



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

October 5, 2007

Elmer Gillespie, President - 894-1606

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NEXT MEETING - Friday, October 12, 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.)

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IN MEMORIAM

Betty L. Cooke

Feb. 9, 2007

Nelda J. Duncan Miller

date not known

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PROGRAM - We are fortunate to again have **Ms. Linda Holbrook** of Blue Cross/Blue Shield as our guest speaker. Linda will tell us of the changes in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) for the coming year, as well as specifics of Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans.

CHAPTER OFFICERS - It is time to elect chapter officer for the coming year. All positions are open and available; President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Please consider serving your chapter. The Secretary position has been vacant for some time since **Eleanor Hubbard** found it necessary to resign for health reasons earlier this year. We urgently need a volunteer for this important position

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM - We did not have a scheduled speaker for our September meeting. However, **Mr. Kenneth U. Jordan**, a member of our chapter, was present and gave an interesting talk regarding his many positions with the federal government. He resides in South Pittsburgh and is the father of **Ken Jordan** who is currently a candidate for the 10th District of the Tennessee State Senate.

FEHBP OPEN SEASON - Pages 40 thru 44 of the October issue of *NARFE* magazine give a preview of the 2008 changes in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). This information will supplement that provided by **Linda Holbrook**, our guest speaker this month. Remember that the open season for making any changes in your own FEHBP coverage is November 12th through December 10th, 2007.

COLA - With one month to go in the counting period for the 2008 federal retiree cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the count stands at **2.2** percent. This follows a drop of 0.2 percentage points in the August cost-of-living index used to set COLAs. September consumer price indices, to be released on Wednesday, October 17th, will determine the final figure for the 2008 COLA for both civil service retirement and Social Security programs.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - With none of the 12 appropriation bills enacted and nine facing veto threats, the House and Senate passed House Joint Resolution **#52**, to fund government programs through November 16th at fiscal 2007 levels. **President Bush** signed this continuing resolution on Saturday, September 29th. This measure also keeps funds flowing to areas that fall outside the appropriations process, such as the nation's air traffic controllers, the embattled state children's health insurance program (SCHIP) and manufacturing workers affected by international trade. Funding for those programs would have expired at the end of September as well. - - Latest co-sponsor count on the Senate Premium Conversion Bill, **S.#773**, stands at 52. However, Tennessee's Senators **Lamar Alexander** and **Bob Corker** have not yet shown support for this bill.

MEMBERSHIP - It is reported that about 70 percent of all new NARFE members over the past several years have been recruited by NARFE's National Headquarters. Every individual member should be involved in recruiting new members. Surely most of us know someone now or formerly employed by the federal government who has not yet taken advantage of the opportunity of NARFE membership. Go get 'em!

Note: More information is available at the Hq. NARFE Website, www.narfe.org and that of the Tennessee Federation, www.narfetn.org. Copies of this newsletter and others may be found at the Tennessee Federation website (see "Library").