



Nashville Chapter 227. Newsletter (July 2007)

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

Officers: **Bruce Thomas**, President 781-6083; **Nancy Wells**, Vice President 377-9011; **Chris Wasson**, Sunshine Chairperson 227-3064; **Edna Smith**, Secretary –Treasurer 298-4757; **John Wells** - Newsletter Chairperson 331-0705.

Chapter Web Site: <http://www.narfetn-nashville.org/>

June Meeting: Meeting was called to order by Vice-President - Nancy Wells at 1PM. New members and guests were welcomed. The invocation was given by Marie Anglin, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Vallie Brooks. There were 37 members in attendance.

The Jackpot drawing of \$25 was won by Carey Frazier (\$13 to Carey and \$12 to the chapter treasury). The \$3 was won by Ann Clement and the \$2 by Nancy Wells. The Manager of Piccadilly gave us a complimentary lunch voucher this was won by Chris Wasson.

June Program: Phyllis Brannan introduced our speaker for the meeting, former U.S. Representative Bob Clement, candidate for Mayor of Nashville in the upcoming election. He gave an informative review of his background and qualifications to become Mayor. He stressed that his No. 1 priority would be education, followed by public safety and job creation. A question and answer session followed his address.

July Program: Karl Dean, candidate for Mayor of Nashville, will be our speaker. Our next meeting date is July 9, 2007, Plan to be there at the Piccadilly Cafeteria at 874 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville TN (615) 367-4640

TN Federation Convention: The 2008 NARFE Tennessee State Federation Convention will be hosted by the Nashville Chapter and well be held at Montgomery Bell State Park on April 28-29, 2008. Mark you calendars and join in the fun of helping the Nashville Chapter hosting this convention and making it a huge success. If you want to volunteer contact either Bruce Thomas, President 781-6083 or Nancy Wells, Vice President 377-9011.

Treasurer Report: Current balance in Checking is \$1,270.77, Credit Union account is \$903, for a Total of \$2,174.

Sunshine Report: Chris Wasson sent sympathy cards to member Mary Fredericks and family, death of husband June 2; and the family of Martha Rumsey who passed away June 3. She also sent sunshine card to Stella Dixon.

Status of Current Legislation: *as of June 2007*

1. Repeal of Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)/Government Pension Offset (GPO)

H.R.82 now has 304 (69.9% of the House) up six from last month Tennessee co-sponsors, Lincoln Davis, David Davis, Bart Gordon, Zack Wamp, Marsha Blackburn and Steve Cohen. Non cosponsors are Jimmy Duncan, Jim Cooper and John Tanner. **H.R.82** is in the Ways & Means Committee, Charles Rangel is the Chairman, John Tanner is a member of this committee.

S.206 now has 31 cosponsors, up two from last month (none of the Senators from Tennessee are cosponsors). We have 100 Senators in Congress, so we have 31% cosponsoring.

We now have another version of WEP Modification, **H.R. 726**, which now has seven cosponsors, up two from last month (none of the Senators from Tennessee are cosponsors).

In addition **S,1254** to Modify GPO has been introduced and has seven cosponsors.

2. Premium Conversion

H.R.1110 now has 191 cosponsors, up 31 from last month, Tennessee cosponsors are Zack Wamp, Marsha Blackburn, Cooper and Bart Gordon. (Non cosponsors, David Davis, Jimmy Duncan, Lincoln Davis, John Tanner & Steve Cohen)

S.773 now has 35 cosponsors, up seven from last month (none of the Senators from Tennessee are cosponsors)

See page two for more Chapter News

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AUGUST SET AS NARFE LOBBY MONTH **Work From Home**

August is the month when the 535 members of the House and Senate head out of town, to take their leave until after Labor Day. The legislators primarily head for family vacations, followed by home town meetings and stints in their district offices.

August is a good month for **citizen lobbyists** to meet and talk with the legislators on their home turf. That's where our best lobbying can be done before the fall session of Congress gets underway. We are this year taking advantage of the month long recess from August 4 until September 4, and declaring it **NARFE Lobby Month**.

It's not too early, but not too late to drop by or phone the one of the district offices of your Representative(s) and two Senators to set up a meeting with them, or their senior staff person. And while you're at it, get a list of the town meetings, labor day parades, or civic groups where the legislator is scheduled to be during the recess. If the Member is impossible to see at the local office, make it a point to be at one or another of the places where he or she is scheduled to be.

Just a few minutes of face to face time, identifying yourselves as NARFE members, and citing the "fairness" issues of our legislative priorities can make an impact. And if you don't think it can, take a minute to read this month's **Civics 101** article on page 18 of the July NARFE Magazine.

Membership: In May we have 2 new members, 1 transferred out to another chapter, 2 reinstatements, 9 sent 2nd notice and 5 dropped for non renewal.

COLA - On June 15th, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/cpi) reported that the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, the CPI-W, for May 2007 is **203.7**, up **0.8 percent** from the April index of 202.1. The CPI-W for May is **2.3 percent higher** than the 2006 third quarter average base index of 199.1. For purposes of calculating the next COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) the index has **increased 2.3 percent**. The CPI for the month of June will be released on Wednesday, July 18, 2007.

Former federal employees now receiving monthly benefits under provisions of the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) receive a COLA based on the change in the CPI-W during each calendar year. Thus far, the index is **3.3 percent higher** than the December 2006 base of 197.2.

Medicare Drug-Price Negotiation Legislation Stalls
Legislation to require the government to negotiate for lower Medicare prescription drug costs was introduced in both the House and Senate on the opening day of the new Democratic-controlled 110th Congress. By mid-January, the House had easily passed its bill (H.R. 4), but passage of the Senate bill (S. 3) was slowed, and then stalled, by a procedural motion, which failed to get the 60 votes needed to proceed to floor consideration. On April 18, a 55-42 Senate vote killed a motion to invoke cloture and prevent a filibuster on modifying a contentious provision of the 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug Act. Opinions vary on whether the drug-price negotiation issue will reemerge later in the session as either a stand-alone bill or as part of a larger health care reform measure.