

NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association



A PUBLICATION
OF THE
TENNESSEE
FEDERATION OF
CHAPTERS

Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

June 2008

President to focus on membership as highest priority

I have been elected as your new Federation President for the coming year. Let me thank all of you for this honor and privilege. NARFE is a wonderful organization whose primary goal is to protect the earned benefits of active and retired federal employees. Membership in NARFE must be a high priority.

In accepting the responsibility of this office, there is one question. How can we in working with our Federation Board Officers, our Chapter officers and our NARFE members, make this a better organization for all federal employees in Tennessee?

For the coming months through the end of December 2008, we must focus on membership. Our current nationwide membership is 331,000. At the end of December 1998,

it was 418,000. Our membership has decreased by some 87,000. If this decline continues, NARFE will be no more. Our powers of persuasion with Congress will be gone.

At the moment, the country is focusing on the Presidential election. The general consensus is that the new President and new Congress will not enact legislation until after January 9, 2009. For the next eight months, I will be asking all our members to focus on membership.

If anyone hears of a training or retirement seminar for our current/active federal employees, we want to be there. We have formed one new chapter in the Federal Building for active employees, the Music Chapter 2353. We need to form more. Our current/active federal employees must have a chapter close to

their work so they can attend monthly meetings during their lunch hour and not take annual leave. As they retire, they will gravitate out to our current chapters and form the base of newly retired members. Last, we must seek out those members who have let their membership lapse.

As to lapsed members, I hope to have a plan in place very soon that I will present to all our Chapter Officers. If these lapsed members will return, then our membership will increase. It will be a lot of work, but I think we can do it.

If I can be of help or answer any question, please feel free to call or email.

-Carey Frazier
(615) 373-4817
ctfraz@comcast.net

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Convention needs more members in attendance

Another State Convention has passed, and will be remembered as a very good one. The business, socialization, and training sessions were well attended. Although the convention attendance was good, we did not have a member from each chapter attending, and that was not good. Next year, the convention will be held in Jackson,

Tenn. Chapters should start planning now to send at least one delegate to the next convention.

Our new Presidents' theme for the upcoming year is membership (recruit and retain). We as members should always take the opportunity to sign up a new member when possible and never let a member drop out

without a phone call.

The warmer season is here, and it's time to get out and be active. We as retired seniors need to be as active as possible to maintain our health, so let's get out and enjoy ourselves. Get off the couch and get kicking.

-Larry Cunningham
Federation 2nd Vice-President

Attention all treasurers or secretary-treasurers

Several of you called me asking where you got your EIN number to file your 990-N. Your area vice-president now has that number. If you will contact them, they can give you the number you need to file. Then you can just go to www.irs.gov and put in 990-N. It is a very short form to file electronically, and you will get a confirmation you filed. Print two copies of this confirmation. Keep one copy for your records and give one copy to your Chapter President for his files.

Attention anyone needing reimbursement for NARFE expenses: All expenses vouchers need to be mailed to Glenda Huff, 415 Mountain View Drive, Seymour, TN 37865, with any receipts attached. I will

verify all figures, issue a voucher, and send on to President Carey Frazier for his approval. He will approve and mail to Treasurer Marie Anglin who will then write you a check. Receipts are so important as when our records are audited at the end of the year, the audit committee wants to be sure all your money is being used wisely. Marie Anglin maintains excellent records and categorizes all expenses so any Federation Member can easily look at the annual financial report and see where our Federation money is being spent.

