



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 February 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.

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
- Glenn Alpert, Service Officer, (913) 849-3738

January Meeting - Met at the United Methodist Church in Osawatomie at 11:30 a.m. There were 23 in attendance. Diana Burnett from the extension office presented a program on "Getting Organized - Keep It Or Toss It." We have \$619.01 in the Treasury. Robert Hodge gave a lengthy report on

Next Meeting - February 8, 11:30 a.m., at the Whistle Stop Café in Osawatomie. Calling list members - please report to Darrell Williams, 913-755-4026, how many plan to attend so he can give the restaurant an idea of how many to prepare for.

Sympathy - Our heart felt sympathy is extended to Gerald and Doris Elwood whose son Patrick passed away January 1 in Branson, MO.

Illness - Karen Browning fell and broke her leg and had to have a rod put in it. Jean Nickell has been dealing with some health problems and Darrell Williams had to get his pacemaker rewired. We hope they all are doing better.

Legislation - Robert Hodge reported 441 members in House and 13 new Senators were sworn in. This year's budget expected to reach \$14.3 trillion. The national office wants to consider getting in touch with new representatives to get acquainted and understand where we are coming from and where they might help us. They didn't like the budget they had so passed a continuing resolution until March 4. Are working on a bill which includes a 1.4% pay raise for military personnel. Puts a freeze on federal civilian salaries. Because of new people coming in the bills will have to be reintroduced with new identity numbers. Can use CAPWIZ site for connection to send to your representative or senator. Also information on proposed payroll tax holiday. Are excused from paying tax on part of Social Security because of all this going on.

A package the house passed, 277-148, was the \$858 billion tax package passed by the Senate, 81 to 19, and signed by the President included a two-year extension of the Bush-era tax cuts and a one-year two percent Social Security payroll tax holiday. Also impact on FERS employees who don't have Social Security. If reduction in Social Security money differs has to be paid by FERS employees. Top ten legislative accomplishments by 111th Congress includes a \$250 refund tax credit for 2009 tax year. Defeating the amendment would have cut federal civilian retirement and/or health benefits by 10 billion dollars over 10 years. Got the ball rolling on re-employment of federal retirees on limited part-time basis without affecting their annuity. On retirement FERS workers will be able to credit half of unused sick leave in 2013 toward retirement and all in 2014. CSRS people can phase down part time status without affecting their final annuity. Locality pay will be creditable for retirement also. Health Care Reform - were afraid they would bring a bunch of people into our system but it was dropped.

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| Sen. Pat Roberts
1900 College Blvd., Ste. 203
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 451-9343 or
109 Hart Sen. Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-1605
(202) 224-4774 | Sam Brownback
612 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 233-2503 or
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| Rep. Lynn Jenkins
3550 SW 5 th St.
Topeka, KS 66606
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1001 N. Broadway St. #C
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2011 Kansas State Convention - Chapter 0383 Junction City, will host it April 10-12, 2011. The registration form with your check to cover registration fees and meals needs to be returned by March 25. The registration fee is \$11. The Committee Assignment Request form needs to be returned to the Federation Secretary by March 10, 2011.

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.