



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 2008

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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
- Elizabeth Smith, Membership Chair., (913) 294-2249
- Helen Morrison, Alzheimer's Chair., (913) 755-4020
- Darrell Williams, NARFE-PAC Coord., (913) 755-4026

November Meeting - Met at the First Lutheran Church in Paola on November 11 with 34 attending including our guest, Judy Vanek, from Linn Valley Lakes who gave an interesting and enjoyable portrayal of Dr. Quack. We have \$528.57 in checking and \$809.05 in savings. Robert Hodge gave a lengthy report on legislation. Effective December 1 CSRS retirees will get a 5.8% increase and FERS will get a 4.8% increase which is to be included in our January checks. The average premium increases for the FEHP are 7% for 2009 which favorably compares with different plans. BC/BS is 13.3%. Issues that NARFE will be looking at are premium conversion and the elimination of the WEP/GPO adjustment. NARFE's president is alarmed by the 85% increase in the co-payment of prescription drugs. NARFE is fighting HSA's push to get in. If the younger healthy folks are separated out who could stand a higher deductible level that would put the rest of us in another group and premiums would surely rise. The Senate bill on Premium Conversion has a 61 out of 100 support in the Senate, in House 342 out of 443. There is an email out about Congressmen getting full salary for the rest of their life. Congressmen don't pay into Social Security but Senators do at the same rate as we do. We have two new members. The Chapter is in need of a President for 2009.

Next Meeting - December 9, 2008, 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 Saturday, December 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.

Membership - We have two new members - David Levings from Osawatomie and Crystal Coffman from Paola. We welcome each of them to our chapter.

Legislation - NARFE members covered by CSRS will receive a 5.8% COLA in their January checks and FERS retirees 62 and older will receive 4.8%. The CPI-W decreased 1.3% in October to 212.182. For calculating the COLA for 2010 the index is 1.5% lower than the 2008

third quarter average of 215.5. Lest you fear a decrease in your annuity resulting from a negative COLA, the law does not provide a reduction in benefits in the event of deflation over the Fiscal Year measuring period ending in October 2009. Two months remain for the FECA COLA which stands at 3.2% and reflects the increase between the October index, 212.182, and the December 2007 base of 205.7. December indices will be released December 16.

Information on the two benefits available to retirees, which runs through December 8, Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance, can be found in your October, November, and December NARFE Magazine.

The period prior to swearing-in in January would be an excellent time to meet the new House and Senators members-elect in their hometowns.

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| 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 | or |
| 109 Harte Sen. Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-1605
(202) 224-4774 | 303 Harte Sen. Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-1604
(202) 224-6521 |
| Rep. Nancy Boyda
510 SW 10 th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 234-8111 | |
| or | |
| 1711 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-1602
(202) 225-6601 | |

Upcoming Events:

- January 13, 2009, 6:00 p.m., NARFE Chapter Meeting
- March 7-10, 2009 - Legislative Training Conference, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA
- April 26-28, 2009 - State Convention, Clarion Hotel, Manhattan, KS
- 2010 State Convention, Ramada Inn, Topeka

HUMOR

A man chosen for jury duty very much wanted to be dismissed from serving. He tried every excuse, but none worked. On the first day he decided to try again. He asked to approach the bench.

"Your Honor," he said, "I must be excused from this trial because I am prejudiced against the defendant. I took one look at the man in the blue suit, with those beady eyes and that dishonest face, and I said, 'He's a crook! He's guilty, guilty, guilty.'" So I could not possibly be on this jury.

"Get back in the jury box," the judge replied. "You're just the kind of juror we are looking for—a good judge of character. That man is his lawyer."

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
HAPPY NEW YEAR