joseph A. Beaudoin, NARFE President reacted with great disappointment to President Obama's announcement; "A Two Year Pay Freeze For Civilian Federal Workers"--"FEDERAL WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE ONCE AGAIN SINGLED OUT." . Cutting pay sends the wrong signal to the best and brightest workers of the federal agencies who are needed in these difficult times." The Office of Personnel Management reported in October that private-sector workers earned more than 24 percent more than federal employees in 2010, two percentage points higher than in 2009. What is more, the Society for Human Resources Management estimated in September that salaries in the U. S. would increase by an average of 2.91 percent in 2011. according to Mercer, a Human Resource Consulting Firm. Only 2% of companies plan across-board salary freezes next Yr.

"In light of the growing number of critical challenges being shouldered by federal workers, the Government cannot afford to make substantial reductions to the earned compensation of individuals who have dedicated their careers to public service. For that reason, we urge the president to Reconsider this ill-conceived decision. (When Congress left Washington D. C. in September to campaign for the November election, it also left taxpayers in limbo about what income tax rates they will face next year. If lawmakers can't reach an agreement and let's the Bush era tax cuts expire January 1, all Taxpayers regardless of income will face higher Taxes regardless of income. Every taxpayer will face a tax increase because the current 10 percent tax rate would disappear. That means the first chunk of money earned, up to \$8,375 under 2010's tax brackets would be taxed at 15 percent more.

HEALTH BENEFITS: The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program this month announced a rise in the employee share of premiums averaging 7.2 percent for 2011. Federal employees unions reacted to the hike with measured criticism. "The good news is that the bad news isn't worse," Dan Adcock" Legislative Director for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, told. FEND, "Part of the news is that the Office of Personnel Management has negotiated an average premium clearly under what other large employers sponsored plans have negotiated on behalf of their employees and retirees.

WASHINGTON POST-- polls reported last week that 52 percent of Americans believe federal workers are overpaid and that more than one-third believe the employees are less qualified than those in the private sector. The polls noted that three out of four respondents who interacted with a federal employee said it was a positive experience.

Amid the heated anti-government rhetoric of this election season and suggestions that federal workers represent some sort of privileged class, "it may be easy to overlook the important role played by public servants who on a daily basis find solutions to serious problems, and "Assist Americans in Need." They keep us safe, Advance our National Interests.. Much of what the federal government does actually works quite well, from payment of Social Security benefits to 5.3 million Americans, supervise the safe takeoff & landing of thousands of airplanes. To the work of the nation' Law Enforcement, officials who enforce our security and those who lay their lives on the line to protect

Our backside, and provide Congressman with their security on a day to day basis..

ALZHETMER. A recent report from the Alzheimer's Association and California's First Lady Maria Shriver showed that the disease is disproportionately a woman's problem. The report-based on a survey of 3,118 American adults about their experience and impact of Alzheimer's disease. The survey found that two-thirds of Alzheimer suffers are women, 60 percent of them are unpaid caregivers for patients.

As of October 31, Kansas chapters have collected \$25,577.37 which averages \$5.49 per member. The 2010 goal is \$5.50 per member. Memorial contributions amount to \$2,434.50.

MARCH 8TH has been designated as the day every NARFE member should call their Congressional Offices here in Kansas or in DC. and advise them how you feel about the way Federal Employee and Retirees are being treated. Congressional addresses and phone numbers are listed below. You can call their Kansas Offices and give them your opinion if you desire. Jot down notes on what you want to tell them giving them the when, why's and wherefores and perhaps, ask someone to give you some assistance or some ideas to use in your remarks. . Senators and Congressman are elected by you the public and are suppose to be Representing you, the voters If you can not meet the March 8`h Date to make your contact by email, phone, letter, please make every effort to make your contact this week or early the week of the 14th. If you need assistance in putting your thoughts together feel free to Contact another NARFE member you know and ask them to help you develop your thoughts, but please do it within the next week. You elected them, they are suppose to be working for you - - - - -

CONGRESSMAN AND THEIR ADDRESSES (How to Contact)

Sen. Pat Roberts.
444 SE Quincy, Room 392
Topeka, Ks. 66683
Ph. 785-295-2745or DC
.Ph.202-224-4774
Ph.202-225-6601

Sen. Jerry Moran
1001-C N. Broadway
Pittsburg, Ks. 66762
Ph. 620-231-6040 or DC
Ph. 202-224-6521
www.moranforkansas.com

Rep. Lynn Jenkins
3550SW 5th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66601
Ph.785-234-5966 Topeka
Ph.202-225-6601, D.C.
www.house.gov/Jenkins

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What do you know about the various age groups of our NARFE Members?
80 years of age and above 89,378
60-79 year of age - - - 111,729
59 year pf age amd below 13,306

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