



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

March 2009

Last Meeting

We had good attendance at our last meeting. It is always encouraging to have your support. We try to bring in interesting speakers for you and keep our business sessions as short as possible. And this is a great time to see fellow members and friends that we would not otherwise have an opportunity to see.

Our speaker for the February meeting was Glenn Jones, who has the job of archiving and preserving county records and veteran's records in Putnam Co. Even though many of our members live outside of Putnam Co., this same work may have been done or is currently being done in your county as well. Mr. Jones told us that if your family lived in Putnam Co. then there is most likely records of your family history. He invites you to bring records to him which will be archived and kept for preservation. All records become public and anyone can see them at the building set up for that purpose.

He also asks everyone who had a relative that served in the military to have a permanent picture and record of their service saved in the veteran's records. There is a cost for this service but they have someone who makes a very nice looking frame for the picture and records.

All records are available for viewing at the building located at the fairgrounds and the best hours to see them are 1-4 PM on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. After our meeting many went to view the records at his invitation.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be March 17th at our usual location, which is Shoney's 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. The speaker for the evening will be Debbie Handlson who is the Director of Helping Hands of Putnam County. You may remember that this is the organization that we work with each Christmas and take up a collection for some needy family. So come and hear about all that they do.

If anyone needs a ride to the meeting, there maybe someone coming that you can share a ride with. Let us know if we help if you attend our meetings.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

State Convention

The chapter selected myself and Reba to attend the State Federation Convention as delegates in April of this year. We still have room for others if anyone is interesting in going. You will need to let us know as soon as possible. The dates will be April 20th and 21st and you will need to register in order to attend.

I have information on resolution and By-law changes that have been submitted. We will discuss these at the next meeting. Here is a summary of the 6 that I have received. **A)** There are 3 that propose a reduction in the Per-Capita Dues that each chapter must pay to the Federation. **B)** There is 1 that proposes the elimination of the requirement for chapter membership when a chapter closes and members are to be transferred to another chapter. **C)** Another one proposes to change the By-Laws to allow the Federation President to call for a vote of the Elected Board by use of Email. **D)** The last one calls for a change in the By-laws to add to and clarify the duties of the Federation Secretary, that they shall take minutes of all board meetings. So give some thought to these between now and our next meeting.

In addition, we will be electing officers to serve the Federation for the term of 2009-2010.

Because the convention takes place the 3rd week of April, there will be no chapter meeting for us. So keep that in mind. Our next scheduled meeting after the convention will be in May. I will also remind you of this in the April Newsletter.

Help us recruit new members. Do you know of federal workers or retirees? Give us their names and how to contact them. We need them to join.

Chapter Officers

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

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Membership News

Last month's Member Activity Report came too late to be included here. But I am pleased to report a new member gained in February. That is Phyllis Huff of Celina. For March, our report shows another new member, Jerry Kelsey of Sparta and a former member rejoined, Jerry Brown of Celina. A Big Welcome to each of these members. Several members have received second renewal notices, if that is you, please take care of that as soon as possible. Help NARFE to help you. We have lost 2 members this month due to non-renewal. I have contacted these and am encouraging them to renew. Hopefully they will. **They need NARFE and NARFE needs them.**

Alzheimer's Collections

Last meeting we collected \$38 for this worthwhile fund. Thanks to everyone for their generous giving at the chapter meetings and those that send donations by mail. Hopefully the research which it funds will bring about a cure soon. At the Federation Convention this year there will be a new award given to the chapter that collected the most funds for Alzheimer's during the last year. This will be a trophy that will be rotated to a the chapter winner each successive year. I don't know which chapter will be the winner this year, but I think we should be close to the top.

Legislative News

President Obama has submitted his preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2010 to Congress. His budget calls for no changes in civil service retirement and health benefits, but it would create a disparity between federal worker and active duty military pay raises and proposes to require higher Medicare Part D drug program premiums. NARFE's position is to support pay parity between federal employees and military personnel and opposes Medicare means testing. NARFE will be monitoring the budget process as it changes much as it goes through Congress.

Legislation has just been re-introduced to allow federal retirees to pay health insurance premiums with pretax dollars. This has been a priority for us for several years as it would mean a savings of hundreds of dollars and give federal retirees the same benefit as current employees. This should be of great interest to the current federal employees because, as soon as they retire which they all will do at some point, they loose this great benefit. The Bill numbers for the current legislative is House Bill **H.R. 1203** and Senate Bill **S. 491**. This bills are known by the name of Premium Conversion. Please contact your U.S. Representative and both of our U.S. Senators and urge them to support these bills.

We Appreciate Our Members!

March Is NARFE-PAC Month

NARFE-PAC is our organization's Political Action Committee which is separate fund that is supported by voluntary contributions from NARFE members in order to support congressional candidates with proven records of serving the interests of nearly 5 million active and retired federal employees. I would encourage you to read the article in the March issue of the NARFE magazine on page 16.

No membership dues are used for NARFE-PAC. Keep in mind that the members of congress ask the various PACs for donations when they are campaigning. It seems to be a sad fact that they expect to receive donations from groups in which they support their causes. Nearly every group out there has a PAC and so we are competing against all of them. In our area, Congressmen Gordon and Davis have received donations in the past. While the month of March is designated as NARFE-PAC month, donations can be made and are encouraged at any time of the year.

We have many ways to donate to NARFE-PAC, we will take up a collection at our March meeting. So keep that in mind. We would prefer you bring checks but we will accept cash as well. Donations will be forwarded to our Federation NARFE-PAC chairman. In each NARFE magazine there is a contribution form that you can cut out and mail in to the address listed on the form. With it you can mail a check or use your credit card. Be sure to include your membership number on all contributions so that our chapter gets credited with your gifts. The suggested contribution is \$20, those giving this much or more will get the 2009-2010 NARFE-PAC pin. If you can give more, please do, if you can't give \$20 then do what you can. Members coming to our March meeting, bring you contribution, others need to mail it in.

Our Federation Chairman keeps with the contributions for each chapter and each year the chapter making the most contributions per capita is awarded the Leo Potts NARFE-PAC trophy.

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.