



# NARFE Chapter 870 Newsletter

Volume I, Number 4

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Published Quarterly

Joe Couch, President - Vivian Fivecoat, 1<sup>st</sup> VP - Al Basham, 2d VP - Toni Andersen, Sec'y - Gracie Miller, Treas - JC Whitney, Membership/Svc Meetings held 2d Thursday of Month at Shoney's Restaurant, corner of N. Second Street and Kraft Street, Lunch 1100-1200, Meeting 12:00 -1:00



## A message from the Chapter President

This will be my last message as your president since the new year is rapidly approaching. I sincerely thank all officers and the many other members that worked diligently throughout the year to make our chapter's activities and projects successful. We had an extremely good year.

Major objectives, set at our January 9, 2007 strategic planning session and a couple added during the year, have been achieved or will be by the end of December. Some of the most noteworthy ones are: (1) Publishing and distributing a really outstanding newsletter. (2) Increasing chapter membership from approximately 165 to almost 200. (3) Having lively, well attended monthly meetings with outstanding programs. (4) Having seven members represent our chapter at the Tennessee Federation Convention in Knoxville April 16-17. (5) Securing the selection of our chapter's first vice-president as the Tennessee Federation secretary. (6) Arranging for a better, more centrally located meeting place for our monthly meetings. (7) Having almost 100 people attend our really great annual friends, family and potential new members meeting.

Yes, 2007 was a great year. There is one area, however, where we need to work harder and get more members involved. We need to be more persistent and effective in getting the attention of and then working with our US Senators and Representatives in protecting our earned benefits and in securing additional fair and reasonable benefits.

There is a very true old adage that states the "squeaking wheel" get the most grease and gets it first. May I suggest we do some loud "squeaking" to Senators Alexander and Crocker and Representatives Blackburn and Tanner in 2008.

In closing, I thank everyone for letting me serve as president and extend sincere congratulations to our new officers. Best wishes to all members for a healthy and blessed holiday season and a truly enjoyable and productive 2008.

Joe Couch, President

## Chapter Officers for 2008

At the November meeting Chapter 870 elected the officers for 2008. Installation of the officers will be held at the meeting on 13 December. The new officers are –

Vivian Fivecoat – President  
Toni Andersen – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Charles Gardner - 2d Vice President  
Joe Couch - Secretary  
Gracie Miller - Treasurer  
JC Whitney – Membership/Service Officer



## Welcome To Our New Members

Linda Allison, Robert Gooch, Clare Peck, Wandean Wallace, Janie Couch, Daisy Pickett, John Posey, James Halford, Deborah Judge, Marie Roughmont, Joann and Tommy Gilbert

## Chapter 870 Member Spotlight



Our NARFE member spotlight this quarter is on Mrs. Anna Sanders and Mrs. Jenny Anderson. They have been NARFE members since October 1993 and qualified for membership through their spouses

Kenneth Anderson and William Sanders who are deceased. They have been calling members to remind them of meetings and to pass on other information for more than 12 years. They remember when NARFE meetings were held at the Madison Street Methodist Church and Bonanza Steak House on Riverside Drive before moving to Ponderosa Steak House in St Bethlehem. They now enjoy the meetings at Shoney's.

Jenny and Anna are lifetime residents of Clarksville (except for a short period that Anna and her family lived in Birmingham) and met when they worked at the telephone company in town. Not only are these ladies friends but they are also sisters-in-law. Jenny played match maker when she introduced Anna to her brother William.

Jenny and Kenneth were married for 51 years. Kenneth worked at the Post Office at Fort Campbell. They have four children; Constance Elaine, Donna Lynn, Karen Anne, and Bridget Marie. Jenny enjoys working puzzles and watching TV game shows.

Anna and William were married for 48 years. William worked at Campbell Army Airfield. They have two children; Theresa Joy and Wayne Neil. Anna enjoys reading religious books and cooking.

## Membership Report

Our Chapter's current membership stands at 195 voting members. Remember, more members and larger numbers give us a better voice in Congress.

