



NARFE Chapter 870 Newsletter

Volume IV, Number 1

March 2010

Published Quarterly

Sandra Simms, President; JC Whitney, 1st VP/Membership; Bernice Hirsch, 2d VP; Ronni Reid, Sec'y; Lora Whitney, Treas; Toni Andersen, Svc Off
Meetings held 2d Thursday of Month at Golden Corral Restaurant, 2811 Wilma Rudolph Blvd., Lunch 11 AM-12 PM, and Meeting 12-1PM

President's Corner



Writing for publication is not my forte. However, along with my new position as President of NARFE Chapter 870, comes the challenge of writing this article for our quarterly newsletter.

First and foremost, let me say that I accepted this position with much trepidation, but as I delve into the "meat" of this job, I find myself becoming more and more excited. I have been warmly welcomed at both the State and National level and "flooded" with e-mail/paper mail with information and offers to help. Mr. Carey Frazier, our TN Federation President, is very proactive and has an obvious excitement regarding NARFE. His attitude sets a good example for his Tennessee Chapter Presidents. The atmosphere at this level appears to be charged with positive interest. We are blessed with a local membership who believes in the worthiness of this organization and its objectives and, therefore, work very hard to support it. My objective in the leadership of our chapter this year is to promote a positive, comfortable atmosphere which will encourage attendance and participation in our meetings and activities. As retired and active federal employees, we have a common goal of preserving/improving our hard-earned benefits as civil servants. Our voices as well as our dollars are required to accomplish this.

Several of our members have expressed a desire for more legislative information and what role NARFE is playing in Washington. More time in our monthly meetings will be dedicated to legislative "happenings". I believe that even though we all get informative publications, discussion is required to totally understand some of the more complicated issues. Additionally, our new First Vice President, Jerry (JC) Whitney has some very exciting and interesting monthly programs planned and would welcome your ideas for future programs. Also, we will have some fun at each meeting with our 50/50 ticket raffle and our door prizes. You can expect to enjoy good food and fellowship. AND, lastly, you will have an opportunity to participate in several social "outings" planned throughout the year (ideas also welcomed here).

Our chapter is blessed with some very dedicated, hard-working people for which I am grateful as I look forward to the rest of 2010 as your new President of NARFE Chapter 870.

Sandra Simms, President



2010 Chapter 870 Officers front row: Toni Andersen, Service Officer; back row: Sandra Simms, President; JC Whitney, 1st VP/Membership; Bernice Hirsch, 2d VP; Lora Whitney, Treasurer; Ronni Reid, Secretary

Important Tax Information for CSRS Retirees

If you did not get the \$250 economic recovery payment through Social Security because you are a Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retiree, you should claim the credit on your 2009 taxes.

Here are the instructions from the Internal Revenue Service Web site:

Government retiree credit. You can take this credit if you received a pension or annuity payment in 2009 for service performed for the U.S. government or any U.S. state or local government (or any instrumentality of one or more of these) and the service was not covered by Social Security. The credit is \$250 (\$500 if married filing jointly and both you and your spouse receive a qualifying pension or annuity). However, you cannot take the credit if you received a \$250 economic recovery payment during 2009. If you file a joint return, both you and your spouse receive a qualifying pension or annuity and both of you received an economic recovery payment, no government retiree credit is allowed; if only one of you received an economic recovery payment, the credit is \$250.

Extracted from NARFE.org

New Meeting Time

Members voted to change the monthly meeting time at the December Meeting. We invite all members to join us at the Golden Corral near Governor's Square Mall and encourage you to bring a guest for lunch from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Our meeting will begin at 12:00 PM and we try to end by 1:00 PM. Prospective members will receive a complimentary lunch on their initial visit.

Ronni Reid, Secretary

Welcome New Members

Douglas Aretz Sandy Bennett Carolyn Umphrey
Gerry Fendley Ronnie Williams

Membership Report

Since our last newsletter, we have gained five new members giving us a new total of 207 members for Chapter 870. Through the end of January, the TN Federation total membership was 4,401 members. I do not have the NARFE National totals for January; however, they closed out the year 2009 showing a total membership of 310,539. We here in Tennessee, as well as NARFE National, closed out 2009 showing an overall gain in total membership for the last three months of the year. Hopefully, this trend will continue.

JC Whitney, 1st VP/ Membership

Chair

Members We Will Miss

Robert Jordon, 12 Dec 09
Patricia Ledbetter, 30 Dec 09
Edward Kilpatrick, 9 Dec 08 (We recently learned of his passing)

Legislative Highlights

While some members are responding positively to legislative alerts published by NARFE HQ, it appears that there are other members who could help tremendously by contributing to the effort. Send e-mails, make phone calls, and visit our senators and representatives. Apparently, more than ever before, every method and member is needed for us to preserve our earned benefits. Don't depend on the next member to do the work. Get involved to save **your personal** benefits. Be possessive and defend what is yours.

