



National Active & Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)

Flint River Chapter #1435

Fayetteville, GA 30214

January 2012

At the October meeting, a motion was made and passed that starting on January 9th, 2012, our meetings will begin at 10:30 AM and last until 12:00 PM. We have confirmed with Heritage Bank that they will allow us the extra time. So mark your calendars, in January we will start 30 minutes earlier.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER BY RITA BARNET

Welcome to a New Year. We're looking forward to great thing this year and hope you will help us. The Presidential election is coming us so please keep up to date on what our Congress is doing as well as what the President and his cabinet are up to. Once laws are passed it's hard to reverse their effects. Watch what's happening on the NARFE web site and put in your two cents worth using the Legislative page.

DID YOU KNOW? If you desire to contact your Congressional representatives, please find their contact information below.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER by Shirley Nicklas

NARFE Welcomes New OPM Retirement Chief. NARFE's Dave Snell, director of Retirement Benefits Service Department, traveled the short distance from Headquarters to the Office of Personnel Management in downtown Washington, DC, to meet and extend a NARFE welcome to Kenneth J. Zawodny, Jr., the new OPM associate director in charge of Retirement Services. Zawodny explained that OPM is working very hard to clear up the backlog of retirement cases. "We work every day to honor their service as retirees or future retirees," he said. Snell pledged to continue to work closely with Zawodny and his staff – and he presented Zawodny with an application for NARFE membership.

F-100s Flying Out the Door. Copies of NARFE's comprehensive survivor's guide, "Be Prepared for Life's Events," are flying out the door. Every time the guide is mentioned in NARFE magazine, Headquarters is inundated by member requests for it. It was mentioned in the December issue of the magazine in the Q&A section. Popularly known by its form number, F-100, the multi-page guide has spaces for NARFE members to put vital financial and contact information that family will need to know if the member dies or becomes incapacitated. The F-100 is also available on the NARFE website in an "interactive" format, so that members can input the information and save the guide to their computer desktop.

Extending Pay Freeze for Federal Workers Is an Attack on America's Middle Class December 1, 2011
(Excerpt from NARFE Web Site)

WASHINGTON, DC – In response to a proposal by Senate Republicans that would extend the pay freeze for federal workers through 2015, Joseph A. Beaudoin, president of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, released the following statement:

"The payroll tax cut is designed to help America's middle-class families who are struggling in this tough economy. So it's incomprehensible why some senators, to offset the costs of the payroll tax cut, have proposed freezing pay once more for middle-class federal workers across the nation – 62 percent of who only earn between \$25,000 to \$75,000 a year.

"The current federal worker pay freeze, which went into effect last year, is expected to save the United States \$50 billion over two years. Our nation's federal workers are already doing their part to address a financial crisis they did not cause."

The Republican proposal also includes an irresponsible plan to cut up to one-in-10 federal jobs – jobs that ensure our food, water, airports, borders, nuclear power plants and highways are safe.

NOVEMBER CONSUMER PRICE NEWS December 16, 2011 (Excerpt from NARFE Web site)

Federal retirees will receive a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to their civil service annuities beginning in January 2012. Retirees in the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) will receive a 3.6 percent increase to

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their annuities, while retirees in the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) will receive a 2.6 percent increase to their annuities.

The new CPI-W figure for November 2011 was 222.813. The average CPI-W for the third-quarter of 2011 was 223.233. This is the new reference figure for determining the 2013 COLA.

To trigger a COLA for 2012, the average CPI-W for the months of July, August, and September of 2011 needed to rise above the 2008 average for those same months, the last measurement to trigger a COLA (for 2009). It did, by 3.6 percent. While CSRS retirees receive the full amount of the CPI-W increase as a COLA, current law reduces the FERS COLA by 1 percentage point for increases above 3 percent.

Because the CPI-W showed declining prices from 2008 to 2009, and while it showed prices increasing between 2009 and 2010, it did not show prices increasing back to 2008 levels, there has not been a COLA for the last two years. But finally, we had some good news for 2012!

