



Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (November 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.



November Program: On Monday November 9th 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 21 members present.

Our Program: Program Speaker was Jeremy Biscegalia from Edward Jones. His speech is called "16 Rules for Investment Success". Also election of Chapter Officers was held, everyone was willing to serve another year and were voted in, but we need a program chairman.

December Program: This will be our once a year **Christmas Luncheon. DATE: Monday -December 14th; TIME: 11:15 AM.; PLACE: Latitude Restaurant** - second floor in the Marriot Hotel at the corner of Natchez Trace and West End Avenues. Free valet parking. The Chapter will subsidize the cost of the dinner by \$6 per person and Members will pay \$10 as in Prior years. **Plan to be there, mark your calendar now. Please contact Val Brooks to let him know your going to attend, 615-383-0533.**

January Program: On Monday **January 11th** we will meet at **Park Manor** for a full lunch (**Meat & 3, salad & drink including tax & tip for only \$11.00**). **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.**

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 August 11th in Checking at SunTrust is **\$2,215.26** our CD at SunTrust is **\$934.36** and will be renewed, for a Total of **\$3,149.62**

~~ Submitted by *Pat Hagerty - Treasurer*

Status of Current Legislation: for November 9th



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.'	46 (18 R, 2 I, 26 D)
S. 484 - Repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision	30 (4 R, 1 I, 25 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.	200 (67 R, 133 D)
H.R. 235 - Repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision	310 (103 R, 207 D)

From the NARFE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE November 3rd, 2009

H.R. 3631 has passed the House and now goes to the Senate. If passed in the Senate, this bill will protect all Medicare Part B beneficiaries from a premium increase in 2010. On November 21, 2009 the Senate voted to move their Health Bill to debate.

As we now know, H.R. 3962, Affordable Health Care for America Act has passed in the House by a vote of 220 to 215 and now goes to the Senate for their consideration. . Federal employees will be able to keep the insurance in the system they have now.

At this time NARFE has not endorsed any of the health care bills.

Premium Conversion and Repeal of WEP/GPO continues to gain co-sponsors

~~ Submitted by *Glenn Turner - Legislative Chair*

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IMPORTANT DATED MATERIAL
DELIVER BY December 11, 2009

On Wednesday, November 18, the Senate Leadership released its comprehensive health care reform bill which they plan to bring to the Senate for a procedural vote to start debate, most likely on November 21. Senate rules are likely to result in a lengthy debate that could take weeks. Like the House-passed bill (H.R. 3962), the Senate's legislation would allow federal employees – with the exception Members of Congress and their staff -- to keep the insurance in the system they have now. In addition, nothing in the bill specifically impacts Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). However, any comprehensive plan that changes insurance law, provider financing, taxation policy and health infrastructure, will have some ramifications on how FEHBP operates in the larger health system. More analysis of the Senate bill will be provided to NARFE members.

Medicare Premium Fairness Act (H.R. 3631)

Despite overwhelming passage in the House, nearly two months ago, and strong White House support, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act (H.R. 3631) needed to protect all Medicare Part B beneficiaries from a premium increase in 2010, has not been considered in the Senate. Enactment is crucial because current law fails to protect four enrollee groups in Medicare, including federal retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security benefits.

5133 NARFE members, about a tenth of GEMS listed members, have already used the Legislative Action Center to urge Senate passage of this legislation. Now, NARFE President Margaret L. Baptiste asks NARFE chapter and federation leaders to urge their NARFE members to press their Senators to quickly pass the Medicare Premium Fairness Act (H.R. 3631). The NARFE Legislative Action Center features an Action Alert which allows you to send NARFE's message to both your Senators. (The direct path to this Urgent Action Alert is

<http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=14260196>)

October Inflation Rises 0.1 Percent

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased **0.1 percent** in October 2009 according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS). Released on November 18th, the CPI-W for October is 211.5. For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) the index is currently **1.9 percent** below the 2008 third quarter average (due to price deflation, in the past measurement year, the 2008 third quarter average is still the point of comparison) base index of 215.5. *November consumer prices indices will be released on December 16, 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. October's index is **3.3 percent higher** than the December 2008 base of 204.8.

Membership: As of **October 13th** we have **352** Chapter Members (voting). As of **November 6th**, **1** Reinstatement, **13** members sent second renewal notice, **2** Members Dropped for Non-Renewal, **4** New prospective member (Sharon Andrews, Lorinda Kay Putman, Randal Starr and Debra Vick).

New Membership Incentive Program: **3** 1 Year Special and **1** 2 Year Special.

Sunshine Report: **Lewis G. Conn**, long-time member of our Chapter, passed away Sept 29yj. Lewis was a quiet, unassuming man who meticulously prepared our monthly newsletter for years until suffering a stroke which prevented use of one hand. Although he was never able attend after that, he remained a faithful member. Our heartfelt condolences to Gwen and the rest of the family. Gene Whatley, former member, passed away Nov, 6th with services on Nov. 9th. Gen was a retired postman. Remember Donna and the family in your thoughts and prayers.

No news of others than our regular shut-ins. If you know of illness or bereavement, please let me know so that we can assure the families involved of our care and concern.

~~ Submitted by Mary Lee Fielder~~

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