Senator Lamar Alexander
3322 West End Ave., Suite 120
Nashville, TN 37202
Phone: 615-736-5129
FAX: 615-269-4803

Senator Bob Corker
322 West End Ave, Suite 610
Nashville, TN 37202
Phone: 615-279-8125
FAX: 615-249-9488

Congressperson Marsha Blackburn
1850 Memorial Dr.
Clarksville, TN 37043
Phone: 931-503-0391
FAX: 931-503-0393

Congressman John Tanner
Room B-7
Federal Building
Jackson, TN 38301
Phone: 731-427-4848
FAX: 731-427-1537

Sandra Simms, President

Treasurer's Report

I'm Lora Whitney, your treasurer for 2010. Donations to Alzheimer's or checks for any upcoming social event should be made out to: Clarksville Chapter 870 and mailed to me at 2603 Delano Drive, Clarksville, TN 37043. We ended the year 2009 with a balance of

\$1951.27. Our books were audited on 17 January 2010 by Joann Gilbert and Marie Rougemont without any discrepancies. Thank you Joann & Marie for giving up your Sunday afternoon to audit the books.

Lora Whitney, Treasurer

Outgoing Service Officer Notes

I have turned the duties and responsibilities of being Service Officer over to Ms Toni Andersen. I know Toni will be an excellent Service Officer so if anyone has any concerns that could be addressed by a Service Officer, please feel free to contact Toni at (931) 920-5549 (she knows I'm writing this). I took on the duties of Service Officer 15 years ago in 1995 and have met and assisted many members of our chapter. It has truly been my privilege and honor to have provided any help that I could to all of you folks over the years. I am not going anywhere, however, I picked up the duties of 1st VP along with my Membership duties and it was time to share the wealth. Toni knows that I am available to help her on any given situation that she may encounter so I'm sure the availability of a Chapter 870 Service Officer will continue for many more years.

JC Whitney, 1st Vice President/Membership Chair

Alzheimer's Chairman News

Your support means so much to millions of people living with Alzheimer's. As the new chairperson, I want to thank you for your past generosity and encourage you to continue to be generous in the future. I would like to congratulate Lora Whitney, Chairperson for 2009, for leading our Chapter in raising \$1,539.96 for the year. I take this as a personal challenge to exceed this figure for 2010. Of course, this challenge is for all of us in Chapter 870. This disease is devastating not only to the affected person, but to the caregivers, family and friends of the affected person. There are 5.3 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease. Your dollars are helping to make significant progress in fighting it.

I would like to form a fundraising team for 2010 in Chapter 870. I have some ideas and would welcome yours. The first fundraiser for the year will be the sale of Whitt's barbecue dinners. We will sell tickets through the month of April for \$6 each. Our Chapter will receive \$2 for each ticket sold. The tickets will be honored at Whitt's (both locations in Clarksville) during the month of May. I encourage each of our members to sell ten tickets. This is an easy way to earn money if everyone pitches in. Working together, I believe we can make a difference. Please call me at **931-647-6551** or e-mail me at hsimms6551@charter.net to get barbecue tickets or to join me in accomplishing raising funds for Alzheimer's research. If you cannot attend our meetings and want to donate/contribute funds, please mail your contributions to our Treasurer, Lora Whitney, 2603 Delano Drive, Clarksville, TN 37043.

Dale Simms, Alzheimer's Chairman

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 Whitney, 358-4855 or Ronni Reid, 648-4393.

Walking Horse Meadows

Call today to schedule a tour and to join us for a complimentary meal

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E-Mail Communication Encouraged by our Federation President

The following is an excerpt from a recent e-mail from Mr. Carey Frazier, TN Federation President.

"Four times per year, we mail out hard copies of our Federation Newsletter to almost 4,500 members across the state. The cost is roughly \$6,000 per year. If we all had e-mails, we could avoid this cost. I am not suggesting that our members who do not have e-mail go out and purchase a computer. However, I am confident a lot of our members have e-mails and they are not listed on the M-114 which lists all our members in Tennessee.

NARFE Headquarters sends out GEMS messages. They are free and are extremely informative. However, if your e-mail is not listed, then you will not receive the GEMS message unless someone forwards to you. E-mail is a great communication tool. It is a way for us to talk to each other; talk to our Chapter Officers; notify our Chapter officers of a death in our chapter; someone has moved; someone has let their dues lapse (did they mean for this to happen?) and on and on.

E-mail is a way for us to communicate; it is a way for us to be involved. "

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive NARFE information in your e-mail account, please verify with JC or Lora Whitney, 931-358-4855, or jcandlora@cdelightband.net, that we have your correct e-mail address. We recommend that you log on to www.narfe.org to update your e-mail address at national headquarters or ask JC to do that for you. Many of you already have an e-mail on file, but we need to verify. As you can see, from Mr. Frazier's comments above, NARFE headquarters, the Tennessee Federation and our Chapter would save money and time by sending all types of information via e-mail.

