



THE TENNESSEE FEDERAL RETIREE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees

March 2008

FEDERATION PRESIDENT JOHN T. HICKS

This is an exciting time of the year for the Federation: our Federation Convention will be held at Montgomery Bell State Park April 28 and 29, and a new President will be elected. We had the 2002 Convention at the same location and a great time was had by all. I know that this year's convention committee will be trying to outdo the last one. From all indications, we should have another great convention. We hope to have a good attendance to share in fellowship and conduct the federation business. Mr. Richard C. Ostergren, our National

Treasurer, will be our guest speaker from Headquarters. I know you are looking forward to meeting him and getting updated information from National Headquarters.

The Executive Board met February 21 and 22. Since this article has to be submitted prior to that time, the minutes of the meeting will be put on the "NARFE TENNESSEE FEDERATION of CHAPTERS" web site (narfeten.org).

I have been working on the Committee assignments for the upcoming Federation Convention. I hoped that by ask-

ing for the delegate forms a little earlier than usual, I could get the assignments done by newsletter time. But as of this printing, not all of them are filled, but I will work on it till it's all completed. If you would like to volunteer for a committee, please call or email me at 423.638.6786 or msgtjth@embarqmail.com.

The following Chapters have not submitted new F-7 Officer Installation reports: 78, 108, 152, 324, 727, 793, 882, 1382, 1476, 1576, 1636, 1719, 1733, 1950, 2018, 2035 and 2075. I would like to have these submitted to me ASAP, so the next Federa-

tion President will have an up to date roster of all Chapter Officers when he takes office.

The Executive Board will meet April 28 at 1:00 PM at Montgomery Bell. Delegates are asked to please check the bulletin board for the location and time of their respective committees. Those not assigned to a particular committee may attend any meeting they desire.

John T. Hicks, President

2008 Convention Committees:

Credentials Committee: Julia Metcalfe, Chp 1382, Chair, PO Box 52, Atoka 38004, 901.837.8573; Jane Shannon, Chp 519, 430 Corinth Rd, Darden 38328, 731.845.5565; Jeanette Tatum, Chp 204, 8536 Wisteria Way, Knoxville 37931, 865.470.2604

Rules Committee: Elmer Gillespie, Chp 108, Chair, 4122 Harbor Hills Rd, Chattanooga 37416, 423.894.1606; Lois Treadway, Chp 1845, 605 Ontario Dr., Elizabethton 37643, 423.542.2732; Ruth Atnipp, Chp 519, 65 Siesta Dr, Jackson 38325, 731.424.2308

Resolutions Committee: No Chair yet; Joe Couch, Chp 870, 2168 Queens Bluff Way, Clarksville 37043, 931.648.1387; Ben King, Chp 1678, 736 Lee Circle, Sevierville 37862, 865.453.9139

Constitution & Bylaws: No Chair Yet; Gene Carpenter, Chp 1678, 309 Grace Ave, Sevierville 37862, 865.428.1502

Financial Ways & Means & Audit Committee: Joyce Knott, Chp 519, Chair, 149 Wentworth Dr., Jackson 38305, 731.427.2485; Richard Curran, Chp 1603, 219 Charles Court, Jefferson City 37760, 865.940.1020; Don K. Smith, Chp 1382, Co-Chair, 7243 Sheila St, Millington 38053, 901.872.0329; Bruce Thomas, 1101 Hunters Bow Cr, Nashville 37211, 615.781-6083

Membership Committee: Jerry O. McDuffie, Chp 1603 Chair, 1011 Ravenwood Dr., Morristown 37814, 423.581.9970, Oscar Kroshes, Chp 1576, 5052 John Hager Rd, Hermitage 37076, 615.391.4488, Robert Amonette, Chp 2009, 2253 Sparta Pike, Lebanon 37090, 615.444.4952; Juanita Beckett, Chp 1382, 361 Antioch Hwy 51 Rd., Covington 38019, 901.476.6603

