



**NARFE APPLAUDS PASSAGE
OF PREMIUM CONVERSION
BILL IN COMMITTEE**

From the NARFE National Website dated 9/20/07
www.narfe.org

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association President Margaret L. Baptiste praised the House Committee on Oversight and Government and Reform, especially Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Ranking Member Tom Davis (R-VA), for favorably reporting legislation (H.R. 1110) today that would allow federal and military retirees and active duty personnel to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax earnings. "Federal and military retirees lose ground every year health insurance premiums skyrocket," NARFE President Margaret Baptiste said. "The premium conversion benefit helps federal workers pay for their health insurance and this tax relief would also enable federal annuitants living on fixed incomes to bear this burden." The tax code allows public and private employers to permit their workers to pay for health insurance with pre-tax wages excluded from both income and Social Security payroll taxes. The executive branch began offering premium conversion plans to their employees in October 2000 and Congress extended the tax benefit to legislative branch workers in January 2001. Federal annuitants are not eligible to participate. "Many federal employees don't even know they enjoy an average tax savings of about \$820 a year because Premium Conversion is an automatic benefit handled by their employing agency. In fact, they may not know they have it until it is gone when they retire," Baptiste added. "That's why federal workers who will want premium conversion in the future – when they'll need it the most – should be fighting for it now by helping us support this important legislation." "We are grateful to

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**N ational
A ctive
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**CHAPTER 860
Cleveland, TN 37312
Fall 2007**

REMEMBER! Next Chapter Meeting

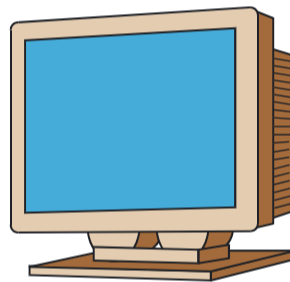
WHAT? Covered Dish Dinner
w/meeting afterwards

WHEN? October 11, 2007 - Thurs @
6:30 PM

WHERE? St Therese Catholic Church

SPEAKER: Brooke Upton, a Senior at Lee University, who is an organ donor recipient. She will speak about the importance of being an organ donor.

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Basic informaton about the Cleveland Chapter of NARFE can be viewed online at www.narfeclevelandn.org. Access to

our newsletter will be posted there also.

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR
PRESIDENT DANNY BRITT**

During this month's meeting Don Rollens will present the slate of officers for the next two years. We will vote on the officers at this month's meeting, so it is very important to attend. Installation of the new officers will take place in December.

**HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN
SEASON NEWS**

Open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and the Federal Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) will be 11/12/07 thru 12/10/07. The October issue of the NARFE magazine holds some information on this subject, as will the next issue of the magazine.

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Congressman Tom Davis for championing this important legislation,” said Baptiste. “This is the only one of many steps in a lengthy journey,” she added, “but a very positive one nonetheless. And, because of the importance of this bill to retirees, NARFE is determined to keep pushing until we reach the finish line - enactment.” Because it amends the tax code, the legislation must also be passed by the House Committee on Ways and Means or included by the panel in a larger tax bill. The bill was introduced in February by Rep. Tom Davis and has been cosponsored by 264 of his colleagues. Identical legislation, S. 773, sponsored by Senators John Warner (R-VA) and Jim Webb (D-VA) is pending in the Senate with 49 cosponsors. The House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, chaired by Danny Davis (D-IL), approved H.R. 1110 on September 18. NARFE, one of America’s oldest and largest associations, was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned rights and benefits of America’s active and retired federal workers. The largest federal employee/retiree organization, NARFE represents the retirement interests of nearly 5 million current and future federal annuitants, spouses, and survivors.

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MESSAGE FROM EDITOR

I want to apologize for not getting the last two newsletters out. I had a summer job that kept me very tied up and I just couldn’t pull the newsletters together.

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NARFE - CHAPTER 860
Betsy Deacon, Editor
192 Doe Run NE
Charleston, TN 37310

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If you have any suggestions or ideas for our newsletter, please let me know. You can contact me, Betsy Deacon, at elizabethdeacon@yahoo.com or call me at 336-3879.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email instead of getting a hard copy thru the U.S. Post Office, let me know. This will save our chapter the cost of postage. Quite a few people have already signed up for email copies.

CHAPTER 860 OFFICERS

- President - Danny Britt*
- Vice-President - Dean McAlister*
- Secretary - Joan Burner*
- Treas/Programs - Helen Evans*
- Service Officer - Don Rollens*
- Legislative - Maxine Eaves*
- Sunshine - Ruth Hale*
- Membership Chair - Jim Burner*

SPECIAL THANKS TO BANK OF CLEVELAND (WHERE WE HAVE OUR ACCOUNT) FOR PROVIDING PRINTING SUPPORT