

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



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NEXT MEETING - Friday, February 9, 2007, 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 - At press time, efforts are being made to arrange for a guest speaker. Should these efforts fail, we will discuss issues of importance to our National Association and/or our local chapter.

COLA - The Consumer Price index increased 0.2 percent in December. For purposes of calculating the next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the projected amount is 0.1 percent lower than the 2006 third quarter base index. Lest retirees fear a decrease in their current annuities as a result of a negative COLA, the law does not provide a reduction in benefits over the fiscal year measuring period.

ALZHEIMER'S FUND - At the January meeting, we contributed \$15 in cash and \$45 in checks for a total of \$60. \$25 was sent to the Southeast Tenn. Chapter of Alzheimer's and the remaining \$35 to the National Fund. We need a volunteer to take over the Alzheimer's effort, otherwise the collections will have to be discontinued.

MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS - A letter was received from the U.S. Marine Corps. thanking the chapter for the \$100 donation made to the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" Foundation. The Marine Corps fulfilled the Christmas holiday dreams of over 7.5 million needy children in 2005 and believe they passed that mark in 2006.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER -

- **Mr. Joseph Cole**, 3220 Gleason Drive, Apt. 60, Chattanooga, TN 37412 (Mr. Gleason is a current federal employee, not yet a retiree.)

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IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Charles F. Planzer Jan. 11, 2007

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MEMBERSHIP - Seven members were sent second renewal notices by NARFE Hqs. for dues payable in December. This is the only organization that works for the benefit of federal civil service retirees and we need to stay united, increasing, not weakening our membership. **Numbers count when you are dealing with Congress!**

TELEPHONE TAX REFUND - Individual taxpayers can take a standard amount from \$30 to \$60 based on the number of exemptions claimed on their 2006 tax returns. These amounts represent a refund of telephone excise taxes paid in past years. The standard amount (to be entered on line #71 of Std. Form #1040) for one exemption is \$30; two, \$40; three, \$50; 4 or more, \$60. (To claim refund of actual excise taxes paid requires Form #8913 if one has records of the actual payments.)

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - NARFE-supported bills to repeal the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) have been introduced in both Houses of the new 110th Congress. They are **H.R.#82** by **Cong. Howard Berman (D-CA)** and **S.#206** by **Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)**. The House bill has 161 cosponsors (only one from TN - **Cong. Bart Gordon**) and the Senate bill has 7 cosponsors (neither TN Senator). NARFE Hq. legislative staff is working with key legislators to re-introduce a bill on Premium Conversion. This goal had received wide congressional support in both the 108th and 109th Congresses.

A man told his wife he'd invited a friend over to dinner that evening. "Are you crazy?" she asked. "The house is a mess, I didn't go shopping, the dishes are dirty, and I don't feel like cooking a fancy meal." "I know all that." he replied. "Then why did you invite a friend for dinner?" "Because the poor fool is thinking about getting married."