



Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (March 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.

February Program: On Monday February 8th our meeting was called to order by President – Nancy Wells at 12:50 PM. Welcome to members & guest - Tom Davis, Joyce Freeze, and Norris Alderson. Invocation by Marie Anglin. Subject was Success. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Val Brooks. There were 22 members present.

Our Program: Was by NARFE Member Mike Sweeny of Fifty Forward, he outlined how the organization works and the programs that are available to members. Checkout their website at <http://www.fiftyforward.org/> to learn more about the organization, their programs and Center locations. Leo Baghdoian brought 3 Chocolate Cakes that were enjoyed by everyone.

March Program: On Monday March 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. Our Program will be a Presentation by a new Chapter Member Norris Alderson an overview **FDA** and how it works.

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 **\$1807.08** our CD at SunTrust is **\$925.76** and will be renewed, for a Total of **\$2,732.84**

~~ Submitted by Pat Hagerty - Treasurer

Status of Current Legislation: for February 8th



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	311 (104 R, 207 D)

Legislative Report

Health care continues to be debated in Washington. The good news is our Federal Employees Health Benefit Program covering federal workers and annuitants is not expected to be affected. There remains a possibility that “Cadillac” health care plans could be taxed starting in CY 2018. Please see the March issue of our NARFE Magazine.

By executive order, the President appointed a Bipartisan Budget Commission on February 18th and their report is due December 1st. The commission’s report would be submitted to the Congress and their only option would be to vote it up or down. The danger is that their report could include changes to federal employee’s annuities to achieve a reduction in the federal deficit. NARFE plans to point out to the commissioners that federal civil service retirement benefits are fully funded and actuarially sound.

~~ Submitted by Glenn Turner - Legislative Chair

Phone: 615-352-1907

E-Mail: Glennturner01@comcast.net

Pat M. Hagerty
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Treasurer
102 Poteat Place
Franklin, TN 37064

Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 844

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

March NARFE-PAC month

For the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 our Nashville NARFE chapter 227 only contributed \$230.00 to our NARFE-PAC with only seven members contributing. Our Tennessee federation, 28 chapters, contributed \$2,625.00. We are facing a fight to hold on to what is rightfully ours and this will become increasingly difficult due to the federal deficit. Only thru our individual contributions can we make NARFE-PAC a powerful political force. Unless we help those who help us, our benefits will be in danger. The month of March is designated as NARFE-PAC month. Please consider making a contribution. Every dollar counts toward protecting our benefits.

Monthly Withholding of Federal Taxes Affected by New Brackets

Many federal retirees have seen federal tax withholding decrease in their January 1, 2010, annuity payment. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has told NARFE the changes were a result of changes made by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to the tax brackets, which expanded from six to eight for 2010. Federal tax withholding changes, depending upon which bracket a taxpayer's income now falls.

Questions about the new tax brackets should be referred to the IRS, not OPM. To determine if you have enough federal tax being withheld monthly, OPM offers an easy-to-use federal tax calculator for retirees on its Web site, www.opm.gov. After the 2010 updates are completed, federal retirees can use the calculator under the "Retirees and Families" heading.

Prices Increase 0.4 Percent in January

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased during January by 0.4 percent. Released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/cpi or 202/691-6994) on February 19, the CPI-W for January is 212.568. For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost-of-living adjustment), the index is currently 1.4 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. February consumer price indices will be released Thursday, March 18, 2010.

Benefits awarded under the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) to individuals suffering work-related injuries or illnesses, are adjusted according to each calendar year's percentage change in the CPI-W. January's index, 212.568 is **0.4 percent** higher than the December index, 211.703

Membership: As of **January 9th** we have **356** Chapter Members (voting). As of **February 4th**, **5** New Members (*Norris Alderson, Sharon Andrews, Burl T. Davis, Betty Dennison, & Karen Haynes*), **1** Member Transferred from another Chapter or LSA (*Dennis L. Masters*), **1** Reinstatement, **10** Members sent Second Renewal Notice, **2** Members passed away (*Lewis G. Conn & Estelle Irene Sadler*) **5** Members Dropped for Non-Renewal.

New Membership Incentive Program: **1** Reinstatement; (*Charlotte H. Sloan*), **1** Member sent Second Renewal Notice.

Sunshine Report: Laurine Kroutter is still in McKendree, phone number 871-8644. She feels she is improving and can walk with a walker. She hopes to be able to make the April meeting and would enjoy hearing from you. If you don't get her on the first try, don't give up but just call at different times. Chris Wasson is having problems with her blood pressure these days but still maintains a good spirit and misses her friends here.

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*~~

Sunshine Chairperson Phone: 889-5689

E-Mail: maryleef@bellsouth.net