



# NARFE Chapter 870 Newsletter

Volume II, Number 1

March 2008

Published Quarterly

Vivian Fivecoat, President - Toni Andersen, 1<sup>st</sup> VP - Charlie Gardner, 2d VP - Joe Couch, 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

First and foremost let me say that it is indeed an honor and pleasure to lead and represent each of you in our common mission to protect and advance the well earned rights and benefits of NARFE members. NARFE has been, since it's inception in 1921, and will continue to be the independent voice for our members. The tradition of NARFE continues today because of your individual and collective commitments. Chapter 870 has a proud history because of the membership and officers who have come before me and it is indeed my commitment to continue that tradition. Our common goal is to preserve and enhance the well earned benefits of retired and active federal employees. Some of the struggles of the past continue today and may continue in the future but there is also hope that we will conquer some of the political issues that lay before us so that those members and leaders of NARFE that will come in the future will not have to struggle with the same topics. Our outlook today is brighter because of each of you and your continued desire to be an active part of NARFE.

As we start this new year my goals and aspirations for Chapter 870, our Chapter, are to increase membership and morale through our collective efforts working with and under the direction of our exemplary membership chair Mr. J. C. Whitney, to secure financial stability for our Chapter, to ensure that Chapter 870 moves into the 21st century by having a presence on the world wide web via our own web site, to investigate and possibly purchase an automated meeting notification / issues system, and to ensure that all our elected officials know who we are and that we represent a significant voting block and what issues are important to us. That elected officials know beyond a shadow of a doubt that when we speak NARFE we mean business. Finally, ensure that your ideas and suggestions are taken to heart and implemented to the best of NARFE's ability.

Working together over the next 11 months we can and will accomplish, if not all, a majority of the goals set forth. I also pledge to be your voice and your presence at state and national levels.

It is my prayer that each of you enjoys a fruitful and productive year.

Vivian Fivecoat, President

## Chapter Officers for 2008

At the November meeting Chapter 870 elected the officers for 2008. The officers were installed at the meeting on 13 December. The new officers are –

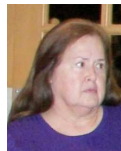
### Vivian Fivecoat, President

Member since 2005. Currently serving as the Tennessee Federation Secretary. Has served as Chapter 870 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.



### Toni Andersen, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Member since 2004. Has served as Chapter 870 Secretary, 2d Vice President and Telephone Coordinator.



### Charles Gardner, 2d Vice President

NARFE member since 1993 in Panama City Florida. Served as Service Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, President, Florida Federation District 1 Vice President, Membership Chairman and was Chairman of the Florida Federation's 50th Convention. Joined Chapter 870 in 2006.



### Joe Couch, Secretary

Member since 1997. Served as Chapter 870 President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and 2d Vice President



### Gracie Miller, Treasurer

Member since 1998. Served as Chapter 870 Treasurers since 1999. Served on annual dinner committee and Tennessee Federation Convention planning committee in 2006.



### JC Whitney, Membership/Service Officer

Member of Chapter 870 since 1993. Has served as Membership/Service Officer for several years. Named top Tennessee Federation Membership Officer for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2007.



## Welcome To Our New Members

Margaret (Sue) Albright      Sigrid M. Grau      Faye Green  
Frank and Patricia Pierce      Janice Kelly

## Member we'll miss

Carol (Beth) Carnal Fulke passed away December 16, 2007

## Legislative Report

Our Legislative Officer Milt Miracle has been ill and was not able to provide our legislative report for this quarter. Milt is a faithful follower of any legislation that affects NARFE and we look forward to his report next quarter. Milt get well soon.

## Membership Report

Our Chapter's current membership stands at 197 voting members. Remember, more members and larger numbers give us a better voice in Congress. NOTE: Beth Fulke's membership has been transferred to her husband, Richard.

JC Whitney, Membership/Service Officer

## Alzheimer's Report -

Kudos to our members who have donated \$381.59 to Alzheimer's at our monthly meetings during 2007. Maggie Tucker, a Chapter 870 member, sent \$75 to our treasurer for this good cause. A total of \$60 was sent to the Alzheimer's Association for memorials for deceased members. NARFE Chapter 870 total contributions for 2007 were \$516.59 to help the NARFE organization raise \$8 Million dollars for Alzheimer's research.

Lora Whitney, Alzheimer/Sunshine Coordinator

## Tennessee Federation 2008 Convention

The NARFE Federation Convention will be held on April 28-29, 2008 at the Montgomery Bell State Park, 1020 Jackson Hill Road, Burns, TN. Seven delegates from our local Chapter 870 will be participating. At the last meeting it was approved that the Chapter will pay the registration fees only for the chosen delegates. However, we encourage all members to attend. A reservation form was included in the latest Tennessee Federation Newsletter. More information about the convention can be found at [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org) or contact one of Chapter 870 officers.

