



A PUBLICATION  
OF THE  
TENNESSEE  
FEDERATION OF  
CHAPTERS

# TENNESSEE FEDERATION NEWS

News of Interest to Active and Retired Federal Employees

March 2011

## Cunningham meets with Congressman John Duncan

The first paragraph on page 8 of the February magazine should hit home with all of us. NARFE President Joseph Beaudion calls the congressional battle ahead “the most challenging fight in a generation” to defend federal employees’ and retirees’ earned retirement pay and health benefits. To win this battle is going to require all of us to contribute. President Beaudion has started a new program for those without an e-mail address to alert them by telephone messages (robo) calls of upcoming matters that need to be addressed with our legislators. For those who have an e-mail address, please join the GEMS network by going to the National Website [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and click on join GEMS, or simply call 800-456-8410.

Recently I enjoyed a one-on-one meeting with Congressman John Duncan, our 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative. I explained my dissatisfaction with the way that federal employees’ and retirees’ were being portrayed by the Congress. I also expressed my concern about the disparity in the Medicare Part B premium increase that held social security beneficiaries harmless for the increase but did not allow civil service retirees’ that same benefit. We paid a percentage of our wages toward Medicare just as workers on social security, therefore we as civil service retirees should be treated equitable.

The Congressman said that he would keep my concerns in mind. I just received a letter from Congressman Duncan stating that he did not want to do anything to decrease employee salaries nor anything that would be unfair to the workers.

We in the federal community, both active and retired, should all be willing to contribute toward reducing the national debt but that contribution should also be made by all Americans.

This issue of the newsletter includes the registration form for our State Convention as well as committee chairs. Please consider getting the registration form in as soon as possible.

Remember folks, let’s get out and exercise to the extent possible, it will make you feel better about yourself.

- Larry Cunningham, Federation President  
10117 Arnold Lane, Mascot, TN 37806  
[larrycunningham@narfetn.org](mailto:larrycunningham@narfetn.org)  
(865) 933-0229

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## Address Changes

Names and addresses for newsletter distribution come directly from NARFE’S National Office. To correct your address, please contact the National Office at (800) 456-8410.

## Reversing non-payment of dues is key to improving membership

Most of you folks have not seen this information, so I thought I would share with ya'll the monthly membership totals provided by NARFE Headquarters. My membership recap (see below) reflects the running monthly totals from January 2010 thru December 2010. I have noted the four months showing an overall gain of members which are May, October, November, and December. The remaining eight months, which show an overall loss of members, are shown on the right half of the report. We had an overall loss of 9,367 members for the entire year. This figure is 1,952 higher than the loss for 2009 of 7,415 NARFE National members. These are the numbers that we have to figure out a way to turn around and start showing an overall gain of members. The last three months of the year were fairly good in that we gained a total of 1,477 members, and maybe this trend will continue throughout year 2011. I'd like to point out on the Membership Losses that the "Dropped For Non-Payment" column reflect 78% of the 40,020 total members lost while the "Reported Deaths" were only 21%. The 78% is the number that we must hone in on if we are going to turn around our retention problem.

### MEMBERSHIP GAINS

### MEMBERSHIP LOSSES

Mon	New Members	Reinstatements	Totals	Cancellations	Dropped for Non-Payment	Reported Deaths	Totals
Jan	1,551	852	2,403	45	2,202	767	(3,014)
Feb	1,145	476	1,621	25	3,167	757	(3,949)
Mar	2,030	765	2,795	36	2,788	1,035	(3,859)
Apr	2,470	763	3,233	22	2,891	882	(3,795)
May	2,414	770	+ 3,184	21	2,619	476	3,116
Jun	1,911	844	2,755	24	2,673	824	(3,521)
Jul	878	715	1,593	10	2,367	579	(2,956)
Aug	690	707	1,397	15	3,229	537	(3,781)
Sep	821	786	1,607	26	2,789	626	(3,441)
Oct	2,669	667	+ 3,336	46	2,524	500	3,070
Nov	2,429	721	+ 3,150	43	2,120	708	2,871
Dec	3,004	575	+ 3,579	58	1,875	714	2,647
Total	22,012	8,641	30,653	<u>371</u>	<u>31,244</u>	<u>8,405</u>	40,020
%				1%	78%	21%	

2010 Total Members Lost - (9,367)

NARFE Total Membership - Jan 2010 - 310,302

2009 Total Members Lost - (7,415)

NARFE Total Membership - Dec 2010 - 300,935

We here in the Great State of Tennessee had an "up and down" type year 2010. We had a total membership of 4,401 members in January 2010 and closed out the year with a total of 4,324 members so, we showed an overall loss of 77 members for the entire year. It could have been much worse, but it also could have been a lot better. The last three months of the year showed an overall increase of 38 members, so maybe we will continue with a positive growth for year 2011.