JC Whitney, Membership/Service Officer

## Congratulations to NARFE

Congratulations to NARFE membership for contributing more than \$7 million to Alzheimer's research. We must continue supporting this research. We may all benefit from it some day.



## Legislative Report

A new strategy has been suggested to help advance Premium Conversion legislation without having to write new legislation. Any member of the House Ways and Means Committee or the Senate Finance Committee can recommend amending H.R. 1110 or S. 773, respectively, to have federal retirees eligible for premium conversion of FEHBP premiums at the rate of 25% the first year, 50% the second year, 75% the third year and 100% thereafter. We remain convinced that this can be achieved during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress but your help is needed. Every chapter and federation officer should contact NARFE President Margaret Baptiste NOW and urge her to push for this strategy with Congress. Her e-mail address is [natpres@narfe.org](mailto:natpres@narfe.org). Tell her you need Premium Conversion NOW and that this new strategy is the way to get it in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. The time to start the ball rolling is NOW. Waiting until 2008 is a recipe for failure.

Milton Miracle, Legislative Officer

## Alzheimer's Report - Safe at Home

Alzheimer's Association Safe Return is a nationwide identification, support and enrollment program that provides assistance when a person with Alzheimer's or a related dementia wanders and become lost locally or far from home.

Assistance is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If an enrollee is missing, one call immediately activates a community support network to help reunite the lost person with his or her caregiver.

To enroll in Safe Return is easy --

- 1) Online – [WWW.Alz.org](http://WWW.Alz.org)
- 2) Phone – 1-888-572-8566 (7 a m - 11:30 p m CST)  
Lora Whitney, Sunshine/Alzheimer Chairperson

## A True Story

About seven years, Toni Andersen, a member of our local NARFE chapter, was contacted by Frank Grube, a man from Washington State. He was writing a book about his step-brother and the members of a B-29 crew who were shot down over Tokyo Bay during one of the biggest air assaults of World War II. Only one crew member survived and Frank wanted others to know about this brave crew. Toni's dad was a member of this crew.

After many years of extensive research, the book Z Square Z, A B-29 True Story has been published. There is a chapter about Toni's dad which includes a picture of her dad and one of her, her mother and brother. Since Toni helped with the research after being contacted, she is also listed in the acknowledgements.

This book, because of its factual historical content, has been accepted and filed in the Library of Congress. The book is available for sale if anyone is interested in U.S. history. You can call Toni at 931-920-5549 to order the book.

## Travels – Where Have You Been

Bob and Sigrid Grau share their latest misadventure.

This was a vacation that didn't happen.

On October 14, 2007, we began our vacation to Charleston, SC. We started around 8 AM and went I-24 to Nashville to I-40. We stopped in Lebanon for breakfast at Cracker Barrel. Lebanon, TN, is the headquarters of Cracker Barrel, and we asked where it was located. It was too far off our itinerary so we didn't stop to tour. It was also a Sunday so nobody except the security people would be there.

We continued to follow I-40 through Knoxville, and past Pigeon Forge to just west of Asheville, NC. We planned on taking I-26 at Ashville to Spartanburg, SC, for overnight. We stopped for traffic at I-40 about 1-1/2 miles West of I-26 and all of a sudden a huge crash, and jolt from the rear and then another jolt from the rear.

I asked my wife Sigrid if she was OK, and she said yes. I looked in the rearview mirror, and saw a Hummer behind us. Behind the Hummer was a Jeep with its engine in flames. We moved to the side of the road.

The long and short of it is that we terminated our vacation, and had to return home to Clarksville. We both were disappointed that we never made it to our destination.

Maybe we will try again.

## Speaking Of Family....

Toni Andersen is blessed with five generations of women in her family at present. She recently made a trip to Lawton, OK, to join the other ladies and had a five generation picture taken. There was Toni, her mother, Marcy Perry from San Antonio, TX, Toni's oldest daughter, Linda Anderson of Nashville, TN and her oldest granddaughter and great granddaughter, Heather and Audrey Thompson of Lawton, OK.