-Glenda Huff
Federation Financial Secretary

Laws can change, and so can your retirement

Our newly elected president, Mr. Carey Frazier, stated his vision and mission for the next year to be one of recruitment and establishment of additional chapters so that we can truly begin to have an influence in Washington, D.C. Our National Federation has released new posters which in part states that laws can change, and so can your retirement. I know this to be true from my many years as a public activist, former military member, and now a civilian federal worker. I have seen benefits and programs come and go depending on the prevailing winds in Washington. What I have learned through the years is that "squeaky wheels get greased." We need to become very loud, very squeaky wheels! We need to change our total dependence on state and national NARFE leaders to protect our benefits and become individual advocates sending individual and group letters, making individual and group phone calls, and making individual and group visits with our elected officials. Washington, D.C. needs to know we are watching, listening and speaking up and out. Especially now that the political landscape will change. How that change affects us as federal workers is up to us and to NARFE. In that vein, I would like to make this first challenge: Let's see what chapter can win the award for the most members who are PAC contributors on a percentage basis. Need to keep it fair to the smaller chapters.

Another area where we as individuals can have a significant impact is in our attendance and participation at conventions. This year our national convention will be in Kentucky, and although we did not have 100 percent participation in our state convention, we need and should have 100 percent participation at our national convention. It is my hope that Tennessee Federation NARFE will meet that goal.

Now as our federation looks forward to our next convention in Jackson, Tenn., I would like to encourage all chapters to participate in the one event that allows us to network with other chapters to find out what works and what does not work to make a chapter a success. No dream is ever achieved alone. We need to reach the goal line together. I will be formulating delegate forms as soon as a definite date has been established. I will ask again that the entire top white portion be sent to me intact. The colored second sheet should be split—one part going to the chapter secretary, and one part to the delegate. I will be working with the representatives from our host chapter to ensure that everyone has a fun-filled memorable time.

I also envision a more appropriate memorial for our deceased brothers and sisters. This year I would like to enlarge the memorial book to a 12x12 album with one page dedicated to each chapter followed by each succeeding page dedicated to the chapter member. I can only do this with everyone's cooperation. As you become aware of deceased members, please send me whatever information you have to include but not limited to names, pictures, obituaries, funeral cards. If each and every member participates in this project, next year's memorial will be better than ever. Contact information for me is as follows:

-Vivian Fivecoat
TN Federation Secretary
430 Deepwood Trail
Clarksville, TN 37042
VFivecoat@gmail.com
931-206-2729

PAC contributions help re-elect NARFE-friendly representatives

My name is Glenn Turner of Chapter 227 in Nashville, and I have been appointed to chair the NARFE-PAC Committee for the forthcoming year.

All contributions to our Political Action Committee are voluntary and are used to help re-elect representatives who are friendly to our issues. Having a strong PAC is therefore very important to NARFE. Every NARFE member is encouraged to make a small contribution, which in the long run helps protect our annuities and our other benefits. NARFE members become very vulnerable every year when the federal budget is being proposed. We therefore consider NARFE-PAC as our Self Defense fund as the annuity you save may be your own.

Each year during our annual convention, the Leo Potts Award is given to the chapter having given the most per capita

to our NARFE-PAC. The Crossville chapter was the recipient of this award during our recent convention. Congratulations to Crossville and thank you for your generous support to NARFE-PAC. Leo Potts of the Donelson Chapter headed up our NARFE-PAC for many years and this award is in recognition of his service to NARFE.

Please consider making a small contribution as this gives us greater legitimacy with our elected officials.

I look forward to representing you as our Tennessee Federation NARFE-PAC Chairman. Please let me know if I can be of service to you.

-Glenn Turner
Glennturner01@comcast.net
 (615) 352-1907

Shannon outlines NARFE goals

The 2008 Tennessee Federation Convention is history. Newly elected Federation Officers have been installed. The NARFE 2008 National Convention in Louisville, Ky., is scheduled for September 7-12.

Deadlines for Resolutions is June 2, Chapter Delegate Form C/08-2 is June 30, and Proxy C/08-2 form is August 23. When completed, this form must be signed by both the chapter president and secretary.

The position of Service Officer at the Chapter level is one of the most important ways to serve our members in a time of need. The useful information may help with retention.

The month of August has been designated as NARFE "Meet Your Candidates Month." Tennessee State Primary and County Elections are August 7, Offices to be elected are U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and State Legislators.