- JC Whitney, TN FED Membership Chair  
(931) 358-4855, jcwhitney@cdelightband.net

**NARFE 55th Tennessee State Federation Convention  
Opryland Radisson Hotel, Nashville, TN**

~~ April 18-19, 2011 ~~

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM  
(One Person per Form)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name and No. \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Registration Fee (Includes Banquet)	\$55.00	\$ _____
Banquet Only (Mon., April 18)	\$35.00	\$ _____
Registration Only (Tues., All Day)	\$20.00	\$ _____
Late Fee after March 18	\$10.00	\$ _____

**Indicate your status with check mark:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federation Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Federation Past President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate           | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Member            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest                     |

\*\*\*\*\*Please remit by March 15, 2011\*\*\*\*\*

Check payable to:  
**Bob Miller - 210 Dover Place - Franklin, TN 37067**  
**615-794-7348**

**Optional Entertainment Opportunities**  
(Please indicate interest by check mark.)

- Grand Ole Opry Show** -- Tuesday night, discount tickets, (May wish to remain overnight.)
- Visit Opry Mills Outlet Mall** -- Any time; no tickets required.
- General Jackson Showboat** ride on the Cumberland River (Lunch Buffet and Show). Daily Tennessee luncheon schedule requires boarding by 11:15 a.m. Evening dinner cruises require boarding by 5:15 p.m.; Sunday dinner cruise requires boarding by 6:15 p.m., and includes a one-of-a-kind experience in the glittering two-story Victorian Theater on board. Tickets available at <http://www.generaljackson.com/>

## 112th Congress from Tennessee

### **Senator Lamar Alexander (R)**

455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-4944  
Memphis: (901) 544-4224  
Jackson: (731) 423-9344  
Nashville: (615) 736-5129  
Chattanooga: (423) 752-5337  
Knoxville: (865) 545-4253  
Tri-Cities: (423) 325-6240

### **Senator Bob Corker (R)**

SD-185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3344  
Memphis: (901) 683-1910  
Jackson: (731) 424-9655  
Nashville: (615) 279-8125  
Chattanooga: (423) 756-2757  
Knoxville: (865) 637-4180  
Tri-Cities: (423) 323-1252

#### TN 1st District

### **Representative Phil Roe (R)**

419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-6356  
Kingsport: (423) 247-8161  
Morristown: (423) 254-1400

#### TN 2nd District

### **John J. (Jimmy) Duncan, Jr., (R)**

2207 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4202  
(202) 225-5435  
Knoxville: (865) 523-3772  
Maryville: (865) 984-5464  
Athens: (423) 745-4671

#### TN 3rd District

### **Representative Charles Fleischmann (R)**

511 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-3271  
Chattanooga: 423-756-2342  
Oak Ridge: 865-576-1976

#### TN 4th District

### **Representative Scott DeJarlais (R)**

Washington Office  
413 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-6831  
Chattanooga: (423) 756-2342  
Oak Ridge: (865) 576-1976

#### TN 5th District

### **Representative Jim Cooper (D)**

1536 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4311  
Nashville: 615-736-5295

#### TN 6th District

### **Representative Diane Black (R)**

1531 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225- 4231  
Murfreesboro: (615) 896-1986

#### TN 7th District

### **Representative Marsha Blackburn (R)**

217 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2811  
Memphis: (901) 382-5811  
Franklin: (615) 591-5161  
Clarksville: (931) 503-0391

#### TN 8th District

### **Representative Stephen Fincher (R)**

1118 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4714  
Jackson: (731) 423-4848  
Dyersburg: Opening soon

#### TN 9th District

### **Representative Steve Cohen (D)**

1005 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-4209  
(202) 225-3265  
Memphis: (901) 544-4131

## Emails can help you get involved

In prior Federation articles, I raised the question of how many of our members in Tennessee have email and whether that email was shared with NARFE Headquarters. The objective or purpose in having our emails listed with NARFE Headquarters is so we can receive legislative updates, GEMS messages more quickly.

Many of you have been very good about responding and very positive in your comments. Others have told me they do not own computers and cannot participate in emails. I want to thank all of you.

However, in my quest to contact our members for the purpose of obtaining emails and then forwarding that on to our NARFE Headquarters, I have "bitten off more than I can chew." So again, I need your help.

For those of you who are members and have emails, but that e mail address has not been shared with NARFE Headquarters, there is an easier way. Please go to the NARFE website. Click on Members. A pop-up screen will appear. Type in your last name and your membership number. Remember, your membership number is on the address label of your NARFE monthly magazine. Then click on "sign in." The screen will come up and in the left-hand column, you will see the words: "JOIN GEMS." Click on that. Again, you will be asked to type in your membership number and your birth date. After doing that, click on "submit" and NARFE Headquarters should have your email address. Simple as that. If you have any problem, please call me and I will be happy to walk you through.

