



Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (October 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 October 10, 2011 at Shoney's in Brentwood.

September Program: On Monday September 12th our meeting was called to order by Tom Duncan, President. He welcomed guest and new members Phyllis Brannon gave the devotional. Val Brooks led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. We had 30 attendees at the meeting. Our Speaker was **Bobby Langley** to discuss his recently published book, "Ruby's Son, From Poverty to Peace" His presentation was enjoyed by all.

Our October Program: On Monday October 10th 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 to follow at 1:00 PM. Our Speaker will be **Howard Gentry, Criminal Court Clerk of Nashville, Davidson County.** The Criminal Court Clerk is responsible for performing the clerical duties for the operation of the criminal courts, both General Sessions Court and State Trial Court.

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.

Membership: As of July 17th we have 334 Chapter Members (voting), 378 Total. As of September 7th, No New Members, 8 Members sent Second Renewal Notice, 8 Dropped for Non-Renewal,

New Membership Incentive Program: 1 Member send Second Renewal Notice



Treasurer's Report: Current balance as of July 12th in Checking at SunTrust is \$2501.12 our CD at SunTrust is \$937.98, for a Total of \$3438.10.

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

Status of Current Legislation: for September 10th



Every Month is NARFE PAC Month



No Bills at this time in 112th Congress

Legislative Report for September 2011

Supercommittee: High Stakes, Special Opportunity: The so-called "Supercommittee" of six Senators and six Representatives held its first hearing and scheduled its next for September 22. Use www.deficitreduction.gov for more information (October's NARFE magazine provides complete coverage). The threat to federal workers has never been higher – and the best way you can influence this Committee is by contacting your Representative and Senators, since the Supercommittee will be looking to their colleagues for advice on what to cut first. Congress must vote before Christmas – **so there is not much time left.** Join the thousands who have already sent a message to Congress now: www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org with a new supercommittee letter. Tell Washington: Don't single us out for debt-deal cuts!

NARFE Urges Congress to Protect Postal Employee and Retiree Retirement and Health Benefits: On Wednesday, September 14, NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin wrote to all 535 members of Congress urging them to oppose a recent proposal by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to remove postal employees and retirees from the federal retirement and health benefits systems. [CLICK Here](#) for text.

NARFE members can join President Beaudoin's voice by sending letters to their members of Congress urging them to protect postal service retirement and health benefits via NARFE's Legislative Action Center. Use <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=53678561> to go directly to our postal alert.

Additionally, postal organizations are holding rallies in every congressional district in the afternoon of Tuesday, September 27, to save America's Postal Service. For more information, visit www.saveamericaspostalservice.org.

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

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IMPORTANT DATED MATERIAL
DELIVER BY October 8, 2011
Current Resident or

August 2011 Consumer Price News



The CPI-W (Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers) increased by 0.3 percent for the month of August 2011.

The new CPI-W index figure is now 223.326, which is 3.63 percent above the 2008 third-quarter average of 215.495, which is the base figure for determining the next 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 were to remain unchanged through September, it would translate into at least a **3.5 percent** increase to Civil Service Retirement System annuities and at least a **2.5 percent** increase to Federal Employees Retirement System annuities. Nonetheless, it is unlikely that the CPI will remain completely static over the course of September – it could continue to go up or it could go down.

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

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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 August 2011 CPI-W figure (223.326) is 3.75 percent higher than the December 2010 figure (215.262).

September consumer price indices will be released Wednesday, October 19, 2011.

Sunshine Report: Agnes Wells called to see how we are - how's that for the shut-ins keeping up with those who attend meetings?? She is doing very well. Call her at 297-8038, or drop her a card at 4206 Stammer Place, Apt. 201, Nashville, TN 37215-3320.

Chris Wasson has had a niece visiting her recently, and is doing pretty good. She is working on being able to attend the Christmas Dinner--let's all hope that can occur this year, as we really do miss her! Her address is 927 Potter Lane, Nashville, TN 37206, phone 227-3064.

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: maryleaf@bellsouth.net

Growth in health premiums slows dramatically

The Office of Personnel Management announced Tuesday that health insurance premiums for nonpostal federal employees and retirees will increase by 3.8 percent, a sharp reduction from the 7.3 percent average increase that hit premiums last year.

Enrollees with self-only coverage will pay \$2.32 more on average per bi-weekly pay period. Those with family coverage will pay \$6.18 more on average.