Any meeting with a member of Congress or candidate is a good time to mention NARFE legislative goals, talk to them about issues, not specific bill numbers.

It is not too early to make plans and inviting the candidates for office to Chapter meetings. Flexibility of scheduling, a group meeting with candidates in their offices or local restaurant for a morning coffee or breakfast may work best for some groups.

The goal is to acquaint as many candidates with as many NARFE members and our concerns as possible.

Entitlement Reform—What is your position on COLA equity between Social Security, federal civilian and military retiree?

Health Care—What are your ideas for addressing our nation's health care needs?

Future of Social Security and Medicare—How do you believe we can best ensure that Social Security and Medicare continue to provide economic and health security for current and future retirees?

Members' feedback is needed so we may serve your needs better.

-John P. Shannon, 1st Vice-President
 430 Corinth Rd, Darden, TN 38328-8648
 Phone 731-845-5565
jps Shannon@netease.net
 7th, 8th and 9th Congressional districts.

Greetings from John Wells

I have been a NARFE member for 12 years, joining well before retirement due to a presentation by NARFE at a retirement seminar. I have been retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service since October 1, 2004, after 40 years of service with the same agency. I was first the Federation's District 5 Officer and then the Federation Legislative Chair for 1.5 years before being elected as 3rd Vice-President for Middle Tennessee at the recent Federation Convention on April 29, 2008. I look forward to working with you to help NARFE serve you even better than before.

I will be contacting each Chapter President in Middle Tennessee in the near future to get acquainted and find out how I may be of service to the chapter, as well as offer any assistance that I can. I'll also start to schedule attendance at one of your chapter meetings to meet the chapter members and answer any questions that I can, and learn more about your needs.

With the recent focus on Membership and Retention at the NARFE State Convention and as part of the implementation of the Region X and the Federation Action Plans, I believe it is critical that we have a web presence for each and every Chapter. This can be done either by the Chapter developing and maintaining their own website, which some Chapters have already done and which the Federation can link to, or by having a single page on the Federation site (<http://narfetn.org/chapters.html>) with the minimum information. Having information for prospective members to find out how to contact the chapter and where the meetings are located along with the date and time is a critical part of improving communications with current and new members.

I am looking forward to working with and meeting you in the near future.

-John F. Wells
 3rd Vice-President
 104 Newton Nook
 Brentwood, TN 37027-8247
 Phone: 615-331-0705
 Cell: 615-957-5585
JFWells65@aol.com

