



THE TENNESSEE FEDERAL RETIREE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees

January 2008

FEDERATION PRESIDENT JOHN T. HICKS

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Merry Christmas and Season's Greetings to everyone! Your Tennessee Federation Executive Board wishes you the very best for the new year. Thank you for being faithful NARFE members, and for helping us as a team support our causes!

First off, I would like to wish all Federation members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Seems like I just got done writing this a week or so ago, but it's been a whole year. My parents always told me that the older I got, the faster time would go, and I didn't believe them.

I've had a lot of happy times this year serving my second term as your Federation President and a couple of bad times. I've really enjoyed visiting chapters this year and I'm slated to go to three more this month. I would like to thank all NARFE members who have shown my wife and me the great times this year; it's been a heck of a ride.

The bad part of being Federation President is that sometimes difficult decisions have to be made such as closing chapters. I had to close two recently: Chapter #2312 in Dunlap and #2091 in Kingston. Both were closed because the chapter members were either unable to attend meetings or they couldn't

find anyone to fill the officer ranks. Yes, I have moved the members to other chapters and we have not lost any members so far as I know. But it's hard to be moved from one chapter to another. As Federation President, I contacted each and every member and asked him/her what chapter they would like to be transferred to. I talked to several newer members of one chapter and they told me that they didn't even know where the chapter met that they belonged to. You talk about a lack of communications! (Sounds like we are still working for the government).

This brings me to a very sore subject, "COMMUNICATIONS". If your chapter doesn't have a newsletter, send out post cards, or if you can't afford the postage, get a phone tree going. Let chapter members know that you care about them and they are not forgotten. I wonder how many of our members who don't or can't attend meetings haven't spoken to a chapter member or received a

phone call or any information from the chapter since they have joined? We have to fill this void and show all our members that we care for them. Remember, they pay chapter dues, and they should get something from it. Think about this!!!

At the November National Executive Board meeting, it was voted that NARFE headquarters not replace or fill the National Vice President's position. (As you know, NVP Bill Austin resigned as of November). The NEB feels strongly that they can operate efficiently and effectively with three National Resident Officers until next October. The NEB then voted to identify the National Treasurer to succeed to the office of the President in the event a vacancy occurs in that office during the remainder of Ms. Baptiste's term (until Oct. 31, 2008).

Information concerning the federation convention is in this newsletter—I want to issue you a personal invitation to join us this year. See you in Dickson!

NARFE STATE CONVENTION—2008

OUR TENNESSEE STATE CONVENTION IS COMING! MARK YOUR CALENDARS! April 28-29th - 2008. See details in the 2009 Convention Registration Form enclosed with this newsletter. Montgomery Bell State Park, the site of our Convention, should be beautiful in these last days of April. The Park is located seven miles east of Dickson, TN off Highway 70. The Convention will begin with registration on April 28th. Our tentative schedule Monday is the Federation Board Meeting from 1 to 2 PM; Committee Meetings 2 to 3 PM; Training for Chapter Officers- 3 to 5 PM and our Banquet will begin at 6 PM.

Our dinner will consist of a choice of baked chicken, roast beef and baked catfish along with au gratin potatoes, field peas, green beans, broccoli and cheese, mixed vegetables topped off with strawberry cobbler, cheese cake, ice tea or coffee. I am getting hungry right now!!

Our business meeting will begin Tuesday morning. Please make your reservation before March 15, 2008. For those wanting to come a few days early and stay late- the Park has a beautiful golf course, walking trails and free lectures by Park Rangers as to history and colorful parts of the Park to visit. I think the First Presbyterian Church building was built in the Park in 1810. The Rangers will be happy to show you the site and give a lecture on the history. This should be a great convention. Please come. The Park web site is www.tennessee.gov/environment/parks/MontgomeryBell/ OR go to Google search engine and type in Montgomery Bell State Park.

(reprinted verbatim per Carey Frazier)

FEDERATION VICE PRESIDENT NOTES

West Tennessee: The holidays are over. We have given thanks for our freedoms, celebrated the birth of Christ and welcomed in the New Year.

Congratulations to the elected officers who have agreed to serve our chapters for the next year.

As we start working for the next year, get registered for the state convention in April and enjoy meeting and learning from our friends. Volunteer to serve on committees and help guide NARFE to a successful year of accomplishments.

Attend committee meetings and the training sessions and get to know more about NARFE and how we can better serve our fellow members.

John P. Shannon, 2nd VP
Phone 731.845.5565; johnshannon@narfetn.org

East Tennessee: Greetings from East Tennessee. I hope that the holidays were enjoyable by all. It's time to start making New Year resolutions. I would like to suggest a few. Get off of the couch and get out of the house, plan a trip or better yet just take a trip, call a friend just to gossip, write a letter to someone that you haven't seen in a while, visit your neighbor and then visit their neighbor, meet someone for lunch, and by all means attend your chapter meetings.