I am convinced, that as members, we all need a sense of involvement. Emails can help. Some of you email me with questions, and I am delighted to answer. It makes me feel important and since you cared enough to ask, then you are involved. That is what it is all about. Many times, our members think their membership is not important or they do not feel they are an important part of something. You are important. Do not let your membership lapse. As federal employees, whether we are retired or still working, we face some tough times ahead. We must all

work together and be involved. Now more than ever.

Thanks for all you are doing.

Carey Frazier, [ctfraz@comcast.net](mailto:ctfraz@comcast.net)  
(615) 373-4817, 6025 Murray Lane,  
Brentwood, TN 37027

## Convention Committee Chairpersons

Committee	Chairperson	Chapter
Credentials	Julia Metcalf	1382
Rules	Ronnie Collins	1956
Resolutions	Carlos Henning	519
Constitution & Bylaws	Dean McAlister	860
Financial Ways, Means & Audit	Hank Shelton	1576
Membership	J.C. Whitney	870
Legislation	Jim Glenn	2035
Service Officer	John Hicks	956
Public Relations	Tom Duncan	227
NARFE-PAC	Larry Minniear	108
Alzheimers	Joan Gates	204
Nominations	Herb Arnett	204

The above members have been selected to serve as committee chairpersons for this year's convention. Those chosen to be committee members will be selected later. All elected positions in the Federation are open for nominations. The offices of Secretary (monthly stipend \$50), East Tennessee Vice President, and Membership Chairman will have no incumbent as those officers have decided not to run. Anyone interested, or know of someone who may be interested, should contact Herb Arnett at [herbarnett@narfetn.org](mailto:herbarnett@narfetn.org) or (865) 384-9512.

## NARFE expects its “most challenging fight in a generation”

Does it seem to you as though we are in a period of exceptionally perilous times with regard to federal employee pay, pensions and benefits? Lately I have been more concerned than ever and according to a recent “NARFE Legislative Update,” National is expecting the most challenging fight in a generation during the current congressional budget process.

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) has promised to eliminate tens of billions of dollars from the budget and said federal workers will not be immune from cuts. In addition, a series of measures proposed by House conservatives to reduce the federal deficit included several that would severely impact the federal workforce. The Republican Study Committee, who unveiled the plan, called their proposal the “Spending Reduction Act of 2011.” It would extend President Obama’s pay freeze on federal employees from two years to five, cut the civil service by 15 percent through attrition over a decade, and prohibit federal workers from serving as union officials on government time.

Furthermore, freshman Representative Dennis A. Ross (R-FL), chairman of the House subcommittee on federal workers, the Postal Service and labor policy, said that he plans to focus first on potential cuts to the federal payroll.

To help illustrate the challenges ahead, the tables at the end of this article show the percentage that leaders of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress voted in favor of NARFE issues in the previous Congress. Representative Nancy Pelosi was Speaker of the House and did not vote.

The Civil Service Retirement Act was signed into law in 1920, and the first meeting of NARFE was held on February 19, 1921. So NARFE was established soon after the retirement system began and has been working on our behalf for more than 90 years. While I believe most NARFE members realize how important the Association has been in protecting our pay, pensions and earned benefits all of these years, the 93 percent who are eligible for membership but have not joined just do not seem to get it. Per-

sonally, I shudder to think where we would be without NARFE. All of us have heard the saying, “You never truly appreciate what you have until it’s lost.” In recent years, NARFE membership has been on the decline, and it is incumbent on all of us to do everything we can to keep from losing the only organization that exists solely to protect the earned benefits of federal employees, retirees and survivors. Thank your for being a NARFE member. I have made a commitment to continue maintaining my NARFE membership, and I hope that you will too.

This is the last newsletter you will receive before our Federation Convention in April. Recently, several members have questioned me about the convention dates (17, 18 and 19) listed on the delegate form as well as several other publications. According to previous programs, the convention will be held April 18-19, 2011. As far as I know, nothing will be scheduled on Sunday, April 17. I look forward to seeing everyone at the convention.

- Larry Henderson, Federation 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President  
3007 Berrywood Dr., Humboldt, TN 38343-2761  
731-784-0675, [henderson@click1.net](mailto:henderson@click1.net)

### House Leaders

Position	Name	Voted for NARFE ISS
Speaker	John Boehner	20% in 111 <sup>th</sup>
Majority leader	Eric Cantor	20%
Majority whip	Kevin McCarthy	20%
Republican conf. chair	Jeb Hensarling	0%
Minority leader	Nancy Pelosi	No vote
Minority whip	Steny Hoyer	80%
Assistant minority leader	James Clyburn	100%
Democratic caucus chair	John Larson	100%

