



NARFE Chapter 870 Newsletter

Volume V, Number 2

June 2011

Published Quarterly

Sandra Simms, President - Vacant, 1st VP - Vacant, 2d VP - Ronni Reid, Sec'y - Lora Whitney, Treas - JC Whitney, Membership/Service Officer
Meetings held 2d Thursday of Month at Golden Corral Restaurant, 2811 Wilma Rudolph Blvd, Lunch 11 AM - 12 PM, Meeting 12 PM - 1 PM



A message from the Chapter President

Hello Summer . . .

Here we are at the half-way point (almost) of 2011, and our chapter already has several events under our belt.

Eight of us attended the NARFE State Convention in Nashville at the Radisson Hotel in April. Those attending from Chapter 870 were JC and Lora Whitney, Ron and Ronni Reid, Toni Anderson, Bob Rosa, Wanda Ferrell, Dale Simms and me. Our chapter was asked for a volunteer for the Convention Credentials Committee. Ronni stepped up to the plate and did a great job. Thank you Ronni! We enjoyed the sharing of information, camaraderie with fellow NARFEers in Tennessee, a great dinner and entertainment. We also brought home an award that our Alzheimer's Chairman will tell you about in his article. Next year the state convention will be held in Memphis and it is my hope that many of you will plan to attend. The interaction with folks who have worked for the government as we have and share the same purpose as NARFE members is energizing.

Several of our members (to be named in the Alzheimer's Comments) participated in a yard sale on 7 May. The joining together and working hard for a good cause helps to unify us as a chapter. I so appreciate what we accomplished and I am sure all who were there feel proud as well.

I want to welcome Bob Rosa to our "staff" as Legislative Chairman. Bob graciously agreed to man this position which is essential to keeping us informed about what is going on in Washington that affects our benefits and retirement. We should stay informed by reading appropriate publications ourselves, but need discussion and encouragement to read and "act". He certainly gave us a rousing presentation at our May meeting. I am sure Bob will be glad to find answers to questions you may have pertaining to legislative issues. Thank you Bob!

Harry Ryan is relinquishing the flag and his responsibility of bringing it to all the meetings and leading the pledge of allegiance. Harry has done this job for many years and I want to thank him for his service to our chapter. Thank you Harry! Wanda Ferrell has agreed to fill Harry's shoes and has assumed possession of the flag.

Thank you Wanda!

Another change in our "staff" is that our Chaplain, Ross Richardson, is stepping down. Ross also has been in this position for many years and has done a fantastic job. He has a gift for speaking to God on our behalf. Thank you Ross! I didn't have to look far to find Robert Williams who has agreed to step into the Chaplain's position. Thank you Robert!

We are planning a trip to Grand Rivers, KY, to Badgett's Playhouse on 25 June (Saturday) to see "Always, Patsy Cline". Many of our members had rain checks from the December trip to Badgett's which was postponed due to bad weather. This will be a matinee performance which will allow us to have dinner at one of the restaurants in Grand Rivers afterwards if so desired. If you would like to go, please let me know by 1 June.

Our annual dinner will be held at Uffelman's again this year. We are still working on the menu and the entertainment. I am sure this year will be the best ever, so make your plans to attend on the second Thursday in August.

Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to seeing you at all of our meetings and events!

Sandra Simms, President



Ronni Reid manning the Credentials desk at the Tennessee Federation Convention, April 19-20, 2011

Welcome To Our New Members

Ms Tracy-Ann Painter Ms Clara Jarrell
Mr. David Witte We welcome all new members.

Protect America's Heartbeat -- We Have Work To Do

In February NARFE leaders announced the "Protect America's Heartbeat" campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to educate decision makers and the public about federal workers and retirees and their immeasurable contributions to our country. NARFE leaders cannot do it alone. They need our help. We ask that you telephone, write, and e-mail members of Congress to let them know how the bills before them will affect you, your family and your fellow annuitants and active employees.

I urge you to go to www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org. There you will find more information about this campaign as well as "talking points" to address when you contact our Senators and Representatives.

"...we may find ourselves in crisis mode at times in the days ahead."

"...our benefits are in jeopardy..."

"...federal retirement, pay and health benefits are likely to be targeted..."

"...reductions in the earned retirement, pay and health benefits of federal employees and annuitants are likely to receive serious consideration..."

"...NARFE will immediately notify members about action on proposals to cut their benefits or pay and provide instructions on how best to respond..."

"...make clear to members of Congress that you are going to hold them accountable for the attitudes they have..."

"...we need to be energized, on guard and working hard..."

"...stand up and speak out ...to Congress..."

These above excerpts were taken from articles in the most informative May 2011 issue of the NARFE magazine. They got my attention, and, if you want to keep your hard-earned retirement check and benefits from being reduced, they should get your attention.

Congress is getting into position to reduce your pay and benefits to "solve" the debit limit problem. NARFE

national leaders and staff are working tirelessly each day to prevent this action. But they need help ----YOU!!! Each one of us should be contacting their congressional representatives voicing your thoughts on why this should not be done.

It is important that each NARFE member consider supplying your e-mail address to NARFE headquarters so that you may be alerted to "fast breaking" news on the legislative front and receive information on how you can assist in protecting your benefits and retirement security.

Also, please read/review the articles in the May issue of the NARFE magazine so that you have a complete understanding of what is being considered. Reviewing past issues of the Chapter newsletter will help too.

Help NARFE to help you --- CONTACT CONGRESS.

If not you --- WHO?

If not now --- WHEN?

