



# Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (January 2009)

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association

**Officers:** Nancy Wells, President 377-9011; Tom Duncan, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-Membership 373-1665; Vernia Stewart 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-Service 794-4161; Mary Lee Fielder, Sunshine Chairperson 889-5689; Jack Chidester, Secretary 662-0106; 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.*

**December Program:** Our Christmas Luncheon was a success. We had ?? present and the new Officers for 2009 were installed. They are:

President	Nancy Wells
Vice President	Tom Duncan
2nd Vice President	Vernia Stewart
Sunshine Person	Mary Lee Fielder
Treasurer	Pat Hagerty
Secretary	Jack Chidester
Newsletter	John Wells
Program Chair	Barry Wyatt
Legislative Chair	Glenn Turner

**January Program:** On Monday January 12<sup>th</sup> we will meet at **Park Manor** for a full lunch (Meat & 3, drink & dessert including tax & tip for only \$10.00) at noon. Plan to be there at the **Park Manor, 115 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville, TN 37205**. Lunch at 12:00 PM with Chapter Meeting to follow at 1:00 PM. Our Program will be **John Wilson** and **Jim Landers** of **Regions Bank**. They will talk on Banking, the Economy and the investment outlook. John has 20 years banking and investment experience and Jim is the financial adviser for Regions

**Directions:** From the West or North get on 440 (Knoxville) and turn right off on Exit 1A and Bear right onto US-70S go 1.6 miles and turn left onto SR-155 (Woodmont Blvd.) then turn right to 115 Woodmont at Park Manor.

**Directions:** From South and East get on 440 (Memphis) and turn right off on Exit 1 and take ramp (left) onto US-70S go 1.6 miles and turn left onto SR-155 (Woodmont Blvd.) then turn right to 115 Woodmont at Park Manor.

**Status of Current Legislation:** for December 8<sup>th</sup> - No change in Legislation this past month. There has been no change in co-sponsorship in any of our legislation during the past month. Also Congress mainly doing housekeeping chores and is about to recess, and we will have to start all over again with the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress after they are sworn and seated in January 2009. In the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress we can expect to have to defend our earned benefits since Congress will be looking to cut Entitlements which include our benefits. Margaret Baptiste (*NARFE President*) said. "NARFE, along with federal employees, retirees, and survivors, will be watching the next president and upcoming Congress closely to ensure they honor promises made to those who have, and continue, to serve our country."

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

**H.R. 82 - [Repeal the Government Pension Offset & Windfall Elimination Provision](#)** 341 (129 R, 212 D)

**S. 206 - [Repeal the Government Pension Offset & Windfall Elimination Provision](#)** 38 (7 R, 1 I, 30 D)

## **2. Premium Conversion**

**H.R. 1110 - [Premium Conversion Legislation - House](#)** 341(140 R, 201 D)

**S. 773 - [Premium Conversion, NARFE Supported Senate Bill](#)** 60 (28 R, 2I, 30 D)

~~ Submitted by Glenn Turner – Legislative Chair

---

---

## **Sunshine Report**

**Stella Dixon** is gravely ill in a McMinnville nursing home. Stella's family reads cards to her and thinks they would be appreciated, NHC Rm 120 , 928 Old Smithville Hwy., McMinnville, Tn.37110.

**Anne Brzezinski**, who lives at Park Manor was in the hospital for about two weeks in early December. She is now in a nursing/rehab facility, to regain her strength, at West Meade Place, Room 2004, 1000 St Luke Drive, Nashville 37205. They expect she will be able to return to Park Manor at some point in the future.

**Pat M. Hagerty**  
**National Active and Retired Federal Employees**  
Treasurer  
102 Poteat Place  
Franklin, TN 37064

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage Paid  
Nashville, TN  
**Permit No. 844**

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

---

### Next Year's COLA Highest Since 1982

This year's **5.8 percent COLA** will result in Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees and survivors receiving a 5.8 percent adjustment to their annuities. Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees over the age of 62, as well as FERS disabled retirees, FERS special category employees and FERS survivors, will receive a **4.8 percent COLA** reflected in their FERS defined benefit annuity and a 5.8 percent adjustment to their Social Security benefit.

---

---

### NARFE Salutes Revision of Blue Cross/Blue Shield Non-Network Surgical Benefit and Decision to Allow Enrollment Changes Through January

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste said today that she was pleased the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has reached an agreement with Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) on revised 2009 benefits for non-emergency surgical procedures provided by out-of-network physicians and that the agency will allow "belated" Open Season enrollments/changes that stem from this policy change through January 2009.

To ensure FEHBP participants have enough time to review and compare benefits OPM is allowing belated open season enrollment changes through the end of January. Please note: while enrollees can make a late open season change in health insurance coverage, **the effective date of open season changes is January 1, 2009 for retirees and the first pay period beginning on or after January 1 for active employees which is January 4 in most cases.**

### November Decline Another Record

On December 16th, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) or 202/691-6994) reported November's CPI-W is 207.296, a decrease of 2.3 percent from October's 212.182. November's index is **3.8 percent lower** than the 2008 third quarter average base index of 215.5. **Lest anyone fear a possible decrease in their annuity as the result of a negative COLA, members should know that the law does not provide a reduction in benefits in the event of deflation over the fiscal year measuring period ending in September 2009.**

For Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA) beneficiaries, who left federal employment due to on-the-job injuries or illnesses and whose COLAs are based on the calendar year change in the CPI-W, November's 207.296 is **0.8 percent higher** than the December 2007 base of 205.7. December consumer price indices, the final data point for FECA benefits, will be released (and reported on this Hotline) Friday, January 16, 2009.

**Membership:** As of December 5<sup>th</sup> we have 402 chapter members. As of December 5<sup>th</sup>, **3** new members (Wilma Jean McGowan, Richard McGowan & Tommy L. Pruitt), 2 reinstatement, 8 members sent 2<sup>nd</sup> notice and 2 members dropped for non-renewal.

**New Membership Incentive Program:** 1 New One Year Special Members.

---

---

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