Under current law, COLAs for federal retirement annuities, as well as for military retiree annuities and social security payments, are determined in reference to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which is calculated by economists and statisticians with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-W is the current index used for measuring increases in the prices of consumer goods throughout the economy. It includes prices on all consumer goods, including food and beverages, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, recreation, education and communication, and more.

NARFE continues to support strong COLAs based on fair assessments of increases in consumer prices to protect the value of federal annuities from inflation.

Determined by a different statutorily-set methodology, benefits awarded under the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) to individuals suffering work-related injuries or illnesses, are adjusted according to each calendar year's percentage change in the CPI-W (rather than as measured by the change from the highest previous third quarter average). The December 2010 CPI-W figure (215.262) was 1.7% higher than the December 2009 index (211.703). Because of this, FECA benefits increased by 1.7%, beginning March 1, 2011. Looking forward to a potential FECA COLA for March 2012, the November 2011 CPI-W figure (222.813) is 3.51 percent higher than the December 2010 figure (215.262).

December consumer price indices will be released Thursday, January 19, 2012.

	CPI-W	Monthly % Change	% Toward 2013 COLA
July 2011	222.686	0.07	-
Aug 2011	223.326	0.3	-
Sep 2011	223.688	0.2	-
Oct 2011	223.043	-0.29	-0.09
Nov 2011	222.813	-0.10	-0.19

2012

Meetings will begin at 10:30 AM starting in January 2012 to allow our speakers more time.

9 Jan - Joel J. Sworney, Sworney & Associates, Long Term Health Care

13 Feb - Thomas T. Williams Financial Advisor Mass Mutual Financial Group.

9 Apr - Fayette County Extension Office - Master

2-3 May – Georgia State Federation of Chapter's 56th Annual Conference at Merry Acres, Albany

6 Mar – Presidential Primary

14 May - Democratic Party of Fayette County (tentative)

11 Jun - The Weather Channel (tentative)

9 Jul - Fourth of July Tribute (tentative)

31 Jul – State Primary

13 Aug – Republican Party of Fayette County (tentative)

21 Aug – State Runoff Primary (if necessary)

10 Sep - pending

8 Oct - Nomination of Chapter Officers

12 Nov - Election of Chapter Officers

10 Dec - Chapter Christmas Party – Location to be Determined.

<p style="text-align: center;">2012 OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS</p>	<p>WEB SITES/TELEPHONE NUMBERS</p>
<p>President – Rita Barnet 770-927-0670 Vice President – Shirley Nicklas Secretary – Janice Hannah Treasurer – John Hunn Chaplain – Gwen Winslett Service Officer – Charles Hasty Sunshine – Pat Craig Alzheimer’s – Louise Faulkner Telephone – Lois Jones Hospitality – Ann Brown Newsletter – Rita Barnet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ National NARFE – www.narfe.org ◆ Georgia NARFE – www.ganarfe.com ◆ Senator Johnny Isakson, 770-661-0999 – http://isakson.senate.gov/ ◆ Senator Saxby Chambliss, 770-763-9090 – http://chambliss.senate.gov/public/index.cfm ◆ Congressman Lynn Westmoreland, 770-683-2033 - http://westmoreland.house.gov/ ◆ Alzheimer Association – http://www.alz.org/index.asp ◆ Vote Smart – http://votesmart.org/index.htm ◆ Federal Times - http://www.federaltimes.com ◆ OPM Retirement Information - www.opm.gov/retire ◆ COLA Information - www.narfe.org/departments/home/articles.cfm?ID=942

DISCLAIMER

National Active and Retired Federal Employees (Association) NARFE is a non-partisan organization whose primary purpose is to protect the earned benefits of active and retired federal employees. In pursuing this purpose, we discuss and present much information received from many sources so that our members are aware of items affecting their earned benefits. The material we present should not be interpreted to imply NARFE endorses any political party. We are a nonpartisan Organization