



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

February 2008

Last Meeting

There was a very good turnout of 32 members and guests to attend the January meeting. We were very pleased that one of our guests joined NARFE and his application has been sent in to headquarters. Information on him and some other new members is in the Membership News section of this newsletter.

Those in attendance heard a good presentation by our speaker George Halford of the Chamber of Commerce who is pictured. He gave us some random thoughts on the economy in the area and that his work not only included Cookeville and Putnam County but all of the communities that make up Highlands of Tennessee; Livingston, Overton County, Sparta and White County. He said that even though the region has lost some manufacturing jobs over recent years, our area is still a industrial community. He went on to talk about visitors and tourism and the future planned growth of the area. His talk ended with a question and answer session.



In other business, we passed out cards for suggestions for future program topics. We received several excellent suggestions and it is not too late for you to call or send in your suggestions if you had something that would make for a good program topic. A committee was appointed to study and recommend a location for this years Christmas Banquet. Those appointed to that committee Sharon Martin, Elizabeth Bryant, Laverne Evans, Lou Richardson, Jan MacKenzie and Jacque Pine. Door prizes were furnished by Jan MacKenzie and the winners were Sharon Martin, Joan Britnell and Roy Byrd.

Next Meeting

Our meeting will be February 19th. at Shoneys Restaurant on Jefferson Avenue in Cookeville. We meet at 6:00 pm. for the meal, and the business meeting begins about 6:45 pm. The program speaker for this month will be Teresa Galey who is the Wellness Coordinator at the Putnam County Family YMCA. She will be speaking on physical fitness. There is one item of business we will consider. We have been asked to place and Ad in the 2008 National Convention Program Book. *continued on page 2*

Membership News

We have some new members to report. Joining last month was Delois Boone of Cookeville and joining this month is Cathy Gallagher of Monterey and A. Gerard Hendrickson of Cookeville. Please welcome these newest members to our chapter.

I would like us to make this year an emphasis on recruiting new members and the retention of all members. In fact, our National office is running a Chapter Recruitment/Retention Contest. They will award cash prizes to the chapters that have the greatest success in each of these categories for the period of January through June of this year. But I would like us to focus on it for the entire year. We have a very good start with 3 new members already. Here is what I am asking each one of us to do. First of all, if you are a annual renewing member, then be sure to renew your membership when due. We want everyone to stay with us, and remember the benefits that we protect are your benefits. Next I am asking each one of us to recruit at least one new member this year. That is not asking too much, I think. You joined NARFE believing it was important to your future, and isn't it just as important for others as well? Just make a determined effort to contact other federal employees and retirees and tell them about our organization. Remember that spouses and former employees also qualify for membership. Be sure that you have a membership form handy to give them. Each issue of the NARFE magazine has the application form in it. The officers and our membership chairman has forms as well. I will make mention of this through-out the year, so all take part. WE CAN DO IT !!!

Chapter Officers

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

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Next Meeting *continued from page 1*

There are several Ad sizes and prices to choose from. The smallest Ad is the size of a business card, which sells for \$45. The largest Ad is 2 facing pages which costs \$300. There are several sizes in between.

Sunshine Report

Bill Masters and LaVerne Evans spent a few days recently in the hospital and Jacque Pine's son is very sick with a tumor. We wish them all well.



Alzheimer's Report

Nearly every chapter meeting we pass around a container for donations for Alzheimer's research. Chapter members have been generous in giving to this fund over the past months and years. Last month, we collected \$27.44. Many of our own members have been affected by this life stealing ailment. Since our collections are taken at the chapter meetings, some of you are left out. Those of you who cannot make it to meetings can still donate to this cause. Just mail your checks to the address on the front of this newsletter and it will be added in. Make your check payable to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research and put on the memo line Chapter 1956. This will then be added to the cash we receive and forwarded to the appropriate account. Donations are tax deductible for income tax purposes.

Our Alzheimer's Chairman, Reba Collins is planning a yard sale to raise funds for the Alzheimer's fund. Start saving items that you can donate to be included in the yard sale. The items can be anything of the household or clothing nature that can be easily transported to the sale site. She will be talking more about this to you in the weeks to come. If you have questions, contact her.

Legislative News

The number of cosponsors continue to increase on the two main bills that we support.: Premium Conversion bills; S-773 and H.R. 1110, the totals are 60 Senators and 306 Representatives. The GPO/WEB bills; S. 206 and H.R. 82 the totals are 36 Senators and 338 Representatives. This information can be found at <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/bills/>. Our 2 Senators have not cosponsored either of these bills.

The president submitted his proposed fiscal year 2009 budget to Congress. Congress now must work to make their changes. We need to be alert to any budget cuts that would affect the federal workforce or federal retirees. This is always a long process and

we may not know all the details until late in the year.

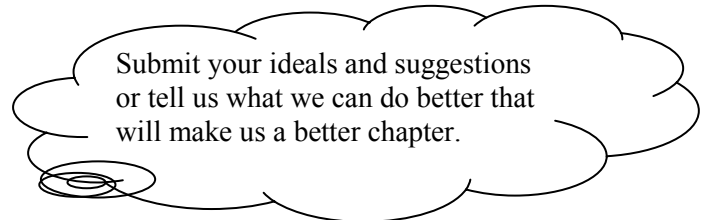
Consumer Price Index

Many of you are aware of the Consumer Price Index that the Bureau of Labor Statistics does to keep up with the cost of living. It seems that there is more than one index. The one that we are familiar with is called the Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, otherwise known as CPI-W. It is used to determine the cost of living (COLA) for federal retirees and Social Security recipients. The problem with the CPI-W is that it only represents about 32 percent of the U.S. population and it does NOT include the majority of the retired population.

But there is another index, CPI-U which includes about 87% of the U.S. population including the elderly. It covers the spending habits of all urban consumers. The Bureau of Labor Statistics does recognize that the spending habits of older Americans are much different from the general population, but are not even close to making any changes that would accurately count the real cost of inflation for those retired. But it seems for now at least, there are no changes in the way our cost of living adjustments are calculated. *Jim Evans contributed to this article.*

Recycle Your NARFE Magazines

Don't just throw away the NARFE magazines that come to you as members. When you are finished reading them, pass them on to others to read. Not only are they interesting reading on a number of topics, but they can be used for a recruitment tool. Leave some at doctors office waiting rooms and other similar places. Someone may pick them up and become interested in NARFE as a result.



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.

**You Need NARFE
and NARFE Needs You**