The January issue of the newsletter is dedicated to the State Convention. At the 2007 convention in Knoxville, we voted to continue to hold the convention annually. Everyone that is able should consider attending the convention this year. Although a lot of business is conducted, there is also a lot of information available, but most of all there is a lot of good fellowship with old and new friends alike and that is just hard to beat. I hope to see you there.

Our Federation Newsletter is really taking shape. I personally wish to thank Diane Taylor and commend her on a job very well done. Thanks Diane.

Larry Cunningham, 3rd VP
Phone 865-933-0229; larrycunningham1@netzero.net

Thought for the Day: "The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other." - Ronald Reagan



Tennessee Federation of Chapters
National Active and Retired federal employees Association

2008 Convention Registration Form

52nd Federation Convention

Hosted by Nashville Chapter #0227

Nashville, Tennessee

April 28-29, 2008

Please Print or type all information

Chapter No. _____ Chapter Name _____ Location _____

Name _____ ID# _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Circle One: (Delegate) (Alternate) (Federation Off.) (Nat. Off.) (Past Federation President) (Guest) (Member)

Spouse _____ ID# if NARFE Member _____

Circle One: (Delegate) (Alternate) (Federation Off.) (Nat. Off.) (Past Federation President) (Guest) (Member)

CONVENTION FEE OPTIONS (Select for yourself and spouse):

- FULL REGISTRATION FEE: \$45.00 (Incl. Registration and Banquet)**
 CONFERENCE ONLY \$20.00
 BANQUET ONLY \$25.00
 LATE FEE \$5.00 (After March 15, 2008) TOTAL enclosed _____

Registration Forms must be submitted by **March 15, 2008 (Late or on-site registration extra \$5.00)**

Make checks payable to: **NARFE**

Mail to: **Nancy Wells, P O Box 593, Brentwood, TN 37024-0593**

For additional information, contact Chapter President Bruce Thomas at phone **615-781-6083**

Tennessee Federation

NARFE Convention

April 28-29, 2008

Montgomery Bell State Park,

1020 Jackson Hill Road, Burns, TN 37209

Phone: 615-797-3101 or 800-250-8613

Your reservation is to be made by Phone or Online, no reservations by mail. Online at URL <http://state.tn.us/environment/parks/reservations.shtml>

\$60 per night plus tax

Directions

I-40 West from Nashville: Exit 182 (Fairview/Dickson Hwy. 96 Exit). Turn left (West) onto Highway 96. Stay on Highway 96 until it dead ends at Highway 70. Turn right (East) on Highway 70, off-ramp provided. Stay on Hwy 70 approximately 3miles. Park entrance is on the right.

I-40 East from Memphis: Exit 182 (Fairview/Dickson Hwy. 96 Exit). Turn right (West) onto Highway 96. Stay on Hwy. 96 until it dead ends at Highway 70. Turn right (East) on Highway 70, off-ramp provided. Stay on Highway 70 approximately 3 miles. Park entrance is on the right.

Hotel Reservations Must Be Made by March 15, 2008—Late Reservations Subject to Availability

Contact the Hotel directly by phone for reservations, you may call **615-797-3101 or 1-800-250-8613** Indicate that you're with "NARFE State Convention" refer to the **group code 4355** for reservations. For Online reservations go to URL <http://state.tn.us/environment/parks/reservations.shtml>, refer to the **group code 4355** for reservations



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Mailing addresses for the newsletter are downloaded each printing from NARFE headquarters. If you have an address change, if you and your spouse have separate mailing addresses & are receiving 2 newsletters, or if there has been a death of the NARFE member, please notify headquarters NARFE. We try to mail only one newsletter to each family to save postage by our manually looking at each of the 4000 addresses. But because of the volume, we rely upon headquarters keeping the current information. Thanks to those who have notified the federation of address changes or of deaths, but it is impossible for us to keep our own address file. Send an email to memsrvcs@narfe.org, or call 703.838.7760 to make your changes. And Chapter Secretaries, please help your members with this updating.

Thank you.

Newsletter Editor

**NARFE:
Your future;
our focus.**

FEDERATION NET COORDINATOR

We currently have 239 members covering 36 chapters in our Federation net. For our Federation, there are over 600 members listed in the GEMS net. Through the courtesy of the National Field VP for Region X, I will use the GEMS system for distributions. This will ease the burden of keeping a separate federation list and the problems of multiple mailings. This means that you must make sure that your E-Mail address is registered in the GEMS system. This also allows you to receive the weekly "Hot Line" on legislative issues which are of vital interest in retaining your benefits.

To check to see if you are registered, use the following procedure:

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 including E-Mail address
- CLICK Update

Chapter Secretaries are about to issue new form F-7s on chapter officers for the coming year. Secretaries, please check with your new slate of officers and include the officers' E-mail address on the Form -7, if they have one.

Chuck MacKenzie, NFEDNET Coordinator