



Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (November 2011)

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

Officers: Tom Duncan, President 591-2528, Ext 122; 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.

Next meeting Monday November 14, 2011 at Shoney's in Brentwood.

October Program: On Monday October 10th the meeting was opened by Norris Alderson, Vice President. He welcomed our guest, Wayne Brindley, who is a member of the Music City Chapter. Phyllis Brannon gave the devotional. Leo Baghdoian led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. We had 35 attendees at the meeting.

Phyllis Brannon introduced our guest speaker, **Howard Gentry, Criminal Court Clerk for Metropolitan Davidson County.** He talked about his life history. His presentation was enjoyed by all.

Our November Program: On Monday November 14th we will meet at the Brentwood **Shoney's**, 791 Old Hickory Boulevard, Brentwood, TN - (615) 373-0362 (at Old Hickory Blvd and I-65) for lunch at noon. **We can have the lunch buffet, or order off of the menu.** Plan to be there at the Brentwood **Shoney's**, Lunch at 12:00 PM with Chapter Meeting including election of Chapter Officers for 2012 to follow at 1:00 PM.

Our Speaker will be **Norm Hoffman**, from the American Red Cross. He will provide information on Emergency and Disaster Planning. In conjunction with this topic, we will have a donation drawing to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. A donation of \$2.00 will offer the opportunity to participate in a drawing to win a new commercial grade home fire extinguisher (wholesale value \$40.00)

The Nominating Committee; **Val Brooks, Phyllis Brannon & Bruce Thomas**, after a diligent effort to get new candidates is recommending that the present Chapter officers be elected for the 2012 term. The Installation of Officers will be at the December 12th meeting. There is one exception, the Chapter Newsletter Editor, John Wells will be running for Federation President in April and will not be able to continue as editor. The editors job can be done by several chapter members working together to divide the workload, or 1 person. The current format is available and there are detailed instructions. John will assist for several months for training. If you are interested contact Val Brooks Phone No **615-383-0533**.

Directions: From the West or North, On I-65 South, Merge onto Old Hickory Blvd/TN-254 E via EXIT 74B, the exit will bring you into Old Hickory Blvd headed East. Take a right at the first stop light and an immediate right up the hill to Shoney's.

Directions: From South and East On I-65 Merge onto Old Hickory Blvd/TN-254 E via EXIT 74A. Take a right at the first stop light and an immediate right up the hill to Shoney's.

Our **December luncheon** will be at a different location this year. Marriott has dropped the lunch buffet and will not be able to accommodate us this year. On December 12th plan on joining our Chapter members at **Nero's Grill (in Green Hills) 2122 Hillsboro Dr., Nashville, TN 37215, (615) 297-7777.** More details will be available at the November 14th Chapter Meeting. The cost will be the same as last year, \$15, with the Chapter paying \$5.

Status of Current Legislation: for October 10th



Every Month is NARFE PAC Month



No Bills at this time in 112th Congress

Legislative Report for October 2011

Glenn Turner gave the legislative report and said that we should be concerned about the super committee and how they it may affect our annuities. Open Season for Federal Health Benefits is from 11/14/2011 through 12/12/2011. 2012 COLA is 3.5%.

Medicare 2012 Premiums Will Drop For Many

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced October 27 that the basic monthly premium for **Medicare Part B will be \$99.90 in 2012.** This is certainly a relief to those retirees who do not receive monthly Social Security benefits, including most of the federal, state and local government retirees who were not subject to Social Security taxes while employed. These retirees have had to pay the Medicare Part B increase in premiums for the past two years while the majority of Part B enrollees who, due to provisions under the Social Security law, have been protected from Part B premium increases. Those Part B recipients will see their monthly premiums go from **\$96.40 to \$99.90** if they are not subject to the income-related premium adjustment. Read more at <http://www.cms.gov>.

~~ Submitted by **Glenn Turner** - Legislative Chair

Phone: 615-352-1907

E-Mail: Glennturner01@comcast.net

Pat M. Hagerty
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Chapter 227
Treasurer
102 Poteat Place
Franklin, TN 37064

Non-Profit Org
US Postage Paid
Nashville, TN
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IMPORTANT DATED MATERIAL
DELIVER BY November 12, 2011
Current Resident or

Membership: As of **October 17th** we have **324** Chapter Members (voting), **368** Total. As of **October 7th**, **No** New Members, **2** Reinstatements, **4** Members sent Second Renewal Notice, **1** Deceased Member transferring membership to spouse, **5** Dropped for Non-Renewal,

New Membership Incentive Program: No Activity



Treasurer's Report: Current balance as of July 12th in Checking at SunTrust is \$2,688.33 our CD at SunTrust is **\$937.98**, for a Total of **\$3626.31**.

~~ Submitted by Pat Hagerty – Treasurer



COLA Announced: Federal Retirement Annuities Will Rise in 2012

Federal retirees will receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to their civil service annuities beginning in January 2012. Retirees in the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) will receive a **3.6** percent increase to their annuities, while retirees in the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) will receive a 2.6 percent increase to their annuities.

To trigger a COLA for 2012, the average CPI-W for the months of July, August, and September of 2011 needed to rise above the 2008 average for those same months, the last measurement to trigger a COLA (for 2009). It did, by 3.6 percent. While CSRS retirees receive the full amount of the CPI-W increase as a COLA, current law reduces the FERS COLA by 1 percentage point for increases above 3 percent.

Because the CPI-W showed declining prices from 2008 to 2009, and while it showed prices increasing between 2009 and 2010, it did not show prices increasing back to 2008 levels, there has not been a

COLA Announced: Con't)

COLA for the last two years. But finally, we have some good news for 2012!

Under current law, COLAs for federal retirement annuities, as well as for military retiree annuities and Social Security payments, are determined in reference to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which is calculated by economists and statisticians with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-W is the current index used for measuring increases in the prices of consumer goods throughout the economy. It includes prices on all consumer goods, including food and beverages, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, recreation, education and communication, and more.

The new CPI-W figure for September 2011 was 223.688. The average CPI-W for the third quarter of 2011 was 223.233. This is the new reference figure for determining the 2013 COLA.

NARFE continues to support strong COLAs based on fair assessments of increases in consumer prices to protect the value of federal annuities from inflation.

Sunshine Report: Our sincere sympathy to the family of **Floyd Ingram**, who passed away August 9. His wife, **Virginia**, called to report the loss. Her address is 11731 Independent Hill, Arrington, TN 37014-4822. She will continue his membership, which was transferred to her, plans to remain a member, and may be able to meet with us at some time in the future. She would appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Please let me know if you are sick or know of others who are - it's important to keep in touch. I always send cards and call if a phone number is available.

~~ Submitted by Mary Lee Fielder ~~

Sunshine Chairperson Phone: 889-5689

E-Mail: maryleef@bellsouth.net
