



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

May 2010

Notes From NARFE Federation Convention

On April 19th and 20th, Reba and I attended the State Convention representing our chapter. The location was in Sevierville and hosted by the Sevierville Chapter. Even though the Sevierville Chapter is small in number, they did a great job in organizing the convention this year. The federation conventions rotate across the state and are held in the month of April each year.

In addition to NARFE officers and members from across Tennessee, there were 3 other special guests. Representing the National office was Joe Beaudoin the current National VP, Paul Carew from North Carolina who is the current Region X VP and Bill Martin from Virginia who is running for the Region X VP position.

The main speaker, Joe Beaudoin gave us an update on where we stand nationwide and what we can look forward to. He focused on the problem that we have with declining membership. While it is true that most all member organizations like ours are having similar problems retaining members, it is especially troubling for us in that there is no other organization who will help us hold on to our earned benefits. Back in 1986 NARFE had around 490,000 members, since then our numbers have steadily dropped to around 305,000 at present. Over those years, we have gained many thousand of new members, but those who dropped by not renewing have far exceeded the new members. This is a very serious problem and many within our organization are trying their best to turn these numbers around. We need your help in this. The main thing that you can do is keep your membership active and renew each time your dues are due.

Beaudoin went on to say, that because of the declining membership numbers, NARFE is taking in less money than it costs to maintain operations. The national office has cut its budget for last year and this year, eliminated several positions by not filling vacancies as people retired or left. But even this is not enough to put us on solid financial ground. He told us that national has no choice but to ask for a dues increase at the next bi-annual convention which is later this year. There has been no dues increase since the year 2004. -- *continued in next column*

In 2004 the National dues went from \$20 to \$29. chapter dues are in addition to that. There was an attempt last year to pass a single dues structure which in effect would have been a small dues increase, but it failed to pass. It is too early to know at this point what all will be proposed at the upcoming National Convention, but we were told to expect a \$10 or \$11 increase in dues. I know that this will not be well received by many, but keep in mind that it will still only be pennies per day for the security we have in all that NARFE does for us. Much more to come on this subject.

In other federation convention news, there were no resolutions or proposed bylaw changes introduced this year. There were several awards given, to mention just 2. The Leo Potts award for the chapter contributing the most per capita for NARFE-PAC was won by the Franklin County Chapter and the Weida White Tolley award for the chapter giving the most per capita to the Alzheimer's fund was won by the Cleveland Chapter. State officers were elected to serve the 2010-2011 term. I will not name all of them, but Larry Cunningham is the new Federation President, the 3 VP representing the 3 divisions of the state are: John Wells, Larry Henderson and Jerry McDuffie. The next Federation Newsletter which you will receive in June will give more news about all this.

Next Meeting

Mark your calendars for May 18th. and come to our chapter meeting at Shoney's Restaurant. Get there by 6:00 pm. or before to eat and then the business of NARFE begins at 6:45 pm. This month we will have a speaker with ALS Association (Lou Gehrig's Disease. Call 931-252-2973 if you need a ride.

Chapter Officers

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Vice-President	Vacant
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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Sunshine Report

We lost another member on April 23rd. Ray Wurm passed from this life after a fairly long illness. He was a faithful member at our meetings and we will miss him. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

I have heard of no other reports, please inform us and cases of illnesses and deaths among our members.



Legislative News

There is troubling news coming from The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. This bipartisan commission was set up by President Obama to make recommendations to Congress on ways to reduce the deficit and control growth of the federal debt.

It is not likely they will change much on the "big three" federal programs - Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid has 40 million beneficiaries which will grow to 77 million by 2030. But rather will turn to an easier target which is the much smaller group (2.3 million) federal retirees and survivors.

Past history has shown that in times of budget crisis, 1980s and early 1990s federal retirees and survivors lost over \$50 billion in deferred, reduced or canceled cost of living adjustments (COLAs) while at the same time Social Security COLAs were preserved.

NARFE has an information sheet on this and it is posted on our [website](#). I will bring copies of this to our next meeting for you to have. This is just one reason that we need to keep our memberships active in NARFE and that we bring in more members. What other organization is watching out for these things?

National Convention

I know that we have just concluded the State Convention, but now it is time for our chapter to think about the National Convention coming up August 29-September 2. These occur every 2 years and this time it is to be in Grand Rapids Michigan. Our chapter is allotted up to 3 delegates that we can send and the deadline for submitting the Delegate Form is June 30. Any NARFE member can attend and non-member guests can also attend. Full details are in the latest issues of the NARFE Magazine.

I would like the chapter to authorize sending up to 3 delegates at the May meeting, since we will not have a regular meeting in June (because of the picnic). But if anyone is interested in going as a delegate, let me know before the June 30 deadline so that I can include you on the delegate list. The chapter has a policy of paying the convention registrations fees for the delegates, but all other expenses must be paid by the attendees.

Membership News

We have received very many updates lately to our members mailing address, telephone number or email address. Thanks to all who have sent me the updated information. If anyone else has changes, don't forget to also let me know.

Also let me remind you that when you renew your membership dues, send in the renewal form that you receive from headquarters or from our chapter. Do not submit a new application form as that confuses headquarters and makes for a lot of extra work to correct.

Looking Forward

Mark your calendars for Saturday June 26th. That will be the date of our chapter picnic. It will be at the Cane Creek Park in Cookeville beginning at 11:00am and going to about 2:00pm. Bring your ideas for the food menu, any activities or any other thoughts to the next meeting. We need to decide on everything this month. I will place those details in next months Newsletter. Don't forget!

On The Light Side - Exercise

It is well documented that for every mile that you jog, you add one minute to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$5000 per month.

The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.

If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She is 97 now and we don't know where the heck she is.

NARFE NEEDS YOU AND YOU NEED NARFE

Thanks for renewing your membership and don't forget the next meeting.

With the extra daylight hours, I hope to see more of you at our meetings!

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956:	www.narfecookevilletn.org
Tennessee Federation:	www.narfetn.org
NARFE Headquarters:	www.narfe.org