



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

October 2008

Last Meeting

Even though gas prices were at record levels, we still had a good turnout at the September meeting. Thanks to all for your support of the meetings. Also it is encouraging that we had another member to attend for the first time. We were pleased to meet Eula Brown. She is the spouse of federal employee who is now passed. If you are able and have not been coming to our meetings, give us a try. We try to make the meetings interesting and informational as well as conduct the business of the chapter.

Our speaker was none other than Richard (Dick) Armstrong, NARFE member and also a member of the Cookeville chapter of the Mended Hearts Organization. Dick told of a typical story of someone who was experiencing the beginning symptoms of heart problems for the first time and how that person tends to be unaware that he is experiencing a heart attack. This person was someone he knew very well, as it was his story. Dick talked of the mission and purpose of the Mended Hearts Organization. It began in Boston back in 1951 and has spread to many locations since. The local chapter has been in existence for 10 years. The work that they do is to provide comfort and encouragement to patients and their family members who are facing a heart related issue. They do this with the physician's approval and it helps to quite the concerns that many face during a particularly worrisome time in their lives. They also fund rehab services for heart patients and they provide Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to schools, churches and other places around the area. So far they have funded 44 of the expensive machines for the community in and around Cookeville. The chapter has a website you can see by typing in this web address. www.mendedhearts127.org. From there you can learn lots more about them. They accept donations that they use to fund the programs and services locally. You can call Dick Armstrong for more information about The Mended Hearts Chapter and how you can help. Check them out as they provide a great service.

A Nominating Committee was appointed to nominate a slate of officers for next year. The committee is Tom Pointer, Reba Collins and Gerard Hendrickson.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Next Meeting

Please mark on your calendar the next meeting which will be October 21st. As usual 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 October will be Jennie Ivey. She is a local author, newspaper columnist and librarian and will be talking to us about her varied knowledge and experiences. 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.

Membership Report

The September Chapter Activity Report we received showed that one former member that was recently contacted and asked to come back, did so. Welcome back to Bobby Lee. Another member was sent a second renewal notice, they were contacted and promised to renew. But we lost 3 members that failed to renew, they were Kathy Dally, Ruth Osborn and Betty Qualls. Sometimes it is hard to contact these members since we do not always have valid phone numbers. But our Membership Chairman, Chuck MacKenzie does call and/or write letters to each of these and urges them to renew. It has been awhile since we last made mention of the best way to renew your membership, that is Dues Withholding. This is available to all our retiree members through your monthly annuity check. With Dues Withholding, you don't have to remember about writing a check, it is automatic and painless. And it is a savings of \$4.48 per year. We have the form you need to sign up with. Just contact me or Chuck or call the NARFE HQ.

Chapter Officers

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

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National Convention Report

I had the opportunity to attend the convention that was held in Louisville KY in September. It was great to be able to go and represent our chapter. The convention was well attended with a total attendance of 1284 members and guests. There was 1245 or 85% of the chapters represented. This was my first national convention and it was good to see how the business of NARFE is done on the national level. The following is a summary of the actions taken there on the major resolutions and election of officers:

On the issue of the single dues structure, it failed to get the required two-thirds support needed to pass. This makes 2 times this or a similar issue has failed to pass at a national convention. I believe the reason it failed this time was due to the fact that the dues were set at \$40 with only a \$9 coming back to the chapters.

Honorary memberships were eliminated and replaced with what will be called Distinguished memberships. The difference being that these members are still required to pay the dues.

The one member, one vote issue was defeated. We will continue to elect national officers in the same way as before.

The vote to establish a Chief Operating Officer (COO) for the national office was defeated. And it was voted to continue the office of Vice President. The officers elected to serve for the next 2 years are President Margaret Baptiste, Vice President Joe Beaudoin, Secretary Nat Brown and Treasurer Dick Ostergren.

It was voted that headquarters would attempt to establish a Dues Withholding plan for our Active Employee members with their respective payroll offices.

More information on these and the many other issues will be reported in the NARFE magazine. I also brought back the daily newsletters of each day's activities that you may have by request. If you have questions on a particular issue, do not hesitate to ask and I will try to explain what transpired.

Alzheimer's Report

There was also much reported at the convention in this area. The total contributions thus far to Alzheimer's by NARFE members has passed 7.5 million dollars mark heading toward the current goal of \$8 million which should be reached in just a few more months. A new goal was set by the convention of \$9 million dollars by the year 2011 which is the 90th. Birthday of NARFE. The donations from you and other members is making a huge impact in Alzheimer's research. Many new research projects have just be started with the funds. There are 5.2 million Americans who have Alzheimer's so the fight for a

cure is still needed. We pass a container at most of our chapter meetings for donations to this. Last month we collected \$22.60. If you are not able to attend the chapter meetings and you want to help, just mail your donations to our Alzheimer's Chairman, Reba Collins at the address on the front of this newsletter. I would like our chapter be among the chapters that give the most per capita to this cause.

FEEA Update

I would take this opportunity to remind you of the work that this organization does. The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund which was established in 1986 as a community of federal employees who would support each other in times of need and plenty. FEEA helps federal employees that are affected by the natural disasters such as we hear about in the news. They also provide scholarships through an essay program to federal employees, their spouses, and dependants. As NARFE members our children and grandchildren also qualify for college scholarships. Along this line, I would like to congratulate Melissa Hughes, one of this year's winners. She is the granddaughter of Chuck and Jan MacKenzie.

FEHBP

OPM has announced the new rates for our federal health insurance premiums for year 2009. It is no surprise that rates are going up again this year. More on this subject as we approach the Open Season which will be November 10 to December 8, 2008. Our speaker for our November meeting will be the local BCBS representative. So make plans for that.

Christmas Banquet Coming Soon

It is not too early to make plans to attend our meeting in December which is our annual Christmas banquet. This is an excellent time to meet and great one another a have a good time together. Let's make this the best attended meeting we have. It will be Saturday, December 13th. 11:00 am. More next month.

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.