



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

May 2008

Last Meeting

At the April meeting we had 34 members and guests to attend which was great. It was also good to meet some who I had not meet before and to have some potential members in attendance.

Our speaker for the meeting was Marie Farran from the TN Agency on Aging. She works as an Ombudsman and legal advocate in the matters of long term care and Medicare. Her office in Cookeville serves 14 counties in the Upper Cumberland area. For many people as they get older and in failing health face the need for nursing home care. She talked on the high cost of such care which runs 4 - 6 thousand dollars per month and the ways it is paid for. Medicare will only pay for a very limited amount and time, after that we would need a long term care insurance plan or we would have to pay out of pocket. For those who had no way to pay for nursing home care, she went on to talk about under which circumstances Medicaid would pay. It is a very complex set of rules that the State of Tennessee goes by and we would certainly need to get help from her office to understand. She also made mention of a training program for those interested in helping others with these matters. Anyone having a question or needing some help is encouraged to contact her or Ben Kilgrew at 931-432-4210.

This month the door prizes went to Mildren Milligan, Doug Winford and Tom Pointer.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be May 20th at Shoneys Restaurant on Jefferson Ave. You should arrive by 6:00pm. to eat, the business meeting will begin at 6:45pm. Our program and speaker will be Judy Greenwood who is the Director of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). She will talk about the services that her office provides in this area. Be sure to come and remember you are welcomed to bring guests with you. If anyone would like to come and they need transportation, let your telephone caller know or call me. We will make arrangements to pick you up. Also remember that if you have an ideal for a interesting speaker for our meetings, let me know who they are and any other details that you have.

Membership News

I received a very good and encouraging note this past month from one of our members. He wrote to thank us for sending the newsletters and said "I wish we had more members. NARFE would be cheap at three times the cost". He is correct, the membership dues that we pay are so very low when compared to other things we pay for these days. I can't understand why some would question that fact.

Again I want to encourage all our members to continue with us and renew your membership. Several have been sent Second Notices lately about the need to renew. Would you stay with us? Nationwide many members sadly are dropping out and it is eroding and hurting our influence with our members of Congress. Is that what you want? I certainly hope not. Remember that the benefits we save both now and the future are yours!

In other membership news, the latest membership report from HQ shows we have a new member. We welcome David Hajdik to NARFE and our chapter.

Federation Convention News

We just got back from the Convention this year which was held at the Montgomery Bell State Park and hosted by the Nashville Chapter. It will be mostly remembered I think because of an fire alarm that sounded on the first night causing everyone to have to evacuate the building for about a hour and a half while they tracked down the cause and declared it was safe to return to our rooms. Apparently something was smoking in one of the elevator shafts.

Chapter Officers

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

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

New officers elected at this years convention were; President Carey Frazier, 1st. Vice President John Shannon, 2nd. Vice President Larry Cunningham, 3rd. Vice President John Wells, Secretary Vivian Fivecoat, Treasurer Marie Anglin, Membership Chairman J C Whitney. Also elected was Legislative Chairman Doug Roberts who since stepped down.

National Treasurer Richard Ostergren was there to speak to our group. Also in attendance was our Region X Vice President Joe Beaudoin. The main concerns continue to be the need for new members and member retention. Both spoke about the 2 Social Security provisions known as GPO and WEP saying that with the present situations in this county and nationwide and the cost involved it was very unlikely that these will be eliminated. In a question and answer session with Treasurer Ostergren he was asked about the various pieces of mail that members get trying to sell us insurance and such. His answer was that NARFE has certain affinity partners which you can find listed in the back of the NARFE magazines. These companies have an agreement with NARFE to mail out offers that might be of interest to members. Also HQ themselves send out the calendars, cards, etc to its members. Mr. Ostergren said that NARFE receives much needed funds from the sale of these items which keeps our membership dues low. If anyone does not want to receive these mailings he said, just contact HQ and your name will be removed from those mailing lists.

There were no resolutions brought forth at this year's convention. Next year the it will be in Jackson Tennessee and hosted by the Jackson Chapter.

Alzheimer's News

At the last meeting we collected \$47 in donations. Thank you for your generosity. The yard sale for Alzheimer's will be on Friday May 16th at a house located at 1435 E 10th. Street. We need more items to have in the sale. If you have items that you can donate to this sale bring them by on Wednesday afternoon between the hours of 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm. You can also bring them by on Thursday before the sale but please call ahead to be sure that someone will be there to meet you. If that does not work for you, contact Reba Collins and we will work out another time. Let's make this a successful sale and raise much for Alzheimer's. Cash donations can also be made at anytime either at the chapter meetings or by sending a check to our address;. NARFE Chapter 1956, 118 Ballenger Rd. Carthage TN, 37030. Be sure to indicate what it is for. A hand made quilt,

**NARFE Needs You and You
Need NARFE**

made by Reba's sister was donated and raffled off at the Federation convention. It brought \$239 for which was given in our chapter's name to Alzheimer's.

Sunshine Report

A card was sent to the family of Howard Hitchcock passed away this past month. Also Jacque Pine lost her son this past month. Our sympathy goes out to these families.

National Convention

I have received the packet of information about delegates to the National Convention. We are entitled to 3 delegates and we must submit the names by the end of June. I would like us to be fully represented at this convention, there will be many important votes to be considered this year. Please let me know if you would like to go as a delegate this year. We will bring this up at the chapter meeting, but if you cannot attend the meeting this month, then call or email me before by then. All NARFE members and their guests can attend. You can find details about the convention in the recent NARFE magazines.

Email

Several more of our members emailed me to sign up for email delivery of our Newsletter. We appreciate that very much. For those that do not have computers, don't worry we will continue to mail the Newsletter by postal mail. We are just trying to keep costs down where possible. We currently have 62 of our members on our email distribution, but only 35 of these are also on the GEMS distribution. That is the Global Electronic Messaging System that HQ uses to send out important information to its members. If you are unsure if you are on GEMS or do not know how to be included, contact me and I will help. Now any news from the Tennessee Federation will be sent out by GEMS so it is also important in that regard.

Make plans to attend our annual picnic this year on Saturday June 21st. at the Standing Stone State Park. Details in next months newsletter.

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.