



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

April 4, 2008

Elmer Gillespie, President - 894-1606

Donald V. Geoffrion, Editor - 886-0439

NEXT MEETING - Friday, April 11, 2008, 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 - **Mr. Austin Jett**, Recycling Coordinator for the Orange Grove Center, Inc. will be our guest speaker. Please make a special effort to attend.

URGENT NEED FOR TREASURER - **Ms. Rubye Nabors**, our Chapter Treasurer, is in assisted living at Morning Pointe in Ooltewah and is unable to continue to handle the Treasurer's job. It involves writing a couple of checks each month. Will someone please volunteer to take over this function by calling **Elmer Gillespie** at 894-1606?

COLA - The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical workers (CPI-W) increased 0.3 percent in February. This brings the projected amount for the next annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for federal retirees and Social Security recipients to **1.8** percent. The next CPI-W release will be April 16, 2008.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS -

- **Mr. Jack L. Boran**, 902 McHann Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37412-2036, Tel: (423) 629-4411.
- **Mr. William H. Caldwell**, 6020 Porter Drive, Harrison, TN 37341-9541, Tel: (423) 344-5674.
- **Mr. James L. Crawley**, 5911 Browntown Road, Chattanooga, TN 37415-1223, Tel. (423) 877-8920.

ADDRESS CHANGES -

Change address for **Mr. Robert A. Bailey** to 1601 Trailer Lane, Lot 169, Birmingham, AL 35210-2643.
Change address for **Ms. Rubye Nabors** to Morning Pointe Assisted Living, Room #508, 9650 Leyland Drive, Ooltewah, TN 37363-4902

FURTHER ADDRESS CHANGES - Those of our members who reside at the life-care facility Alexian Village on Signal Mountain, all have newly changed mailing addresses. They are:

- **Mr. Clinton N. Blumer**, 346 Alexian Way, Apt. #8, Signal Mountain, TN 37377-1969.
- **Mr. Andreas DeBoer**, 488 Alexian Way, Apt. #309, Signal Mountain, TN 37377-1982.
- **Mr. & Mrs. Donald V. Geoffrion**, 533 Alexian Way, Apt. #124, Signal Mountain, TN 37377-2095.
- **Mr. James T. Igou**, 331 Alexian Way, Apt. #206, Signal Mountain, TN 37377-2162.
- **Mr. Rob Robertson**, 579 Alexian Way, Apt. #408, Signal Mountain TN, 37377-1996.
- **Mrs. Wilma M. Robertson**, 297 Alexian Way, Apt. #303, Signal Mountain, TN 37377-1991.
- **Ms. Blanche T. Witek**, 596 Alexian Way, Apt. #4, Signal Mountain, TN 37377-1989.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES -The Office of Personnel Management's (OPM's) "2008 Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) Carrier Letter" (or "Call Letter") would encourage creation of separate health plans for Medicare-eligible federal annuitants and expand controversial Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). NARFE has expressed concern over these proposals. The fear is that creating special plans for annuitants with Medicare coverage could lead to encouraging federal retirees to join costly "Medicare Advantage" and Medicare "Part D" plans which offer no improved benefits beyond those already provided by traditional Medicare/FEHBP coverage. As for promoting availability of HSAs, such plans already in place have attracted only a minute fraction of federal workers and retirees. NARFE has opposed HSAs because they are likely to increase premiums for comprehensive plans as relatively healthy enrollees with higher incomes are siphoned off into HSAs, thus shrinking the risk pool for FEHBP coverage. *Note: The foregoing is not a call for membership action at this time.*

SPECIAL NOTE - We need delegates from Chapter 108 to attend the 52nd State Federation Convention at Montgomery Bell State Park, April 28/29, 2008. If you need a registration form, please contact **Elmer Gillespie** at 894-1606.