



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

June 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

May Meeting - Met at the First Lutheran Church in Paola with 33 in attendance. We have \$430.20 in checking. President John McCoy gave a lengthy report on the happenings at the State Convention. He and three other members attended. Elizabeth Smith served as secretary of the Area II caucus. Jean Nickell served on the Nominating Committee for State Officers as well as the Teller Committee. All state offices are filled. Helen Morrison helped with Registration and Alzheimer's. John attended the meeting for Service Officers and Legislation. The June NARFE Magazine will highlight the referendum involving one dues structure and a vote will be taken in September. Sale of the candy provided by Jean Nickell and Darrell Williams was good. The silent auction brought in \$2,840 and the live auction \$1,381 - total \$4,221. NARFE-PAC received \$2,176. There is a computer glitch in the chapter rosters and Richard Thissen is working on this. PAC was reemphasized. Premium Conversion a possibility. These things are not going to get passed on their own - nothing is out of the question because they are little riders on something else. Lot of current employees don't think about what might happen such as taxing benefits, what is your health care worth to you. Wanting to open up Federal health benefit plans to the public. Means testing. Who would receive Medicare benefits based on eligibility to pay for services received. Civil Service is fully funded. They look on this as all of a sudden need to balance the national budget. Emphasized no cuts.

Sunshine - Continue to keep Darline Laws and Russell and Jennie Folken in your prayers.

Next Meeting - June 9, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at the Plum Creek United Methodist Church north of Osawatomie. Callers should turn in the names of those they are making reservations for to Darrell Williams, 913-755-4026, by June 6. 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 - Robert Hodge reported H.R. 626 provides 12 weeks of unpaid leave by the Family and Medical Leave Act. Federal employees can substitute four weeks of paid leave, as well as any accrued annual or sick leave, for the birth or adoption of a child. Advocacy Month - August through Labor Day - encourages chapters to make contact

with legislators and let them know how we feel about these issues.

Senate bill S. 629 contains legislation that would allow agencies to waive requirements that federal employees take a pay cut equal to their annuity if they return to work on a limited part-time basis. Two other bills, S. 469 approved by the Governmental Affairs Committee regarding conforming part time service under CSRS to the same as FERS. NARFE urged this committee to correct this error for those already retired and finally the committee approved S. 707 that requires agencies to create and submit plans for telework benefits to the OPM.

NARFE is also concerned about several aspects of health care reform which includes using the legislation as a vehicle to attach our premium conversion bill. There is also concern about the lawmakers who support taxing workers and retirees for the share of health insurance premiums paid by their employers.

The GPO-WEP Repeal has 282 current cosponsors (47 lapsed) and Premium Conversion only 160 current cosponsors (157 lapsed).

The CPI increased 0.3% in April. On May 15 the CPI-W for April was 207.9 which is currently 3.5% below the 2008 three quarter average. May indices will be released June 17.

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| Sen. Pat Roberts
11900 College Blvd., Ste. 203
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 451-9343 | Sen. Sam Brownback
612 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 233-2503 |
| <u>or</u> | <u>or</u> |
| 109 Hart Sen. Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-1605
(202) 224-4774 | 303 Hart Sen. Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-1604
(202) 224-6521 |
| Rep. Lynn Jenkins
3550 SW 5 th St.
Topeka, KS 66606
(785) 234-5966 | |
| <u>or</u> | |
| 701 N. Broadway St.
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(620) 231-5966 | |

Membership - Since January 1, 2009, Region V, which includes Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota have lost 78 chapters. Some have been replaced with new members which means 60 losses. Compared to national Region V has 23% of members on dues withholding and national has 19.6%. Active Federal Employees - Region V has 9.3% compared to national 6.9%. We currently have 100 members.

Service Officer - John McCoy reported one big thing - be prepared for life events brochure. Get it for annuitants and survivor benefits. Has instructions on how benefits are paid after death of an annuitant. Biggest problem is surviving spouse. CSA number, checking accounts. There is a booklet to go through and provide information.

Alzheimer's - Last years goal was \$4 - went over to \$5.55. Over \$8 million collected. New goal is \$5.25. This chapter received two certificates - one for \$1,227 amount raised at the auction and one for over \$16 per member.