## Open Season – Health Insurance

Open season for health benefits will run from November 12 thru December 10, 2007. The effective date of the changes will be January 1, 2008. Your February 1, 2008 annuity payments will reflect the first monthly payment. To make changes on your health plan, call Open Season Express at 1-800-332-9798 (you must have your CSA or CSF number & your social security number available) or access Open Season Online at [www.opm.gov/retire/fehb](http://www.opm.gov/retire/fehb). **IF YOU DON'T WANT TO CHANGE YOUR PRESENT INSURANCE COVERAGE, NO ACTION ON YOUR PART IS NEEDED.**

Chapter 870 gratefully acknowledges the businesses who generously support our Newsletter. If you know of any business who would like to be included in our Newsletter, please have them call Lora, 358-4855, Ronni 648-4393 or Priscilla 645-393.



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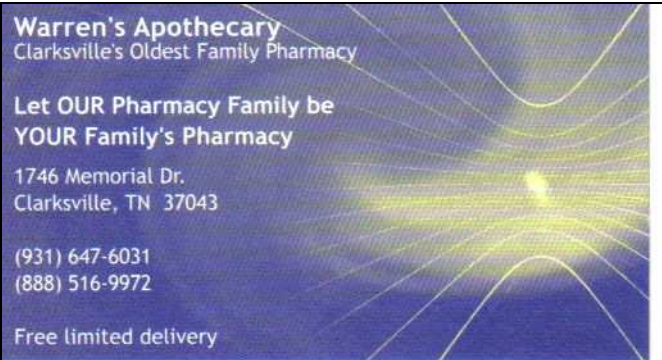
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## Best Wishes to our Members

Best wishes to our members who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or other special occasions during December, January and February. Please come to our meetings and let us know about your special occasions so that we can congratulate you in person.

## And the Winner Is.....

Start the new year as a "Winner" of our first "Find Me" contest—find the misspelled word in the newsletter. You have to be present at the December NARFE meeting to win. Claiming your prize is fast and simple! Just find the misspelled word, bring it to the December meeting and complete the entry form. Just list the misspelled word and sign your name. The winner will be drawn from these entries. Entry forms will be available at the NARFE meeting.

## 'Tis The Season –

Since about 400 AD, Christians have celebrated the birth of Jesus. 'Christ' means 'Messiah' or 'Anointed One' – the title given to Jesus and 'Mass' was a religious festival. But the real

Christmas story is found in the Bible. It is found in two different books: Matthew and Luke, Chapters 1 and 2.

Hanukkah, which means "dedication," also referred to as "The Festival of Lights", is a Jewish festival which begins on the Hebrew date of the 25th of Kislev and lasts eight days, through the 2nd of Tevet. This year, that corresponds to November 30th through December 7th. Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabeus (led by Judah) over the Hellenistic

Once the Temple Mount in Jerusalem had been reclaimed, the Temple had to be rededicated. According to legend, only one jar of sacramental oil was found, enough for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, thus the eight days of Hanukkah.

The most important Hanukkah ritual is the candle lighting. Jews light candles in a special candleholder called a "menorah" or a "Hanukkah". Each night, one more candle is added. The middle candle, called the "Shamash", is used to light each of the other candles and it is lit every night. Therefore, on the first night of Hanukkah, two candles are lit (the Shamash and the candle for the first night) and on the last night, there are nine lit candles.

The editorial staff for this newsletter is Lora Whitney (931-358-4855), Ronni Reid (931-648-4393), and Priscilla Sommars (931-645-3936). Please contact us with your suggestions and opinions.

**Happy Hanukkah**

**Merry Christmas**

**Happy New Year**

**Join us for our meeting on December 13, 2007, at Shoney's Restaurant, lunch 11:00-12:00, meeting 12:00-1:00. Our guest speaker will be Brenda Radford, Montgomery County Trustee. We will also have the installation of the 2008 officers.**

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