



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Official Quarterly Newsletter of the
Houston Association of Chapters

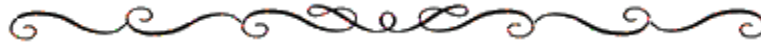
April 2008

<http://www.narfehouston.org>



President: Dave Bloomer VP: Marlene Wright Secretary: Hazel Hicks Treasurer: Wilbur Doehring

Lampson Cosponsors Premium Conversion



Congressman Nick Lampson has advised Chapter 2030 President Dave Bloomer that he will cosponsor HR1110 the House bill to allow premium conversion for federal and military retirees. Currently federal employees and military members enjoy the benefit of paying medical premiums with pre-tax earnings, but retirees were not allowed this benefit based on the view that the current tax code would require amendment in order to make it clear that was permissible. If HR1110 is passed retirees would have the amount of the FEHBP medical premiums they pay be deducted from the taxable income shown on their annuity statement. This could be a sizable tax savings for many retired families. Chapter 2030 President Dave Bloomer informed members of his Chapter this was welcome news which came about as a result of Chapter 2030 Lobby Month 2007 actions. Chapter representatives met with Congressman Lampson in August 2007 with a primary goal of obtaining agreement to cosponsor HR 1110. There was continued follow-up on the issue, until finally it was agreed Congressman Lampson would be a co-sponsor of the bill in early March 2008. NARFE members throughout District 22 are encouraged to let Congressman Lampson's office know they appreciate his cosponsoring HR 1110 and that they want him to continue to support the bill and vote for it when considered by Congress. An email pre-formatted message is available on <http://www.narfe.org> or members can call 1-866-220-0044 and ask for Congressman Lampson's office. Congressman Lampson now co-sponsors both of the bills) which are NARFE's primary legislative goals for the current Congress (Repeal of WEP/GPO, and Premium Conversion).

OPM Proposals on FEHBP Raise Concern



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Margaret L. Baptiste said recently that her association has concerns about proposals in the Office of Personnel Management's "2008 Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) Carrier Letter" (also known as the "Call Letter") which would create separate health plans for Medicare-eligible federal annuitants and expand controversial Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). For a discussion of the current NARFE position on separate premiums under the FEHBP for those with or without Medicare see the Library page of the Texas Federation website at: <http://www.txnarfe.org>

NARFE Websites:

<http://www.narfe.org> <http://www.txnarfe.org> <http://www.narfehouston.org>

Agenda for April Meeting



The next Houston Association of Chapters meeting will be on Wednesday April 23rd at 10:30 AM at the Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston, Texas. Agenda items include:

Chapter Participation in Bid for Region VI Training Seminar
Houston Association of Chapters Newsletter
Resolution for recognition of Associations and Chapters

Children's Maximum age of FEHBP Eligibility



Representative Danny Davis, D-ILL has introduced HR 5550 in the U.S. House of Representatives which would change the age of maximum eligibility of children in insurance plans offered in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans. The current maximum age of eligibility is upon reaching age 22. If passed, under the provisions of this bill children would continue to be eligible for insurance coverage as a child of federal employees until age 25, thus generally avoiding the problem of losing medical coverage during the last years of college. Fort Bend Chapter 2030 Rosenberg Texas has a resolution pending consideration at the NARFE National Convention to be held in Louisville, Kentucky September 7 through 11th which urges NARFE to support legislation to raise the maximum age of children's eligibility to age 25. NARFE Chapters are urged to inform their delegates about the resolution and preferably to instruct their delegates to the National Convention to support passage of the resolution at the convention. Medical insurers have indicated such a change would not have a significant impact on premiums.

Duties of Representatives



Beyond attending the quarterly meeting of the Association, Representatives should routinely report to their Chapter President and Chapter members at Chapter meetings, and in Chapter newsletters what transpired at the Quarterly meeting and seek the participation of the members in any events or volunteer needs. Volunteers are scarce - take every opportunity to recruit new volunteers to help.

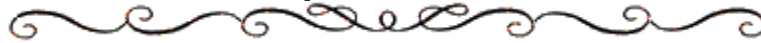
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Chapter News



Each Chapter President has been asked to have their Publicity Chair or Newsletter Editor contribute information on their Chapter two weeks before the beginning of each quarter. Each Chapter has also been advised to update their meeting and event information quarterly for the website. Was information submitted for your chapter?

Greater North Houston Chapter 828

On May 23rd Chapter 828 will hold a Memorial Program honoring deceased members. Members should note it was not possible to get a room for the usual 3rd Tuesday so the meeting is to be held on the fourth Friday of the month (May 23rd).

At their July 15th meeting Chapter 828 will celebrate the Chapter's Birthday and honor Past Presidents.

Montgomery County Chapter 1350

Chapter 1350's May 8th meeting will feature a program titled "Education and Awareness, the Best Defense Against Financial Exploitation" which will be given by an Investor Education Specialist from the Texas State Securities Board. NARFE members from the Houston area are welcome to attend.

Chapter 1350 will not meet in July or August.

Rosenberg Chapter 2030

Chapter 2030 will meet the 2nd Wednesday of April (April 9th). A special Newcomer Day is planned. If you are a Chapter 2030 member or prospective member of the chapter and have never attended a Chapter 2030 meeting please join us at our April meeting for a Special Newcomer Day!

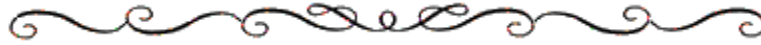
Chapter 2030 will meet the 2nd Wednesday of May (May 14th) Hazel Hicks will present a program on the Origins of Mother's Day.

Chapter 2030 will meet the 2nd Wednesday of June (June 11th) Dave Bloomer will present a program on Father's Day.

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Designation of Representatives & Alternates



Representatives, Alternates and Chapter Presidents are reminded that a letter designating the representatives of the Chapter should be submitted to Secretary Hazel Hicks at the beginning of each year. A new list of Representatives and Alternates cannot be assembled until the information is submitted. Each Chapter should designate two representatives, and at least two alternates. Alternates are to insure that a chapter will be able to exercise its vote should a representative be unable to attend a particular meeting. For example, Chapters are encouraged to appoint their Chapter President and Vice President as representatives and their Membership Chair and Legislative Chair as Alternates. Of course where appropriate others can be appointed. **Although only two representatives and or alternates can vote at meetings, ALL representatives and Alternates are encouraged to attend ALL meetings. This practice will help insure a Chapter is represented at all meetings and help keep more members informed of Association activities.**



**NARFE Houston Association of Chapters
C/O Dave Bloomer, President
1934 Mustang Springs Drive
Missouri City, Texas 77459**

To:

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