



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

June 2008

Last Meeting

Our attendance was down somewhat at the May meeting with 16 present. We missed the others of you and hope to see you at an upcoming meeting.

Our speaker for the meeting was Judy Greenwood who is the director of Putnam County CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates. This is a nationwide organization that began in 1977 to give assistance to judges about cases of abused and neglected children. The local group in Putnam County was formed in 1999 and is part of the Upper Cumberland Human Resources Agency. Statistics show that 1 in 10 children in our area are abused or neglected and what CASA does is work with them under the court system in the interest of the child. While the Dept. of Children Services also helps children, CASA is more of a 1 on 1 association and more involved. Anyone wanting to contact them or willing to assist in volunteering to be a case worker, help with fundraising or making a donation is urged to contact Judy Greenwood at 931-520-8733. The requirements to be a volunteer case worker is: you must be age 21 or more, submit to an interview and background check and have a desire to help children.

This month the door prizes went to Elizabeth Bryant, Jan MacKenzie and our speaker Judy Greenwood.

Next Meeting

We will not have a business meeting for June but instead we will have our annual picnic. The picnic will be on Saturday June 21st. at Standing Stone State Park shelter #3 which is the same location as last year. Come as early as you like, we will plan on having the food ready by 11:30. The menu will consist of BBQ pork, buns, baked beans, slaw, potato salad and tea (both sweet and unsweeted). Plates and utensils will also be included. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring desserts. The cost of the meal is somewhat dependant on the number who sign up, we expect it to be \$6.00 per person. Part of the cost will be applied toward the reservation fee for the picnic shelter. We encourage all our members to attend and remember you can bring others with you. Our telephone committee will call you and ask if you are coming, so be expecting that call. If you are

bringing guest with you, tell your caller. We will order to food based on the number who plan to come. We need to let the supplier know how many to prepare for a few days in advance. With that in mind the cut-off date is **June 17th**. Callers, send me your list of attendees by that date. Members, If you do not get a call about the picnic and you want to come, contact me directly, (my contact information is shown below). If you at first sign up to attend, and have to cancel, do so before the cutoff date. We must ask every one on the list to pay the costs. We hope you understand.

Standing Stone State Park, for those not familiar with it is located in Overton County. The main entrance is on Hwy 136 which is just off Hwy 52 between Livingston and Celina. There is another entrance from the Hilham community and Hwy 85. You can also drive Hwy 136 from Cookeville. For a map and detailed directions, go to this web address.

www.narfecookevilletn.org/map.html or contact me.

The picnic is on a Saturday so everyone has an opportunity to come. We would encourage our many working members and those in the Livingston and Celina areas to attend. Larry Charron is making available a bingo game which all may take part in. We ask that each family bring at least one gift to be used as prizes for the bingo games. A suggested price for a gift is \$4 to \$5. Please come and enjoy the day at the park, this being a state park you are welcomed to use any of the other services that the park has to offer, hiking, swimming, fishing, and more.

COME ONE, COME ALL

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

Alzheimer's News

The yard sale for Alzheimer's was a success. It brought a total of \$183.00 that will go toward Alzheimer's research. Thank you to all who donated items and to those who helped with the yard sale. Anyone wanting to make cash donations, bring it to a chapter meeting or mail it to: NARFE Chapter 1956, 118 Ballenger Rd. Carthage TN, 37030. Be sure to indicate what it is for.

National Convention

The chapter has authorized 3 members to attend the National Convention as delegates to represent us. As I get details of the resolutions to be discussed and acted upon, I will bring them to your attention and get your response. Details about the National Convention is in the latest issues of the NARFE magazine and all members are welcome to attend.

Value of NARFE Membership--by Joseph Beaudoin
Many times NARFE officers/members are questioned as to "Why should I join NARFE and/or maintain my NARFE membership". Some prospective members believe NARFE is a social organization and we know the upcoming Baby Boomers are 'not' joiners. They look at their retirement as an opportunity to get away from; meetings, groups, organizations, etc. Dr. Paul Carew (NC Fed. IPP) has written an excellent paper on the four generational groups or segments, namely; Silent or Hero Generation, consisting of those born between 1925 and 1945, the Baby Boomers, who were born between 1946 and 1964, Generation X, born between 1965 and 1984 and last, the Millennials, born between 1985 and 2004. [Note: For additional comments on Dr. Carew's information, see Bill Austin's "Vice president's Views" on page 26 of the August 2007 NARFE magazine]

The reason I mentioned the above is because I believe that we will be faced with a real challenge next year (2009) when a new U.S. President and 111th Congress take office. We (NARFE) will need to work harder than we ever have in order for us to just "maintain or keep our present benefits". Let's look at some statistical information that the new 111th Congress will be looking at in 2009. First, our national debt exceeds \$9.4 trillion and continues to grow. The present government debt per U.S household is \$531,472.00 and continues to grow. Major government liabilities/obligations include: Medicare - \$30.4 trillion, Social Security - \$17.4 trillion, Federal Debt - \$5.2 trillion, Federal Pensions - \$1.3 trillion, Federal Retirement Health Benefits - \$312 billion. The five areas listed above amount to approximately \$54.6 trillion (about 94% of the of the total Government debt/obligation) and they also continue to grow. Substantial increases in all of the above categories

are predicted when the oldest of 79 million Baby Boomers reach 65 in 2011.

The future 111th Congress will be attempting to adhere to a policy of "Pay As You Go". In order to accomplish this objective, they will either have to raise taxes or they will have to reduce expenditures (or a combination of both). Expenditures are projected to exceed the revenues and are predicted to continue to do so until at least 2011. Both of the aforementioned alternatives will adversely affect NARFE members. Over the past few years, there have been numerous attempts to; increase our (personal) FEHBP contributions, delay or eliminate COLA's, implement HSA's, means test Medicare or other benefits, etc. All of these attempts (during the past 10+ years) have been defeated or removed from bill's and/or legislation due to the efforts of our legislative staff, members and our "friends in Congress". A number of "our present friends" in Congress will not be in the 111th Congress (such as Tom Davis). We need to cultivate new 'friendships' in the 111th Congress if we expect to continue stopping adverse legislation.

The numbers of members we have will directly have an influence on whether we can maintain our present benefits. Members who are contemplating *not* renewing their membership should be made aware of the above information and prospective members should also be aware of how important a NARFE membership is. If we continue to lose members because of retention problems and we can not sign-up new members fast enough to offset our membership losses, then eventually we will become ineffective and we will all see reductions in our annuities or earned benefits.

Remember;

"Together, we can make a difference"

reprinted from GEMS

Renew today if you have received a renewal notice

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.