Tennessee Federation Financial Report

Quarter Ending December 31, 2007
By Marie Anglin, Treasurer

Beginning Balance - Checking Account 1/1/2007 \$ 21,377.86

TENNESSEE FEDERATION FINANCIAL REPORT FEDERATION BUDGET AND EXPENSE REPORT

2007

ACTIVITY	Budgeted		Actual		(-) Over		Projected	
	4 Qtrs		Expenses		(+)		Under	
	Year	2007	YTD	12/31/2007	Budget	12/31/2007	Budget	2008
1. Exec. Bd. Meeting:	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 5,104.52	\$ 5,104.52	\$ 245.48	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 5,350.00
2. Fed. Officers Grants	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,725.00	\$ 1,725.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
3. Office Expenses:	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 566.33	\$ 566.33	\$ 1,033.67	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
4. State Convention Ex.	\$ 3,557.29	\$ 3,269.62	\$ 3,269.62	\$ 287.67	\$ 3,465.00	\$ 3,465.00	\$ 3,465.00	\$ 3,465.00
5. Nat'l Convent/Pres	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
6. Fed. Newsletter	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,717.30	\$ 6,717.30	\$ 782.70	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
7. Legislative Expenses	\$ 3,725.00	\$ 3,192.89	\$ 3,192.89	\$ 532.11	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
8. Visit Weak Chapters	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
9. Visit to Chapters	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,518.56	\$ 2,518.56	\$ (18.56)	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
10. Chap. Officers Trng.	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
11. Monit. St/Local Leg.	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
12. Prom. Nat'l Legislation	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
13. Civic Activity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
14. Senior Act/Aiz Act.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
15. Non Member Activity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
16. Inc. New Mem/Ser Cen	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
17. Merit Awards	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18. Public Relations	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
19. Regions X Conference	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,283.15	\$ 1,283.15	\$ 416.85	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00
20. Pres. Conf/Natl Ex. Bd.	\$ -	\$ 617.65	\$ 617.65	\$ (617.65)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
21. Nat'l Member Seminar	\$ -	\$ 1,179.71	\$ 1,179.71	\$ (1,179.71)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
22. Nat'l Legislative Sem.	\$ -	\$ 276.78	\$ 276.78	\$ (176.78)	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
23. Other	\$ 100.00	\$ 26,451.51	\$ 26,451.51	\$ 3,480.78	\$ 30,115.00	\$ 30,115.00	\$ 30,115.00	\$ 30,115.00
TOTAL Budgeted/Expense	\$ 29,932.29	\$ 26,451.51	\$ 26,451.51	\$ 3,480.78	\$ 30,115.00	\$ 30,115.00	\$ 30,115.00	\$ 30,115.00

REVENUES	
National Dues Rebate - 10% Fund	\$ 11,251.96
Closed Chapter	\$ 565.62
Interest in Checking	\$ 15.23
Per Capita Dues	\$ 15,408.70
Closed Account - Max Coats	\$ 139.64
Knoxville Chapter Seed Money Returned	\$ 300.00
Convention Refund	\$ 334.47
Misc - bank error	\$ 0.05
Total Revenue	\$ 28,015.67
Total To Be Accounted For	
LESS EXPENSES:	
Vouchers	\$ 16,244.69
Newsletter Expenses	\$ 6,717.30
Website Expense	\$ 66.00
Computer (Presentation Equipment)	\$ 2,177.12
Other Expenses	\$ 1,246.40
Total Disbursed	\$ 26,451.51

Ending Cash Balance - Checking Account- 12/31/2007	\$ 22,942.02
Certificates of Deposit	
US Bank	\$ 3,103.71
US Bank	\$ 3,142.98
Interest earned as of 12/31/2007	\$ 277.81
Total Assets	\$ 29,466.52

National convention was a huge success

The 2008 State Federation Convention of NARFE was held April 28-29, 2008 at the Montgomery Bell State Park Inn Conference Center, Burns, Tenn. This convention was hosted by Chapter #0227 with Bruce Thomas and Nancy Wells serving as Convention Chairs.

The convention attendees were honored to have as guests National Treasurer Richard Ostergren, Victoria Reed of Senator Corker's Office, Sue Story - Parliamentarian and Dickson County Mayor Robert Stone who welcomed guests to the area. It is noted that Region X VP Joe Beaudoin attended the Executive Board Meeting on Monday, April 28, and the banquet Monday night but had to leave this convention for another commitment.

Committee Chairs included (chapter numbers in parentheses):

Credentials: Julia Metcalf (1382)

Rules: Elmer Gillespie (108)

Resolutions: Diane Taylor (861)

Constitution & Bylaws: Charles MacKenzie (1956)

Financial Ways & Means & Audit: Joyce Knott (519)

Legislative: Donald E. Smith (1382)

Membership: Jerry O. McDuffie (1603)

Service Officer: Dean McAlister (860)

Credential (final report): Julia Metcalf

Public Relations: Edward Evans (1576)

NARFE-PAC: Herschel Taylor (861)

Alzheimer's: Nancy Wells (227)

Nomination: Herbert Arnett (0204)

