



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

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Presidents Corner

Next meeting is at Shoney's 6:00 pm on Oct 17, 2006. Lt. Roy Cravens of the Cookeville Police Department will talk on the latest scams to infect the area. Look forward to seeing you there.

Many thanks to Ronnie Collins for taking over last month, from all reports he did a super job as I knew he would. Thanks also to Elizabeth Bryant for taking the minutes. Fannie Yoder was the guest of Marie Loftis.

We enjoyed the convention and the extended stay, visiting Santa Fe, Taos, and taking a ride on the scenic railroad from Antonito to Charma.

Opening night was devoted to Alzheimer's reports. So far NARFE has raised \$6,427,318 million and we should be close to our goal of \$7 million by the end of the year. A new goal of \$8 million has been set with no time limit. Mississippi had the highest per capita giving in 2005, donating \$8.96 per member. Three research projects were funded for a total of \$580,000. Remember, all NARFE donated funds go to research only.

Monday the keynote speaker was Linda M. Springer, head of OPM, who talked about the future and the efforts to fix the federal retirement system. The retirement benefits system is currently working out of a mine in Pennsylvania in a vintage 1930-1940 paper based environment. The facility has 144,000 file draws of personnel records and is so cumbersome it may take months to get the first full retirement check. She thanked NARFE for its support in trying to get Congress to up grade the system with computer technology.

The National officers gave their reports and then the fun started with the debate on the resolutions. Considerable time was spent on an amended resolution concerning unified dues. I spoke for the resolution as I believe that this is the best solution to the problem of mandatory membership. (Note the word mandatory is now banned from NARFE usage.) The resolution was sent to the ballot where it was passed by 62% of the voters, but 67% was required for implementation. All other resolutions on mandatory membership were defeated. No action was taken on the issue of spousal dues, and the resolutions on "one man one vote" were sent to the National Executive Board for further study.

Tuesday was primarily devoted to nominations and nominating speeches. Big surprises as two new candidates for the office of President were announced, Margaret Baptiste and Charles Carter. Both thought that there should be competition for that office. The current treasurer, Richard Ostergren, having no opposition was elected by acclamation. That evening we were treated to "New Mexico Night" with superb entertainment by dancers, singers and a comic female master of ceremonies.

Wednesday was Election Day and we waited in line for two hours to vote. Our candidates won. Margaret Baptiste was elected National President, Bill Austin was elected National Vice President, and "Nat" Brown was elected National Secretary by 63 votes. Joe Beaudoin was elected Region X National Field Vice President. Grand Rapids, Michigan was selected as the site of the 2010 convention. Thursday was acceptance speeches and clean up of resolutions. That night was the banquet. Final count: 1323 of 1501 chapters were represented (88%), 1421 were in attendance.

We regret the passing of Sam Bacon who died on Sept 9, he will be missed. The chapter voted to send a \$50.00 gift to TTU, to be placed in a memorial fund in the name of Sam and Reba Bacon.

Alzheimer's collection was \$18.00

Legislative

A discharge petition to release the WEP/GPO bill from Committee as been issued and is cosponsored by Bart Gordon.

Membership

We have one new member Diana Violette, recruited by Phillip Violette, please welcome her. Seven members renewed, thank you, and one member was sent a second notice.

Service

Ron noted that a new dental and eyeglass insurance plan will be available during the open season that begins in November. If you want more information there is a link to the OPM webpage on our chapter website or you can call OPM at 202-606-0745

Next meeting we will need to create a nominating committee for next year officers. You can help by volunteering.