



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

May 2009

Convention Report

The 53rd. Tennessee Federation Convention was held in Jackson TN this year. The Jackson chapter with help from the Trenton chapter hosted. Reba and I were glad to represent you at this years event.

The first day was spent taking part in committee meetings and ended with the banquet. On the second day, we took care of the business of the convention. Our main speaker this year was David Snell who is the National Director of Retirement Benefit Services at NARFE Headquarters. He spoke of the importance of our Service Officers and the work they do. Snell also gave us information on the current membership numbers nationwide and how we are doing in recruiting and retaining members. We are doing well on recruiting but not well in the area of retention. He spoke about the Referendum on NARFE Dues. He also mentioned several ways that NARFE has been effective influencing and pushing legislative victories this year. Many of these have a particular interest to the active federal employees.

Also in attendance was representatives from Senator Corker's office, Senator Alexander's Office and Representative Tanner's Office' All expressed appreciation from their respected official for the service that NARFE members have made and filled us in on the current status of our legislation in Congress.

There were 2 Resolutions that made it out of committee to be discussed and voted on. One was about making a change to allow the Federation Board to vote by email, fax or by written communication. The other would reduce the per capita dues paid by chapters to the federation from \$4 to \$3. Both measures were passed.

Most unusual this year were the number of candidates seeking to hold Federation positions. There were 3 contested offices. For the position of Federation President there were 2 candidates, Carey Frazier and John Shannon. For 3rd. Vice President there were 2 candidates, James L (Larry) Henderson and Charles (Charlie) Gardner and for Secretary there were 2 candidates, Lynda LeMay and Vivian Fivecoat. For the remaining offices, they were uncontested. See the next column for a listing of all the Tennessee Federation Officers for 2009-2010.

Elected Officers:

- President - Carey Frazier
- 1st Vice President – Larry Cunningham
- 2nd Vice President – John Wells
- 3rd Vice President - Larry Henderson
- Secretary - Lynda LeMay
- Treasure - Marie Anglin
- Legislative Chairman - James Glenn
- Membership Chairman - J C Whitney

Appointed Officers:

- Alzheimer's Chairman - Judith Perez
- Financial Secretary - Glenda Huff
- NARFE-PAC Chairman - Glenn Turner
- Newsletter Editor - Max Coats
- Network Coordinator - Ronnie Collins

If you have a need to contact them, you can do so by going to the Tennessee Federation website, www.narfetn.org. or if you do not have access to the internet, call me for their telephone numbers or mailing addresses.

There were 2 special awards given out this year. One was is Leo Potts NARFE-PAC award which is given to the chapter who made the most per capita contributions during the past year to NARFE-PAC. The winning chapter was again this year the Cumberland County Chapter. A brand new award this year was the Weida White Trolley Alzheimer's Award. This award is given to the chapter who contributed the most per capita this past year to the Alzheimer's Fund. I was hoping that our chapter would be the winner since I knew we had done well. As it turned out, we did have the highest dollar amount of contributions but the Athens chapter had the most per capita contributions.

Chapter Officers

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

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Next Meeting

Make plans to attend our next meeting on May 19th. at Shoney's Restaurant on Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Be there by 6:00 p.m. for the meal and fellowship. The business session will begin at 6:45 p.m. Our speaker this month will be Roy Byrd who worked for and retired from the Social Security Administration and now runs a Social Security Consulting business. Roy is also our chapter Service Officer. I am sure many of you will be interested in hearing about issues pertaining to Social Security.

Seems like it has been a long time since our last meeting since we did not have one in April due to the convention. Whether you have or have not been to our chapter meetings in awhile, we hope to see you this month.

Membership News

We have no new members to report this month. I am working on a few dropped members in recent months to convince them to renew. If anyone is willing to help in this area, we need someone to serve as Membership Chairman. The job does require some computer skills, but mainly it requires someone who likes working with people in order to recruit new members and retain the ones we have.

Legislative News

NARFE has just concluded its annual Legislative Conference in Washington DC. Several NARFE members from Tennessee attended this year and gave a report to us at the convention. They took part in several briefings by headquarters staff and met and talked with our elected Legislators. A report is expected to be included in the Federation Newsletter that you will receive in June.

The push for the NARFE priority legislation continues in Congress. As a reminder, here is a summary of our bills. There are 2 in the House that would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision (GPO/WEP), they are **H.R. 82** with 304 current cosponsors and **H.R.235** with 276 current cosponsors including Rep. Bart Gordon and Rep. Lincoln Davis on both bills. The similar bill in the Senate is **S. 484** with 24 current cosponsors. The bills that are known as Premium Conversion that would permit retirees to pay our health insurance premiums on a pretax basis are **H.R. 1203** which has 143 cosponsors including Rep. Bart Gordon. Rep. Lincoln Davis is not currently supporting this bill. And **S. 491** which has 33 cosponsors. Neither of our U.S. Senators are cosponsors on the 2 Senate bills. I would encourage you to read more about these bills on the NARFE website or the Federation website.

We Appreciate Our Members!

Also continue to write, email and call those who have not signed on to support these bills. You can find contact information on our websites. Or if you do not have access to the internet, just contact me and I will provide.

Even though the present situation with the economy, it is not very likely we will have success this year, but we need to keep reminding our legislators that these bills are important to us so that there will come a day that we will see them pass.

These bills plus everything that Congress does or not do is very important to us as federal employees and federal retirees. That is just the reason that it is **vital** that we remain a strong organization. Remember that earthly speaking our very financial future lies in the hands of the U.S Congress and with the current economy, spending for our benefits could be under risk. Thankfully because of the hard work of NARFE we have been spared any cuts in many years. I say all of that to say this, please help us and yourself by keeping your membership active.

Sunshine Report

No one has been reported as sick, etc. I would ask that our Telephone Committee when they make their monthly phone calls to be sure to ask about this and report it to Joan Oswalt. Lots of times there is not much we can do, but send a card. But that means a lot many times. If you know of a member who is having health problems, etc., then let us know.

Save This Date

We will be having our annual chapter picnic on Saturday June 13th. this year. We have reserved shelter number 1 at Cane Creek Park for the lunch hours. So make plans to be with us on that day. All the details will be included in next month's newsletter. See you 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.