



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

December 2008

Merry Christmas to all !!!



Remember the Reason for the Season

Last Meeting

It was a cold night for our last meeting, but we had a very good turnout of 31 members and guests. Our speaker was Linda Holbrook who talked to us about the 2009 Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Health Insurance Plan. She explained important differences between the standard option and the basic option. We were also told of the plan changes next year on prescription drugs and new benefits for ambulance services and hearing aids. Linda went on to speak about the Vision Plan which is separate from the health insurance program. There were several questions asked and answered. She distributed to those present and left with me books and brochures that explain the BC/BS insurance plans that you are welcomed to have. If you would like to have these, contact me. They would help you if you have this plan.

We were pleased to have several guests and potential members in attendance. We hope they enjoyed the meeting and will consider joining.

I want to thank the nominating committee for their work in presenting a slate of officers for the coming year. The committee was Tom Pointer-Chairman, Reba Collins and Gerard Hendrickson. —*continued*

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

An election of officers was held and approved. They are listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Next Meeting

Make plans to attend our Christmas Banquet. It will be on Saturday December 13th. Come anytime after 11:00 AM, we will plan to have our catered meal ready by 12:00. The meal will consist of turkey with all the trimmings, (full menu was in last months newsletter) The location will be the Putnam 1st. Mercantile Bank, located on the corner of Jackson Street and Scott Ave. We will use the meeting room on the upper level. Enter from Scott Street. The cost of the meal will be \$13.00 per person. So that we may know how much food to order, we need a list of everyone planning to attend. Some signed up at the last meeting. **We need the Telephone Committee** to call everyone on your list that lives in the area and ask them if they plan to come. Please call or email me the names of each person coming. I need the total count no later than **Tuesday morning December 9th**. Members, if for some reason you do not get a call and you plan to attend, call or email me directly. If you sign up to attend, but need to cancel, do so my Tuesday morning December 9th.

At our October meeting, we decided to bring gifts for a gifts exchange. Bring about a \$5 item. If you are a man, bring something for a man, likewise if you are a woman, bring a gift for a woman. Be sure to wrap it and mark whether it for a man or woman. Enjoy the fun. Also we decided that again this year according to our custom, to take up a collection for a needy family in the community. Christmas is a time for giving and let's remember those who are less fortunate. **Be generous in your giving.**

Chapter Officers

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

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Map showing the location of our Christmas Banquet at the bank building

Election of Chapter Officers

Officers for the next year were elected at our last meeting. Returning as President and Vice President will be Ronnie Collins and Ellis McCowan, We will have a new Secretary, Reba Collins and new Treasurer, Myrna Estes. Thanks go to these who are willing to serve as officers. The officers will be installed at the Christmas Banquet and will begin serving in January. As we work in the coming year, we will ask many of you to serve on a committee. Many of you have talents that we can use.

Speaking of committees, right now we have an urgent need for a Membership Chairman. This is one of the most important jobs our chapter has. The responsibilities relate to recruiting new members and the retention of current members. The person needs to have certain computer skills and be someone who likes working with people. If you could help us in this, let me know. If you feel that you cannot take the chairmanship position but are willing to help with some of the duties, then let me know that as well.

Health Insurance Open Season

You still have until December 8th to make any changes in any of the insurance programs. This includes the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP), The Dental and Vision Insurance program (FEDVIP) both of which is available to active employees and retirees and the Flexible Savings Accounts which is only available to active employees. Be sure to look at the November and December issues of the NARFE magazine for lots of information.

We Appreciate our Members

Would you like to save 11.2% on your NARFE dues? You can just by signing up for Dues Withholding. Have your dues paid automatically from your annuity. All retired members can do this and it is easy to do. Request the form from me or call the NARFE Membership Dept. and ask them to help you sign up. That number is 1-800-456-8410. You get the best rate, you don't have to mail a check each year. Start saving now!

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.