

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



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NEXT MEETING - Friday, November 10, 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 - Ms. Berti LeWinter, Executive Director of the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) has been invited to speak to us. This program is part of a nationwide movement toward restorative justice for non-violent juvenile offenders. Please make a special effort to attend and learn more of this non-profit organization.

OCTOBER MEETING - A good crowd was present at our October meeting to hear Mr. William Oonk, Manager, Federal Employee Program, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, give an overview of the changes and new health insurance rates for 2007.

COLA - The next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for millions of retired and disabled Americans will be 3.3 percent. Social Security beneficiaries, as well as most federal civil service annuitants, foreign service and military retirees will be among those receiving the adjustment in their January 2007 checks. Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuitants age 62 and over, as well as FERS survivors and disability retirees, will receive a full Social Security COLA, but the adjustment in their FERS annuity will be a 2.3 percent COLA. This is due to the fact that the FERS COLA formula differs from that used for CSRS retirees whose federal service did not earn them Social Security coverage.

ALZHEIMERS REPORT - Mr. Dan Lorden reports that chapter members contributed \$95 in checks and \$31 in cash for a total of \$126 at the October meeting. \$25 went to the local Alzheimer's chapter and the remaining \$101 was sent to the national fund. Year to date, we have contributed \$568 to the national effort and \$250 to local care-giving, a grand total of \$818.

SPECIAL NOTE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS - There will **not** be a meeting of Chattanooga Chapter #108 in December. This is because several officers will be out of town. Also, there will be **no** newsletter for December. The next newsletter will be mailed by Friday, January 5, 2007, announcing the next Chapter meeting which will be held on **Friday, January 12, 2007**.

CHAPTER OFFICERS - Chapter #108 is in dire need for new officers in 2007. All positions are OPEN and available. These are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Please consider serving your chapter in one of these positions.

MEMBERSHIP - The latest printout from NARFE Hq. showed ten members as having been sent second renewal notices for dues payable in September. Hopefully, they have paid by this time. Further, four members were dropped for non-payment of dues which had been payable in June. Please keep up your dues. An excellent way to always remain current is to subscribe to dues withholding. An application form for this appears in each monthly issue of NARFE magazine (see pages 63/64 of the August issue).

OPEN SEASON REPORT - Pages 30 thru 40 of the November NARFE magazine lists the 2007 monthly premiums for the various FEHBP fee-for-service plans and major HMOs. The article also sets forth questions and answers and outlines details of the new dental and vision insurance programs. The Open Season runs from Monday, Nov. 13 to Monday, Dec. 11, 2006.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - The 109<sup>th</sup> Congress will wind with a lame-duck session beginning on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The time will be spent almost exclusively on must-pass appropriation bills. NARFE's priority goals, premium conversion and repeal of the odious Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision (GPO/WEP), will await the new Congress. However, these goals have strong bi-partisan support, which should continue regardless of the outcome of the Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> election.

***WE WISH TO ALL A GREAT THANKSGIVING AND  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!***