



Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (August 2009)

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

Officers: Nancy Wells, *President* 377-9011; Tom Duncan, *1st Vice President-Membership* 373-1665; Vernia Stewart *2nd Vice President-Service* 794-4161; Mary Lee Fielder, *Sunshine Chairperson* 889-5689; Jack Chidester, *Secretary* 662-0106; Pat Hagerty, *Treasurer* 794-0474; John Wells - *Newsletter Chairperson* 331-0705.

Chapter Web Site: <http://www.narfetn-nashville.org/>

NARFE's mission has remained the same since 1921, to protect and improve the retirement benefits of federal retirees, employees and their families.

July Program: On Monday July 13th our meeting was called to order by President – Nancy Wells at 1:00 PM. The invocation was given by Marie Anglin. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Val Brooks. There were 31 members present.

Our Program: Our Program was a presentation by The folks at Park Manor about there new developments and features of the facilities. Also there was discussion and a vote on a motion to deal with the price increases for the meal to eliminate the dessert, unless some wants to bring something, and increase the cost by \$1.00 for Meat & 3, drink and salad, including tax & tip. The motion passed.

August Program: On Monday August 10th we will meet at **Park Manor** for a full lunch (Meat & 3, drink & Salad including tax & tip for only **\$11.00**) at noon. Plan to be there at the **Park Manor, 115 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville, TN 37205.** Lunch at 12:00 PM with Chapter Meeting to follow at 1:00 PM.

Our Program is unconfirmed at this time, but it should be a good one, of interest to all members.

Directions: From the West or North **get on 440 (Knoxville) and turn right off on Exit 1A and Bear right onto US-70S go 1.6 miles and turn left onto SR-155 (Woodmont Blvd.) then turn right to 115 Woodmont at Park Manor.**

Directions: From South and East **get on 440 (Memphis) and turn right off on Exit 1 and take ramp (left) onto US-70S go 1.6 miles and turn left onto SR-155 (Woodmont Blvd.) then turn right to 115 Woodmont at Park Manor.**

Treasurer's Report: Current balance as of July 13th in Checking at SunTrust is **\$1,546.92** our CD at SunTrust is **\$925.76**, for a Total of **\$2,472.68**.

~ Submitted by *Pat Hagerty - Treasurer*

Status of Current Legislation: for July 13th



Every Month is NARFE PAC Month



Bill Name	Number of Sponsors
S. 491 - A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.'	40 (14 R, 2 I, 24 D)
S. 484 - Repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision	29 (4 R, 1 I, 24 D)
H.R. 1203 - Premium Conversion - To allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.	177 (58 R, 119 D)
H.R. 235 - Repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision	300 (98 R, 1 I, 201 D)

The key issue in Congress is how to pay for the new Health Care reform bill. They have ruled out payroll tax increase but are considering a surtax between 3.5 and 4.5% on families making over \$250,000 per year. Proposals are being floated on a variety of things trying to hammer out a bill to be voted on in September. Stay tuned to CSPAN for the latest changes.

NARFE President Margaret Baptiste asks each NARFE Member to immediately contact his or her Member of Congress and ask them to please include Premium Conversion Legislation (H.R. 1203/S. 491 in any health care reform being considered. A message can be sent using Web Site <http://capwiz.com/narfe/home/>, enter you zip code and select who you want to send a message to then key in the message, simple quick and easy. Make your voice be heard.

The month of August is "NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month". This the time when our Representatives and Senators are back in there hometowns. This gives us an opportunity to schedule our meeting to promote our NARFE issues. Chapter members are scheduled to talk with Congressman Cooper on Wednesday- August 23rd at 3 PM

~ Submitted by *Glenn Turner - Legislative Chair*
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IMPORTANT DATED MATERIAL
DELIVER BY **August 8, 2009**

Congressional consideration of massive health care reform is likely to be delayed until September. This development allows NARFE members more opportunity to urge lawmakers to include our Premium Conversion legislation (H.R. 1203/S. 491) in any health care overhaul. NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste continues her request to each NARFE member to contact his or her Congressional delegation, one Representative and two Senators. Use NARFE's Legislative Action Center to easily send a message to your own Representative and both Senators. (The URL to use is <http://capwiz.com/narfe/home/>).

Since early June, Region Vice Presidents and their federation presidents and national legislative officers have been organizing and coordinating with District and Chapter Officers to prepare for NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month. Grass-Roots Advocacy Month (see June magazine pages 16 and 18) is designed to use the summer recess, August through Labor Day, September 7, to conduct face-to-face visits with every Representative and every Senator. Complete information packets about the August Grass-Roots Advocacy Month were sent to federation and chapter presidents and legislative officers and are available on the NARFE website:

<http://www.narfe.org/departments/legislation/articles.cfm?ID=1803>

Where is my \$250 from the Stimulus Bill?

Federal, state and local government retirees are eligible for a newly created \$250 per person **refundable tax credit** for the 2009 tax year.

To receive the "Refundable Credit for Certain Federal and State Pensioners," public-sector annuitants who are not eligible to receive Social Security will have to file for the relief next year (even if they did not earn enough money to be obligated to file a tax return) when they submit their 2009 federal income tax returns.

June Inflation Raises 1.1 Percent

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased **1.1 percent** in June 2009 according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS). Released on July 15th, the CPI-W for June is **210.972**. For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) the index is currently **2.1 percent below** the 2008 third quarter average base index of 215.5. July *consumer prices indices will be released on August 14, 2009.*

Benefits awarded under the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) to individuals who left the workforce due to work-related injuries or illnesses are adjusted according to each calendar year's percentage change in the CPI-W and payable in the following year's month of April. June's index is **3.0 percent** higher than the December 2008 base of 204.8.

Membership: As of **April 20th** we have **365** Chapter Members (voting). As of **July 7th**, **1** New Members (**Ann M. Vacek**), **1** Reinstatements, **6** members sent second renewal notice, **2** Members Dropped for Non-Renewal.

New Membership Incentive Program: **2** Members sent Second Renewal Notice, **1** One Year Special (**Billie F. Watts**)

Sunshine Report

Walter Heckman, long-time member, passed away last month. He worked with FAA. **Agnes Wells** is at Belmont Village, 4206 Stammer Place, Nashville, TN 37215. She would appreciate cards from members. She has great difficulty walking but other than that is doing okay. **Marie Grimes** is at Morningside of Belmont, 1710 Magnolia Blvd., Nashville, TN 37212. Let's not forget these members who were so faithful while they were able.

~~ Submitted by **Mary Lee Fielder**~~

Sunshine Chairperson Phone: 889-5689

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