



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

September 5, 2008

Elmer Gillespie, President - 894-1606

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NEXT MEETING - Friday, September 12 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 delegates to the NARFE National Convention at Louisville will report on the highlights of the convention. Many important resolutions will have been discussed, as well as election of National officers for the next two years.

COLA - At ten months into the accounting period for determining the next federal retiree and Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the cumulative figure stands at **6.2** percent. At the same period last year, the figure was 2.3 percent. The data for August will be released by the Labor Dept's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on September 16, 2008.

MEMBERSHIP - The Chapter Activity Report from NARFE Hqs. for the month of July showed nine members were sent second renewal notices. We would hope that, by now, they have renewed their dues. Two prospective members were listed and they will be contacted for membership.

OPM REPORT, MONTHLY ANNUITY AMOUNTS - Pages 18 and 19 of the September NARFE magazine shows a chart which reflects the numbers and accruing percentage of Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employment Retirement System (FERS) annuitants and survivors by monthly income levels and type of retirement. This information was compiled and released in July, 2008 by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and reflects data as of October 1, 2006.

*Note: NARFE Hq. is at <[www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)>*

NATIONAL OFFICERS - Following is a list of the individuals who are running for election as our National Officers:

President -- **Mrs. Margaret Baptiste** (incumbent), Mr. Tom McKinney

Natl. Vice President -- **Mr. Joseph Beaudoin, Mr. Dan Galvin, Mr. Kenneth Nolan, Mr. Clyde Jeffcoat**

Natl. Treasurer -- **Mr. Richard Ostergen** (incumbent), **Mr. Richard Strobtne**

Natl. Secretary - **Mr. Nathaniel Brown** (incumbent)

Region X Field Vice President (includes Tennessee) -- **Mr. Paul Carew** (from North Carolina)

OCTOBER MEETING - We will be honored to have **Linda Holbrook**, of Blue Cross/Blue Shield once more as our guest speaker at our October chapter meeting, Friday, October 10, 2008. Linda will bring us up to date on the changes in federal health care coverage for the year 2009, with particular reference to Blue Cross/Blue Shield provisions.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - With Congress in Summer recess from August 1st - September 7<sup>th</sup>, there is no current action warranting reportage. Co-sponsors for NARFE priority legislation stand as follows: **H.R. #82**, Repeal Government Pensions Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provisions (WEP), **357**. The companion Senate bill, **S.#206**, has **36**. Co-sponsors for **H.R. #1110**, the Premium Conversion bill, are **336**. The Senate Premium Conversion bill, **S.#773** has **61** co-sponsors. These bills are not likely to pass during the remaining days of this session, but are sure to be introduced again in the next Congress.

*Note: TN NARFE Fed. is <[www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)>*

*One Sunday, Johnny came home with an ice cream cone. "Where did you get that, his mother asked. "I bought it with the \$5 you gave me." he replied. "That money was for Sunday School." "I know, but the minister met me at the door and got me in for free."*