



Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (September 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 September 12, 2011 at Shoney's in Brentwood.

August Program: On Tuesday August 9th 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 Life Columnist **Ms. Cheap (Mary Nance)** from the Tennessean Newspaper. Her presentation was enjoyed by all.

Our next Meeting Date has been changed to Monday **September 12th**. We will meet at Brentwood **Shoney's**, 791 Old Hickory Boulevard, Brentwood, TN - (615) 373-0362.

Our September Program: On Monday September 12th 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 **Bobby Langley** to discuss his recently published book, "**Ruby's Son, From Poverty to Peace**"

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), 387 Total. As of August 7th, 1 New Member (**Carol M. Allen**), 1 Member Transferred Out, 1 Reinstatement, 5 Members sent Second Renewal Notice, 2 Dropped for Non-Renewal, 1 New Prospective Member (**Vincent Lisa**).

New Membership Incentive Program (No Activity)



Treasurer's Report: Current balance as of July 12th in Checking at SunTrust is **\$2509.76** our CD at SunTrust is **\$937.98**, for a Total of **\$3447.74**.

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

Status of Current Legislation: for August 9th



Every Month is NARFE PAC Month



No Bills at this time in 112th Congress

Legislative Report for August 2011

According to information from NARFE HQ, the debt limit compromise recently pass by Congress and signed into law by the President, does not make any reductions in the retirement benefits, pay or health benefits of federal employees and annuitants.

However, the overall threat has not disappeared. This is just the beginning of efforts to downsize government and reduce spending. Federal civilian retirement and health benefits continue to be vulnerable because the new law creates a bipartisan "Super Committee" of Congress with a mandate to cut spending even more by the end of this year and in following years.

NARFE Headquarters President Joe Beaudoin attributes our success so far to the phone calls, emails and communications campaign, "**Protect America's Heartbeat**". Over 25,000 phone calls and over 215,000 emails were sent to our legislators.

The "**Protect America's Heartbeat**" campaign will be an ongoing effort on our part. Unless our representatives hear from us, they will think we do not care.

At this time, our chapter is in the process of setting up meetings with our mid-state representatives and our two senators to let them know that we are very concerned about our country's financial condition. We want to do our part to help with the deficit but we do not want to be singled out for cuts in order to balance the federal budget.

Thank you, to everyone who has helped so far with all kinds of communication to our representatives. Please be prepared to continue doing the above as this is the only way for us to keep from losing benefits.

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

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

July 2011 Consumer Price News



The CPI-W (Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers) increased by **0.07 percent for the month of July 2011.**

The new CPI-W index figure is now 222.686, which is 3.34 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 August and September, it would translate into a **3.3 percent** increase to Civil Service Retirement System annuities and a 2.3 percent increase to Federal Employees Retirement System annuities. Nonetheless, it is unlikely that the CPI will remain completely static through the next two months – 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 third quarter average).

July 2011 Consumer Price News, Con't)

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 June 2011 CPI-W figure (222.686) is 3.45 percent higher than the December 2010 figure (215.262).

August consumer price indices will be released Thursday, **September 15, 2011.**

Sunshine Report: We have just received news of the death last November 14 (2010) of **William H. Smith.** Bill had met with us during the time we were at Park Manor, and had told me he was to have some surgery, but numerous attempts to locate him since then have been unsuccessful. He was 89 years old and was a kind, gentle man who will be fondly remembered by many people.

Chris Wasson is about the same - good days and bad days. She is very weak, and that prevents her doing many things she otherwise would like to do. As always, she's cheerful and upbeat.

227-3064 is her phone, address is 927 Potter Lane, Nashville, TN 37206.

Laurine Kroutter has moved to Lakeshore Heartland, 3025 Fernbrook Lane, Room 305A, Nashville, TN 37214. She does not have a phone. Fernbrook is off McGavock Pike in Donelson. You can send her a card - she appreciates hearing from the members.

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

Sunshine Chairperson Phone: 889-5689

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The first Chapter 227 Board Meeting was held on August 25th. They identified a need for a Program Chair & Committee to plan for programs for the chapter. Also there is a need for suggestions, ideas for programs. Volunteers Please!
