



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 2010

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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:

President
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

January Meeting - Met January 12 at the Whistle Stop Café in Osawatomie. There were 17 in attendance. Robert Hodge reported regarding health care reform the Senate leadership compromised on getting to the point where they could get the 60 votes needed and contains language that was suggested by NARFE that would provide a safeguard for federal employees for REHB. NARFE feared OPM would be put in charge of managing the health care program and they are not staffed to do it. NARFE wants HHS to do that. As it now stands health care legislation has not been endorsed. There is again a government big debt limit extension to pay bills. Have to have another one. Thinking of taking on legislation which would create a commission that forces changes and entitlement. There is concern that such a commission could have an impact on our health benefits. We want them to oppose any fast track proposal that would create this commission. Some retirees not eligible to receive Social Security have already seen a jump in Part B plans. The Medicare Premium Fairness Act which would protect employees and retirees from the Part B increase this year has been passed by the House. Would like Senators to support legislation. Tax retirement in Kansas - we don't want them going after our annuity. There is talk about taxing our government increase and military is also involved. If they do it for federal have to do state. Officers nominated for the coming year -President - Darrell Williams, 1st Vice President - Sterling Hornbuckle, 2nd Vice-President - Jean Nickell, Secretary - Winona Hornbuckle, Treasurer - Irene Hodge. These officers were unanimously elected and approved by a vote of those present.

Next Meeting - February 9, 11:30 a.m., at the Whistle Stop Café, 901 Sixth St., Osawatomie.

Sympathy - We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Darrell Williams whose brother Harold passed away January 26 in Texas.

2010 Kansas State Federation of NARFE Chapters - Chapter 0002, Topeka, is hosting it April 25-27, 2010. The registration forms need to be returned by April 10. Registration fee is \$110. The Committee Assignment Request Form needs to be returned by April 1, 2010. You must make your own hotel reservation by April 6, 2010, by calling between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to (785) 234-5400 or (800) 2RAMADA.

Government Retiree Tax Credit - You can take this credit if you receive a pension or annuity payment in 2009 for service performed by the U. S. Government or any U.S. state or local government and the service was not covered by social security. The credit is \$250 (\$500 if married filing jointly and both you and your spouse receive a qualified pension or annuity). You cannot take the credit if you received a \$250 economic recovery payment during 2009. If you file a joint return, both you and your spouse receive a qualifying pension or annuity, and both of you received an economic recovery payment, no government retiree credit is allowed; if only one of you received an economic recovery payment, the credit is \$250. You will use new schedule M (Form 1040 or 1040A) to figure the government retiree credit. Both credits are refundable. If you file Form 1040EZ you can take the credit on that form and do not have to file schedule M.

NARFE Recruiting Contest - It began January 2009 and will end July 2010. Chapters will compete according to size - Small (1-100), Medium (101-400), Large (401 or more). The nine winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each of the three categories) will be presented cash prizes at the 2010 Convention -1st - \$500, 2nd - \$300, 3rd - \$200.

Legislation - The CPI-W for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for December is 211.703 which is currently 1.8 percent below the 2008 third quarter average base index of 215.5. January indices will be released February 19.

Due to action by our NARFE President and e-mail messages sent by NARFE members, negotiators have agreed that FEHBP plans that cover federal workers and annuitants would not be subject to the “Cadillac” tax until 2018. Initially plans covering federal workers and annuitants would have been subject to the tax in 2013.

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

Sen. Sam Brownback
612 S. Kansas Ave.
Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 233-2503 or
303 Hart Sen. Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-1604
(202) 224-6521

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

Medicare Part B Premium Protection - Federal, state and local government retirees not eligible to receive Social Security have seen their Medicare Part B premiums jump from \$96.40 to \$110.50 in 2010. Current law protects most other beneficiaries from a part B rate hike when there is no Social Security cost of living adjustment. The House passed H.R. 3631 on September 24 which would protect over 1 million federal, state and local government retirees from the increase in 2010. The Senate has not approved this legislation. Send them an e-mail requesting approval of this legislation.
<http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=14260196>