



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 October 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

September Meeting - Met at the Cadmus Grange Hall. President John McCoy presided. There were 39 in attendance including new members Roseanne and David Jackson and two guests. We have 102 members. Maryanna Williams and Clifford Wright are not doing well. John Frazee was recently hospitalized. Darline Laws hopes to be home soon. She seems to be doing well. We need people to step forward and fill Chapter offices. President McCoy talked about the Dues Referendum - use one dues structure. Currently have multiple ways of paying dues. Will vote on a flat \$40. The chapter will receive \$9. A 10 percent reduction for dues withholding, \$9 will be provided the chapter and \$3.60 to federations. The August NARFE Magazine contains all the information. Everyone gets a chance to vote. We get two votes - one for every 50 members and 1 vote for the Delegate-at-Large. Votes to be turned in by early December. Chapter will receive \$9 versus \$5 in the past. Regarding Alzheimer's there are 10 regions and we are Region 5. The state of Virginia is the #1 contributor. We rank #2 in our region, Missouri #8 and Iowa #9. To date have received \$230 by mail toward the auction. The remainder of the evening was spent on the auction.

Next Meeting - October 13, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the First Baptist Church, 801 Brown, Osawatomie. Callers should turn in the names of those they are making reservations for to Max McCready, 913-755-1270, by October 10. 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. Gale Beck plans to be in attendance at this meeting.

Deaths - We were saddened by the passing of Maryanna Williams on September 28. Visitation was Wednesday evening at the Paola Funeral Home and service Thursday at the Baptist Church in Paola. Our sympathy is extended to Darrell and their family.

FEHB 2010 Premium Increases - OPM has announced that 2010 FEHBP premiums will increase 8.8% on average and will cause difficulty for some with no COLA. Also, there will be a jump of 12.4% for family and 15.1% for self only in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Standard option.

Legislation - Since it is almost certain there will be no COLA for Social Security beneficiaries and federal civilian and military retirees, the House passed legislation on September 24 to protect all Medicare beneficiaries from an increase in 2010 in their Part B premium. Without this bill, federal, state and local government retirees who are not Social Security eligible would have to pay the Part B rate hike in a no-COLA year, while Social Security beneficiaries would not. Currently, 72 percent of Medicare beneficiaries do not have to pay for the increase in Part B premiums in any year in which they receive no Social Security COLA. There are four groups of older Americans who are not protected by this provision including over a million federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security benefits. Absent a change in law they would not only have to pay the higher Part B premiums without a COLA, but also absorb the costs of other Medicare beneficiaries currently held harmless.

Regarding health care reform legislation, included among the 500+ amendments are two which would affect the FEHBP. It has been proposed that federal workers and Members of Congress be required to join state-based health exchanges to purchase health insurance instead of FEHBP. The approved amendment was changed to make enrollment in the exchanges optional, instead of mandatory, for federal employees and legislators. Another amendment may be offered to open FEHBP to certain low-income non-federal civilians. NARFE supports access to health care for all Americans but insists that any proposal to open FEHBP to the public must include separate risk pools which the amendment did not contain. Therefore, NARFE opposes the amendment.

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| Sen. Pat Roberts
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Alzheimer's - We held our auction at the last meeting and took in \$672. Received \$285 in the mail making a total of \$957. We are hopeful that more mail-ins will be received and we will reach \$1,000 plus.

I'm always old, but sometimes new. Never sad, but sometimes blue. Never empty and sometimes full, I never push, but always pull. Who am I?
 (The moon.)