



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**July 2008**

**Picnic**

It was a fine beginning to Summer as we gathered at Standing Stone State Park for our annual picnic on June 21st. Even though there was a



possibility of rain, none came while we were there and the temperature was very pleasant for the time of year. We had 36 who signed up to come but there were a few that did not make it. We missed all who failed to get there. Some were first-timers to our picnics. We tried to get in touch with all our members, if we failed to reach you, we apologize for that. The food was great and we had time to talk to one another and play games. I think all enjoyed it very much. Our thanks for all who brought deserts, other food items, or gifts and helped with the setup and cleanup. Pictures are posted on our chapter website. At the top of the our website, just click on Photos and follow the link to Picnic 2008. Enjoy the pictures, past pictures are also on the website.

For those who were signed up to come and could not make it, please help us recover the costs of the shelter fee and the food that was ordered so that we do not have to expend chapter funds for the picnic. I have sent out reminders. Your help and understanding will be much appreciated.

As we look forward to next year, I would like to hear your thoughts on ways that we can make the picnic even better. Would you like to have it at the same location or somewhere else? Same menu or something else? Send me a note, call me or talk to me at the chapter meeting. Your comments will be much appreciated.

**Next Meeting**

We will resume our regular chapter meetings in July. The date of the next meeting is July 15th. As usual the location is Shoneys 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. The president of Tennessee Federation of NARFE Chapters has asked to come and speak to us, Carey Frazier will be outlining his plans and goals for this year. Come out and hear what he has to share with us. 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.

**For The Good Of The Chapter**

This is a request for volunteers to step up and help with various duties. We have a need for more to serve on the Telephone Committee which entails making about 10 phone calls per month to check on the well being of our members and encourage them if possible to attend the chapter meeting. We also have vacancies for the Legislative Chairman and Programs Chairman. If you would be willing to fill these or serve with someone on a committee please contact me. There are plenty of opportunities to serve our chapter and it keeps you mind active which is very good as we grow older. Many have served to make the chapter what it is today and the future depends on us members now. Do help us out.

Also, I would like to hear from you about what the chapter is doing or not doing that you think can be done better. Suggestions that you feel would add to the effectiveness and make the meetings better, or ways to gain more members and retain the ones we have. Just because we have done it a certain way in the past does not mean there may not be a better way to do things. Take a few moments, put your

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

thinking caps on and send me your thoughts. Thank you in advance.

### Legislative News

Congress is currently out of session for the 4th of July Holiday break. One item recently passed in the House is the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act which will permit 8 weeks of the previous 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a child to be paid. This bill has not been acted upon yet in the Senate but may be before the end of the session. This is good news if you are an active federal employee. NARFE supports this bill so stay tuned for further news.

While congress is on the holiday break they may be out and about holding meetings in our area. if they do, let's try to attend and remind them to support the NARFE goals for federal employees and retirees.

August has been designated as Meet your Candidates Month. We are encouraged to meet those running for the US Senate and the US House which will represent us in Washington DC.

There is a very good article in the June issue of the NARFE Magazine that explains the Social Security bills on WEP and GPO.

The Federal Office of Personnel Management OPM has sent out its Annual Call Letter which instructs the insurance carriers in the FEHBP on possible changes to our health insurance plans. In that letter OPM has encourages the insurance companies to come up with a Medicare sub-option and more Health Savings Account (HAS) plans. NARFE has consistently opposed such proposals because it would lead to fewer choices in health insurance plans and higher costs for senior retirees. NARFE's National office is working to prevent any weakening of our health plans.

### National Convention

There will be very many resolutions considered at this year's convention. Some are very important as they may make changes is the Bi-Laws and change the way NARFE does business. I am expecting them to publish them in a book and send out to the delegates, but they are also available online at the NARFE Headquarters website. Go to the website [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and follow the links to the National Convention. Read and become aware of the proposed changes this year. As I become aware, I will bring them to your attention in our monthly meetings between now and the convention.

I would also encourage you to read the Candidate Statements of those running for the various national offices. If you feel that certain ones should be voted for or not voted for share those comments with me.

### Member Perks

There are many benefits to our NARFE membership, and many discounts available. Just look in the back of the NARFE Magazine for those we can take advantage of. Summer is normally a time of travel and there are many ways to save money on travel costs listed there for us. I will not list all of them here, but there are many. With the high costs of gas, food and other items, every way to save is worthwhile.

### Now In Honor of the 4th of July

1. Only in America.....can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.
2. Only in America.....do we use the word 'politics' to describe the process so well: 'Poli' in Latin meaning 'many' and 'tics' meaning 'bloodsucking creatures'.
3. Only in America.....do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
4. Only in America.....do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a Diet Coke.
5. Only in America.....do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.
6. Only in America.....do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our useless junk in the garage.
7. Only in America.....do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

Even with all its faults, America is still the best nation on earth to live. God has richly blessed this great nation. May he continue to do so.

**\*\*Pray for America\*\***

### NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: [www.narfecookevilletn.org](http://www.narfecookevilletn.org)  
Tennessee Federation: [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)  
NARFE Headquarters: [www.narfe.org](http://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.