

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

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NEXT MEETING - Friday, March 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 - **Mr. Randy Wallace** will be our speaker at the March meeting. Mr. Wallace is the executive Vice President of the Chattanooga Eye Bank and is active in the Lions Club. He is also involved in the Hamilton County Sight Services program of the Lions Club that provides eye glasses for persons unable to pay. *If you have eye glasses you no longer can use, bring them to the meeting for recycling.* Come and learn of the various programs of the Lions Club.

ALZHEIMER'S REPORT - Unless someone comes forward to volunteer to handle the Alzheimer's collection, the program will be discontinued at the Chapter level. *NARFE* magazine, which we all receive, has an article each month on Alzheimer's which includes a form to forward your donation directly to the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., 17th floor, Chicago, IL, 60601-7633. Please continue to donate to this worthy research program. Be sure to enter Chapter #108 on your form. The Alzheimer's article in the March issue of *NARFE* magazine is on page 28.

COLA - The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical workers (CPI-W) climbed **.02** percent in January. Because of declines during the first two months (October & November) of the current measuring period, the index is still **0.8** percent lower than the 2006 third quarter average base index of 199.1. Lest anyone feel a possible decrease in his or her current annuity as the result of a negative COLA the law does not provide for a reduction in benefits in the event of deflation over a fiscal year measuring period.

STATE CONVENTION - We need delegates to attend the Tennessee Federation Convention in Knoxville, TN on April 16/17, at the Days Inn, exit #108, IS #40/#75, Merchant Drive. If you can attend, please call Elmer Gillespie at 894-1606 for a registration form. One

proposed by-law amendment has been received. This amendment would change the Federation Convention from each year to biennially. At present, the National NARFE Convention is held on even years and the proposed change, if adopted, would have the Tennessee Federation Convention held on odd years.

MEMBERSHIP - Four second notices were sent to members in January by the National office and we had four reinstatements in the month. Currently, there are about 260 members in chapter #108, but less than 10 percent attend chapter meetings. It is disheartening to secure a speaker for the meeting and have only a few show up. NARFE is *your* organization and is the only one that represents your interests in Congress. You need to support it! Please make a special effort to attend your chapter meetings at least on occasion. This just might be the year to get some action on the bills we have been supporting. (*see legislative notes, below*).

NARFE-PAC - The cover story of the March issue of *NARFE* magazine highlights the mission and urgency of NARFE's Political Action Committee, NARFE-PAC. This has been a successful tool in furthering the interests of federal retirees and we need to give it our support. Our chapter Legislative Officer, **Don Geoffrion** also serves as our NARFE-PAC coordinator. He will have copies of the contribution forms at our March and succeeding meetings and hopes also to have the new lapel pins for those who wish to send in \$20 or more. Of course, you may use the form on page 20 of the March issue of *NARFE* for a direct contribution.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - **H.R.#82**, the bill to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) now has 222 co-sponsors, including **Cong. Zach Wamp, 3rd Dist. TN**. The Senate bill, **S.#206**, has 15 co-sponsors (not yet our two Tennessee Senators). On Feb. 16, 2007, **Cong. Tom Davis, 11th Dist. VA** introduced **H.R.#1110**, which would allow civilian and military retirees and active duty military to pay their government health care premiums with pre-tax dollars. Initially this bill had 28 co-sponsors. **Cong. Wamp** surely will add his name.