



# Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (February 2008)

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

**Officers:** Bruce Thomas, President 781-6083; Nancy Wells, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-Membership 377-9011; Helen Tyson 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-Service 269-0614; Chris Wasson, Sunshine Chairperson 227-3064; Carey Frazier, Secretary (Temporary) 373-4817; Pat Hagerty –Treasurer 794-0474; 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.**

**January Meeting:** Meeting was called to order by President – Bruce Thomas at 1PM. New members and guests were welcomed. A memorial was give for Edna Smith by Ralph York. The invocation was given by Marie Anglin, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Val Brooks. There were 28 members and 3 visitors, HC & June Green and Pia York in attendance

The Jackpot drawing of \$27 was won by Val Brooks (\$13 to Val and \$14 to the chapter treasury), Val donated the \$13 to the flower fund. The \$3 was won by Judy Bivens and the \$2 by Pia York, both donated to the Alzheimer fund. The free lunch voucher from Piccadilly was won by Nancy Wells.

**January Program:** Our program on CO<sup>2</sup> and Global warming and the impacts on you, was presented by Joe Jackson CFP. This was a shortened of the Al Gore program on “*An Inconvenient Truth*”

**February Program:** On Monday February 11th Our program will be by Bill Campbell on “*Peak Oil*”. Bill has researched the issue and will present facts as well as interesting info on where we are headed with regard to the use of oil. 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.

The **TN Federation Convention Steering Committee** meeting will be held immediately after the regular meeting closes.

## **Retention Committee need input:**

The NARFE National Convention will be held in Louisville, KY, Sept 7-12. Larry Cunningham the Tennessee Federation 3rd Vice President (East TN) is our contact on this committee. Larry is requesting your input on how we can improve retention of membership in NARFE. Larry can be contacted by e-mail at [larrycunningham@narfetn.org](mailto:larrycunningham@narfetn.org) or by phone at 865-933-0229 or at Larry Cunningham 10117 Arnold Lane. Mascot TN 37806-1525

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balance as of 1/4/2008 in Checking is \$489.25, Credit Union account is \$906.00, for a Total of \$1,395.25. ~~ Submitted by Pat Hagerty

## **Status of Current Legislation:** for January 08

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

**H.R.82** now has 337 cosponsors (77.5% of the House) up three from last month. *Tennessee non cosponsors are Jim Cooper and John Tanner.*

**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 17 cosponsors, the same as last month (*none of the Representatives from Tennessee are cosponsors*).

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

### **2. Premium Conversion**

**H.R.1110** now has 300 cosponsors (69% of the House), up 10 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 58 cosponsors, up one from last month (*none of the Senators from Tennessee are cosponsors*).

~~Submitted by Glenn Turner

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IMPORTANT DATED MATERIAL  
DELIVER BY **February 7, 2008**

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### **TN Federation Convention:**

#### **Make your lodging reservations by March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

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.

#### **Tax Rebate in 2008**

Most federal annuitants would receive a tax rebate under the economic stimulus package (H.R. 5140) passed, 385-35, by the House of Representatives on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Retirees with no earned income, but with TAXABLE income -- which COULD include distributions from social security, pensions, annuities, traditional IRAs and other retirement income -- would still qualify for rebate checks of up to the full \$600 per person or \$1,200 per couple allowed for those without dependent children. Wages, but not Social Security benefits and pensions, are included in the tax code's definition of "earned income." Those rebates would begin to phase out at \$75,000 and \$150,000 adjusted gross income (AGI) for single and joint filers, respectively -- with the rebate effectively eliminated at \$87,000 and \$186,000 AGI for single and joint filers, respectively. (Roll Call vote 25 can be found at <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2008/roll025.xml>) Retirees who pay little or no federal taxes would not receive a rebate under the House-passed stimulus package. However, the version reported from the Senate Finance Committee on January 30 would benefit low income retirees excluded from the House version. Senate floor consideration will continue during the week of February 4<sup>th</sup>. (More info from the Finance Committee is available at <http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/legislation.htm>.)

### **COLA - CPI-W Down 0.1 in December**

On January 16, 2008 the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi)) reported a **0.1 percent drop** in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) during December 2007. The index for the final month of 2007 is 205.7, slightly less than the November index of 205.8, and 1.0 percent higher than the year's third quarter average index of 203.6, used as the base for computing the next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

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. The December 2007 index of 205.7 is 4.3 percent higher than the December 2006 index of 197.2. Therefore, FECA beneficiaries will see a **4.3 percent COLA** in their April benefit payment.

**Membership:** In December we have 1 member transferred out, 7 members sent 2<sup>nd</sup> notice and 3 dropped for non renewal and 1 member reinstated. 2 members on the 2 year special and 1 member passed away.

*All new members with E-mail addresses have been added to the distribution list of the Chapter Newsletters.*

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