



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

July 6, 2007

Elmer Gillespie, President - 894-1606

Donald V. Geoffrion, Editor - 886-0439

NEXT MEETING - Friday, July 13, 2007, 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 - We will welcome **Ms. Dawn Weber**, Executive Director, Alexian Brothers Senior Neighbors, As our guest speaker. Ms. Weber will give us an overview of the many services Alexian provides for seniors in the Chattanooga area. This promises to be a most interesting presentation. Please make every effort to attend this meeting.

COLA - On June 15th, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for May rose 0.8 percent from the April index. For purpose of calculating the next Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), the index has increased **2.3** percent. The CPI for the month of June will be released on Wednesday, July 18, 2007.

SILVER CIRCLE INTRODUCTION - An article by NARFE Vice President **Bill R. Austin** on page 27 of the July *NARFE* magazine announces the new *Silver Circle* program which encourages members to further support and enhance NARFE's services by making voluntary donations of \$25 or more to NARFE's general fund. This worthy effort deserves our full consideration.

NEW MEMBERS - We welcome the following new members transferred from other chapters:

- **Mr. Andries DeBoer**, 100 James Blvd., Apt. CV-309, Signal Mountain, TN 37377, transferred from Ch. #970.
- **Mr. Robert L. Lewis**, P.O. Box #25243, Chattanooga TN 37422-5243, transferred from Ch. #035.

ADDRESS CHANGE -

- **Mrs. Wally (Margaret) Allison** to 7540 Magnolia Leaf Lane, Chattanooga, TN 37421, tel: (423) 892-3020.

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IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Mary H. Smedley May 30, 2007
(former Postmaster, Apison, TN.)

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MEMBERSHIP - The May 31st Activity Report from NARFE Hqs. listed three members as having been dropped for non-payment of dues. Letters were mailed from the Chapter to them and two have already renewed. It pays sometimes to make a personal contact. Please keep your dues current. The easiest way to do this is by *dues withholding*. An application for this appears on page 41 of the July *NARFE* magazine.

NARFE PAMPHLET #F-100 - This is a guide to assist in preparing for life's events. Copies are available from Membership Services, Hq., NARFE, at 606 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314-1914, tel: (703) 838-7760, or memsrvcs@narfe.org. A few copies will be available at our July chapter meeting. This is an important publication and every member should have one completed and on file with his or her personal records.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - Section 845 of Public Law 109-280 provides that, as of Jan. 1, 2007, retired **public safety officers** are eligible to exclude up to \$3,000 from their share of premiums paid for qualified health insurance programs. On March 12, 2007, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued a "Benefits Administration Letter" stating that this provision would not apply to retired federal public safety officers who are subject to provisions of CSRS or FERS. However, on June 20, 2007, OPM announced a reversal of its March 12, 2007 ruling. Forthcoming issues of *NARFE* magazine will provide more details on this tax benefit for retired federal public safety officers, defined as *law enforcement officers, firefighters, chaplains, or members of a rescue squad or ambulance crew*, some of whom may well be members of chapter #108.