



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

December 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

November Meeting - Met on November 10, 2009, at the Whistle Stop Café in Osawatomie. There were 27 in attendance. Robert Hodge reported the Thrift Savings Plan financial system has been seriously impacted and those retiring soon will be hurt. The President is being given kudos for signing the Defense Authorization bill which opened up the opportunity to re-employ annuitants and take advantage of unused sick leave and use it toward retirement. NARFE is concerned about Long Term Care Insurance because of the proposed changes that might look OK but pushing for time. The deadline has been changed from December 14 to February 15. Members encouraged to contact their Representative and Senators regarding protection of Medicare Part B. Encouraged to use the Legislative Action Center. The Thrift Savings Plan was changed which provided for automatic enrollment for newly hired federal employees. Also, a Roth option to make after tax contributions that would be tax free. Surviving spouses would have the same right as any other TSP participant. It was reported the Nominating Committee has all positions filled except the President. We had no program so Norman Minden suggested each person who retired from a federal position or is still working tell where they worked and their length of service. Veterans in attendance were recognized.

Next Meeting - December 8, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the Cadmus Grange Hall. Callers should turn in the names of those they are making reservations for to Jean Nickell, 913-755-4309, by December 5. 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 House narrowly passed legislation overhauling health care. Under this legislation federal employees and annuitants will be able to keep the insurance in the system they now have and nothing in the bill specifically impacts FEHBP. "NARFE Position on Health Care" is posted on the web site at <http://www.narfe.org/departments/guest/articles.cfm?ID=1804>. Senate rules facilitate both debate and amendment. We must be concerned about proposals made during committee consideration of S. 1796 which would have required FEHBP participants to go into the new exchanges or

opened the FEHBP to non-federal civilian employees without risk pools. Any Senator could revive these proposals and offer them as amendments. Use either the Legislative Action Center or NARFE's toll free access to the Capitol switchboard (1-866-220-0044) to tell your Representative and Senators to allow FEHBP enrollees to keep the plan they have now.

NARFE states the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) has been a huge success for the past 23 years. These plans were created so employees could avoid working into old age as well as make room for younger workers to replace them. NARFE is concerned that the volatile financial market is/will force federal employees at or near retirement to keep working until they can regain their losses. Those that are years away from retirement should have time to recover but most of them will either retire with a smaller nest egg or work until the market rebounds. These plans were created so employees could avoid working into old age as well as make room for younger workers to replace them.

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| Sen. Pat Roberts
11900 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 5 th 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 | |

Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program - Letters from OPM that were mailed last month to those enrolled in the FLTCIP contained errors in the "Benefit Amount." Enrollees affected are those with the automatic compound inflation option whose anniversary date for annual increases is November 1, December 1, or January 1. Corrected letters will be mailed in December to those enrollees and they will be provided an extension up to March 20, 2010, to review their options and make a decision. If you have questions about FLTCIP enrollment or if you have already made a decision and want to reconsider you must call 1-800-582-3337.

Treasurer - We currently have \$571.81 in our checking account.

Membership - As of now we have 101 members.

Wishing each of you

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year