



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

August 2008

Last Meeting

The July meeting was attended by 17 members and guests. This is much lower than normal but I know we had several regular attendees out for sickness. But we did have several who either was there for the very first time or first time in a long time. We welcomed David Hajdik who just recently joined. Long time members Dick Armstrong and Rural Peace were there with their spouses. It was good to meet these fine folks. Hopefully the regulars will be back for the next meeting as well as the new ones.

We had as our speaker, Carey Frazier who is the new President of the Tennessee Federation of NARFE Chapters. He was there to report on the decline in membership and to stress the need to actively try to get our many members who have been dropped due to non-renewal of dues to renew. As President Frazier explained this is becoming a serious problem that is affecting not only our chapter but all chapters nationwide. We are currently down approximately 10,000 members since the beginning of this year. Frazier outlined a particular method by which we should contact these lost members and encourage them to come back on board. We have already begun that process and hope to get good results. The coming year with the election of a new president and many new members of congress will bring many concerns for the federal employee and federal retiree and we need to remain strong to effectively work to maintain our benefits. For that reason we need to keep our member numbers up.



Next Meeting

Please mark on your calendar the next meeting which will be August 19th. As usual the location is Shoney's Restaurant on Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. We meet at 6:00 pm. for the meal and the business meeting will begin by 6:45 pm. Our speaker for August will be Lt. R C Christian, of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. He will be talking to us about driver safety which will be very interesting and helpful. Do plan on attending. Guest and family members are

welcome to attend, if you need a ride to the meeting, tell your telephone caller or call me and we will try to work out something.

Membership Report

The past month we had 5 chapter members and on 1 national only member to drop for failure to renew their dues. Those are; Brenda Anderson, Phillip Brown, Gewin Hawkins, Charles Parris, and William Prophet. Two of these; Hawkins and Prophet seem to have moved out of our area and have disconnected telephones, the others have been contacted and some have said that they will rejoin. We do want them to continue keeping us a strong voice for them.

Sunshine Report

We have many that are having health issues. First off, our Sunshine Chairman, Joan Oswalt recently had a knee replacement surgery and is currently recovering at home. Jim Evans is suffering the after affects of the antibiotics for the blood infection he had. Bill Masters was reported as having shingles, Ken Milligan was recently in the hospital with pace-maker problems, and Jim Walls is very sick with cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with these members and wish them the best and return of their health.

National Convention Resolutions

I want to devote a large part of this month's Newsletter to the many Bylaws, Standing Rules & General Resolutions that have been purposed and will be considered at the National Convention in September. There are a total of 82 resolutions; many may not come to a vote, but many will and have the possibil-

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

ity of making big changes in the way NARFE does business in the future. I certainly don't have room to write about all of them, but want to mention the more important ones. I have a book that lists of these and I will make it available at the next meeting for you to review. They are also online at the NARFE website.

08-01 Expanding Membership Eligibility

This would expand membership eligibility to include all those currently eligible for NARFE membership but also any federal employee or annuitant and their family members even if they are not eligible to receive a annuity from any agency of the federal government. *My comments; while this would increase the number of persons who could join, I don't think many will avail themselves of it.*

08-02 Abolish Automatic Chapter Membership

Currently all new members are required to also belong to a chapter, This resolution would change that, making all the current National only members full members and giving all current chapter members and new members the option whether to belong to a chapter or not. *My comments; this subject of mandatory chapter membership has been discussed for many years. If this resolution is passed, it would result in many members dropping chapter membership and would weaken the chapters and the federations. This seems contrary to the main thrust of NAFRE down through the years. Chapters need to remain strong and such that members want to belong. I don't think this is the way to go.*

08-04, 06, 05 NARFE Association Dues

There are 3 resolutions that are very similar, each would eliminate the National Dues and Chapter Dues and create a single Association Dues. The new dues would be \$39 per year of which \$10 would be sent to the chapter that the member belongs to. This new dues structure would not affect Life Members or Honorary Members. The new rates would only apply to new members who join after the change takes place. Existing members would be grandfathered in and would continue to pay the same rates as they do now. Some chapters would be greatly affected in future years; some chapters currently have dues set much higher than \$10 and they would be affected the most. Other chapters have dues less than \$10 and they will have the option of returning the extra back to the member. *My comments; while I am in favor of a single dues structure to eliminate the confusion now in the many rates we currently have, I am not sure this is the way to go about it. The fact that these new rates would only apply to future members would add to the confusion at least as long as the current members are still in NARFE. Also many members which are paying higher dues could drop*

out and rejoin under the new rates. We will have to study this one a bit more.

08-13 Automatic Spousal Membership

This would create a family membership whereby if either or both married persons are current or retired federal employees may join and the spouse is automatically a member. This would add many new members to our total membership. This would apply to all current and future members. *My comments; this would mean somewhat a loss of revenue for NARFE but I believe it is a good ideal and very much needed to increase our membership totals and help with combating the existing decline in membership.*

I don't have room to write about any others, but there are some that would; eliminate the National Vice President position and many more. Please attend the next meeting as we discuss these and others. You can also read about them online.

Chuck MacKenzie Is Honored

Many of you are aware that Chuck and Jan MacKenzie are moving away from our area to be close to family in Virginia. At the last meeting we presented a plaque in appreciation to the many years of dedicated service to the chapter that Chuck has done. His efforts have done much to maintain and strengthen NARFE and Chapter 1956. He served as president for 5 years and many other duties throughout the years. Jan is the past secretary and also has been a very valuable member here. We will miss them both and wish them well in the years to come.



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.