

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 August 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

July Meeting - We met at the United Methodist Church in Osawatomie. The Treasurer reported we have \$513.91 in the checking account. President McCoy talked about one dues structure, ballots, very large chapter control as they have paid officers, and new dues withholding. The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act was signed by the President. Any newly hired federal employees will automatically be enrolled in the Thrift Savings Plan and be eligible to receive a matching contribution from their agency. Would be able to invest retirement money in investments of their own choosing. The House of Representatives bill would allow FERS workers to credit unused sick leave toward retirement. Big push now is they want us to speak out to those back east about getting them to support ideas of provisions in the Federal and Military Retiree Health Care Equity Act. Cards were distributed to those attending to send to our Senators and Representative for support of legislation on Health Care Reform. Pelosi working on things that will propose tax status of another premium level in health plans below \$18,840 for families and \$7,420 for individuals. Have raised \$570.76 for Alzheimer's plus \$34 from bingo this evening. Contact Darrell Williams if interested in contributing to NARFE-PAC.

Sunshine - Eva Frazee is now able to be out and about. Darline Laws will have surgery this month. The Folkens are doing better.

Sympathy - Our sympathy is extended to Jerry and Doris Elwood in the loss of their son Michael.

Next Meeting - August 11, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the Whistle Stop Café in Osawatomie. Callers should turn in the names of those they are making reservations for to John McCoy or Helen Morrison, 913-755-4020, by Saturday August 8. 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 - After declining the last five months of 2008, the CPI-W increased for the next consecutive month in June. The CPI-W for June was 210.9.

NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month, August through September 7, is designed to conduct face-to-face visits with every Representative and every Senator. This would be an opportune time for you to visit with your Representative and Senators.

The House and Senate votes on a major health care overhaul has been postponed until after Labor Day.

You should carefully scrutinize any messages you receive

which make various claims about health care reform bills because some of them provide misleading or false information. To receive accurate information regarding health care reform bills visit the Kaiser Foundation side-by-side bill comparison web at <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>.

When you contact your Senators and Congressmen please voice your displeasure of Senator Coburn's ideas for federal retirees and active employees. He needs to know we contributed to our retirement plan. It is not a gift but a benefit we paid for.

Sen. Susan Collins (ME) won passage of her NARFE supported amendment to allow federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity from salary.

Sen. Pat Roberts 11900 College Blvd., Ste. 203 Overland Park, KS 66210 (913) 451-9343	or	Sen. Sam Brownback 612 S. Kansas Ave. Topeka, KS 66603 (785) 233-2503	or
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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
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Rep. Lynn Jenkins
3550 SW 5th 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

NARFE Dues Referendum - The 2009 Dues Referendum calls for the establishment of \$40 yearly membership dues. Every member who is on Dues withholding will pay \$36 receiving a 10% discount. Ballots will be mailed to the Chapter Secretary with the Chapter voting to "approve" or "disapprove" the Bylaw change. Every chapter has one vote. How your chapter will make sure every member has a chance to make their vote is that chapter's responsibility. There is a "Special Voter's Coupon in the August issue of the NARFE magazine. If you use that coupon, be sure you mail it to your Chapter President. That is the only place it will be counted.

Membership - We now have 103 members. Region V has 23% of chapter members on dues withholding. National is 19.6%.

Alzheimer's - We will be holding our Alzheimer's auction at the September meeting at Cadmus. Be sure to gather up some items to bring for that event. Let's see if we can exceed what we did last year.

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.