



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

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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

September 4 Meeting - We met at the Cadmus Grange Hall at 6:00 p.m. for our regular monthly meeting and our Annual Alzheimer's Auction with 35 attending. The reading of the minutes and the Treasurer's report were dispensed with. Bob Hodge reported that Brownback is not yet a cosponsor of Premium Conversion legislation which is in committee and don't expect anything until later in the month. Bob passed out cards to assist members in conversations with the Legislative Assistant and advised members to be sure and identify themselves as a NARFE member.

Next Meeting -October 9, 2007, 6:00 p.m., at the Presbyterian Church, 4th and Main Street, Osawatomie. Callers should turn in the names of those they are making reservations for to Jean Nickell, 913-755-4309, by Saturday, October 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.

Sunshine - We are sorry to report that Ferne Brand passed away on August 10, 2007. Sympathy is extended to her family. Norman Minden had gall bladder surgery shortly before our last meeting and Maryanna Williams is now back home. We also need to remember Russell Folken who is dealing with some health issues. Sterling Hornbuckle had back surgery on September 17 and is out and about doing well. Our thoughts and prayers are with each of these members.

Legislation - We are happy to report that Sen. Brownback plus two others have now signed on as cosponsors of Premium Conversion. This is still a dozen fewer than were recruited during the 109th Congress. We thank Chairman Henry Waxman and Ranking Member Tom Davis of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for favorably reporting legislation (H.R. 1110) that would allow federal and military retirees and active duty personnel to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars. Because the bill would amend the tax code, H.R. 1110 must also be passed by the House Committee on Ways and Means. We still need to keep pushing until we reach the finish line - enactment.

COLA -The CPI-W decreased 0.2% in August but is 2.2% higher than the 3rd quarter average in 2006.

Medicare Part B premiums will be means tested for the first time starting in January 2007. The Part B premium will increase 5.6% in 2007. For purposes of calculating the Part B premium, the Modified Adjusted Gross Income on one's tax return for two years prior will be used for purposes of calculating the Part B premium.

The overall average FEHBP premium increase for 2008 is 2.1%. There is concern that the share by those in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan will jump by 8.5% and enrollees 64 and younger will pay higher deductibles and coinsurance payments. Out of pocket costs for all could have been better contained if OPM had applied for a subsidy available to all employers and the federal government and continued expansions of high deductible health plans coupled with HSAs.

Sen. Pat Roberts
 11900 College Blvd., Ste. 203
 Overland Park, KS 61210
 (913) 451-9343

Sen. Sam Brownback
 612 S. Kansas Ave.
 Topeka, KS 66603
 (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 10th Ave.
 Topeka, KS 66612
 (785) 234-8111

or

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

Membership - Elizabeth Smith reported we had 105 members but two were dropped so only had 103 and with the passing of Ferne Brand we now have 102. Several have received second notices.

Upcoming Events

November 13, 2007 - NARFE Chapter 2098 Meeting at the Lutheran Church in Paola.

Alzheimer's - The auction was held with Bob Penn doing all of the auctioneering since Norman was recuperating from surgery. The 2007 NARFE goal is seven million dollars. This chapter is the third top contributor in the state. The auction raised \$930 plus \$190 from mail in donations for a total of \$1,120.00. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this worthy cause.

Dues - The current federal employee (CFE) dues incentive program is being eliminated effective January 1, 2008.

New Member: First year membership fee - \$33.

Annual Renewing Member (Multi-year Membership): One year - \$29 +1 year chapter dues; two years - \$52 +2 years chapter dues; three years - \$74 + 3 years chapter dues.

Dues Withholding Member Retiree (Conversion):

Annually charged \$24.60 (\$2.05 per month) plus chapter dues.

Grandfathered Current Federal Employee (CFE)

Incentives (Effective 01/01/2008): For renewal purposes only. First year dues - \$25; two years - \$45; three years - \$60