### Select House Committees

Committee	Chairperson	Voted for NARFE ISS
Oversight & Government Reform	Darrell Issa	20%
Budget	Paul Ryan	0%
House Appropriations	Hal Rogers	20%
Ways & Means	Dave Camp	25%

(Continued on next page)



## Challenging fight (continued)

### Senate Leaders

Position	Name	Voted for NARFE ISS
Majority leader	Harry Reid	100% in 111th
Majority whip	Dick Durbin	100%
Democratic policy committee chair	Charles Schumer	100%
Minority leader	Mitch McConnell	0%
Minority whip	Jon Kyl	0%
Senate Republican conference chair	Lamar Alexander	0%

### Select Senate Committees

Committee	Chairperson	Voted for NARFE ISS
Appropriations	Daniel Inouye	100%
Budget	Kent Conrad	100%
Health, Ed., Labor & Pensions	Tom Harkin	100%
Homeland Security & Govt. Affairs	Joseph Lieberman	67%

## NARFE works to improve bad PR

I doubt anyone will disagree that these are difficult times. Unemployment is high, the deficit is in the trillions, and Congress is in the process of balancing the budget – our concern has to be that it is not on the backs alone of the active and retired federal employees or their spouses. Many retirees and active employees as well think our annuity, health, and other benefits are set in stone, but they are wrong. As the old saying goes, what Congress gives, Congress can take away. We must constantly be vigilant, doing what we can to protect those benefits.

Last September, at the convention in Grand Rapids, the membership recognized the need for a dues increase and did approve one that will take effect with membership renewals starting in March 2011. Now, with the economy in such dire condition and an aggressive group of politicians doing what they can to balance the economy, NARFE is going to need to take bold steps to do what it can to protect our earned benefits.

In my opinion, it is time we took extraordinary measures to counter the ongoing and increasingly bad publicity we are getting from Congress and the

public as well as in the newspapers. While we have not completely recovered financially, with our recent dues increase, I believe it is time that we invest in actions that will help us retain those earned benefits and counter the bad publicity we are receiving. If we do not use funds that are available to do what we can to improve our situation, we might see the time where we have funds in the bank but have lost many of our benefits. I just don't think we can allow that to happen.

The NEB has approved a contract with M&R Strategic Services. According to Dan Adcock and Joe Beaudoin, M&R has worked with many similar nonprofit organizations, and with their expertise and assistance, we are in the process of launching a PR effort in targeted states to refute false statements and mobilize our members. In addition, the NEB has approved an additional \$250K for advertising in selected markets, both inside and outside the DC area.

The idea is to advertise in areas with large numbers of both active and retired federal employees, as well as in areas represented by influential politicians who have the ability to help ... or hurt us. We want to do what we can to influence them to help. As Joe Beaudoin has said "It will not be cheap; however, if we continue to do business as usual, we are (in my opinion) doomed."

Two other activities in process at NARFE are the NIAC and the Membership committee. Both are national programs using field members. The NIAC (National IT Advisory Committee) is looking at all electronic activities from reports to banking, and it has five field members who will finalize their recommendations this coming July at the Federation Presidents meeting. The other is really two committees, both on Membership. One committee will be working on recruitment and the other on retention. Both have five members from the field. It too will report at the July meeting.

The bottom line is that NARFE is actively pursuing activities that we feel will protect our earned benefits. Please feel free to let me know of your concerns and of any questions you may have. I'll do what I can to help. You can reach me by email at [narfe2065@hughes.net](mailto:narfe2065@hughes.net) or by phone at 540-872-3345.

- Bill Martin, Region X Vice-President

We're on the web!  
[www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)

## 2011 NARFE State Convention

Radisson Hotel  
at Opryland

April 17-19, 2011

Hosted by the  
Hermitage/Donelson  
Chapter

*Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees*

### Safety tips for fall prevention

1. Keep your hands empty while walking whenever possible. Free hands allow you greater access to grab on to furniture, walls, or rails for support when needed.
2. Remove clutter and obstructions from all walking pathways in your home.
3. Wear sturdy shoes that provide active support. Make sure your shoes fit your feet and always wear shoes that have backs. Avoid house slippers, flip flops, and going around without shoes or walking around with only socks on your feet.
4. Install sturdy and supportive rails on all stairs or steps in the home. Even if it's only a short step down it's important that you have something to grab onto for support going up or down the steps.
5. Install motion or sound activated lights in your home so you aren't walking around in the dark or groping blindly for switches. Also install nightlights in all rooms that come on automatically whenever it is dark.
6. Do daily exercises that promote balance. A loss of balance is one of the most common reasons for falls among seniors.
7. Don't climb step ladders or stools. Instead of climbing to reach things that are high up or located on top shelves, consider investing in a grab bar or asking someone to come over and help you rearrange your kitchen so that frequently used items are within easy reach and those that are rarely used are stored higher.

#### TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS, NARFE

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(423) 538-9220

