

# NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



Cleveland, Tennessee 37312

**CHAPTER 860**

**December 2008**

**Dean McAlister, President   Don Ledford, Vice-President   Danny Britt, Secretary and Treasurer**  
**Don Rollens, Service Officer   Maxine Eaves, Legislative   Ruth Hale, Sunshine**  
Visit [www.narfeclevelandtn.org](http://www.narfeclevelandtn.org)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Christmas Banquet is scheduled for December 11, 6:30 pm at the Holiday Inn. The motel is giving us a private room at no cost providing we have 30 people. We will be in the Bradley Room, a much larger room than the room we had three years ago. Also the buffet will be set up in our room. The menu will be baked ham, turkey breast with cornbread dressing and cranberry sauce, sweet potato casserole, whipped potatoes with gravy and broccoli with cheese sauce. There will be tossed salad, coleslaw and fruit bowl, assorted desserts, rolls and butter. Coffee, iced tea and water are included.

The total cost per person including tax and 18% gratuity is \$18.00. The motel requires that payment be made in lump sum. Please bring the correct change, cash only, and give to Dean McAlister. We cannot make payment with a credit card this time.

This is the time we emphasize our giving to the Alzheimer's Foundation, so bring your cash or checks and

contribute to this cause. In addition, bring canned foods for our contribution to the Food Bank.

Entertainment this year will consist of Christmas singing and Christmas storytelling by some of our members. If you have an interesting Christmas story from your earlier years come prepared to tell the group.

Please plan to attend and help us enjoy the evening. We will need an exact count. You will receive a call in a few days from your telephone caller. So be prepared to tell them **YOU PLAN TO ATTEND**. You may win one of the door prizes.

## NEXT MEETING

Christmas Banquet - See Above.

## FROM THE NARFE

### NATIONAL WEBSITE

...(NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste acknowledged today that while the overall average Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premium increase of 7.0 percent for 2009 was within the range

of increases in other large group health insurance, she was troubled that 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 13.3 percent and that enrollees will pay significantly higher copayments and coinsurance for brand-name prescription drugs in 2009.

However, NARFE was pleased that a hearing aid benefit will be added to FEHBP plans and that OPM decided that a separate and controversial Medicare "Sub-Option" is not currently acceptable.

For complete story, visit <http://www.narfe.org>

## **NEXT YEAR'S COLA HIGHEST SINCE 1982**

The retirement COLA becomes effective December 1 and is reflected in January 2009 annuity payments... This year's 5.8 percent COLA will result in Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees and survivors receiving a 5.8 percent adjustment to their annuities. Federal Employees Retirement Systems (FERS) retirees over the age of 62, as well as FERS disabled retirees, FERS special category employees and FERS survivors, will receive a 4.8 percent COLA reflected in their FERS defined benefit annuity and a 5.8 percent adjustment to their Social Security benefit. More information at <http://www.narfe.org>

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