



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

July 5, 2008

Elmer Gillespie, President - 894-1606

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NEXT MEETING - Friday, July 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 - At press time, arrangements for a guest speaker had not been firmed up. Efforts will continue. However, if they are unsuccessful, we will have a discussion of chapter goals and objectives.

CHAPTER SECRETARY - Our former Secretary, **Mrs. Eleanor H. Hubbard**, who had given up the job several months ago due to health problems, has now resumed these duties since her health has improved. Thanks, Eleanor. We appreciate your services very much.

COLA - At eight months into the accounting period for determining the next federal retiree and Social Security Cost-of-living Adjustment (COLA) the cumulative figure stands at **4.5** percent. At the same period last year, the figure was 2.3 percent. The data for June will be released by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE - On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the nation's largest one-day food drive set a new record, 73.1 million pounds of food donations. Collections were made by city and rural letter carriers and delivered to local food banks, pantries and shelters to help needy families in all 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions. Thanks to all who participated.

MEMBERSHIP - The May 31<sup>st</sup> printout from NARFE headquarters reported that three members were sent second renewal notices. Four members were dropped for non-renewal; however, one has since renewed his membership. Please keep your membership current. The easiest way is by dues withholding. An application for this purpose is in every *NARFE* magazine. The one in the July issue is on page 53.

## ADDRESS CHANGE -

-- Change address for **Mrs. Helen McCree** to 825 Runyan Drive, D-33, Summit View, Chattanooga, TN, 37405-1217.

NATIONAL CONVENTION - Three members from Chapter #108, **Elmer & Betty Gillespie** and **Jeanne Garrison**, will represent the chapter at the National NARFE Convention to be held at Louisville, KY, September 7-12, 2008. The chapter is allocated 6 votes, one for every 50 members or fraction thereof. The semi-annual roster from NARFE Hqs. dated April 14, 2008 shows we have 260 voting members.

NARFE MAGAZINE - Our monthly national magazine for active and retired federal employees contains a wealth of information, especially the seven pages of the July, 2008 issue in the "Questions and Answers" section. It is well worth your time and interest to read every one of the monthly issues.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES - On June 24<sup>th</sup>. The House passed NARFE-supported Medicare Bill **H.R. #6331** by a vote of 335-59. This proposed legislation would avert the July 1<sup>st</sup> scheduled 10.6 percent payment cut for physicians who treat Medicare beneficiaries. However, the Senate failed to act on this proposal before the one-week July 4<sup>th</sup> recess. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the administration announced a freeze on implementing the scheduled July 1 Medicare fee cut to give Congress time to enact this measure. The Dept. of Health & Human Services will hold doctors' Medicare claims submitted on and after July 1<sup>st</sup> at least until July 15<sup>th</sup>, thus not immediately implementing the 10.6 percent payment cut. Congress is expected to resume negotiations on this bill when sessions are resumed July 7<sup>th</sup> and then retroactively fix the doctor payments without the planned cut. Similar action took place when Congress missed an earlier deadline on a like plan to cut doctors' Medicare fees in 2006.

*They walk among us. - While working at a pizza parlor, a man was observed ordering a small pizza to go. He appeared to be alone and the cook asked him if he would like it cut in four pieces or six. He thought about it for some time before responding "Just cut it in four pieces. I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat six pieces."*