



# NATIONAL ACTIVE & RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOC. CHAPTER #108 - CHATTANOOGA, TN

August 5, 2006

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NEXT MEETING - Friday, August 11, 2006, at Wally's Restaurant, Ringgold Road at 1-75, East Ridge. This will be a luncheon meeting starting at 12:00 noon. All members, prospective members and visitors are invited. Order from the menu or enjoy the buffet. (Eat at 11:30.)

PROGRAM - We do not have a guest speaker for this meeting. We plan instead to discuss the issues that will be brought up at the National Convention next month. **Mrs. Jeanne Garrison** will attend the convention as our chapter delegate and will need our comments. Please make a special effort to attend this chapter meeting.

JULY MEETING - **Lt. Allen Chance** of the Chattanooga Police Dept. gave us a most interesting talk on the many scams perpetrated on the elderly. His suggestions on how to be alert and avoid such efforts were very enlightening.

COLA - On July 19<sup>th</sup>, the Labor Dept. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the CPI-W for June was up **0.2 percent** over the May index. For purposes of calculating the next COLA for Social Security and Govt. retirement programs, the June index is **3.1 percent** over the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter base index in 2005. July's inflation data will be released on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.

ALZHEIMER'S FUND - In July, **Mr. Dan Lorden** received \$75 in checks and \$17 in cash for a total of \$92. He sent \$25 (the chapter's contribution) to the local Alzheimer's chapter and \$67 to the National fund. Year to date, we have contributed \$307 towards the national effort and \$175 for local care giving, for a grand total of \$482. Thanks to all who have contributed to this worthy cause. The NARFE national goal of "\$7 million in 2007" has reached \$6,295,072 as of April 30, 2006.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS -

**Ms. Ruby J. Shields**, 1037 Hurst St., Chattanooga, TN 37412-3933.

**Mrs. Alva L. Stevens**, 1505 Abbington Court, Hixson, TN 37343-2583, tel: (423) 843-9783.

MEMBERSHIP - The June 30 printout from NARFE Headquarters showed the two new members listed above. In addition, we had one reinstatement, but two were dropped for non-renewal. Six members were sent second renewal notices for dues payable in June. We need to be continuously recruiting new members and retaining current members if we are to continue as a viable organization.

NATIONAL CONVENTION - As mentioned above, **Mrs. Jeanne Garrison** has decided to go to Albuquerque and represent Chapter #108 at the National Convention. The four major resolutions to be voted on are (a) mandatory chapter membership; (b) one member, one vote; (c) a single dues structure; and (d) reduced spousal dues. These proposals have been discussed and rejected at several previous conventions, but seem to have been getting increasing support, as evidenced by attention given in various articles and letters appearing in recent issues of our national monthly publication, *NARFE*.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - Congress is on its Summer Recess, to reconvene after Labor Day. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the House leadership announced that there is to be a recess for the coming election, commencing at close of business, Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. A lame duck session after Election Day, November 7<sup>th</sup>, is set to begin on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. This provides very little time to enact the bills which have been considered as priority legislation for NARFE interests. These are the bills which would establish premium conversion for federal retirees and the bills which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. However, these bills have strong co-sponsorship in both Houses, and we can hope that this showing of support will carry over into the new Congress in 2007. Surely, identical bills will again be introduced in the early weeks of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Hope springs eternal!

*A perfect romance: Last night I held a little hand, so dainty and so sweet. I thought my heart would surely break, so wildly did it beat. No other hand in all the world can bring greater joy than that little hand I held last night. Four aces and a king!!*