



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS
CHAPTER 1956 COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE**

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Presidents Corner

Our next meeting is August 15 and the program will be presented by Tracy Galyean, Head Dietician at Cookeville Regional Medical Center. (After a good meal find out what you should have eaten.)

The Heartland Gospel Singers presented an outstanding musical program at our last meeting. They are an excellent gospel group with a remarkable blend of voices; if you see an advertisement for a future performance, it would be well worth attending. Our thanks go to Bill Masters for obtaining such good entertainment. There were thirty two members plus guests attending the meeting.

We did stress the capabilities of Shoneys with 45 people in attendance. I apologize for not warning them in advance and delaying your service, but a few words to the manager added more serving personnel to meet our needs.

The latest I have on Sam Bacon is that he is recuperating at Masters Health Care in Algood. Room 402 278 Dry Valley Rd. Algood TN 38501

We have received three copies of the National Convention Resolutions Book, one for the chapter and one for each delegate. The chapter copy is available for anyone who wishes to see it. There are some sixty six resolutions affecting the National Bylaws. About half deal with the subject of Mandatory Chapter Membership, Unified Dues, and Spousal Membership, also one member one vote. I would like to hear some of your views on these subjects, at the meeting or by phone or E-mail.

Treasurer's balance

The Alzheimer's collection was \$32.00

Legislative

Sixty three Senators now support the Premium Conversion bill (up 1); unfortunately our Senators are not among them. We need to continue to urge their support. If you have written or telephoned, do it again. Congress is going into its August recess so if the opportunity presents itself, see them in person. There are now 335 Representatives cosponsoring the House version of Premiums Conversion. (My biggest frustration with the Congress is that they take a month off, with so many appropriations Bills to be completed.) I remember when the fiscal year was changed from July 1 to Oct 1, so that they would have time to complete the bills, and they still can't do it. Truly it is written that "work expands to fill the time allotted for it".

HR 526 has been introduced into the House; it would require BC/BS to make available an HSA plan in its offerings. Currently BC/BS is limited by law to two programs. This is an objective that OPM is pushing, but can do nothing until the law is changed. Obviously, we are opposed to the legislation. Let Bart Gordon know that you would like him to vote against this bill.

Soon the primaries will be over. If you have an opportunity to meet the candidates, find out where they stand on the issues supported by NARFE, it may decide how you vote.

Sunshine - Cards were sent to Sam Bacon

Membership

The June report from HQ showed that eight members have renewed their membership, one member switched to dues withholding Thank you!!!! We lost one member, if you know Ivan Jones talk him into renewing his membership. The May and June report showed that six members were sent second notices, shame, and shame. Dues withholding is a great way to prevent second notices.

We welcome William (Bill) Barnes who recently moved from Hendersonville to Cookeville. He was a member of the Sumner County Chapter of NARFE and has transferred his membership to Cookeville Chapter. Introduce yourselves to him to at the next opportunity. Preliminary data for August indicates another member dropped for non-renewal. We have been trying to locate Ann Brogden of Sparta without success, no postal or telephone contact has been successful, does anybody have information about her?

Are we going forward or backwards? The answer to that question lies with the membership of our chapter. Any organization is never static or at a standstill, it is either going forward in its purpose and mission or it is going backwards. Our chapter is no different from the other member based groups. As far as our chapter is concerned, let's do all that we can to boost the interest in the NARFE mission, which is to preserve and protect our hard earned federal benefits, and to get our priority legislation passed in Congress. **Key to this is total membership.** It is inevitable, in spite of our best efforts, that some members, for various reasons, will drop out and we will lose them as members. So we must diligently work to bring in new members and retain those we have, so as to build up the total membership. We all know that numbers count, when going to Congress to ask that our bills to be considered and acted upon. So back to the original question, based on your efforts to bring in new members, are we as a chapter going forward or backwards?

Jacque Pine wanted to extol the values of living in Cookeville but we ran out of time. I promised to put something in the newsletter, "so here goes"; Excerpts from an article

Cookeville is the first and only "Cool City" in Tennessee.

As of now Cookeville is mentioned as a "Cool City" on the Sierra Club website

www.sierraclub.org/coolcities ,

and the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement website www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate . For this distinction some of the actions taken by the city were:

- Adopted Erosion and Sediment Regulations includes requirements for seeding/sodding denuded areas.
- Adopted Zoning Code to require providing for pedestrian circulation in new land use developments.
- Amended Zoning Code to promote residential development in down town and commercial area.
- Amended Zoning Code to provide for more trees and landscaping in new developments
- Has a "Green Power Switch" program
- Adopted a comprehensive Pedestrian/Bicycle planning program for 200 miles of pedestrian and bicycle systems.

Now that the campaign is over, give credit to Chuck Womack for our environmental progress.