



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 September 2011

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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.

will be none for 2011. If the CPI-W remains unchanged through September it would translate into a 3.3% increase in Civil Service Retirement System annuities and a 2.3% increase to FERS annuities. It is unlikely that the CPI will remain completely static through the next two months.

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Display the United States of America Flag

On Sunday, September 11, everyone needs to display the flag of these United States of America. It should be displayed outside every home, apartment, office, and store in the United States. Every individual should make it their duty to display an American flag on this tenth anniversary of one of our country's worst tragedies. We do this to honor those who lost their lives on 9/11, their families, friends and loved ones who continue to endure the pain, and those who today are fighting at home and abroad to preserve our cherished freedoms. In the days, weeks and months that followed 9/11, our country was bathed in American flags as citizens mourned the incredible losses and stood shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. Sadly, those flags have all but disappeared. Our patriotism pulled us through some tough times and it shouldn't take another attack to galvanize us in solidarity. Our American flag is the fabric of our country and together we can prevail over terrorism of all kinds.

Please don't break this chain. Think back to how you felt on 9/11 and let those sentiments guide you.

Please participate and fly an American flag of any size on September 11.

God Bless You and God Bless America!

September Meeting - We will meet at 6:00 p.m., September 13, at the Cadmus Grange Hall. Calling list members: please report to Jean Nickell, 913-755-4309, by Saturday, September 10, the number on your list who plan to attend. If you make a reservation and do not attend you will be expected to pay for the meal.

Alzheimer's Auction - We will be holding our annual Alzheimer's Auction at our September meeting so be gathering up items to bring to be auctioned off. Donations will also be accepted. We hope to exceed the amount we made last year for this worthy cause.

CPI-W - The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers is 222.686 (3.34% above the 2008 third quarter average) which is the base figure for determining the next COLA. This figure impacts federal civil service annuities, military retiree annuities, and social security payments. The last COLA occurred at the beginning of 2009. There was none for 2010 and there

Legislation - The Budget chaos reigns. Plans for 2012 and 2013 are in disarray in the wake of debt deal. With only a few weeks until the next fiscal year begins none of the bills that keep the government operating have been passed by Congress. Agencies have not been given guidance by OMB on how to prepare 2013 budget submissions which are due in a few weeks. It usually goes out in June but was sidetracked by uncertainty created by the lengthy and inconclusive debt ceiling negotiations. Many experts forecast a clash over the 2012 budget that may threaten the shutdown of some agencies.

A continuing resolution typically maintains spending at the preceding year's levels. It shouldn't be a problem at some agencies like Veterans Affairs Department and Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Challenges are magnified for agencies such as Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as well as the Social Security Administration whose workload is swelling as baby boomers retire and the economy drives more folks to seek disability benefits. The president of the American Federation of Government Employees, who represent's SSA's field operations, states people are concerned and stressed out. It is crisis after crisis. The agency imposed a partial hiring freeze a year ago and to cut overtime it announced field offices would close to the public 30 minutes earlier each day. SSA will have to shed 4,400 employees if it is forced to operate on current-level funding. Those cuts can be accomplished through attrition if the agency's budget is unchanged. If funding is cut employees would be furloughed one day for every \$25 million in reductions.

There are prospects for another shutdown. Agency leaders are treading carefully absent any clear direction from Capitol Hill .

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