



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

November 13, 2007

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Presidents Corner

Our next meeting is November 20 at Shoneys, 6:00 pm. Our speaker will be Linda Holbrook of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Officers for the coming year will be elected. We also need to elect delegates to the state convention (we are allowed six) since the delegate credential forms are due Dec 20.

Our speaker Dr. Douglas Kaine is a Critical Care, Pulmonary Physician at Cookeville Regional Medical Center. Dr. Kaine talked about Sleep Apnea which is a respiratory problem and can be fatal. Four to five percent of the population has Sleep Apnea. Cookeville Regional Medical Center has a Sleep Center for diagnosing the problem. He talked about the different sleep stages and their importance, how different situations can change the stages and cause physical, memory and psychiatric problems. He mentioned some causes such as obesity and post menopausal. Several therapies are available such as; breathing assistance at night, loosing weight, Ear Nose and Throat surgery, C Pap Machines and even a Tracheotomy. Sleep Apnea is the cause of 20% of auto accidents. It also affects job performance, blood pressure, and can cause heart attacks. Sleep Apnea if treated can reduce the death rate.

Open season for health insurance starts on November 12 and closes on December 10. Information on the various plans will come from OPM.

A Nominating Committee was appointed to nominate a set of candidates for Chapter officers, to serve for the year 2008. The committee members are LaVerne Evans 537-2113, Lou Richards 528-1164 and Sharon Martin 528-2489. If you have recommendations or an interest in serving, please call them. After the election the new President will be calling to get volunteers for the appointed positions, necessary for Chapter functioning. If called please respond with a "YES". We do need your help in maintaining an active chapter.

Treasurer's Report: As of October 31 the treasury balance was \$1047.20 including \$139.65 in escrow for Alzheimer's. A payment of \$500+ for next year's Federation Dues is imminent.

Alzheimer's: We collected \$26.65 at our October meeting.

Sunshine: No reports of needs.

Legislative:

The COLA for next year will be 2.3%.

President Margaret Baptiste has appeared before the Senate Social Security Pensions, and Family Policy Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Kerry. The purpose of the committee was to examine the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of the Social Security Act, which deny federal retirees and other public servants their earned social security benefits.

She called the GPO and WEP “unfair and unconscionable” She cited recent data which indicates that approximately 401,200 Social Security beneficiaries are affected by the GPO, of whom 75% were women approximately 42% were widowed and 85% had lost their entire Social Security benefit. The data also showed roughly 931,300 Social Security beneficiaries are affected by WEP. About two thirds were men and 20% of the affected individuals had paid into Social Security for at least 21 years. Said Baptiste, “It is time for Congress to act and rid the law of these discriminatory provisions”.

Because of NARFE advocacy on behalf of federal and postal employees, who reside in all 50 states, the inequity of the GPO and WEP, which otherwise might appear to be affecting only state and local government retired employees in 15 states, it is now on the record as a national issue.

Membership:

In the membership report for October are listed two new members: Robert Desantis of Cookeville and Thelma P Buckner of Monterey make them welcome. Also we did not loose anybody. The report for October renewals is not yet available.