



NARFE Chapter 870 Newsletter

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Joe Couch, President - Vivian Fivecoats, 1st VP - Al Basham, 2d VP - Toni Anderson, Sec'y - Gracie Miller, Treas - JC Whitney, Membership/Svc



Message from Our Tennessee Federation President

First off, the Federation Board was very happy to welcome your own Vivian Fivecoat as our new Federation Secretary for the rest of the year. Secondly, Sharon and I are looking forward to visiting you at your October meeting. We have a lot of Marine Corps friends in the Clarksville area.

As your Federation President, I've had a very busy 2 months. First off, in late July I attended the Federation Presidents meeting in Louisville, KY, at the Galt Hotel. This gave all the Presidents a first hand look at the 2008 NARFE Convention site. It looks outstanding and I know Marlene Bunten and her committees are going all out for us.

At the meeting, after two days of brain storming the Presidents met with the National Executive Board and aired out our concerns about, 1-Single Dues, 2- Where NARFE is heading, 3- Communications, 4-Advertising Budget, 5- The NARFE Magazine, 6-Legislation. These were only a few of the items that were discussed.

I'll talk about these items, the Region X meeting at Pipestem, WV and the Federation Board Meeting when I see you in October.

John T. Hicks
Federation President

Meeting Place Changed – Shoney's Downtown

Beginning with our September meeting, NARFE members will gather at **Shoney's Restaurant** on the corner of North Second Street and Riverside Drive

Our September 13 meeting will begin with a pay-as-you-go lunch from 11:00 AM until 12:00 PM. You can order from the menu or try the buffet. The meeting will begin promptly at 12:00 and will last approximately 1 hour. If you are not able to join us for lunch, please do join us for the meeting.

Welcome To Our New Member

Sharon James

Congratulations to the New Federation Secretary

Vivian Fivecoat, Chapter 870's 1st Vice President, has been selected as the Tennessee Federation Secretary for 2007. Vivian brings enthusiasm and desire to serve to her new position. We wish Vivian good luck in her new duties.



Notes from our 1st Vice President

At the urging of President Joe Couch I accepted the position of Federation Secretary and attended my first meeting in Lebanon, TN. I arrived at the predetermined hotel checked in and was standing in the parking lot trying to figure out logistics of parking the vehicle, removing luggage, etc, when a gentleman came up to me and stated, "You must be the lady from Clarksville" I must of looked really lost and out of place. I eventually settled into my room and into NARFE at the state level. Upon returning home I was asked for comments for our newsletter. What follows is my recording and views of this esteemed event. It is an honor to represent each of you on the state board.

As I thought of what to write, I recollected a poem by Edgar Allen Poe about a crow trying to get a drink of water from a jar in which his beak could not fit. The crow's solution to the problem was to drop pebbles into the jar until the water reached the top at which time he satisfied himself with the water. Our current situation with NARFE is like the crow. NARFE is a political entity designed to protect our retired benefits. At the bottom of the jar are all the bills that we have been trying to get through Congress for some time now without success, but, if we act like the crow take action and drop one politician at a time into the jar, the bills will reach the top, get passed and we can satisfy ourselves with protected retirement benefits on a level playing field. The question I pose to each of you is: Are you going to let the crow go it alone to reap the benefits later, or can you, will you, assist the crow by nudging, calling, writing, and bugging our esteemed political body on every level to do the morally right endeavor, to jump in the jar and make the bills rise to the top or get passed?

As we as a state body worked on the business of NARFE, I kept thinking about that darn crow and how he never gave up picking up one pebble at a time, working in all kinds of conditions to find the right pebbles and that is what we need to do. Find the right pebbles, right words that make congress take action. Please join me as we work together to finish the job started by others so that our younger generation can enjoy their retirement .

Vivian Fivecoat
1st Vice President, Chapter 870
Secretary, Tennessee Federation

Annual Dinner – A Success

On August 16, 2007, approximately 88 NARFE Chapter 870 members and their guests met at the Hilldale church of Christ. After a welcome by Chapter 870 President, Joe Couch, a Pledge of Allegiance led by Harry Ryan and the Invocation led by Ross Richardson, a buffet dinner was served. The buffet included pork barbeque, roast chicken, ham, potatoes O'Brien, cole slaw, bean salad, pickles, rolls, desserts, coffee and tea.

