



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

February 1, 2008

Elmer Gillespie, President - 894-1606

Donald V. Geoffrion, Editor - 886-0439

NEXT MEETING - Friday, February 8, 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 - At press time, efforts are being made to arrange for a guest speaker. Should these efforts fail, we will discuss chapter activities and goals. Suggestions for future programs are sought from chapter members. Calls on this subject will be welcomed by chapter president **Elmer Gillespie** (894-1606).

JANUARY PROGRAM - There were twenty-six attendees at our January meeting, which was dedicated to the memory of our deceased members. **Rev. Ray Walker** conducted the memorial service. Let us hope this was a sign that more members will attend our chapter meetings. A welcome guest was **Mr. Larry Cunningham**, a retired postmaster, who serves as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of the Tennessee Federation of NARFE chapters,

COLA - The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) dipped 0.1 percent in December 2007. For purposes of calculating the next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), the index now stands at 1.0 percent higher than the 2007 third quarter base index of 203.6. The January report will be released by the labor Department on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP - **Mrs. Marie Caines** received the balance of **Mr. Jimmy Caines'** membership due to this death on Dec. 6, 2007. Hopefully, she will continue as a member of NARFE.

OTHER NEW MEMBERS -

- **Ms. Sandra Ledford**, 185 Lang Road, Dunlap, TN 37327-4630.
- **Ms. Shirley J. May**, 10301 Hamby Road., Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3814.

**SPECIAL NOTE** - We need delegates from Chapter 108 to attend the 52<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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## IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Carmen C. Donohue                      date unknown

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MEMBERSHIP - Changes have been made in the current federal employee (CFE) incentive program. As of January 1, 2008, all new CFEs will join NARFE at the standard first-year national membership fee of \$33.00. Upon completion of the first year, CFEs will renew at the standard NARFE dues structure. Those CFEs who joined prior to January 1, 2008 will be grandfathered. As long as they remain CFEs, they will be able to renew at the old CFE rate. Once retired, however, they will renew at the standard NARFE dues rate.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP - Four members were dropped for non-payment of dues. Letters were sent to all four individuals, but no replies were received.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - On January 16, 2008, the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing to examine the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). These legislative actions, since their enactment in the 1980s, have denied federal retirees and other public servants their full Social Security benefits. Witnesses for postal and public employees told the panel of the onerous impacts of the GPO and WEP. NARFE member, Frances Rosenfield testified for the National Association of Retired Postmasters. She has her spousal survivor benefit, earned by her late husband, offset by her postal annuity. Teacher and school employee groups also testified.

There are over 400,000 Social Security beneficiaries affected by the GPO, of whom about 75 percent are women, some 42 percent are widowed and 85 percent have lost their entire spousal benefit. The WEP has adversely affected roughly 971,000 Social Security beneficiaries, 2/3<sup>ths</sup> of which are men.