



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
CHAPTER 1956 COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE**

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Presidents Corner

Our next meeting is July 18th and, for something different, we will be treated to a musical program by the Heartland Gospel Singers.

June 17 was a beautiful sunny day, just right for a picnic. Thirty nine registered, thirty seven attended, the most in our recollection. If you didn't go you missed a fun time with a congenial group and a super meal, many thanks to you who attended. Also thanks to the telephone committees for their efforts, to Clarence and Lou Richards for arranging and transporting the meal, to Jan MacKenzie, Reba Collins, Virginia Masters, Joan Oswalt and Barbra Fletcher for the deserts, to Larry Charon for the loan of the bingo game, to Jim Evans, Lawrence Duewer and Kent Fletcher for acting as bingo callers and to Joe and Frank Britnell for carpooling Sam Bacon to the picnic.

I was hoping that some of our Celina members and our current Federal Employees would join us but that was not to be, maybe next time. We did have representation from Red Boiling Springs, Whitleyville, Pall Mall, Livingston, Monterey and Carthage. I had the pleasure of meeting some of our members that I had never met.

Chuck and Jan MacKenzie are delegates to the National Convention, the deadline for notice to HQ was July 10 and I waited till July 1, to see if there was a third person interested, before sending in the credential form.

Congratulations to Sam Bacon who was 106 years young on July 1. Sam is the oldest living member of NARFE. Update 7/9, Sam is in the hospital suffering a heart attack.

Treasurer's balance as of July 5 was \$804.05

Legislative

Sixty two Senators now support the Premium Conversion bill; unfortunately our Senators are not among them. We need to continue to urge their support. If you have written or telephoned, do it again. The trustees for Social Security and Medicare are projecting that Medicare Plan B premiums will increase to \$98.20 beginning Jan 2007, all the more reason to write. Due to persistent efforts by our Federation Officers, Marcia Blackburn finally signed on as a cosponsor for the WEP/GPO legislation. That is what can happen if we keep at it.

Sunshine - Cards were sent to Marge Happe, Roy Byrd

Membership

The May report from HQ showed that fifteen members have renewed their membership, one member was reinstated. Thank you!!!! The May and June report showed that six members were sent second notices, shame, and shame. Dues withholding is a great way to prevent second notices. We lost one member. We welcome two new members, Diane Warrick and Jean Young who have transferred from the Crossville chapter.

My Scottish nature revolted when I saw I had an empty back page, it was a waste of good paper. The following may be considered by some a waste of paper, but even ignoring the religious context there is a message that is food for thought.

Billy Graham is now 86 years old with Parkinson's disease. In January 2000 leaders, in Charlotte North Carolina, invited their favorite son, Billy Graham, to a luncheon in his honor. Billy initially hesitated to accept the invitation because he struggles with Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, "We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you." So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr Graham stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd, and said, "I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who this month has been honored by Time magazine as the Man of the Century. Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there, so he looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

The conductor rushed back and said, "Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are. No problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one." Einstein looked at him and said, "Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going."

Having said that Billy Graham continued, "See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. My wife, my children, and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion.

You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this":

"I not only know who I am, I also know where I'm going."