## NARFE National 2008 Convention

The NARFE National 2008 Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on September 7-11, 2008. Because the convention is so close this year, it would be a good time for Chapter 870 members to attend to see how the organization supports us. More information about the national convention can be found at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and in the monthly NARFE magazine.

## Chapter 870 Member Spotlight



We are pleased to announce that Ms Gracie Miller is our Chapter 870 member of the quarter. Before beginning her career with the government, Gracie was employed at Acme Boot for 9 years. In 1967 she left Acme Boot for a job at Fort Campbell. After spending more than 31 years at Fort Campbell, Gracie retired in 1998 from the Finance and Accounting Office.

Gracie has been an active member of NARFE for about 10 years. She is currently serving as Chapter 870 Treasurer, a position that she has held for 8 years. She has been involved in planning the annual dinners and the 2006 Tennessee Federation Convention that was held in Clarksville.

Along with her sister, Jean, and family friend, Rita, Gracie enjoys one or two trips to Florida and/or Gatlinburg each year.

Gracie is the youngest of 11 children. She has one son who lives in Louisville and two grandsons. She is a member of the Dotsonville Baptist Church.

## Have Fun, Will Travel.....

Since retiring in December 2005, I've been blessed of being able to travel to two of my "bucket list" of places with a friend and traveling companion, Jon Bershing.

In March of 2007, one of my dreams came true when we went to Camp Zama, Japan to visit a former co-worker and friend-- Kim Santiago and her family for a week. While we were there, we visited some of Japan's temples, garden, and shrines. We were excited to participate in a procession for the fertility festival. We also went to a Japanese supermarket that offered all kinds of goods that were usually beautifully presented. We had a wonderful time—people were so friendly.

We then headed to Guam for two weeks. I was so excited of finally being home after being away for many years. Guam to me is a tropical paradise. It is a home of beautiful beaches, Spanish ruins, WWII memorials, various cultures and Latte Stones.

Other places we have traveled to are Fort Wayne, Indiana, Gatlinburg, TN; Orlando, Florida, and Williamsburg, VA. In May of this year, we are Flagstaff, AZ bound.

Priscilla Sommers

Chapter 870 gratefully acknowledges the businesses that 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, 645-3936.



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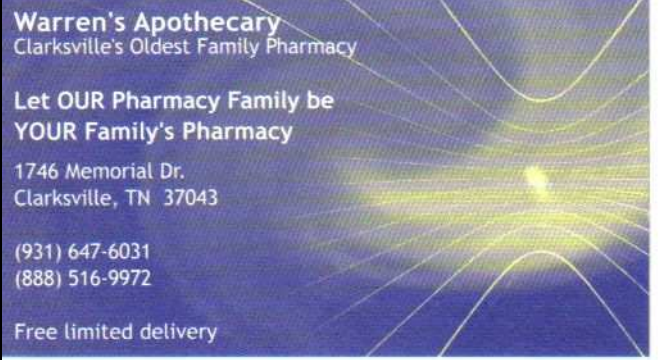
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## Easier than you think

When I joined NARFE in 2005 as a retiree I was given the option of being billed for my annual dues each year or having it withheld from my monthly annuity. After consideration I chose dues withholding. With dues withholding I get the lowest rate available and I don't worry about forgetting to renew each year. However, I can withdraw my membership at any time if I choose. The monthly annuity deduction for eligible members of Chapter 870 is \$2.46 at this time. I truly recommend and encourage dues withholding. If you are interested in dues withholding contact JC Whitney at 931-358-4855.

Ronni Reid

## History of St. Patrick

Saint Patrick is the great Apostle of Ireland. His Feast Day is March 17th. He was likely kidnapped from Britain around the age of 16 and enslaved in Ireland. He was sent to the mountains as a shepherd and spent much

time in prayer. He had a dream in which he was told that he should return to Britain. He escaped from his slavery and did so. He studied in monasteries and



became a priest, then a bishop. He was sent by Pope Saint Celestine to evangelize England. He had more dreams of the Irish people calling to him to be with them and to help them. He returned to Ireland. In 33 years he had largely converted Ireland to the Faith.

The name Patrick comes from the Latin "Patricius" meaning noble.

Saint Patrick was born between 387-390 in Scotland and was named Maewyn Succat. He died between 461-464 at Saul, County Down, Ireland.

**Don't forget to wear your green on March 17.**

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 St. Patrick's Day

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**Join us for our meeting on March 13, at Shoney's Restaurant, lunch 11:00-12:00, meeting 12:00-1:00. Our guest speaker will be Christy Batts, Clarksville Department of Electricity.**

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National Active and Retired Federal Employees  
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