



Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (May 2011)

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

Officers: Tom Duncan, *President* 373-1665; Norris Alderson, *1st Vice President-Membership* 435-3202; Leo Baghdoian *2nd Vice President-Service* 591-2558; Mary Lee Fielder, *Sunshine Chairperson* 889-5689; Nancy Wells, *Secretary* 218-1003; 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.

New Meeting Location for the next 6 months March – August

Manor at Steeplechase, 314 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin, TN 37067 (877) 692-1990.

April Program: On Monday April 11th our meeting was called to order by President Tom Duncan, President. He welcomed new member, Betty Waters. Mary Lee Fielder gave the devotional – poems by Edgar A. Guest and William Henry Channing. Leo Baghdoian led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. We had 23 people in attendance.

Jeremy Bisceglia, Edward Jones Financial Advisor, gave a presentation about the two principles of investing. They are diversification and rebalancing. He discussed three articles regarding crude oil and the trouble in Libya; China stepping up its fight against inflation; and differences between the central banks in Europe and U. S. and its effect on the value of the dollar.

Tom Duncan reminded everyone about the State Convention April 18th and 19th. We agreed to provide a \$25 gift certificate for the convention.

Norris Alderson created attendance records for our meetings. He distributed membership records by zip code and requested volunteers to contact all members to encourage their attendance at monthly meetings.

Our May Program: On Monday May 9th we will meet at [Manor at Steeplechase](#) 314 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin, TN for a full lunch (Meat & 3 with salad & drink including tax & tip for only **\$8.50**) at noon. Plan to be there at the [Manor at Steeplechase](#), **Lunch at 12:00 PM with Chapter Meeting to follow at 1:00 PM. Program or Presentation unknown at this time.**

Directions: From the West or North, On I-65 South take exit 68B West, follow signs for West Cool Springs Blvd. Keep straight on Cool Springs Blvd for about 1 mile, **Manor at Steeplechase, 314 Cool Springs Blvd.**, will be on your left, there is a break in the median allowing access to their entrance, take the first right as you start up the hill. This will take you to the entrance of **Manor at Steeplechase**. *If you reach McEwen Drive, you've gone too far.*

Directions: From South and East On I-65 take exit 68A West, follow signs for West Cool Springs Blvd. **See directions above, once on Cool Springs Blvd West they are the same.**

Status of Current Legislation: for April 11th



Every Month is NARFE PAC Month



Bill Name (112th Congress)

No Bills at this time in 112th Congress

Take action to protect your benefits by sending your message to Capitol Hill! For access to your legislators' bios, their positions on NARFE-supported bills and suggested text for you to send to your members of Congress, [CLICK HERE](#). (Note: By clicking on this link, you will be redirected to a different Web site.)

Legislative Report for April 2011

Once again, our primary concern is how the reduction in the federal budget will affect current and retired federal employees. We have avoided a government shutdown at this time however current and retired federal employee's benefits are continuously being threatened. House Budget Committee chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) introduced his proposed budget for 2012. In short, it's disastrous.

It calls for \$375 billion in cuts over 10 years for the federal family. This budget is the clearest indication yet that Congress is planning to make federal workers and annuitants pay the price for our budget situation.

Below are 3 things every NARFE member should know about the Ryan Budget Proposal:

1. This proposal would **reduce the pay and benefits of federal workers and annuitants by \$375 billion over the next ten years.**
2. It extends the federal employee pay-freeze from 2-years to 5-years.
3. It requires employees (both CSRS and FERS) to **significantly increase their retirement contributions.**

The size of the cuts to the civil service proposed by the Ryan Budget (\$375 billion over ten years) is unprecedented. An idea currently discussed is creating a voucher system in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program in which we would pay a higher percentage of premiums each year to the point where **many could no longer afford health insurance.**

If you have not done so already, please contact your Congressional Representative and two Senators and urge them to oppose the attacks on current and retired federal employees.

~~ Submitted by Glenn Turner - Legislative Chair

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IMPORTANT DATED MATERIAL
DELIVER BY May 7, 2011
Current Resident or

\$\$ Treasurer's Report: Current balance as of February 14th in Checking at SunTrust is \$2,956.01 our CD at SunTrust is \$937.98, for a Total of \$3,894,09.

~~ Submitted by **Pat Hagerty – Treasurer**



Sunshine Report: Chris Wasson has undergone some further testing and reports very low energy, but she maintains her positive attitude and it is a joy to talk with her. Call her at 227-3064.

Agnes Wells is doing well but misses everyone in the Chapter. She sends greetings. Her phone is 297-8038, and you can leave a message.

No late word from **Val Brooks**, so he must be recuperating slowly but surely. If you know others who need contacting, be sure to relay the information to me - I send cards and make phone calls!

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

Sunshine Chairperson Phone: 889-5689

E-Mail: maryleef@bellsouth.net

Membership: As of **April 18th** we have **343** Chapter Members (voting), **387** Total. As of **April 6th**, **1** New members (Mary L Stansell), **1** Members transferred Out of the Chapter, **1** Reinstatement, **8** Members sent Second Renewal Notice, **8** Dropped for Non-Renewal.

New Membership Incentive Program

1 member sent Second Renewal Notice.

March Consumer Price News

Based on price index figures from July, August, and September of 2010, there has not been any automatic cost of living adjustment (COLA) to federal pension annuities for 2011, and there will not be one this year. New CPI-W figures are now relevant to the 2012 COLA.

The CPI-W (Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers) increased by 1.1 percent for the month of March 2011. The new CPI-W index figure is now 220.024, which is 2.1 percent above the 2008 third-quarter average of 215.495, which is the base figure for determining the next COLA. Thus, the CPI-W has surpassed the level needed to trigger COLA payments for 2012. But because the relevant months for measurement are July, August, and September of this year (as explained below), we will not know until then whether the CPI-W remains at a level high enough to trigger a COLA, and we will not know until then the magnitude of any COLA.

The CPI-W figure impacts federal civil service annuities, military retiree annuities, and social security payments because the CPI-W figure is used by the government to measure increases in prices for purposes of automatic cost of living adjustments (COLAs) to those fixed retirement payments. The last COLA occurred at the beginning of 2009. There was no automatic COLA for 2010, and there will be no automatic COLA for 2011.

Whether there will be an automatic COLA for 2012 depends on whether the average CPI-W for the third quarter (July, August, and September) of 2011 is higher than the highest previous third quarter average, which is the third quarter average from 2008. (Prices declined from 2008 to 2009, and while they rose from 2009 to 2010, they did not return to the 2008 level). If the CPI-W for 2011 is higher than the CPI-W for 2008, that would indicate an increase in the cost of living from what it was in 2008, which determined the previous COLA increase to fixed retirement payments.

Determined by a different statutorily-set methodology, 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 (rather than as measured by the change from the highest previous third quarter average). The December 2010 CPI-W figure (215.262) was 1.7% higher than the December 2009 index (211.703). Because of this, FECA benefits increased by 1.7%, beginning March 1, 2011. Looking forward to a potential FECA COLA for March 2012, the March 2011 CPI-W figure (220.024) is 2.21 percent higher than the December 2010 figure (215.262).

March consumer price indices will be released Friday, May 13, 2011.