



Nashville Chapter 227. Newsletter (November 2007)

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

Officers: Bruce Thomas, President 781-6083; Nancy Wells, 1st Vice President-Membership 377-9011; Helen Tyson 2nd Vice President-Service 269-0614; 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/>

NARFE's mission has remained the same since 1921, to protect and improve the retirement benefits of federal retirees, employees and their families.

October Meeting: Meeting was called to order by President – Bruce Thomas at 1PM. New members and guests were welcomed. The invocation was given by Marie Anglin, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Val Brooks. There were 20 members in attendance.

The Jackpot drawing of \$17 was won by Marie Ramsey (\$8 to Marie and \$9 to the chapter treasury). The \$3 was won by Bruce Thomas and the \$2 by Marie Anglin, both donated to the Alzheimer fund. The complimentary lunch voucher from Piccadilly was won by B.J. Harris.

October Program: Our program was Kristina Thomsen, retired Vanderbilt Emergency Room nurse, speaking on Home Health Care options that are available to seniors and the needs to make some changes in Tennessee.

November Program: Presentation by Bart Bartleson, the subject will be “Tax Counseling for the Elderly.” This should be of interest to all chapter members. Plan to be there at the Piccadilly Cafeteria at 874 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville TN (615) 367-4640. A TN Federation Convention Steering Committee meeting will be held immediately after the regular meeting closes.



December Program: This will be our once a year Christmas Luncheon. **DATE: Monday-December 12th; TIME: 11:15 AM.; PLACE: Latitude Restaurant** - second floor in the Marriot Hotel at corner of Natchez Trace and West End Avenues. Free valet parking.

Plan to be there, mark you calendar now.

Treasurer Report: Current balance in Checking is \$1,758.09, Credit Union account is \$904, for a Total of \$2,662.27. (*Taken from last month, since Edna Smith was ill we didn't have a Treasurers Report this month.*)

Status of Current Legislation: for October 07
1. Repeal of Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)/Government Pension Offset (GPO)

H.R.82 now has 329 (75.6% of the House) up four from last month. *Tennessee non cosponsors are Jimmy Duncan, Jim Cooper and John Tanner.* We have 435 representatives in Congress, so with 329 cosponsors we have 75.6% as cosponsors

S.206 now has 35 cosponsors, same as last month (*none of the Senators from Tennessee are cosponsors*). We have 100 Senators in Congress, so we have 35% cosponsoring.

The other version of WEP Modification, **H.R. 726**, now has 16 cosponsors, up three from from last month (*none of the Representatives from Tennessee are cosponsors*).

In addition **S.1254** to Modify GPO has nine cosponsors, up one from last month (*none of the Senators from Tennessee are cosponsors*).

2. Premium Conversion

H.R.1110 now has 271 cosponsors, up 11 from last month, *Tennessee non cosponsors is Jimmy Duncan.* **H.R.1110** Has cleared the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and is in the Ways & Means Committee, Charles Rangel is the Chairman, and John Tanner (a cosponsor) is a member of this committee.

S.773 now has 53 cosponsors, up six from last month (*none of the Senators from Tennessee are cosponsors*).

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IMPORTANT DATED MATERIAL
DELIVER BY **November 5, 2007**

TN Federation Convention: The convention will be held at Montgomery Bell State Park, April 28 & 29, 2008. The registration fee is \$45; the room rate is \$60 per night plus tax. The deadline for registration is March 15, 2008. There is still a need for chapter members to assist, and take an active part in preparing for the convention.

2008 Medicare Premiums Released

2997 Medicare The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) said the Medicare Part B premium (outpatient services) will rise to **\$96.40** per month effective January 2008 from the current \$93.50*. The annual Part B deductible will also increase from \$131 to \$135. The Part A (hospitalization services) deductible for the first 60 days as a hospital inpatient will increase \$32—from the present \$992 to \$1,024.

* About 5% of Medicare beneficiaries will pay higher Part B premiums because they have higher incomes. In 2003 with the creation of the Prescription Drug Plan (Part D), Congress enacted a law to lower the federal government's contribution towards Part B premiums for seniors with higher incomes. Beneficiaries whose individual tax returns for 2006 are higher than \$82,000 will be subject to contributing a larger share towards their Part B premiums (on an escalating basis), as are joint filers whose income surpasses \$164,000. Depending on the income level, monthly premiums will range from \$122.20 to \$238.40.

COLA - CPI-W INCREASES OF 0.3 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER

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 civilian and military retirees will be among those receiving the adjustment in their January 2008 checks. Federal Employees 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 use for CSRS retirees whose federal service did not earn them Social Security coverage.

The next COLA of **2.3 percent** reflects the percentage difference between last year's third quarter average base index of 199.1 and this year's 2007 third quarter average index of **203.6**, computed by averaging Julys 203.7, Augusts 203.2, and Septembers 203.9 index readings.

Membership: In September we have 1 new member, 3 CFE One Year - New Members, 7 sent 2nd notice and 3 dropped for non renewal and 1 member reinstated. *All new members with E-mail addresses have been added to the distribution list of the Chapter Newsletters.*

NARFE, The largest federal employee/retiree organization, represents the retirement interests of nearly 5 million current and future federal annuitants, spouses, and survivors.