Legislation Committee: Donald E. Smith, Chp 1382, Chair, 4920 Ticklevue Dr, Millington 38053, 901.873.4812, Charles Hooper, Chp 727, 860 Hooper Rd., Charlotte 37036, 615.789.4362; John Wells, Chp 227, 104 Newton Nook, Brentwood 37027, 615.331.0705; R. B. Treadway, Chp 324, 1607 Willow Brook Dr, Johnson City 37601, 423.928.4208; Robert Martin, Chp 1719, 333 Eahart Rd, Crab Orchard, TN 37723

Service Officer Committee: Dean McAlister, Chp, 860, Chair, 693 McAlister Rd, Charleston 37310, 423.336.2330; James Henderson, Chp 806, 3007 Berrywood Dr, Humboldt 38343, 731.784.0675; Justine Duke, Chp 859, 3545 Long Hollow Pike, Goodlettsville 37072, 615.824.5950

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FEDERATION VICE PRESIDENT NOTES

Middle Tennessee: I have been the First VP on the Tennessee Federation since June of 2003. It has been a privilege to visit all of our Middle Tennessee Chapters at least once a year. The chapters, whether large or small, all have one common theme. The members are all loyal to NARFE, its goals and objectives. They stay informed of the latest news through the NARFE magazine and the GEMS computer messages.

It seems that in almost every visit- the one common concern is membership. How can we attract more federal employees to join NARFE? Why are some of our current members failing to renew? As to the latter question, if you have any ideas or thoughts as to what we can do to encourage our members to stay or board or keep their membership current – please let me know. Our Tennessee NARFE Convention will be held on April 28-29th at Montgomery Bell State Park. Registration will begin on Monday afternoon April 28th. That same afternoon, all the various committees will meet. From 3 to 5 PM- we will have training for all our Chapter Officers. The banquet will begin at 6 PM and the next morning we will begin our business meeting. Our National Treasurer, Dick Ostergren, will be our guest speaker. Please review the attached registration form and we urge all who are going to send in your registration and make your reservation ASAP. We hope to have a good turnout. The Park covers some 3,782 acres; has walking and biking trails; has three lakes and one golf course.

Directions: From Nashville- take Interstate 40 West- get off at Exit Number 182 and turn left onto State Highway 96- follow signs to Highway 70; turn right on Highway 70 go East about 3 miles to entrance to Park; From Memphis- take Interstate 40 going East and again get off at Exit Number 182- turn right onto State Highway 96 and do the same as above. From Knoxville or folks coming from East Tennessee- follow Interstate 40 through Nashville and follow above directions. From Chattanooga- take Interstate 24 into Nashville- follow signs to get on Interstate 40 going west and follow above. For Chapters north or south of Nashville – look at a map of Tennessee and figure the best way. Call Montgomery Bell State Park at (615) 797-3101.

At the Convention, it is my intent to ask for your vote to be your next Tennessee Federation President. I look forward to seeing you at our State Convention on April 28-29th. “YOU ALL COME!!

Carey Frazier, 1st VP- Tennessee Federation

West Tennessee: As I write this in January, what will it be like when it will be in your hands in March?

Spring will have arrived in West Tennessee. Some spring flowers are blooming, others are not far behind. Farmers are getting the fields ready for planting. We should be planning for the Federation Convention April 28-29 in Montgomery Bell State Park. Have we volunteered to serve on a committee of your choice?

Chapter Officer Training also is at the Montgomery Bell State Park April 28. The Chapter Recruitment /Retention Contest is under way. Will you be one of the winners? Some members have asked about a regional picnic, for all members to just get together and have a good time and meet friends. Possibly during the summer months, before the National Convention in Louisville, KY September 7-12. We will need people to help organize and plan an event and could coordinate information as to When and Where. Contact your area vice president to volunteer. I look forward to meeting with many of you at the Federation Convention in April.

