



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
PUTNAM COUNTY—COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE
Our 25th Year: 1983-2008**

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

April 2008

Last Meeting

At the March meeting we had 25 to turn out. The main topic was the NARFE-PAC. This is an issue that some do not get very enthused about, but in this day and time it is necessary that we give consideration to it. Those in attendance donated \$86 which will be turned over to the State NARFE-PAC Chairman and added in to what other chapters have sent in. Some who were unable to attend the last meeting have told me they wanted to contribute as well. They and anyone else can use the coupon in the March or April issue of the NARFE Magazine to send it in directly.

We had a surprise birthday cake for member Ray Wurm who was celebrating his 89th birthday on the day of our meeting. Thanks to all who came and helped make this a nice surprise. I wish that we could make mention of other member's birthdays but I don't have that information.

We had 2 prospective members to attend in March and one filled out and submitted his membership form at the meeting. Thank you and welcome to Mike Walsh. Hopefully the other prospective member will join too.

The door prizes were furnished by Clarence Richards and this month's winners were Kent Fletcher, Betty and Russ Robinson.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be April 15th at Shoneys Restaurant on Jefferson Ave. Be there by 6:00pm. to eat, the business meeting will begin at 6:45pm. We don't normally have a meeting in April due to the fact that the Tennessee Federation of Chapters Convention is usually the same week, but this year the convention is later in the month. Our program and speaker will be Marie Farran of the Tennessee Agency on Aging, she will speak on long term care and Medicare. I am sure this will be of interest to many of us. Be sure to come and remember you are welcomed to bring guests with you. If anyone would like to come and they need transportation, let your telephone caller know or call me. We will make arrangements to pick you up.

Membership News

I continue to stress the fact that we are seeking new members and that we need every current member to renew as the time comes. We do appreciate the members who have been with us for a number of years. I know that sometimes you may feel, 'what's the use of maintaining your NARFE membership'. Just remember that there are very many reasons to continue as members. The US Congress is not friendly towards federal employees or retirees. There are many bills that are put forth and considered each and every legislative session. Many of these have to do with healthcare, taxes, insurance, saving plans, etc. that directly impact us or our families. NARFE maintains watch over these bills and alerts us to what may happen. There is a new pamphlet available titled *What Has NARFE Done for You Lately?* Also read the latest threat in the OPM News section of this newsletter. OPM manages our retirement and insurance benefits. Our membership dues help fight our cause in Washington. The strength of our organization has and will continue to be in its numbers. Individually we can have little impact on what Congress does or doesn't do, but together they will listen. That is why we remind you to let your voice be heard. We would like all of you that are eligible to become a Dues Withholding member. But if you a annual renewing member, then do be sure to renew you membership when you get the notice to renew. It will mean a lot for you and us.

Don't forget to be on the look-out for potential new members and keep a membership form handy to give out to anyone you come across. Also you can

Chapter Officers

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Ellis McCowan
Secretary	Elizabeth Bryant
Treasurer	Jim Evans

Contact Information:

118 Ballenger Rd., Carthage TN 37030

E-mail: rwcollins@hydroguy.com

Home phone: 615-735-2486

Cell phone: 615-489-7796

From the Cookeville. area, phone: 931-284-4835

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

direct people to our website where they can print out a membership form and mail in. You can also contact our Membership Chairman, Chuck MacKenzie or myself and we will get a membership form to anyone needing it. Another way people can join is by calling toll free 800-627-3394 and use a credit card. Either way be sure to have them include your Member ID and Chapter 1956 so that we get credit for the new member.

In other membership news, several of our members have recently moved out of our area. Bill Barnes has moved to South Carolina, Charlie Bringman to Wisconsin, Peggy Ray to Adams TN and charter members Bob and Gerry Hagans have moved to Michigan. We will miss each of these at the meetings, but hopefully we can stay in contact via the Newsletters.

Alzheimer's News

This information is from our Alzheimer's Chairman, Reba Collins. The yard sale that is being planned as a fund raiser is set for Friday May 16th. Be sure to be saving up items to be donated for the yard sale. Any items of clothing, household, etc. would be acceptable. You can bring any items to her at the next chapter meeting as this will be the last meeting before the sale date. Other collections times will be on Wednesdays May 7th and the 14th. You are asked to drop off your items at the house where the sale will be held which is at 1435 E. 10th. Street in Cookeville. This house is next door to the C and S Communications business. Contact us if you need more directions. Our phone numbers are listed on the front of this newsletter. Bring your items between the hours of 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm. If that does not work for you, contact her and we will work out another time. Let's make this a successful sale and raise much for Alzheimer's. Cash donations can also be made at anytime either at the chapter meetings or by sending a check to our address;. NARFE Chapter 1956, 118 Ballenger Rd. Carthage TN, 37030. Be sure to indicate what it is for.

Sunshine Report

Last month I failed to make mention that a card was sent to Philip Violette. Also it was noted at the last meeting that Howard Hitchcock has also been ill. We have received no other reports this month.

OPM News

The Office of Personnel Management has sent its annual letter to the insurance companies that are part of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). OPM is again proposing that the in-

surance companies create a separate health plan for Medicare-eligible federal annuitants and expand the controversial Health Savings Accounts. We have concerns that this would open the door to separately rated retiree plans with higher premiums than other FEHBP plans. It has always been the case that federal employees and retirees were under the same health insurance plans. In addition, NARFE is disturbed that this would also lead to encouraging annuitants to join private Medicare options like Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Part D prescription drug programs and other changes which would result in higher premiums and reduced benefits for federal annuitants. NARFE President Margaret Baptiste has put out a press release about this. If you want a copy or did not get it through GEMS, let me know. Keep in mind that this is only a proposal, no actual changes have been made yet. Similar changes have been proposed in previous years which have been challenged and not made. I am sure our national office will stay on top of this and let us know of any developments.

Telephone Committee

I want to express my thanks to the members of the Telephone Committee in doing a great job in staying in contact with the rest of our members. I have received several good reports from you and you are to be commended for your work. Many of our members enjoy the monthly calls, and while they cannot always attend the meetings, it helps to know that we care about our members.

State Convention

This is a reminder that the State Federation Convention is this month on the 28th. and 29th. at Montgomery Bell State Park. This is open to all NARFE members. You can still register and attend and I would encourage anyone to do so. I would especially encourage our officers to attend as there will be Officers Training on the 28th. at 3:00 pm. This state park should be beautiful this time of year.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org
Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org
NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org

Lots of information is available on our the NARFE websites, information about chapter meetings, newsletters, legislative news, photos, current membership lists. You can update your mailing address, phone numbers, email addresses. Download and print forms and other files. Renew your membership, and more. Check it out, if you don't have access to a computer at home, a family member, friend or the local library can help you with this.

**NARFE Needs You and You
Need NARFE**