Bob Rosa, Legislative Officer

Membership Report

Since our last newsletter, we have gained and lost members giving us a new total of 197 members as of the end of April for Chapter 870. Our TN Federation totals thru the end of April are 4,229 members which is an overall decrease of 96 members since our last newsletter; these totals have continually been going down and hopefully they will start to increase. NARFE National has not been doing any better; the total membership thru the end of April is 294,392 which is an overall decrease of 6,493 members since I last reported. This will be the last time I will be providing membership totals for NARFE National or the TN Federation as I am no longer the TN FED Membership Chair. I decided to step down and the reins were turned over to Ms Rhonda Mooney from Chapter 519, Jackson. I know Rhonda very well and I know she will do a good job as the TN FED Membership Chair.

JC Whitney, Service Officer/Membership Chair

Alzheimer's' Report

This opportunity to communicate with you comes on the heels of a very successful yard sale fundraiser. We raised \$751 on Saturday, 7 May thanks to the hard work of Ronni Reid, JC and Lora Whitney, Wanda Ferrell, Toni Anderson, Chuck and Sandy Bennett, Daisy Pickett, Sharon James, Walter Mayer, and Sandra Simms. I also appreciate those who donated items to sell, but couldn't be at the sale. We had a great day even though we had to pack it in two hours early due to rain. We have another yard sale planned for 1 October, same place, and same time. Save your items!



Wanda Ferrell and Sandra Simms look over items for sale at Yard Sale on May 7. Sandy Bennett helps a customer.

To date, for 2011, Chapter 870 has sent \$976 to the Alzheimer's Association's National Office. With seven months to go, I know we can top last year's donation which was \$2689. Our chapter was awarded the Weida White Tolley Award for the largest donation of any Chapter in the state for 2010. This award is in honor of Weida White Tolley who was the Tennessee Federation Alzheimer's chair for many years. I can tell you that I was tremendously proud to accept this award at our state convention in April. Thank you to you all!



Chapter 870 Tennessee Federation Convention delegates: (front row) Lora Whitney, Ronni Reid, Dale Simms (holding Weida White Tolley award) and Toni Andersen; (back row) JC Whitney, Ron Reid, Wanda Ferrell, Bob Rosa and Sandra Simms.

Remember that Alzheimer's is the fifth leading cause of death for people 65 and older. We must continue helping the fight to find an answer for this health crisis.

Dale Simms, Alzheimer's Committee Chair

Treasurer's Report

We ended the month of April with a balance on hand of \$1523.82 and we have \$200.00 for total obligations leaving us a balance on hand for use of \$1323.82. Our

obligations are for Federation Dues which I pay at the end of year. The Federation dues for each member of our chapter are \$3.00.

Reminder: Open Season for the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program Is Going on Now

Open enrollment for the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) is going on now through June 24, 2011. This is the first opportunity since 2002 for applicants who meet specific criteria to apply with abbreviated underwriting.

Those who are eligible to apply with abbreviated underwriting are:

- Federal and U.S. Postal Service employees in positions that convey eligibility for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (whether or not they are actually enrolled in FEHBP);
- Active members of the Uniformed Services who are on active duty or full-time National Guard duty for more than 30 days;
- Active members of the Selected Reserve;
- Tennessee Valley Authority employees (even though they may not be eligible for FEHBP coverage);
- D.C. Government employees first employed by the D.C. Government on or before October 1, 1987;
- D.C. Courts employees;
- Navy Personnel Command (BUPERS) NAF employees;
- Spouses of employees listed above;
- Same-sex domestic partners of civilian work force members who have submitted (either directly or through their partner) a form affirming this status to the partner's employing agency.

This is not a general open season for current FLTCIP enrollees. Current enrollees can change their coverage at any time.

Non-enrolled annuitants and other qualified relatives can apply for coverage at any time, but must complete a full underwriting application.

For more information, go to www.ltcfeds.com

Extracted from NARFE.org

Members We Will Miss

Margie Walker passed away on 2 April 2011.
Betty Clardy passed away on 14 April 2011.

Chapter 870 Annual Dinner

Dates: June 7; August 23; October 4; December 13

Mark your calendar for the Chapter 870 Annual Dinner on Thursday, August 11, 2011. The Dinner will be held at Uffelman Estates, 215 Uffelman Dr. Tickets will go on sale soon and will be available until August 1. Cancellations will be honored with refunds available until August 5.

All dates occur on a Tuesday and will include an exhibition gallery tour from 10:30 am -11:10am and a studio art-making activity from 11:15 am - noon.

This is a FREE event and space is limited. To book tours, participants can call Ronny Criss, Tours and Programs Coordinator, at 615.744.3247.

Extracted from e-mail from AARP RIT

The Frist Center for the Visual Arts &

The Alzheimer's Association

Making Memories at the Frist

The Frist Center for the Visual Arts is partnering with the Middle Tennessee Alzheimer's Association to provide exhibition tours to Alzheimer's patients and their care givers. This program gives those affected by the disease an expressive outlet and forum for dialogue through guided exhibition tours, discussion in the galleries, and art making activities.

July Program - Mr. W. A. Hill, III Clinical Dietitian with Gateway Medical Center

Useful Web Sites

www.narfe.org – National headquarters
www.narfetn.org – Tennessee Federation
www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org – NARFE
Legislative Action Center

June Program – YMCA Representative – Exercise and Silver Sneaker program.

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

Join us for our meetings on the 2d Thursday of each month at Golden Corral, Wilma Rudolph Blvd, lunch 11:00-12:00, meeting 12:00-1:00. We have very interesting speakers each month covering a wide variety of subjects.

National Active and Retired Federal Employees
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