John P. Shannon, 2nd VP

Phone 731-845-5565; johnshannon@narfetn.org

East Tennessee: Greetings from East Tennessee. New Year Resolutions! Did you make any? Do you remember what they were? Are you still committed to them? I'm sure most of us did make a few. Some of us remember them and some of us are actually making them happen. In the past two issues of our newsletter, I have talked about the importance of being active and as seniors we should be as active and on the go as often as possible. I will not give up on that and I hope that being active is one resolution that you keep. Make it happen.

Back in January, I was asked to serve on a Region X committee to work on retaining membership. As you know this has been a real problem within our organization. We were tasked with developing a raining program to be conducted at each Federation Convention. I requested suggestions from chapters across the state and received many. I was optimistic that we could produce a quality product that would hopefully have a positive effect. I'm writing this article prior to our first committee meeting, therefore I cannot give you an update. But I can give you one biggie: Let's promote our organization as often as possible. Don't let our second renewal notice members fall through the cracks. Remember, the Federation Convention is next month and that would be a great time to get involved, travel a little, enjoy some fellowship with old and new friends alike, and support the organization that works for you. A little trip like this would also help with that New Year's Resolution. Keep on going. Hope to see you there.

Larry Cunningham, 3rd VP

Phone 865-933-0229; larrycunningham1@netzero.net

IRS Ruling: Chapters Must File Form By May 2008

May 2008 will be the beginning of new IRS mandates for chapters. Small tax-exempt organizations such as NARFE chapters were previously not required to file tax returns. It is now necessary that chapters file electronically Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, with the IRS annually. Failure to do so will cause your chapter to lose its tax-exempt status. Emails from Headquarters have been distributed on this, letters have been sent to chapter and federation officers, and it has been printed in the NARFE Magazine. Chapter presidents, treasurers and secretaries: please make sure you file this form timely for your chapter. It can be filed as early as February.

Region X Vice President

Entering into another year (2008) you are faced with a number of challenges, both at your State Convention in April and at the National Convention in Louisville September 7-11. Undoubtedly, NC will be submitting a number of resolutions at State convention that ultimately will be forwarded to the national convention. Some of the issues that will be addressed at the national convention in September are: (1) a single dues or NARFE dues, (2) decision to continue with three National Officers or return to four National Officers, (3) One-member one-vote issue, (4) salaries of National Officers, (5) Honorary Membership program, (6) NARFE 2008-2010 Legislative Plan, (7) resolutions effecting NARFE's By Laws, etc. Information will be provided to you during the next few months (via GEMS,

NARFE magazine, Federation newsletters, etc.). This information should be reviewed by your members so that delegates and proxy voters attending the convention will be well informed on the issues when they have to vote.

NARFE is continuing to lose members in spite of our recruitment efforts. Every month more and more members fail to renew their membership. Region X has formed a "retention committee" to look into the reasons why members are not renewing their membership. It has been stated by a number of members that NARFE dues are too high. This is hard to believe since our dues average about ten cents a day. For ten cents a day, NARFE is providing each member with an outstanding legislative staff that constantly watch for any adverse legislation that could affect our annuities. We are for-

tunate to have some of the best lobbyists in the country work on our behalf. Our President and legislative staff testify on Capital Hill on our behalf. If we look at the results of the legislative staff, we can see that Congress has not successfully passed any adverse legislation (since 1993) that 'messed' with our annuities even though our nation has faced and is facing large expenditures due to hurricanes (e.g.- Katrina and Rita) and the high cost of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Congress has attempted to dip into our annuities over the past few years but NARFE has been successful in negating their attempts - *Thanks NARFE.*

A Committee for Enhancing NARFE for the 21st Century was formed by National President Margaret Baptiste in the fall of 2007. This committee has developed a number of recommendations that were provided to each Federation President. Although

the committee's recommendations and/or comments were very interesting, they are only the 'tip of the iceberg'. We need to look at their report and then we need to work on implementing some of their recommendations.

I have decided not to run for reelection as your Region X Vice President. As of this date, Bill Austin has indicated his intention to run (return) for this position. I am keeping my options open to possibly run for one of the National Officer positions. Jane and I want to thank all of you for your hospitality and support during my two years as your RVP. I am honored that you gave me the opportunity to serve as your Region X VP. The greatest asset that NARFE has are its members. Region X members excel as the most dedicated, qualified and outstanding members in NARFE.

