



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
CHAPTER 1956 COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE**

August 14, 2007

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Presidents Corner

Our next meeting is August 21st at Shoneys, 6:00 pm. Our speaker will be Dr Richard Kane pulmonologist who is also on the staff at the Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

Twenty two attended our last meeting. Pam Ealey, Executive Director of Putnam County Habitat for Humanity gave an interesting overview of their current activities. They are currently working on their 44th and 45th house and hope to build eight houses per year. Applicants for a Habitat home are chosen by a committee, must work or live in Putnam County, must demonstrate a need, must show some financial stability and must spend considerable hours working in the construction of their new home. Construction is accomplished through volunteer efforts guided by a few with construction knowledge.

The organization has a new home at 712 E 15th St. with more space for the Restore to grow. The Restore accepts donations of building supplies and home equipment furnishings for resale to help finance the building efforts. Sales are open to anyone and the store hours are Thursdays and Saturdays 9 to 2.

The urgent need is for affordable land, they now have enough to build eight houses. The second need is for volunteers to work in the store, help with office staff, construction crew leader and workers, and budget tutors for new home owners. Volunteers are also needed to work on committees that select new home owners, provide family support, review site selection, and work in other areas such as the Resale store, church relations special events, and the Home show. If you can spare a few hours, call Pam at 528-1711.

Matt Bauer, Federation Legislative District (5) Officer was present at the meeting and gave a short pitch on the NARFE legislative program.

The chapter voted to hold next years' picnic at Standing Stone Park. The area and facilities please most of the attending members.

I am in need of another telephone caller. The job entails making about nine to ten calls a month, which normally takes less than 45 minutes. Please call me if you can help.

On behalf of the Federation, I presented the Leo Potts Award to Crossville Chapter 1719. The award is given to the chapter with the most per capita giving to NARFE PAC.

Treasurer's Report: As of July 31 there was \$760.51 in the checking account.

Alzheimer's: We collected \$25 at the meeting. Previously this year we have collected \$131 which has been sent to the Federation Alzheimer's Chair.

Sunshine: A sympathy card was sent to Elise Huff on the death of her son.

TELEPHONE CALLERS

In making your telephone calls, please let Ronnie Collins and/or me know about incorrect telephone numbers. In calling dues delinquent members we are running into a wrong numbers, which should have been reported to us. The monthly telephone call is important to check on the health and welfare of our members as well as to remind them of the meeting.

Legislative:

Bart Gordon will not be making the rounds this Congressional recess. I have been to the Cookeville office and expressed our gratitude for his support of our legislative agenda. Senator Corker will be at the Baymont Inn (S. Jefferson) for a town meeting on Wed Aug 15 at 5:30 pm.. We need a good number of people to show up and ask for his support of S 206 GPO/WEP Repeal and S 773 Premium Conversion. The more that speak, the more he may listen. We also need to contact Alexander, either write or E-mail him asking for his support.

Membership:

Our prayers and sympathy go to the family of B H Fisher who recently passed away. I have been trying to telephone the family but get no response. Does any one know if there is a surviving spouse? We welcome Henry Laurent of Hilham Rd Cookeville as a new member; unfortunately we lost Stanley Young who did not renew his membership. Hopefully this is an oversight and he will renew at a later date.

Excerpts from FEDweek – OPM Testimony to Congress –Retirement

The Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, from which both CSRS and FERS benefits are paid, has approximately \$700 billion in assets. Last year, over \$57 billion was paid to retirees and survivors. CSRS benefits were paid to almost 1.6 million retirees and over 600,000 survivors. FERS benefits were being paid to about 230,000 retirees and 22,000 survivors. There are currently 650,000 employees still covered by CSRS and 2 million covered by FERS.

For those with internet capability, FEDweek is published every Wednesday and is available at fedweek.com I recommend it highly particularly for current employees.