



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

March 14, 2006

Presidents Corner

Next meeting at Shoney's is Mar 21, 2006, eating at 6:00 pm – meeting at 6:45 pm. The speaker will be Ed Bryan NARFE 5th Congressional District Officer He will be speaking on how NARFE - PAC works. Hope to see you there!

Twenty seven people turned out to hear LeBron Bell and his guests speak on the Special Olympics program. Program events are scheduled from September through May with 400 participants in twelve sports and special social events. Funding comes from donations and support from volunteers. Impressive was the testimonial of the young lady on how much the program meant to her and other disabled individuals. Significant is the philosophy that competition is not against others but against personal bests and victory is not winning but crossing the starting line. That is something to think about!!! Copies of the current schedule will be available at the next meeting.

I have asked the chapter to think about having our annual picnic at a park more convenient to our Celina membership (i.e. Standing Stone). I am tentatively thinking about some Saturday afternoon in late June or July. Your thoughts are requested.

The first distribution of the newsletter by e-mail was successful and prompted eight more to respond with e-mail addresses. We now have thirty two on the e-mail circuit. If the e-mail copy is not received by the Tuesday a week before the meeting, contact me as you will not receive a s-mail copy.

Congratulations to Tom and Connie Banker for receiving the “Master Conservationist” award from 1st Tennessee Bank. Tom was selected as the Conservation Farmer of the year for his efforts in land stewardship.

Ronnie Collins developed a proposed website for the chapter and distributed copies at the meeting. The chapter commended Ronnie for his efforts and voted to approve the expense to put the site on line. You can see it at www.narfecookevilletn.org

The chapter approved payment of \$40.00 to each of five delegates to the state convention. Presently four are approved, Jan and Chuck MacKenzie and Ronnie and Reba Collins. There is room for one more. It also voted to donate two door prizes at a cost of \$10.00 each.

Legislative

March is designated as NARFE-PAC Month, hence our speaker. I hope all of you read the current article in NARFE magazine on the subject. We are a Political Action Committee, but we are NOT partisan. We need to support and vote for those who support our needs. Contributions to NARFE-PAC are in order and will be gratefully received. Checks should be made out to NARFE-PAC (no cash please) If you are not in attendance, please mail your check to our treasurer,
Jim Evans.

P.O. Box 49004
Cookeville TN 38506

In that respect watch the newspaper for an appearance in the area by Bart Gordon during National Lobby week, March 20-24. Show up and thank him for his support.

President Bush's submitted budget contains no reduction in our benefits; however he is pushing for Health Savings Plans (HSA's) to which NARFE is opposed. Premium Conversion now has 302 co-sponsors in the House and 54 co-sponsors in the Senate. Unfortunately our Senators have not co-sponsored and should be contacted and urged to do so.

Membership

We had seven people renew their dues in January, keep up the good work. The February report will be issued next month. When your time comes consider dues withholding, it is a bargain.

Ron Collins, our Membership Chair, suggested a method of recruiting that he and Tom Banker have used: a gift membership to a retiring U.S. Government Employee. The recruiter receives a rebate from HQ of \$8.00. The Federation President has been using a similar technique where he offers the prospective current employee \$ 8.00 cash to join, knowing he will be reimbursed by HQ. Remember keep recruiting materials in your car, you never know when you will have the opportunity to use them.

You worked hard for your benefits and earned them, but what are you doing now to protect those benefits for you and your spouse? Many of our retired and current employee members have also included their spouses as members, but many have not. You may be thinking, why sign up my spouse since at my death, my membership is converted to him or her anyway?

1. Remember it is what we do now that protects their benefits for the future. When it comes to Capitol Hill it is the **total numbers** that count. If your spouse is not a member; this translates to fewer numbers for NARFE which weakens your voice and their voice is not being heard at all. This is not the time to taking such risks.
2. Including your spouse as a member adds more numbers and input to the Chapter, Federation and National business matters and resolutions. Our delegate count is directly related to the number of chapter members we have. We currently have about 138 members, we could substantially increase that total if every spouse were also a member.

Will you take this opportunity to sign them up as a member? The added cost is not great; the first year membership dues for the spouse of a retiree are only \$33 and for the spouse of a current federal employee, it is only \$25. Isn't it worth that much? You can use the membership application in your monthly magazine or see us for an application.

Alzheimer's

We collected \$38.25 for Alzheimer's

Sunshine

We welcomed Ray Wurm back after a long absence due to surgery.

Telephone committee

In your calling this month please emphasize the importance of NARFE-PAC and the need for a good attendance at the meeting. Also if the agency from which the annuitant/spouse is blank on your calling list, please get that information and send it to me so we can update the list. Thanks