Sandra Simms, President

Social Activity Planned for May 20

Would you like to spend the day touring the Jack Daniel's Distillery in Lynchburg, TN, and have lunch at the famous Miss Mary Bobo's Boarding House? We plan to do just that on 20 May (Thursday). We will leave Clarksville around 8 am and caravan to Lynchburg. The drive will be approximately 2 hrs 45 mins. We will tour the distillery in the morning and have lunch at Miss Mary's at 1 pm. After lunch, we will tour the old jail museum and some of the quaint downtown shops. All of these attractions are within 3 blocks of each other. There will be moderate walking required. The museum and distillery are free admission. Lunch at Miss Mary's is approx \$21 plus gratuity. **Confirmed reservations and 50% deposit are required by April 29.** Please check your calendars and plan to join us for this fun-filled day. Notify Sandra Simms at 931-647-6551 for reservations.

Sandra Simms, President

Tennessee Federation Convention

The 2010 Tennessee Federal Convention will be held April 19-20 at the Oak Tree Lodge located on US Hwy. 441 at 1620 Parkway, Sevierville TN. The host chapter will be Sevierville Chapter Number 1678.

All members are invited to attend. Reservations for the convention must be received by March 18. The cost of the convention is: Full Registration \$45 (includes conference and banquet); Conference only \$20; Banquet only \$25. Registrations received after March 18 will incur a \$5 late fee. A copy of the convention registration form can be found in the January Tennessee Federation Newsletter and at www.narfetn.org or contact a Chapter officer.

Reservations for the Oak Tree Lodge must be made by March 18 to receive the convention room rate.

Ronni Reid, Secretary

NARFE Scholarships

Do you have a child, stepchild, grandchild, or great grandchild about to graduate from high school? If so, they may be eligible to apply for the NARFE Scholarship of \$1000. A total of \$616,000 has been awarded in scholarships to the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and stepchildren of NARFE members (as of Dec. 2009).

Applicants must complete the scholarship form which can be found in the February and March 2010 NARFE magazines. A copy of the form can be found on the NARFE Web site, www.narfe.org. In addition to a transcript of their grades and copies of results of standardized tests and a recommendation from a counselor, applicants must submit a two-page essay. This year's essay topic is "Americans get their news from a variety of sources – television, print media, Web sites, blogs and more. How would you correct the derogatory publicity about federal employees as provided by the news media in order to provide accurate information regarding their (federal employees') dedicated service?"

It is important to note that the applications must be sent to NARFE Scholarship Award, c/o FEEA, 3333 S. Wadsworth Boulevard, Suite 300, Lakewood, CO 80227. Incomplete applications and applications sent to NARFE headquarters will be disqualified.

The deadline for applications is April 30, 2010. All qualified applicants will receive a letter from FEEA by the end of August thanking them for their participation. Names of the winners and their sponsors will be posted on the NARFE Web site and included in the December 2010 issue of NARFE magazine.

Extracted from NARFE.org

Change of Personal Information

Please notify us of any change of name, address, phone number, or e-mail address so we can keep you informed of our Chapter's events as well as any Legislative actions. Also NARFE Headquarters should be notified and this can be done by notifying our Membership chair, JC Whitney.

Lora Whitney, Treasurer

Speakers for March and May

Our speaker for the March 11th meeting will be Liana Wallace. Ms Wallace is the Community Relations Manager of Hemlock Semiconductor, Clarksville Site. Ms Wallace will have a power point presentation and should be very informative and interesting.

Mr. Carey Frazier, current Tennessee Federation President, will be our guest speaker in May. Mr. Frazier has served as the Federation President since April 2008.

JC Whitney, 1st VP/Membership Chair

Chapter 870 Newsletter Advertising

We need your assistance in soliciting advertisers for our Newsletter. If you have a business or know someone with a limited advertising budget, have we got a deal for you! For only \$50 a year (that's 4 publications) you can have a business card size ad in this Newsletter.

The income from the advertisers is used to offset the cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter. The Newsletter is sent to more than 200 Chapter members and can also be read on the Tennessee Federation web site by other Chapters. We do encourage our members to support those businesses that support us.

For more information about advertising, please contact Ronni Reid, 931-648-4393 (vcr231@charter.net) or Lora Whitney, 931-358-4855 (jcandlora@cdeightband.net).

Ronni Reid, Newsletter Staff

Don't forget to check out the NARFE web site at www.narfe.org and the NARFE Tennessee Federation web site at www.narfetn.org for current information on NARFE issues.

Join us for our meeting and luncheon at the Golden Corral Restaurant, Wilma Rudolph Blvd, Lunch 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM, meeting 12:00-1:00 PM.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees
2603 Delano Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043