



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
PUTNAM COUNTY—COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE
NARFE Works For You**

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

January 2009

Happy New Year !!!

Last Meeting

Our last time together was our annual Christmas Banquet on December 13th as we had lots of time to visit with one another, some of whom we only see at times like this. We had lots of good food and fun with the gift exchange. The room was great and very nicely decorated and with the snow that fell 2 days prior there was a feeling of Christmas in the air. There were 34 who made it to our gathering. A few more had planned to come but some were sick or otherwise could not make it. If you signed up to come and did not make, please consider that we ordered the food based on the number who told us they were coming, so help us the expenses.



Again I want to thank all those who had a part in planning and organizing our event this time and for all those who attended. Pictures are posted our chapter website. Hope you enjoy them.

At the end of the our time together, the new officers for the coming year were installed. So now as we begin another year in our chapter, there is much to do and consider in the months ahead. We need each and everyone of you, our members to make us successful this coming year.

As our custom is, we took up a collection for a needy family in the community. Those in attendance and one mail in contribution made for a total of \$325 which as far as anyone remembers is the most that we have given. Thanks to each one for their generosity. The family receiving it recently had their house to burn and the mother is quite sick.

Next Meeting

Our first meeting in the year will be January 20th back at our usual location, which is Shoneys Restaurant in Cookeville on Jefferson Ave. Be there by 6:00 to have time to eat before the business session which begins at 6:45. —*continued on page 2*



Officers for the 2009.

Ronnie Collis Ellis McCowan Reba Collins and Myrna Estes. Committees are listed on page 2.

This will be the second year for me and Ellis as your President and Vice president. New this year is Reba as Secretary and Myrna as Treasurer. We look forward to working for you this year. Our appreciation goes to our past secretary Elizabeth Bryant and past treasurer of several years Jim Evans.

Special Note On Health Insurance Open Season

Because the BC/BS Standard Option Plan has revised its benefits, the Open Season has been extended to give more time to consider plan changes. They had earlier said that members of their plan would be required to pay 100 percent of surgery costs (including treatment of fractures, dislocations, burns and more) performed by out-of-network physicians. Now it will be at a 30 percent costs.

Chapter Officers

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Ellis McCowan
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myrna Estes

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

Committee Members Listed

Alzheimer's Chairman, Reba Collins

Historian, Jacque Pine

Programs Chairman, Ellis McCowan

Service Officer, Roy Byrd

Sunshine Chairman, Joan Oswalt

Newsletter Editor, Ronnie Collins

Telephone Committee Members, Dixie Bilyeu, Elizabeth Bryant, Loretta Collier, Ronnie Collins, Myrna Estes, Kent Fletcher, Sharon Martin, Rodney Middleton, Mildred Milligan, Jacque Pine, Tom Pointer, Lou Richards, Betty and Russ Robinson.

Thanks to each of these for helping us this year, we could use a few more helpers. If you are willing, contact me. And be sure to contact these members if you need their assistance. Articles are also welcome for the Newsletter at any time during the year. At any time you have suggestions or comments that would make us a better chapter, please send them to me.

Our Chapter Meetings

The normal chapter meetings will be each month this year with the exception of April, June and December. In April we will not meet because the state convention is the same week. In June we will plan our annual picnic and in December our annual Christmas get together instead of our normal meetings. Please keep these regular and special meetings in mind and we urge each of you to attend as many as possible. We try hard to make each chapter meeting interesting and we need your input on the important decisions that that must be decided in our business sessions. We keep our meetings as short as possible, so do come, take part and invite potential members to come with you. We need you to attend and give your input on chapter business. It is a good time to meet your fellow members.

State Convention

It is time to start thinking about this year's state convention. It will be April 20, 21 in Jackson TN and will be hosted by the Jackson Chapter. All NARFE members are welcome to attend. We can send as many as 6 voting delegates to represent our chapter. I would encourage you to attend. This is an important function as state officers are elected, resolutions are voted on that affect the chapters such as ours. We have a few weeks to appoint our delegates, so be thinking of that. I will have the necessary forms that will be needed. I would also welcome any ideas you may have to put forth as resolutions. Share those with me.

**We Appreciate our
Members**

Next Meeting — continued from page 1

The speaker for our January meeting will be Wendell Kendrick who is an accountant and tax preparer. I am sure he will have some very timely information for us.

Legislative News

For better or for worst, Congress is back in session. We have just learned that Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA) and Howard McKeon (D-CA) has introduced new legislation (H.R. 235) in the 111th Congress to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

Urgent: National President Baptiste is calling on every member to contact their Representative and two Senators and urge them to include Premium Conversion in the economic stimulus package being prepared by the incoming Obama Administration and Congress. Most of our members are represented either by Congressman Bart Gordon of District 6 or Congressman Lincoln Davis of District 4. On the Senate side, our Senators are Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker. If these members of Congress do not apply to you, then please find out who are your members of Congress and contact them. NARFE still maintains it toll free telephone number to call our members of Congress. That number is 866-220-0044. Call that number and ask for your member of Congress by name or by zip code. If you need their mailing addresses, just let me know. To send an email message about Premium Conversion, use this special web link <http://capwiz.com/narfe> The Bill numbers from the last Congress were H.R. 1110 and S. 773, these numbers will be changed once the legislation is introduced in the 111th Congress. If we can get Premium Conversion included in the stimulus package, it would save each of us hundreds of dollars by not having to pay taxes on the premiums for our health insurance. So call or email very soon and lets do all that we can to help ourselves.

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.