



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

February 13, 2007

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Chapter Website www.narfecookevilletn.org

Presidents' Corner

Our next meeting will be on February 20, 6:00 pm at Shoney's; the program will be by Linda Lisic on Home Health Care in Cookeville.

The year started well. We had forty-four members attend our January meeting. January is usually a well attended meeting, but in sixteen years of chapter membership I can not recall a turn out so large. Our thanks go to Kent Fletcher for getting the program and the telephone committee for getting the word out to the members.

Linda Crawford gave an excellent overview of the plans for the new building at the Cookeville Regional Medical Center. The approach is to emphasize holistic medicine and family attention to the patient during recovery. The use of plants, art and nature scenes will provide an enhanced and more pleasant recovery environment, (It has been shown that nature scenes over the bed have helped reduce blood pressure). Emphasis will also be on an improved environment for family visits including better conditions for over night stays and provisions for allowing visiting out of the patient rooms. Forty-five beds will be added to the existing capability.

The current fast growing services are cancer and cardiac care. The Cancer Center will be in the new building and be about three times larger than the current facility. ICU will be increased from sixteen to thirty beds. Outside the new building, plans are in process to increase the sleep center capability. These are just some of the changes that can be expected in the future.

It was also noted that the reputation of CRMC is growing nation wide. The center has been ranking at the 25 or better percentile level in nation surveys, in some as high as ten percent and in one category, listed first in Tennessee. Customer satisfaction is very high.

My thanks to the telephone committees' effort on checking our records, I received several feedback updates on telephone numbers and zip code changes. We can't effectively communicate unless we have accurate data.

I missed the announcement at the meeting; we do have a thank you card from the Key family who were the recipients of our Christmas offering.

To insure that we have a Saturday for the next Christmas Luncheon, the chapter voted to make arrangements with the facility and caterer now, with Dec 15 as first choice and Dec 8 as second. Clarence Richards made the arrangements and we have a "go" for the 15th. Put it on your calendars.

The chapter elected six delegates to attend the state convention to be held in Knoxville on April 16, 17 2007. They are:

Jan and Chuck MacKenzie

Ron and Reba Collins

Bob and Gerry Hagens

The convention is an open convention and anyone may attend. Registration forms are available from the Chapter Secretary

Alzheimer's: we collected \$44.00

Legislative

Legislation to repeal both GPO and WEP has been introduced in the House as HR 82 (as of now 169 cosponsors, Bart Gordon is among them) and in the Senate as S 206 (as of now eight cosponsors). We need to work on our Senators.

The GAO (Government Accountability Office) has recognized in a report that OPM has not utilized an authorized subsidy to reduce FEHB premiums. Hopefully this report and some pressure on the new congress will help them see the error of their ways (something else for us to write our congressional representatives and senators about).

The address for our new Senator is: (Please add it to the bottom of your membership list)

Senator Bob Corker
B40A Dirksen Bldg
Washington D.C. 20510
Phone 202-224-3344

Sunshine or Sympathy Cards were sent to: Doug Barnett, Howard Hitchcock, Marion Bohannan, the family of Jesse Fuson, AC Koger, Bill Masters and Jan MacKenzie.

Membership

We welcome Kathy Hilton as a new member; Vicky Foster and Connie Leslie as potential new members. In January Milton Ashburn of Baxter joins the chapter and one more member converted to Dues Withholding Yea Team!!!. Our sympathy goes to the family on the death of Jesse Fuson of Smithville, to Orpha Koger on the death of her husband, and to Jan MacKenzie and the Schenke family on the death of her sister Elizabeth.

The November and December reports show seventeen members have renewed their membership. Thank you for your support.

Your membership is very important to you, your spouse and to the thousands of other active and retired federal employees. For you that renew your membership annually, be sure to watch for the renewal mailing that comes from NARFE Headquarters. It should come 2 months before your membership is due to expire. I believe that the expiration date is printed on the mailing label of your NARFE magazine. We all have heard the saying "there is strength in numbers". That is so true especially when it comes to protecting our hard earned benefits that we want to continue. Be aware that the stronger our membership base is, the more that Congress will work to keep our benefits coming and not take anything away. Our US Representatives and Senators for Tennessee need to know that we are a strong and growing group as well. So please be sure to renew when it is time, or better yet if you are a retired member, sign up for Dues Withholding. If you need any help in renewing your membership, let us know.

Where it went in 2006, from the treasurer (deleting in/out items such as picnic, Christmas and Alzheimer's)

Receipts - Dues and Donations	\$1537.62
Expenses – Newsletter	\$556.03
Federation Dues	\$546.00
Speakers meals	\$94.60
Office-miscellaneous	\$85.58
Delegate Expenses	\$80.00
Sunshine	\$47.18
Total	\$1409.66

We are solvent and in good shape with some reserve, but more needs to be said when I have more room.