



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

November 2008

Last Meeting

Thanks to each of you who attended the last meeting in October. We had 29 members and guests present, your support of the meetings are appreciated. For those who cannot attend, I try to give a summary in this space. We want everyone to be informed.

Our speaker, Jennie Ivey, (pictured as she was speaking to us) is a librarian and newspaper columnist. She brought with her several new books from the Putnam Co. Library. She gave us a good report of those books and encouraged all to read these and others. She reminded us to buy books to read and to give as gifts. We were told of the many services that are available at the Putnam Co. libraries, including large print books, audio books on tapes and CDs and the option to request books from other libraries. Our speaker went on to tell us about her experiences in writing her column in the Herald Citizen Newspaper. I am sure many of you read her column and keep up with the things she writes about. We had the opportunity to ask her questions and she was very well received. We thank her for speaking to us. You can contact her at the Baxter Branch Library.



We take a collection at nearly all our meetings for the Alzheimer's Fund. At this meeting we collected \$17.10 which is lower than usual. Perhaps people are experiencing the effects of the economy. But know that your donations are needed. Let's hope that our donations soon bring a cure for Alzheimer's.

Next Meeting

Please mark on your calendar the next meeting which will be November 18th. The location is Shoney's 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. Our speaker for November will be Linda Holbrook who is the regional representative for the Federal Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance Plan. Do plan on attending. 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.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Health Insurance Open Season

It is now the Open Season to make changes in 3 federal insurance programs. This includes the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP), The Dental and Vision Insurance program (FEDVIP) both of which is available to active employees and retirees and lastly is the Flexible Savings Accounts which is only available to active employees. Open Season starts on November 10th. and runs through December 8th. The plan information will be made available to active employee members by your particular agency and to retired members by the Office of Personnel Management. I would recommend that you study the various plans available and make the best choice for your needs. Health insurance costs are going up considerably this year with some plans going up more than others. The information that is sent out to us will include telephone numbers and websites where we can get additional details on what is available to us. (BC/BS is 800-572-1003) Take advantage of what is available and be informed.

Retiree Cost Of Living Adjustment

For those who have not heard, the COLA for the federal annuities and Social Security Benefits will increase by 5.8% beginning with the January payments. That is the largest increase since 1982. For those who have Medicare, there will be no increase in the Part B insurance premiums nor the deductible this year. That is good news.

Christmas Banquet Coming Soon

I would like to invite all our members to our annual Christmas Banquet. This year it will be on Saturday December 13th. It all is scheduled to start at 11:00 am. *Continued on next page*

Chapter Officers

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

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There will be plenty of time to talk and fellowship with one another. We plan to have the food ready by 12 noon. The location will be the Putnam 1st. Mercantile Bank at 200 West Jackson St. This is just up the hill from Walgreens. We will use the bank meeting room with is on the upper floor. The menu will be Turkey and dressing with gravy, cranberry salad, creamed potatoes, green beans, rolls and deserts. We will also have tea and coffee to drink. We are still working on the costs for the banquet but expect it to be \$12 to \$13 per person.

The chapter decided at the October meeting to receive a collection at the banquet to be given to a needy family in the area. We also decided to bring a gift to exchange with others there, so with that in mind please bring about a \$5 item. Men bring something applicable for a man and women bring something applicable for a woman. I hope you will enjoy this and all the activities this year.

Chapter Officers To Be Elected

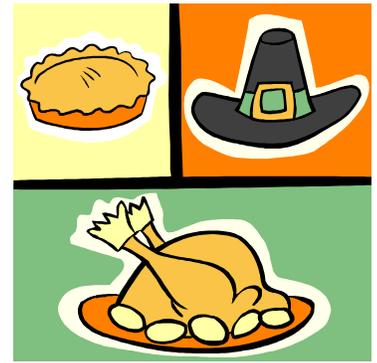
The nominating committee has been working to come up with a slate of officers for the coming year. I would like to thank Tom Pointer and Reba Collins for their work. As it looks right now, they will make the following recommendations for officers at the next chapter meeting; Ronnie Collins-President, Ellis McCowan-Vice President, Myrna Estes-Treasurer and Reba Collins-Secretary. Other nominations can also be accepted at the meeting. Come and help select your officers.

Let me say a few words about the importance of chapter officers and members. Many chapters are struggling to find people willing to serve as officers and many chapters have very low attendance at the meetings. In the last 2 years, 4 chapters in Tennessee and many more across the nation have closed because of these two problems. The way that NARFE is structured, it is very important that we have strong chapters. If chapters fail, then members are could be lost and if members are lost, our total organization is weaken. If this continues we become ineffective maintaining our goals of preserving and protecting our benefits. I realize that we are all busy with many responsibilities, but I ask that you be willing to support our chapter with your talents and efforts. Be willing to serve and help us, help you. Remember that it is your benefits that are at risk. We want our chapter to remain strong and active.

**You Need NARFE and
NARFE Needs You**

Happy Thanksgiving

It is that time of the year that we traditionally express our thankfulness for all the many blessings that come our way, but really each and every day we should truly be thankful. Not only for the good things, but also for the



disappointments and sorrows of life. The Lord is good and everything he brings into our lives is meant for our good. Happy Thanksgiving to each and everyone. I hope you are enjoying the Fall colors.

Members We Will Greatly Miss

It is with regrets that I report the passing of 2 long time members. Earl Richardson on October 20th and Jimmy Walls on October 27th. While I never had the privilege to meet either of them many of you did know and possibly worked with them. Earl Richardson was retired from the Social Security Administration. He leaves behind a wife, Sue Richardson. Jimmy Walls retired from the Postal Service and leaves behind a wife, Marie Walls. We express our deepest sympathy to both families at this time.

NARFE National Updates Website

National has new look on its website with the hopes of making it easier to find what we are looking for. The new site now has 3 main sections. For Non Members, Members and NARFE Leadership. Check out the changes.

Don't forget about our own chapter website, I try to keep it updated with the latest information about our chapter including the all of our newsletters and minutes of our monthly meetings. Also check out the Message Board on the Federation website. This is a place to share thoughts about NARFE and other issues. Useful information can also be found there.

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.