It is not possible to list all who helped make the dinner a success but would like to mention just a few. The Hilldale Church of Christ members made us feel welcomed and helped us greatly. Lora Whitney and the members of the Food Committee, Ronni Reid, Priscilla Sommars, JC Whitney, Gracie Miller, Frank Adams and Dale and Sandy Simms did an outstanding job. We would especially like to thank Frank Adams for bringing our Western theme together with the quaint table centerpieces. Frank is not eligible to be a member of NARFE but has helped us on numerous occasions. A big thank you goes out to all who contributed to the success of the dinner.

The entertainment for the evening was THE JEM'S, a trio of lovely ladies who sang 40s and 50s tunes. They received a standing ovation at the end of their performance.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our Chapter's current membership stands at 186 voting members. Even though the number is down from last quarter, some potential members are on the near horizon. Some are new members and some are members to be re-instated and they have all been contacted. You members that should be re-instated know who you are so please help us and send in your paper work. Remember, more members and larger numbers give us a better voice in Congress.

Service Officer, Chaplain and Sunshine Work Together

Although our job titles and the services we provide are different, we are connected. We are available to provide assistance to any member, spouse or family member. Service Officer, JC Whitney, can be of assistance filling out forms, calling OPM or other government agencies. Chaplain Ross Richardson is available if anyone is sick, under the weather or in need of comfort when there is a death in the family. Sunshine, Lora Whitney, sends cards of cheer to those who are sick or condolences if there is a death in the family. We can only be of service if contacted when there is a need. It would also help, upon a death, as part of the obituary, to mention that the person is a member of NARFE. Please call us if you need assistance, JC and Lora Whitney, 358-4855, and Ross Richardson, 552-2440.



Chapter 870 Member Spotlight

Jerry C. Whitney, known to all as "JC", and Lora, his wife of 41 years, have been members of NARFE since 1993.

Over the last 14 years, JC has been an active member and no matter what type of event took place, there was a definite "JC imprint" on the project. It made no difference if it was a NARFE Convention or the yearly supper, JC was always involved. His two "official" jobs are Service Officer and Membership Chair. As Service Officer, JC has assisted numerous members in time of need. He seems to have a "hot-line" to OPM and NARFE headquarters. As Membership Chair, he is constantly seeking new members and provides a "Welcome Aboard" packet to all new members. He also has a "Thanks for your Interest" packet that he sends to potential members which he follows up on until they have joined.

JC was born in the hills of northern PA (at home) in the small town of Wellsboro. He joined the local National Guard while in high school and went directly into the US Army. He retired in 1980, as a CW3, with over 25 years of service; 14 years overseas with two tours in Vietnam. After working for Acme Boot from 1980 to 1982, he worked at Fort Campbell for 10 years and retired again from there in 1992 giving him 35 years of federal service.

JC is very active volunteering for various causes and organizations. He has taught AARP DSP Classes; board member of AARP; drives for Loaves & Fishes; drives the AJAX Senior Center Van on day trips; prepared taxes for the AARP Tax Aide Program; and taught computer classes at AJAX. JC is an avid NASCAR fan and has driven Stock Cars at Atlanta and Pocono Speedways at 145 mph and over 160 mph, respectively. He couldn't wipe the smile off his face for days!!!

Congratulations to our Members

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

Chapter Officer Elections

Chapter 870 will hold election of officers in November 2007. In September a Nominating Committee will be formed to identify potential candidates.

If you are willing to be nominated for any position or would like to recommend someone to the Nominating Committee, please let Joe Couch, 648-1387, know as soon as possible.

Tidbits

All NARFE members should make sure their mailing addresses are correct in the NARFE headquarters data base. The Federation uses that info to compile its mailing list. Members may make corrections to their personal data at www.narfe.org or call the Membership Chairman, JC Whitney, 358-4855.

