



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

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Presidents' Corner

There is no meeting in April. The "high muckymucks" will be attending the State Convention in Knoxville April 16 and 17. We will miss your smiling faces.

The March meeting was attended by twenty three members and guests. John Wells gave us a presentation on the importance of NARFE-PAC and what it means to the support of our earned benefits. Contributions were made at the meeting by nine members and I have pins for those contributors. I hope those not contributing at the meeting or not present at the meeting will use the form in our NARFE magazine and send your contributions directly to HQ. Make sure you include your chapter number and remember that it is your future annuities that you are protecting.

Our Federation First Vice President attended our meeting and we welcome back the Boyingtons after a long absence. The Robinsons were also in attendance, having submitted their request for membership to HQ.

A Bylaws resolution to change the annual state convention to a biannual convention has been submitted for consideration by the convention delegates. Views were expressed pro and con, The chapter voted to send its delegates uninstructed.

At the May meeting we will need volunteers to help with the picnic preparations. Someone will need to pick up the order at Stroud's, a few needed to bring desserts, as many as possible come. We have scheduled for a Saturday so that our working members and current federal employees will have the opportunity to attend. We have a covered shelter so rain should not be a problem.

Alzheimer's: no collection because of NARFE PAC

Treasurers Report: Balance as of 31 Mar is \$651.61 (a small portion of which is escrow for Alzheimer's)

Legislative

The House has passed their version of the of the Budget Resolution. A House-Senate conference, to reconcile differences, will meet after the Easter recess. So far neither bill will reduce federal civil service retirement or health benefits.

Premium Conversion legislation HR 1110 now has 97 cosponsors; the corresponding Senate bill S773 has xx cosponsors.

The legislation to repeal both GPO and WEP continues to attract co-sponsors; HR 82 as of now has 276 co-sponsors, Bart Gordon is among them. In the Senate, S 206 as of now has 21 co-sponsors. We need to continue to contact our Senators asking for their support.

The number of cosponsors does not guarantee that a bill will be passed. The work on bills is done in the committees which must approve the legislation. Then, with the concurrence of the chamber leadership, it may be brought to the floor for a vote. Cosponsors are not committed to vote for the bill especially if additional measures are added. However the more cosponsors, the more likely it will be passed.

In a previous letter I mentioned some suggestions made by the Congressional Budget Office that might affect Current Federal Employees. One is to base annuities on the highest four or five year of salary rather than the current three. They would also change the change the index on which the COLA was based, reducing it by about 0.3%. Changes in the formula for employer matching contributions for FERS employees could be revised so that the Government pays its maximum of 5% only if the employees are investing 10% rather than the current requirement of 5%. Also suggested was that the government contribution toward retirement health insurance benefits be reduced for employees with less than 10 consecutive years service before retirement.

NARFE is opposed to these changes and will work to prevent them from becoming real. This is another good reason for current employees to join NARFE.

Sunshine

A thank you card was received from the Barnett's for our sympathy expressed on the death of his father.

Membership

We have one reinstatement of membership (others have promised, but have not shown up on the monthly membership report. Two members were sent second notices, as I have said before Dues withholding is the answer to that problem. Ten members renewed their dues according to the February report. THANK YOU!