



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

October 9, 2009

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**NEXT MEETING - FRIDAY, OCT. 9, 2009** at Wally's Restaurant, Ringgold Road at I-75. East Ridge. This will be a luncheon meeting starting at 12 noon. All members, prospective members and visitors are invited. Order from the menu or enjoy the buffet. (Eat at 11:30)

**PROGRAM** - An effort will be made to secure a guest speaker from Blue Cross-Blue Shield. If unavailable please read the Open Season Report 2009 Preview on Pages 36 to 42 of the October NARFE Magazine.

**COLA**- On Sept. 16, the Labor Dept. reported the consumer price index for August was 2.2 percent lower. With only one month remaining, three beneficiary groups, social security, military and federal civilians, should plan to receive No COLA for 2010 only a year after the highest COLA in more than a quarter century. The September consumer price index will be released on Thursday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**MEDICARE PREMIUM FAIRNESS ACT** - On Sept 24 the House passed a Bill to Protect Federal Retirees from the 2010 Medicare Premium increase of \$7.80. The Bill would protect all Medicare beneficiaries including federal civil service annuitants who are not eligible to receive Social Security. While House passage is a clear victory for NARFE, the bill must still be approved by the Senate and signed into law by the president.

**SUPPORT ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH**  
Since partnering with the Alzheimer's Association, headquartered in Chicago, NARFE members have donated more than \$8 million for Alzheimer's research. Members' participation in fundraising is purely voluntary. November has been set aside for ALZHEIMER'S MONTH. The monthly magazine has an application to forward donation direct to Chicago and indicate your chapter number which is 108

**NARFE DUES** - Our Secretary, Mrs Hubbard has received the ballot for the NARFE DUES report. Chapter 108 has 5 votes covering 240 members. We need to know how the members feel about the increase of \$1.00 per year. Currently national and chapter dues are \$39.00 for most members. If the dues increase is passed the total dues will be \$40.00 with each chapter receiving \$9.00 for their treasury. Our Region X Vice President has stated the current dues structure is outdated and confusing. It hinders membership recruitment and retention. With over twenty-five dues categories available, it can be a logistical nightmare for chapter treasurers to comprehend and manage. We can operate the chapter on \$9.00 per member per year which will be only one dollar decrease. You can vote YES or NO on the Dues Referendum by contacting me at the heading of this letter or by contacting Mrs. Eleanor Hubbard at 423-886-2999. Your cooperation will be appreciated. We need to resolve this matter ASAP.

**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').**