



# Nashville Chapter 227, Newsletter (December 2007)

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; Edna Smith, Secretary –Treasurer 298-4757; 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:** This will be our annual **Christmas Luncheon**. **DATE: Monday-December 10<sup>th</sup>; TIME: 11:15 AM.; PLACE: Latitude Restaurant** - second floor in the Marriott Hotel at corner of Natchez Trace and West End Avenues. The total price is \$15 which includes a choice of three entrees, salad bar, drink, and desert bar. The chapter will pay the first \$5 so each member attending will only pay \$10 which includes tax and gratuity. **Free** valet parking. **If you call Val Brooks at 383-0533 to let him know your attending he will treat you to a glass of wine.**

**November Meeting:** Meeting was called to order by President – Bruce Thomas at 1PM. New members (Doug Radley and Bill Hardwick.) and guests were welcomed. The invocation was given by Marie Anglin, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Val Brooks. There were 28 members in attendance.

The Jackpot drawing of \$21 was won by Don Bivens (\$10 to Don and \$10 to the chapter treasury). The \$3 was won by Helen Tyson and the \$2 by Pauline Thomas. The complimentary lunch voucher from Piccadilly was won by Francis Kelley.

**November Program:** The guest speaker was Elyse Ashton. She talked upon the importance of volunteering for the AARP program of helping people sixty years of age- and older in the preparation of tax returns. If you decide to volunteer- training will be provided. You can work as little or as much as you like. She handed out cards to all in attendance for them to fill out and mail in to AARP address. They will assign you to an area close to your residence. You are paid for your travel to training and to sites where you work.

**Treasurer Report:** Current balance in Checking is about \$1,800, Credit Union account is \$903, for a Total of \$2,703. *This is an estimate, since Edna Smith is ill and has asked to be relieved,* our new Treasurer (Pat Hagerty) will finalize these amounts at our next chapter business meeting. **Keep Edna in your prayers!**

**Status of Current Legislation:** *for Nov 12*

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

**H.R.82** now has 334 (76.8% of the House) up five from last month. *Tennessee non cosponsors are Jimmy Duncan, Jim Cooper and John Tanner.* We have 435 representatives in Congress, so with 334 cosponsors we have 76.8% as cosponsors

**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, up one from from last month (*none of the Representatives from Tennessee are cosponsors*).

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

## **2. Premium Conversion**

**H.R.1110** now has 293 cosponsors, up 22 from last month, *Tennessee's only 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 57 cosponsors, same as last month (*none of the Senators from Tennessee are cosponsors*).

*See page two for more Chapter News*

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**IMPORTANT DATED MATERIAL**  
**DELIVER BY December 5, 2007**

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**Judy Park (Director of Legislation)** addressed the NARFE Executive Broad (NEB). She stated that Laura Scott is the new Legislative Aide at Headquarters. Judy spoke about Premium Conversion. The cost of PC is approximately \$12 Billion and since it only benefits federal retirees, it will be difficult to get this bill out of Committee. She also mentioned that WEP/GPO would affect about 1.3 million persons and the cost is estimated at around \$83 Billion. She was not very optimistic that either one of these bills will come out of committee, and if they do, (with the Pay As You Go Congress) she is not optimistic that they will pass. Judy spoke on other issues (ex.- Allowing Accumulated Sick Leave be Credited toward FERS Retirement). She and her staff will keep the members informed by their weekly GEMS messages and by articles in the NARFE magazine.

Judy Park has submitted her resignation effective May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Note: Judy has been working for NARFE in the Legislative Department for over 40 years. The NEB voted to replace Judy Park (on May 30th) with Dan Adcock. Dan has been working for NARFE in the Legislative Department for over 14 years.

**OPM Offers Mixed News on 2008 FEHBP Premiums**

While the average 2008 Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premium increase announced by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in September is 2.1 percent, the share paid by employees and retirees in the program's most popular plan, Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) standard option, will jump by 8.5 percent, and the plan's enrollees not in Medicare will pay higher deductibles and coinsurance payments.

**COLA – Increase of 2.3 percent in Jan. 2008**

The next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for millions of retired and disabled Americans will be **2.3 percent**. Social Security beneficiaries, as well as most civilian and military retirees will be among those receiving the adjustment in their January 2008 checks. Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuitants age 62 and over, as well as FERS survivors and disability retirees will receive a full Social Security COLA, but the adjustment in their FERS annuity will be **2.0 percent**. This is due to the fact that the FERS COLA formula differs from that use for CSRS retirees whose federal service did not earn them Social Security coverage.

**Membership:** In September we have 1 new member, 1 (2 Year Special) - New Members, 6 sent 2<sup>nd</sup> notice and 9 dropped for non renewal and 2 member passed away (*James T. Clark and William E. Hancock*). *All new members with E-mail addresses have been added to the distribution list of this Newsletters.*

**TN Federation Convention:** 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.

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