Consider paying your dues through dues withholding or obtaining a NARFE Life Membership. NARFE National dues are \$34 per year when paid annually. If you pay your dues by automatic dues deduction, you will receive the lower rate of \$29.60 per year (\$2.46 per month withheld from your monthly annuity) a savings of over \$4.00 per year. When you pay by automatic deduction, you don't have to worry about renewing your membership each year. The dues will be deducted monthly until you tell NARFE headquarters you no longer want to continue this service. If you are interested in doing this, JC Whitney has the forms needed to send to NARFE or use the form in the NARFE magazine.

Join a Alzheimer's Clinical Trial

Scientists are studying everything from genes to caffeine to vaccines in their quest for treatments for Alzheimer's disease. Early detection is key to slowing Alzheimer's so researchers urge participation in clinical trials. "To take part in a trial is a great gift to society" says William Thies, vice president of medical and scientific relations for the Alzheimer's Association.

To find out about clinical trials and studies in our area, call 1-800-438-4380 for the government's Alzheimer's Disease, Education and Referral Center, which can help you locate studies and answer questions about them. To sign up for e-mail alerts about new trials, go online to www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers.

You can also search for studies geographical at www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers/Researchinformation/clinicaltrials. The Alzheimer's Association offers information on trials and on the disease at www.aiz.org.

Calendar of Speakers

Our meetings in September and October will have the following speakers –

September – Mr. Russell Pigg, CEO, Gateway Healthcare Systems will speak on the new hospital

October – Mr. John Hicks, Tennessee Federation President, will bring us up to date on NARFE news

November - Warren D. Zimmer, NARFE 7th Congressional District Officer

Members We Will Miss

Mr. James McDonald passed away on June 12, 2007
Mr. John Messamore passed away on August 1, 2007

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families.

Travels – Where Have You Been

Most of us dream of traveling when we retire. Some of us have fulfilled our dreams and seen the world. We would like to hear from you about your travels and adventures whether it is a trip to see the grandkids or a trip around the world. Please share your experiences with Chapter members. It may entice others to "hit the road" and fulfill their dreams. JC and Lora Whitney have consented to start us off. Now these two really like to travel. Read on –

JC and Lora have traveled throughout the US and abroad from Barrow, Alaska (the northern most inhabited city in North America) to Antarctica (South Pole). You might say we have followed each other to the ends of the world. JC has lived in or visited all continents except Africa. We have taken 8 trips on the Delta Queen Steamboat Line which travels the Mississippi, Ohio, Cumberland, and other connecting rivers. These are very enjoyable trips as there is no "rocking and rolling" as with an ocean cruise; just floating down the river at 8 to 10 miles per hour. Very relaxing!! We have also taken 5 or 6 ocean cruises with the most enjoyable being the Alaska Inside Passage Cruise. This is very nice in that you're not really in the ocean, you're cruising around ice bergs and glaciers on the inside passage and you can always see land (and a lot of wildlife). Our trip to Australia and New Zealand was very nice - - once we got there!! The plane ride going and coming is VERY long but once we got there we had a great time. We were on a guided bus tour and had the privilege of staying over night with a New Zealand couple in their home. They were semi retired and showed us all around their dairy farm and the surrounding area. If we go back, we will have a stop over somewhere to break up the plane ride. We had a 2500 mile bus tour of Alaska and the Yukon which was absolutely breath-taking as far as the scenery and wildlife goes. We ended this tour with an overnight stay at Barrow, Alaska (nice place to visit but wouldn't suggest living there)!! Upon the completion of our Antarctica tour, we stayed over in Ushuaia, Argentina, the southern most city in the world. We visited Tierra del Fuego Park which is the very farthest point you can drive going south in the world. They stamped our pass ports "Fin Del Mundo" which translates to "The End of the World".

Chapter 870 gratefully acknowledges the businesses who are generously supporting our Newsletter. If you know of any businesses who would like to be included in our Newsletter, please have them call Priscilla, Ronni or Lora .

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.

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