God Bless all of you,

Joseph A Beaudoin

Scholarship Program—Diane Taylor, Region X Coordinator

The NARFE Scholarship Awards competition is now underway for 2008. The topic for this year's essay is revealed on the application. Your children, grandchildren, stepchildren, and great-grandchildren of current (living) NARFE members are eligible to apply. Applicants must be current high school seniors planning to attend college full-time in

the fall/winter of 2008, and must have a GPA of 3.0 on an unweighted 4.0 scale. Home-schooled children may apply. All applications and requested support materials must be post-marked no later than April 30, 2008.

When the judging teams complete their evaluations, six winners from each of the ten NARFE regions will be chosen.

All application materials will be returned to FEEA in Colorado, and FEEA will notify the winners by telephone. All applicants will receive a letter from FEEA as to their status by the end of August.

While the \$1000 scholarship will not pay all college fees, it will certainly help. Do tell your eligible students to apply for this scholarship.

You may click on the link provided on the NARFE website to access and download the official 2008 Scholarship Application. The application and instructions are also printed in the latest issues of your NARFE magazine.

Just another perk of being a NARFE member!

Convention Committees, Cont. from

Public Relations Committee: Edward Evans, Chp 1576, Chair, 808 Sandburg Place, Nashville 37214, 615.872.897; Margaret Ballard, Chp 519, 20 Brindlewick Dr, Jackson, 38305, 731.422-3744; Mildred Beard, Chp 519, 27 Winchester Cove, Jackson 38305, 731.664.1054; Colleen Heath, 962 Alford Rd, Murfreesboro 37129, 615.893.9142

NARFE-PAC Committee: Herschel Taylor, Chp 861, Chair, PO Box 9, Pickwick Dam 38365, 731.926.3320; Harold Phillips, Chp 324, 108 Malone Drive, Jonesborough 37659, 423.753.4314

Alzheimer's Committee: Nancy Wells, Chp 227, Chair, PO Box 593, Brentwood 37024, 615.377.9011; Reba Collins, Chp 1956, 118 Ballenger Rd, Carthage 37030, 615.73.-2486; Rosa Swanner, Chp 859, 126 Never Break Dr, Henderson 37075, 615.824.7561; Judith Perez, Chp 727, CoChair, 113 Acorn Dr, Dickson 37055, 615.326.0037

Nomination Committee: Herb Arnett, Chp 204, Chair, 5026 Rowan Rd, Knoxville 37912, 865.384.9512; Milton Miracle, Chp 870, 638 Clydesdale Court, Clarksville 37043, 931.358.5349; 1 from Middle Tennessee to be added



TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF
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FEDERATION NET COORDINATOR- CHUCK MACKENZIE

We recently sent out a Federation message using the HQ GEMS system and there were 104 rejects. Considerable time has been sent contacting people and getting the corrected addresses. Thank you to those people for their cooperation. I know it is difficult to remember NARFE when you change an e-mail address, but if you do not, it causes others a lot of work. The same can be said for postal addresses and telephone numbers. The procedure is easy if you have internet capability. It was in the last Retiree and is repeated here:

- Go to NARFE website: www.narfe.org
- Log in
- Screen will change, on the right side under Membership Tools
- CLICK Upgrade your record
- Enter Member ID and birth date and SUBMIT
- Change your data as necessary
- CLICK Update

If you do not have internet capability, mail the information to HQ, Attn. Membership Services. Some of the problems I have encountered in this exercise are:

- Submitted F-7 reports fail to include Chapter Officer e-mail capability
- There are too many blank spaces for telephone numbers.
- Chapters without telephone committees are not discovering disconnected telephone service and therefore cannot try to correct.

To be effective, any communication system must be able to reach the intended recipient. Chapter help is vital in this task. Thanks for your cooperation.