



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

January 4, 2008

Elmer Gillespie, President - 894-1606

Donald V. Geoffrion, Editor - 886-0439

**NEXT MEETING** - Friday, January 11, 2008, 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** - Our long-standing custom has been to dedicate our January meeting to a memorial service for members who have died during the previous year. The **Rev. Ray Walker**, a retired Baptist minister, has again graciously agreed to conduct this service.

**COLA** - You should have your notice of annuity adjustment from OPM, Boyers, PA, reflecting increased January, 2008 payments, **2.3%** for CSRS & **2.0%** for FERS retirees. On December 14, 2007, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for November was up **0.8%**. This brings the prospective Cost-of-Living (COLA) for 2009 to **1.1%**. December inflation data will be released January 16, 2008.

**STATE CONVENTION** - The 52<sup>nd</sup> State Federation Convention will be held at Montgomery Bell State Park (near Nashville) on April 28/29, 2008. We need delegates from Chapter #108. If you can attend, please let **Elmer Gillespie** (894-1606) know, as soon as possible. In the past, the chapter has covered a portion of the registration fee. Lodging at Montgomery Bell is \$60 per night. A registration form was provided in the January issue of the Tennessee Federal Retiree publication.

**BC/BS CHANGES PHARMACY** - Page 36 of the January issue of *NARFE* magazine advises that Blue Cross/Blue Shield has changed the mail Service Prescription Drug provider from **Caremark** to **Medco**, effective Jan. 1, 2008. In December, BC/BS enrollees should have received notice of this, together with appropriate forms and a MEDCO mailing envelope. Any further information may be sought at [www.fepblue.org](http://www.fepblue.org) or phone- **1-800-262-7890**.

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## IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Jimmy W. Caines	Dec. 6, 2007
Mr. Elmer M. Chambers	May 26, 2007
Mrs. Bettye L. Cooke	Feb. 9, 2007
Mr. Erbron D. Culver, Sr.	Oct. 28, 2007
Mrs. Nelda J. Duncan Miller	date unknown
Dr. F. Bruce Monroe	Aug. 12, 2007
Mr. Frank C. Moore	Jul. 29, 2007
Mrs. Olla O. Mountain	Aug. 30, 2007
Mr. Charles F. Planzer	Jan. 11, 2007
Mrs. Vernon Naomi Eustice Richardson	Feb. 27, 2007
Mrs. Mary Smedley	May 30, 2007
Mrs. Levona Tipps	Apr. 3, 2007

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS -

**Dr. Don Drennon-Gala**, 729 Ashley Forest Dr., Hixson, TN, 37343-3271. (Current federal employee.)

**Betty J. Hammock**, 8602 Boulder View Dr., Soddy-Daisy TN 37379-4296. (Current federal employee.)

## ADDRESS CHANGES -

Change address for **Lila V. Parker** to 241 Hillcrest Circle, Ringgold GA 30736-5078

Change address for **Eva Joe Smith** to 801 Terra Ave., Alexandria, LA 71303-2250.

Change address for **Geneva K. Sparks** to 3516 Cherokee Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37412-1104.

**LEGISLATIVE NOTES** - The 110<sup>th</sup> Congress ended it's first session after submitting to the President an omnibus appropriations bill, which he signed December 26, 2007. The second session begins Tuesday, January 15, 2008 for the House and Tuesday, January 22, 2008 for the Senate. Efforts by NARFE to achieve passage of our priority legislation during this second session will continue. The goal is to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and to achieve Premium Conversion for civil service and military retirees. Bills to accomplish these aims have wide co-sponsorship in both Houses.

*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").*