



**KANSAS STATE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS**  
**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
 "CHAMPION OF THE FEDERAL RETIREE"

Volume XIX

NARFE Tri-River Chapter No. 2098

May 2007

Winona Hornbuckle, Editor, 1201 N. Broadway, Louisburg, KS 66053-3540, 913-837-4434, e-mail - sphwmh49@mokancomm.net

**NARFE Tri-River Chapter No. 2098** meets the second Tuesday 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
- Darrell Williams, Treasurer, (913) 755-4026
- Robert Hodge, Legislative Chair., (913) 557-5581
- Elizabeth Smith, Membership Chair., (913) 294-2249
- Norman Minden, Service Officer, (913) 294-3139
- Helen Morrison, Alzheimer's Chair., (913) 755-4020
- Darrell Williams, NARFE-PAC Coord., (913) 755-4026

**April 10 Meeting** - Held the meeting at the Beagle United Methodist Church. There were 32 in attendance. The minutes of the March 13 meeting were read and approved and the Treasurer reported \$386.65 in checking and \$805.42 in savings. Legislation was moving on Premium Conversion and elimination of GPO and WEP. Both the House and Senate dealt with budget resolutions and neither will affect civil service retirement or health benefits. The House and Senate are adding cosponsors for Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP legislation. Members urged to use dues withholding. The national average for dues withholding is 17.9%. Our region is 22% and is the highest in the nation. A thank you was read from the Dean Kohlenberg family. Rachel Miller is now back home after a stay in the hospital and Ferne Brand is still in the nursing home. Carol Minden recently had some surgery. Items were requested for the Alzheimer's auction at the State Convention. Five members will attend the State Convention the last of this month from this chapter. The program was by Sterling Hornbuckle who provided a rendition of Simon Peter in costume of that time period.

**Next Meeting** - Will meet at 6:00 p.m. on May 8 at the Fontana United Methodist Church. Callers should turn in the names of those they are making reservations for to John McCoy, 913-755-4020, by Saturday, May 5. The cost will be \$7.00. 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**

The CPI-W increased 1.0 percent in March to 200.6 which is 0.8 percent higher than the 2006 third quarter average of 199.1. Premium Conversion legislation is attracting additional cosponsors in both the House and Senate. This legislation would allow civilian and military retirees to pay monthly health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars, just as current employees in all three branches of the government can already do. As of the end of April the House had 133 cosponsors and the Senate had 22. There are still many who cosponsored in 2005-2006 that have not done so in the current Congress. In the last Congress the House had 340 cosponsors and the Senate had 64. Check the Legislative Action Center on the NARFE website (capwiz.com/narfe) to find the cosponsor status for our area. NARFE President, Margaret Baptiste, lauded two senators, Barbara Mikulski of Maryland and George Voinovich of Ohio, who introduced the Government Pension Reform Act. This bipartisan legislation would amend the Social Security Act by lessening the burden of the GPO on retired public servants including federal retirees. The GPO prevents these government retirees, who were first eligible to retire in 1982, from collecting both a government annuity and Social Security benefits on a spouse's work. Two-thirds of the government annuity the retiree has earned is used to offset whatever Social Security spousal or

survivor benefits that might have been payable. Approximately 394,000 Social Security beneficiaries, of which about 75 percent were women, 40 percent widows or widowers, and 20 percent who had a non covered pension of less than \$1,000 a month, were affected by this in December 2003. The loss of earned survivor benefits can result in poverty among elderly women, despite their and their spouses years of work. President Baptiste said there is no legitimate reason for a certain segment of seniors to be denied their Social Security benefits for which full Social Security taxes were paid. NARFE has led a campaign for over 20 years to rid the Social Security Law of this provision. GPO arbitrarily penalized the earned Social Security benefits of public sector retirees.

Sen. Pat Roberts	Sen. Sam Brownback
11900 College Blvd., Ste. 203	612 S. Kansas Ave.
Overland Park, KS 61210	Topeka, KS 66603
(913) 451-9343	(785) 233-2503

or

109 Harte Sen. Office Bldg.  
 Washington, DC 20510-1605  
 (202) 224-4774

or

303 Harte Sen. Office Bldg  
 Washington, DC 20510-1604  
 (202) 224-6521

Rep. Nancy Boyda  
 510 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 Topeka, KS 66612  
 (785) 234-8111

or

1711 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
 Washington, DC 20515-1602  
 (202) 225-6601

**Membership** - According to the April 15 Membership Roster we have 102 Chapter Members and 2 National Only Members.

**Upcoming Events**

- June 12, 2007 - NARFE Monthly Meeting
- August 29-31, 2007 - College of NARFE Knowledge, South Sioux City, NB

**NARFE Unveils 2007 Membership Plan**

NARFE's 2007 Integrated Operating Plan for Recruitment and Retention is very important in helping NARFE recruit new members and retain existing members. All members are urged to read and implement it. For Chapters:

- a. Support the new membership initiatives by including them in our chapter membership plan.
- b. Develop a Chapter Membership Plan in cooperation with our federation.
- c. Continue to encourage all annual renewing members to convert to dues withholding.
- d. Welcome newcomers to Chapter Meetings. Make contact with new members and get them involved.
- e. Participate in all pre-retirement seminars, health fairs, and state conventions of like associations.
- f. Personally contact chapter members who receive a second renewal notice and those who drop their membership.
- g. Aggressively pursue actions to overcome the demographic differences between younger potential members, including current federal employees and recent retirees, and our current membership, to encourage membership recruitment and retention.

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The girl hesitated, then read, I think the Seven Wonders of the World are: 1. To see, 2. To taste, 3. To touch, 4. To hear, 5. To feel, 6. To laugh, 7. To love. The room was full of silence. Those things we overlook as simple and "ordinary" are truly wondrous. This is a gentle reminder that the most precious things in life cannot be bought, and we don't need to travel to witness them.