Committee reports were given on the floor of the convention and were approved by motion. Convention address was given by National Treasurer Richard Ostergren. J.C. Whitney was presented a plaque for top recruiter for Tennessee. In summary, Ostergren advised a resolution to eliminate four positions at NARFE Headquarters will be brought to the national convention this year and all information regarding this resolution and NARFE as a whole is on the National web site. Retention remains the name of the game and personal contact works. There are fewer than 1,500 chapters; Tennessee has closed four chapters in 2007, 33,000 members turn 85 this year. There are notices on bus shelters and other public places around Washington, D.C., for advertisement. Judy Park is retiring after 40 years; she has done an outstanding job and will be replaced by Dan Adcock. A strong support of NARFE-PAC can open doors and achieve goals. This convention should be ap-

plauded for donations received for NARFE-PAC. March is NARFE-PAC month, but actually every month is NARFE-PAC month. IT has upgraded and improved the web site, at NARFE we work for you.

Roll Call of officers and chapters and the final credential report revealed a total of 130 attendees.

The Leo Potts Award to promote competition of NARFE-PAC contributions was presented to the Crossville Chapter for the highest contributions. The Crossville Chapter also received this award in 2007. John Hicks, the outgoing Federation President, presented awards to Diane Taylor, Jean Cox, Chuck MacKenzie, Carey Frazier, John Shannon, Larry Cunningham, Marie Anglin, Vivian Fivecoat, and John Wells.

The Nomination Committee provided the following slate of nominees for the upcoming year: 1st VP John Shannon, 2nd VP Larry Cunningham, 3rd VP John Wells, President Carey Frazier, Treasurer Marie Anglin, Legislative Doug Roberts (883), Membership - J.C. Whitney (870), and Secretary - Vivian Fivecoat (870). The convention floor was asked if there were any nominations from the floor for any of these positions, as there were no nominations received, and the issue was closed. These officers were approved by acclamation.

The 2008 slate of officers was sworn in by National Treasurer Richard Ostergren.

The 2008 Tennessee State Federation of NARFE Convention was adjourned at 1:29 pm (CST) as there was no further business pending.

The 2008 National Convention will be held in Louisville, Ky., on September 7-12.

There are hundreds of things that chapters, federations and National Headquarters must do to prepare for it. Now is the time to start planning. Deadlines will have to be met. Delegates need to be selected and funds allocated to help defray the cost of attending the National Convention. If your chapter does not plan to send a delegate, a proxy should be designated. Over the next several months, chapters will be provided with information about the 2008 National Convention, the actions they need to take and due dates. Chapter Presidents and Secretaries are reminded of the deadline of June 8, 2008, to have your delegate and or proxy information in to the Federation Secretary.

-John F. Wells
3rd Vice-President



**TENNESSEE FEDERATION
OF CHAPTERS, NARFE**

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Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

New legislative chairperson introduced

Greetings. My name is Matt Bauer. I am the new Legislative Chairperson for the Federation. I reside in Murfreesboro, Tenn., and retired in January 2007 after 35 years of service with the Veterans Administration. Thirty of those years were spent working as a human resources specialist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Murfreesboro.

I am looking forward to working with all of you on the important issues that we face today such as:

- Premium Conversion - allowing federal and military retirees to pay health insurance with pre-tax compensation
- Repeal of the Social Security Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)

The month of August is "Meet your Candidate Month." Congress will be in summer recess from August 8 until September 8, and the month is prime time for

candidates-incumbents, challengers and those vying for open seats--to be campaigning for the fall elections in their home districts and states, creating an excellent opportunity for NARFE members to meet with candidates and acquaint them with the Association and legislative concerns.

We need everyone's help in fighting for legislation that improves benefits and to keep our benefits from being reduced. You can do your part by contacting your elected officials and expressing your viewpoint.

We need everyone's help in fighting for legislation that improves benefits and to keep our benefits from being reduced. You can do your part by contacting your elected officials and expressing your viewpoint.

- Matt Bauer
Legislative Chairperson

**We're on the web!
www.narfe.org**