



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

November 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.

Premiums - there will not be an increase on Part B. Government will be allowed to reinstate retirees without affecting their annuities. Alzheimer's - we are No. 3 in the state with an average of \$15.83 per member.

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

Next Meeting - November 10, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the Whistle Stop Café in Osawatomie. Callers should turn in the number of those they are making reservations for to Irene Hodge, 913-557-5581, by November 7.

Legislation - NARFE has supported and the President has signed into law the FY 2010 Defense Authorization bill which includes several civil service improvements. Enactment of this legislation to eliminate inequities, increase productivity and address the skills shortage in the civil service is a great victory for active and retired federal employees. It allows federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity; permits FERS workers to initially credit half, and in 2014 all, of their unused sick leave toward retirement; phases out the non-foreign cost-of-living adjustment system for all employees in Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Territories; ends Department of Defense's pay-for-performance personnel system, the National Security Personnel System, restoring employees to the federal General Schedule pay system; and includes other civil service provisions.

October Meeting - Met on October 13, 2009, at the First Baptist Church in Osawatomie. There were 25 in attendance including Gale Beck, Area II Vice-President, and his wife Joan and Darrell Williams daughter, Gwen Behrends. Following are some of the comments made by Gale Beck. He reported another record was set in FY 2009 for Alzheimer's - \$691,657. Hope to have \$9 million by 2011. Kansas ranked second out of 54 Federations. Only one region gave more than Kansas. Alzheimer's is currently the sixth leading cause of death of people over 65. One out of every eight people over 65 has already been diagnosed with it. Exercise is the answer. A good conference is the College of NARFE Knowledge. Leadership is needed. Need members who will accept responsibility and be accountable. We need a single dues structure. Every chapter has different dues. Proposed dues is \$40 - \$9 to the chapter, \$4 to the federation. State bylaws will have to be changed. Dues withholding - \$8 to the chapter, \$3.60 to the federation, balance to NARFE. Total amount withheld - \$4.20, is less than those who write a check each year for total dues. Years ago members-at-large could join NARFE as national only. Bylaws were changed back to where you had to join a chapter. They will be left the same because they are grand fathered in. Life members will pay \$9 each year to the chapter. Chapter life membership and the people that have paid into that will continue those life memberships. Topeka and Tri-River are the only ones with life chapter members. Active federal employees - separate rates for them to join. It was cancelled in 2008 and since then they join as regular employees or postal employees. Once they retire they revert to the regular dues rate. Voting on bylaws - will have one vote for every 50 members or part thereof. If it passes everything will have to be reprogrammed. They want Chapter Treasurers to be audited annually. A proposed change in Honorary Membership is that members over 85 with 20 years of membership would have to pick up their dues and those now are grand fathered in and they don't pay chapter dues at present. A Certificate will be presented to them. (We have two in our chapter - Elsa Hale and Ruth Buchanan.) Robert Hodge has a report to go to John Shurrite by October 15 and needs feedback members received from Senators and Congressman. He also reported the House passed legislation that will allow federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part time basis without offset of annuity. **MEDICARE**

OPM has announced it would extend the deadline for Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program enrollees to make changes in their coverage to avoid or mitigate a 25-percent premium increase to February 15, 2010.

We also applaud the President for proposing that all federal retirees and survivors, including Civil Service Retirement System annuitants who are not eligible to receive Social Security, should be offered a one-time \$250 payment like all other older Americans.

The President has also called for prompt Senate passage of H.R. 3631 to protect all Medicare Part B beneficiaries from a premium increase in 2010 including federal retirees who are not eligible for Social Security benefits.

Use NARFE's toll free access (1-866-220-0044) to tell your Representative and Senators to allow FEHBP enrollees (like other Americans) to keep the plan they have now. Ask for your Members by name or supply your ZIP Code.

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
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