



Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (February 2010)

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.

January Program: On Monday January 11th our meeting was called to order by Vice President – Tom Duncan at 12:50 PM. Welcome to members & guest - Tom Davis, Dennis Masters, and Gaye Parnell. Invocation by Phyllis Brannan - introduced by Marie Anglin. Subject was Success. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Val Brooks. There were 23 members present.

Our Program: We had no speaker so we Memorialized the three members that passed on during 2009, **Marie Ramsey, Johnnie Hosfield, and Barry Wyatt.** Also each person present introduced himself/herself and gave a brief synopsis of their Federal service. It was an interesting and informative session.

February Program: On Monday February 8th we will meet at **Park Manor** for a full lunch (Meat & 3 with salad & drink 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.

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.

April 19-20th, Tennessee Federation Annual Meeting at Oak Tree Lodge located (on US Hwy. 441) between Sevierville and Pigeon Forge will include Chapter Officer Training.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance as of August 11th in Checking at SunTrust is **\$1634.87** our CD at SunTrust is **\$925.76** and will be renewed, for a Total of **\$2,560.63**

~~ Submitted by Pat Hagerty - Treasurer

Status of Current Legislation: for January 11th



Every Month is NARFE PAC Month



Bill Name	Number of Sponsors
S. 491 - 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.	48 (19 R, 2 I, 27 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.	202 (70 R, 132 D)
H.R. 235 - Repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision	312 (104 R, 208 D)

1. If anyone did not receive their \$250.00 stimulus check back in June 2009, they will be able to claim this when filing their income tax return for 2009 on IRS form M
2. Another \$150/\$250 stimulus check, in lieu cost-of-living payment is being proposed again but is unknown at this time
3. The health care bill is still being debated. So far, the Senate bill drafted in December contains language suggested by NARFE that would safeguard the Federal Employees Health benefits Program.
4. NARFE still has not endorsed the overall health care reform legislation since it continues to change and an endorsement at this time could limit the Association's ability to effect change in the outcome of any final measure.

~~ Submitted by Glenn Turner - Legislative Chair

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IMPORTANT DATED MATERIAL
DELIVER BY **February 5, 2009**

Late Breaking News

Feds Exempt from the Excise Tax on “Cadillac” Health Plans Until 2018: As reported in GEMS last week, a tentative agreement was reached on January 14 between Congressional leaders, labor unions and President Obama regarding a provision in the Senate-passed health care reform bill that would assess a nondeductible 40-percent excise tax on insurance carriers offering so-called “high value” or “Cadillac” health insurance policies. Under the initial agreement, health plans covered by collective bargaining agreements and plans that cover state and local government employees would be exempt from the excise tax until 2018. All other plans, including those covering federal workers and annuitants, would have been subject to the tax in 2013.

Medicare Part B Premium Protection: Federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security have seen their Medicare Part B premiums jump from \$96.40 to \$110.50 in 2010. Current law protects (“holds harmless”) most other beneficiaries from a Part B rate hike when there is no Social Security cost of living adjustment. On September 24, the House passed H.R. 3631, the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, which would protect over 1 million federal, state and local government retirees from the Part B premium increase in 2010. The Senate needs to approve this needed legislation, too. That’s why Senators need to hear from you now if they are to resolve this inequity. You can do that by sending them an e-mail through the Legislative Action Center (using the following link:

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

Prices Decrease 0.1 Percent in December

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) decreased 0.1 percent in December 2009 according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (www.bls.gov/cpi or 202/691-6994). Released on January 15th, the CPI-W for December is 211.703. For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) the index is currently **1.8 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. January consumer prices indices will be released on Friday, February 19, 2010.

Membership: As of **January 9th** we have **356** Chapter Members (voting). As of **January 7th**, **3** New Members (*Paul S Hampson, Cindy Rudolph & Charles W Thomas*), **1** Member Transferred out of Chapter, **1** Reinstatement, **6** Members sent Second Renewal Notice, **3** Members Dropped for Non-Renewal.

New Membership Incentive Program: **6** New Members; (*William H. Fisher, Betty J Keeling, Artie D. London, Judith Marrero, Betty M. McClanahan & Eleanor A. Walthart*).

Sunshine Report: Laurine Kroutter - she had serious surgery, and then transferred to McKendree for convalescence but hoped to be there no more than a month. We were saddened by the loss of Barry Wyatt, our program chairman, who underwent a heart transplant in August and had improved but developed other complications and lost his valiant fight on Dec. 15. A memorial service on Dec. 21 was attended by a number of our members. He will be greatly missed.

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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