



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

July 10, 2007

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Presidents Corner

Our next meeting is July 17 at Shoneys, 6:00 pm. Due to a late cancellation by the planned speaker, the program will be by Pam Ealey on Habitat for Humanity

Our picnic was a great success, plenty of food: good fellowship and good weather. The bingo game continues to be an enjoyable entertainment and every one won at least one prize. Thirty five attended, down five from last year. Many thanks to Jim Evans, Reba Collins, LaVerne Evans, Barbra Fletcher, and Brenda Boyington and Larry Charron, for their efforts and contributions in making it a success. If all goes well we will have a repeat performance next year. Pictures taken at the picnic can be viewed at the chapter website.

I was hoping for a larger attendance, but I felt good in that we got to meet three members for the first time: Charles Savage, Dixe Bilyeu and Frank Massa. There are several more members that we have not been able to meet and look forward to seeing them at some future meeting.

There is a new OPM web site that may be useful in answering question about retirement issues
www.opm.gov/insure/quickguide.asp

Treasurer's Report: As of June 29 we had \$709.75

Alzheimer's:

We received a donation at the picnic and that, with the rest of the funds in escrow, has been forwarded to the Federation Alzheimer's Chair. Note, Mississippi is the lead state in per capita giving.

Sunshine: Cards were sent to Leo Yates and Connie Banker both recovering from surgery.

Legislative:

S-206 To repeal the GPO and WEP now has 32 co sponsors; the equivalent House bill HR 82 has 322 co sponsors. S-773 on Premium Conversion now has 40 co sponsors; the equivalent House bill HR 1110 has 209 Co sponsors. Bart Gordon and Lincoln Davis are co sponsors of both House bills. Neither Alexander nor Corker have sponsored the Senate bills, we need to get after them for their support. There are close to forty thousand retirees in Tennessee that would benefit by passage of the Premium Conversion bill.

Two new bills have been introduced to make adjustments in the WEP and GPO reducing their effect (S-1254 and HR-726). Read the information about these bills (and a reminder of what WEP and GPO do to retirement benefits) on page 14 of the current (July) issue of NARFE.

Section 845 of Public Law 109-280 provides that, as of Jan 1, 2007 retired **public safety officers** are eligible to exclude up to \$3,000 from their share of premiums paid for qualified health insurance programs. The OPM statement that this would not apply to **federal public safety officers** who are in the CRS or FERS system has been rescinded.

Congress will spend from early August through Labor Day in their state and local districts. If you see that they have a local meeting, plan to drop in and thank them for their support or prod them to support our legislation. Our legislative staff in Washington can visit our elected officials but they don't vote for them. Only we the people who vote for them will have any impact on their actions, and they need to see and hear from us to know we are interested. That is what is called "Grass Roots Action" and is fundamental to the success of NARFE.

Membership

The HQ funding report for May shows seven members have renewed their membership. Thank you!!!! The June membership report shows one new member transferred in, Lenore England of Glade Creek Rd. Pleasant Hill. She comes with a double blessing, she is a dues withholding member. We welcome her to the chapter. Unfortunately we lost two members who did not renew their membership. Our efforts to convince them to renew were not successful so if you know them please encourage them to re join, they are Carmen Cook and Maria Hawkins. We understand the former is quite ill. Three more have received second notices, we hope that is an oversight and that you will renew as soon as possible.