



# KANSAS STATE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

“CHAMPION OF THE FEDERAL RETIREE”

\*\*\*\*\*

Volume XXI

NARFE Tri-River Chapter No. 2098

January 2011

\*\*\*\*\*

Winona Hornbuckle, Editor, 1201 N. Broadway, Louisburg, KS 66053-3540, 913-837-4434, e-mail - sterwin@mokancomm.net

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

third quarter of 2011 is higher than the highest previous third quarter average from 2008. If the CPI-W for 2011 is higher than the CPI-W for 2008 it would indicate an increase in the cost of living from what it was in 2008, which determined the previous COLA increase to fixed retirement payments.

**Chapter Officers:**

- Darrell Williams, President, (913) 755-4026
- Sterling Hornbuckle, First Vice President, (913) 837-4434
- Jean Nickell, Second Vice President, (913) 755-4309
- Winona Hornbuckle, Secretary, (913) 837-4434
- Elizabeth Smith, Treasurer, (913) 294-2249
- Robert Hodge, Legislative Chair., (913) 557-5581
- Pat Erickson, Membership Chair., (913) 557-9405
- Jean Nickell, Public Relations, (913) 755-4309
- Helen Morrison, Alzheimer's Chair., (913) 755-4020
- Darrell Williams, NARFE-PAC Chair., (913) 755-4026

Benefits awarded under the FECA to those suffering work-related injuries or illnesses are adjusted according to each calendar year's percentage change in the CPI-W. November CPI-W (214.750) is 1/4% higher than the December 2009 index (211.704). December indices will be released January 14, 2011.

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sen. Pat Roberts             | Sam Brownback              |
| 1900 College Blvd., Ste. 203 | 612 S. Kansas Ave.         |
| Overland Park, KS 66210      | Topeka, KS 66603           |
| (913) 451-9343 or            | (785) 233-2503 or          |
| 109 Hart Sen. Office Bldg.   | 303 Hart Sen. Office Bldg. |
| Washington, DC 20510-1605    | Washington, DC 20510-1604  |
| (202) 224-4774               | (202) 224-6521             |

**December Meeting** - Met at the Cadmus Grange Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Darrell Williams. The invocation was given by Robert Hodge. There were 24 in attendance. Robert Hodge talked about the proposal to cut federal employees wages and benefits and national is trying to figure out how they can do it. They are trying to reduce the deficit and thought federal workers were an easy target. The President embraced a proposal for a 2-year federal pay freeze. Also a proposal to create a task force to recommend to Congress to cut federal benefits. The Senate and House passed a so-called "Doc Fix" to prevent Medicare provider reimbursement rates from being cut 25%. Are not going to cut reimbursement rates. Are wrestling with expiring tax codes and the catchall spending measure and part involved capping operating agencies budget at one trillion. Includes a 1.4 percent pay raise for military personnel and freezes federal civilian salaries for two years. Are serious about the Telework Bill which provides for people to do part of their work at home. Going to make it a part of the program continuing operations. Every agency is required to designate an officer in their agency. Our representatives are to be available for Constituent Work Week which is coming up January 31-February 7. NARFE membership showed an increase for the second month in November. The Federal Workforce Entitlement Task Force makes recommendations to cut federal civilian and military retirement benefits by \$70 million over the next 10 years. Are basing federal civilian retirement annuities on highest five years of salary.

- Rep. Lynn Jenkins
- 3550 SW 5<sup>th</sup> St.
- Topeka, KS 66606
- (785) 234-5966 or
- 701 N. Broadway St.
- Pittsburg, KS 66762
- (620) 231-5966 or
- 130 Cannon House Office Bldg.
- District of Columbia 20515-1602
- (202) 225-6601 Fax - (202) 225-7986

**Membership** - We welcome two new members to our chapter - Alfred and Diana Katzer from Greeley.

**Alzheimer's** - Have a new web page for NARFE. You can make a donation by using your credit card, email to keep confidential. Can now contribute in memory of someone. A new goal of 10 million dollars in 2012. This was agreed to and voted on at the national meeting.

**Next Meeting** - We will meet at 11:30 a.m. on January 11 at the United Methodist Church, 504 Pacific, Osawatomie. Calling list members: please report to Elnora Henness, 913-755-3568, by Saturday, January 8, the number on your list who plan to attend. Be sure to make a reservation if you plan to attend. You will be expected to pay for the meal if you make a reservation and do not attend. Diana Burnett from the county extension office will provide the program. The chapter officers are listed above.

**Your Benefits Are At Risk** - The Fiscal Commission's proposals to cut federal retirement, pay and health benefits could receive serious congressional consideration early in 2011. NARFE's president has denounced the unprecedented assaults on the earned compensation of federal workers and annuitants in the final report voted on December 3 by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

Federal workers and annuitants want to do their part but not if we are singled out for budget cuts while others are not asked to make similar sacrifices. Federal civil service employees and retirees are targeted for wholesale reductions in pay and benefits when their dedicated work is not a part of the deficit program but part of the solution.

**Legislation** - There will be no automatic cost of living adjustment to federal pension annuities for 2011. New CPI-W figures are now relevant to the 2012 COLA. The CPI-W increased slightly for November by 0.06 percent for the month of November. The CPI-W is now 214.750, 0.35 percent below the 2008 third quarter average of 215.495 which is the base figure for determining the next COLA. This figure impacts social security and federal government pension payments because the CPI-W is used by the government to measure increases in prices for purposes of automatic COLAs to those fixed retirement payments. The last COLA occurred beginning 2009. No automatic COLA for 2010 and there will be none for 2011. If there will be an automatic COLA for 2012 it depends on whether the average CPI-W for the

There is a proposal in the co-chair's final report to create a "Federal Workforce Entitlement Task Force" to make recommendations to Congress to cut federal civilian and military retirement benefits by \$70 billion over 10 years. Options to be considered - basing federal civilian retirement annuities on an employee's highest five years of salary rather than highest three, requiring workers to contribute a higher share of their salary toward their defined benefit annuity, and deferring CSRS COLAs until age 62.

Also to require federal employees and annuitants to pay an increasingly higher share of FEHBP premiums by limiting growth of the government/employer share to the Gross Domestic Product plus 1 percent.