



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

November 2, 2007

Elmer Gillespie, President - 894-1606

Donald V. Geoffrion, Editor - 886-0439

NEXT MEETING - Friday, November 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 - We have as our guest **Mr. Charles Hughes**, Executive Director, the Chattanooga Community Kitchen. The Kitchen has been in operation for 25 years, feeding, clothing and housing homeless men, women and children. Mr. Hughes will undoubtedly bring a warm, human interest aspect to his message.

OCTOBER MEETING - We were fortunate to have Ms. Linda Holbrook from Blue Cross/Blue Shield explain changes in health insurance coverage for 2008. A number of gift items were left over. These will be given to attendees who wish them at the November meeting

COLA - The next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for millions of retired and disabled Americans will be **2.3 percent**. Social Security beneficiaries, as well as most civil service annuitants, foreign service and military retirees will be among those receiving the adjustment in their January 2008 checks. Federal Employee 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 **2.0 percent**. 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.

CSRS SYSTEM vs. FERS - About 3/4s of active federal employees are covered by the FERS system, but most retirees are under CSRS. There are about 1.6 million CSRS retirees versus about 280,000 under FERS. The CSRS monthly annuity is about \$2,600 and for FERS, about \$950. The difference reflects the fact that FERS was designed to produce benefits similar to CSRS with the Social Security and enhanced Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) benefits available to FERS retirees.

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## IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Erbon D. Culver Sr. October 28, 2007

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## NEW MEMBERS -

**Mr. Ronald E. Born**, 63 Mitchell Circle, Rossville, GA 30741 (Transferred From Ch.#1551, Dalton, GA.).

**Mrs. Evelyn Chambers**, 3310 Char Mac Lane, Chattanooga, TN 37419-1404 (one yr. special member)

**Ms. Susan C. Kile**, 7630 Lenox Trace, Hixson, TN 37343. Current Federal employee (two year member).

**Mr. Rob R. Robertson**, 100 James Blvd. #S-408, Signal Mountain, TN 37377, (Transferred from Ch. #1021

PART B MEDICARE - The monthly premium for Part B Medicare will rise from \$93.50 to \$96.40, an increase of \$2.90. The Part B deductible will be \$135, an increase of \$4.00.

SPECIAL NOTE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS - There **will not be a meeting** of Chattanooga Chapter #108 in December. The normal meeting date would fall on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, which is too close to Christmas. Also, there will be **no newsletter** in December. The next newsletter will be mailed by Friday, Jan 4, 2008 and announce the next Chapter meeting on Friday, January 11, 2008.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - At this writing Congress has to agree on the dozen annual appropriations bills which must be passed before the November 16 expiration of the current spending authority. The first such bill, **H.R.#3043**, the Labor, Health and Human Services & Education Appropriations bill awaits conference approval and passage, but it then faces a probable Presidential veto. How this plays out will impact whether additional individual appropriations (perhaps Military Construction-Veterans Administration) are conferenced, allowing them to be considered as separate bills in the House and Senate. In any case, a further stop-gap funding bill or continuing resolution will be needed before the critical date of November 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Note: More information is available at the Hq. NARFE Website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and that of the Tennessee Federation, [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org). Copies of this newsletter and others may be found at the Tennessee Federation website (see "Library").*