



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

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### Presidents Corner

The next meeting will be Tuesday May 15 at Shoneys, 6:00 pm. The program speaker will be Clarisse Bush from the Cookeville Senior Center talking about programs available for seniors. I am remiss in my acknowledgements, many thanks to Elizabeth Bryant for taking the minutes of the March meeting, while Jan was incapacitated.

The state convention was held at the Days Inn in Knoxville, April 16 and 17. Renovations at the motel, scheduled for completion prior to the convention, were not completed and the delegates were subjected to paint odors, dirty carpets, etc. Seventy five delegates attended and there were seventeen proxies issued.

Fortunately, Jan and I were at a different motel but unfortunately we were on the second floor without an elevator. This contributed to her breathing problems which, on arriving home, were diagnosed as blood clots in the lungs. She is home now doing well.

The key note speaker was Margaret Baptise, National President of NARFE. She spoke to the future of NARFE, emphasizing the fact that it is the strengthening and energy of the chapters that will keep the organization alive and well. Members participating in chapter activities, particularly legislation issues, are what make the "grass roots" effort successful. When legislators hear from their constituents they are more likely to act. They do need to be prodded. Changes are being made in HQ to strengthen the Organization and the Communications to members.

"In the past three years membership data shows that we average 26,000 new members per year. In 2006 we had 34,726 members dropped or cancelled with 8,763 re-installed. Thus the net loss was 28,063. About half this number is considered unrecoverable; 20% un-reported deaths, 10% have entered an assisted care facility, and about 25% because of the chapter membership requirement. (From the editor -The latter can be eliminated by unified dues) That leaves about 14,000 who were dropped or cancelled for non renewal of dues. Chapter emphasis is need in this area."

Retention continues to be a problem, and you can help. When you dues notice comes due pay promptly and stay with us, it is our benefits (and yours) that are at risk. (Ron does a great job, for our chapter, pursuing dropped or dropping members.)

The Bylaws resolution to change the annual state convention to a biannual convention was defeated on a delegate vote of 75 no to 17 yes. I note that most of the yes votes came from a single chapter.

The current Federation officers were reelected for the coming year:

President	John Hicks	Secretary	Vacant
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.	Carey Frazier	Treasurer	Marie Anglin
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres	John Shannon	Membership Chair	Alan Reeves
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Pres.	Larry Cunningham	Legislative Chair	John Wells

We are in need of a Federation Secretary, if you are interested call John Hicks at 423-638-6786.

Repeating an item in the last newsletter, at the May meeting we will ask for volunteers to help with the June 23rd picnic preparations. Someone will need to pick up the order at Stroud's; a few volunteers will be needed to bring desserts. We hope as many as possible will 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 in March

Treasurers Report: Balance on April 30 \$769.47 of which \$70.57 is dedicated

Legislative

Premium Conversion legislation HR 1110 now has 135 cosponsors; the corresponding Senate bill S773 has 26 cosponsors. Neither Bart Gordon nor Lincoln Davis have not cosponsored the bill, contact their local offices and request their support.

The legislation to repeal both GPO and WEP continues to attract co-sponsors; HR 82 as of now has 297 co-sponsors, Bart Gordon is among them. In the Senate, S 206 as of now has 26 co-sponsors. PLEASE CONTACT OUR SENATORS AND ASK FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

A new bill has been introduced in the Senate, S-1254, addressing just the GPO issue. Specifically the bill, if enacted, would prevent the application of the GPO for ALL public sector retirees until the combined monthly benefits exceed \$1200, adjusted annually for inflation.

Membership

The April membership report shows four new members: the Robinsons who have been attending our meetings, Josephine Mitchell of Sparta and David Carlson of Cookeville. When you see them make them welcome. Three members received second notices, who hope this is a member oversight. One more member switched to dues withholding, yea Team!! My goal is to get more of you to switch, it saves time and money for you and for us. The March financial report shows that five members have renewed their dues, THANK YOU.