

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

September 1, 2006

Elmer Gillespie, President - 894-1606
<elmergill@aol.com>

Donald V. Geoffrion, Editor - 886-0439
<dvgeoffff@aol.com>



NEXT MEETING - Friday, September 8, 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 - Detective **Marty Dunn**, from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, will be our guest speaker. He will cover crimes affecting the aged and also the drug problems in the area. He recently received a designation as "Officer of the Year" in combatting the drug problem.

COLA - On August 16th, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the consumer price index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for July was 199.2, up **0.3** percent from June's index of 198.6. For purposes of calculating the next Cost-of- Living Adjustment (COLA), the July index is **3.4** percent higher than the 2005 third quarter average base index of 192.7. August inflation data will be release Friday, September 15th.

ALZHEIMER'S FUND - During August, **Mr. Dan Lorden** reports the chapter members contributed \$60 in checks and \$20 in cash for a total of \$80. The chapter pledge of \$25 was sent to the local Alzheimer's Chapter and the remaining \$55 went to the National Fund. Year-to-date figures are \$362 to the national effort and \$200 for local care giving.

NEW MEMBERS - Congratulations to **Mrs. Lucy Bates**, a newcomer to Chapter #108, for signing up two new members for Chapter #78 in Memphis, TN.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER - **Mr. John Edward Bartley**, 175 Townsend Circle, Ringgold, GA, 30736-5020, Tel. (706) 937-3246.

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IN MEMORIAM

Willa Maxine Craig Aug. 22, 2006
Dorsie R. Guthrie Aug. 25, 2006

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MEMBERSHIP - The July printout from NARFE Headquarters showed seven members were sent second renewal notices for dues payable in July. Two members were dropped for non-renewal. Upon receipt of the first dues notice, please respond promptly.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - The monthly *NARFE* magazine has a section entitled "Questions and Answers". This section contains a wealth of information for retirees as well as current employees.

DENTAL-VISION PROGRAM - OPM expects to make final contract awards by the end of August and will announce in September the premiums for the new Dental-Vision insurance program. This will be an offering separate from the regular FEHBP coverage, but will have an open season concurrent with FEHBP, starting this November. There will be several carriers for each of the types of coverage. Employees and retirees will be free to choose each type, both or neither.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - Congress plans to be in session from Wednesday, Sept. 8th through the close of business, Friday, Sept. 29th. During this three-week period, 11 separate appropriation bills must be passed or a Continuing Resolution to allow spending to continue beyond the Sept. 30th end of the fiscal year. We may expect that, from October 2nd through Election Day, congressional attention will be devoted to re-election. Unfinished business will await a "lame duck" session set to begin Monday, Nov. 13th. So it goes!