



# Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (July 2009)

## National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

**Officers:** Nancy Wells, *President* 377-9011; Tom Duncan, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-Membership* 373-1665; Vernia Stewart *2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

**June Program:** On Monday June 8<sup>th</sup> our meeting was called to order by President – Nancy Wells at 1:00 PM. The invocation was given by Marie Anglin, followed by celebrating Virginia Clunan's birthday with an ice cream cake, she is 90 years young. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Val Brooks. There were 32 members present. Drawing funds were contributed to the NARFE Tennessee Federation Alzheimer's fund.

**Our Program:** Our Program was a presentation by Dr. **Richard J. Grant**, Professor of Finance and Economics at Lipscomb University, College of Business, Department of Finance and Economics.

**July Program:** On Monday July 13<sup>th</sup> we will meet at **Park Manor** for a full lunch (Meat & 3, drink & dessert including tax & tip for only \$10.00) 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** will be a presentation by **Joe Biddle** Sports columnist with the **Tennessean**. Joe Biddle's columns appear on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. He has been writing sports columns for 29 years in Nashville.

**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 April 13<sup>th</sup> in Checking at SunTrust is \$1,561.42 our CD at SunTrust is \$925.76, for a Total of **\$2,487.18**.

~~ Submitted by Pat Hagerty - Treasurer

### Status of Current Legislation: for June 8<sup>th</sup>



Every Month is NARFE PAC Month



Bill Name	Number of Sponsors
<b>S. 491</b> - 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.'	<b>38</b> (14 R, 1 I, 23 D)
<b>S. 484</b> - Repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision	<b>29</b> (4 R, 1 I, 24 D)
<b>H.R. 1203</b> - 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.	<b>171</b> (56 R, 115 D)
<b>H.R. 235</b> - Repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision	<b>296</b> (96 R, 1 I, 199 D)

Recently signed into law is a new provision for newly hired federal employees. They will be automatically enrolled in the Thrift Savings Plan and will be eligible to receive matching contributions. In addition the TSP board has the authority to add a "Roth" option to the plan.

Another new law allows the spouse who inherited a TSP account to retain it, under the same rules as any other TSP participant.

The House of Representatives approved Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 2647) which included some civil service reform proposals. One will allow Federal Employees Retirement System workers to credit their unused sick leave toward retirement. Left out is a provision to allow re-employment of federal annuitants on a temporary basis. This has not yet passed the Senate.

NARFE's priority bills continue to gain support. Premium Conversion now has 171 cosponsors in the House and 38 in the Senate. Up from 117 and 23. Repeal of WEP/GPO now has 296 cosponsors in the House and 29 in the Senate. Up from 258 and 21.

The House and the Senate now has legislative drafts to entirely overhaul health care which could provide a vehicle in which to include our Premium Conversion legislation. President Baptiste asks each of us to contact our Congressional delegation and ask them to support this inclusion.

Grass-Roots advocacy month August through Labor Day is fast approaching. During this time we are asks to contact our Congressional Representatives during this time and ask them to please support our priority bills.

~~ Submitted by Glenn Turner - Legislative Chair

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**IMPORTANT DATED MATERIAL**  
**DELIVER BY July 10, 2009**

**NARFE Praises President for Signing into Law Legislation Which Makes Improvements in Federal Thrift Savings Plan**

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste commended President Obama today for signing into law H.R. 1256, a Tobacco Regulatory Bill, which contained certain improvements to the federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). TSP is the tax-deferred retirement savings program created by Congress for federal employees in 1986 and is similar to "401(k)" plans offered to private-sector employees.

"The TSP is the best retirement savings program in the country because the 4 million federal workers and military personnel who participate in the program create a large economy of scale which achieves administrative savings unachievable by other employer-sponsored defined contribution plans," Baptiste said. "The improvements in the program that became law today will help federal workers enhance their retirement planning."

One change provides that newly-hired federal employees will be automatically enrolled in the TSP and will be eligible to receive an immediate matching contribution from their employing agency. "This initiative will increase the percentage of federal employees who make use of the TSP to ensure they are better prepared for their retirement," she said.

In addition, the new law gives the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB), the independent federal agency and fiduciary that administers the TSP, the authority to add a "Roth" option to the plan that would allow participants to make after-tax contributions to TSP accounts and withdraw their earnings tax-free upon retirement. "Federal employees would want this feature so that they could have the same options available to private sector workers in some 401 (k) plans," Baptiste remarked.

Under current law, a spouse married to a TSP participant who passed away is required to either transfer the inherited account to an individual retirement account (IRA) or take the benefit as cash withdrawal, subject to federal income taxes. The new law would allow the spouse who inherited the account to retain it, under the same rules as any other TSP participant. "A growing number of surviving spouses have this right in private 401(k)s and widows and widowers of TSP participants ought to be treated no differently," she added.

**May Inflation Raises 0.4 Percent**

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased **0.4 percent** in May 2009 according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS). Released on June 17th, the CPI-W for May is **208.774**. For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) the index is currently **3.1 percent** below the 2008 third quarter average base index of 215.5. *June consumer prices indices will be released on July 15, 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. May's index is 1.9 percent higher than the December 2008 base of 204.8.

**Membership:** As of **April 20<sup>th</sup>** we have **365** Chapter Members (voting). As of **June 4<sup>th</sup>**, **1** New Members (**Maude R. Garrett**), **1** Transferred Out of Chapter, **3** Reinstatements, **9** members sent second renewal notice, **7** Members Dropped for Non-Renewal.

**New Membership Incentive Program:** **5** Members sent Second Renewal Notice, **1** One Year Special (**Martha J. Thomas**)

**Sunshine Report**

The Chapter has agreed to furnish a birthday cake for any member reaching birthday number 90 - but you'll have to let me know, as our records do not contain dates of birth.

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

**Sunshine Chairperson Phone: 889-5689**  
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