



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

January 9, 2006

Presidents Corner

It is the start of a new year and, as is our custom, enclosed you will find a list of the chapter officers and the current membership roster. The telephone committees will also find their assignments. These are important documents, please put them in a safe place for future reference and communications. If there are errors, please notify me.

You will note that we have several vacancies for chapter chair person, Alzheimer's, Legislative, and Service Officer. If you are willing to help serve in any of these areas please let me know.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all the past officers and committee chairs for their service. Special thanks to our past president Bill Masters for his work in spite of health problems.

Dr. Nick Demas, retire from Tennessee Tech, will be the speaker at our next meeting on January 17 6:00 pm at Shoney's. The subject will be Energy - Now and Future.

Our Christmas luncheon was attended by 36 members. We were pleased that some of our more distant members, from Red Boiling Springs, Whitleyville, Gainsboro Byrdstown, were able to attend. We collected over \$200 to be given to a needy family. However we do have one problem, 42 members made reservation but some did not pay. As a result the treasury will have to make up the \$60 dollar difference. If you made a reservation and did not cancel, it would be appreciated if you would send a check to our treasurer Jim Evans to reduce the deficit.

Congress is in recess and if your Congressman or Senator is close, go visit him and push for our priority legislation, Premium Conversion HR 994 has 289 co-sponsors, S 484 has 52 co-sponsors: GPO/WEB repeal HR147 has 301 co-sponsors, S619 has 24 co-sponsors. Bart Gordon has co-sponsored the House versions of these bills. The Senators have not co-sponsored any. We need to call, e-mail or write them often. The toll free line to the capitol switchboard is 1-xxx-xxx-xxxx. E-mail is second best, snail mail is slow due to the anthrax scare. To E-mail, go the NARFE website [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), log in, and on the left - click legislative, then on the right - click Legislative Action Center. At the category Elected Officials, insert your zip code and click "go". Choose the official you want and click E-mail. Choose the subject which has a prepared letter that you can modify or compose your own letter. Fill out the remaining form data and send.

Continuing membership is critical. Elected officials are impressed by the number of voters in his district that are for/against legislation. Thus, the numbers of individuals in an organization and their active participation in legislative issues are significantly important to these officials and support our NARFE legislative team as they interface directly with them. This year I would like to eliminate the non renewal of membership dues in this chapter. In doing this I need your help and support. Please renew when you receive your dues notice. Dues Withholding is the preferred means of paying dues, and we encourage all of you to convert to this method. It saves you money, it saves NARFE money and it is cheap, less than \$3.00 per month. Our Membership Chair has forms if you need them. Remember, attendance at meetings is desirable but not mandatory. If you wish to preserve your earned benefits, membership is mandatory.

Our telephone committee will be calling you each month to see if you are in good health, or require some service that can be provided by the chapter. Be courteous and remember our Sunshine Chair depends upon their information for the sending of get well cards and best wishes for joyful events.

The yearly audit of our books has been completed and the auditor was very complementary on the efforts of our past treasurer, Isabel Hawkins. Some have asked about chapter dues. We have two major expenses during the year, the newsletter costs about \$5.00 per member (12 issues) and the Federation per capita dues are \$4.00 thus leaving only \$2.00 for general expenses. Since we pay for our speaker's meal at the meeting, money is tight. We are considering delivering the newsletter via E-mail to those who have the capability to receive it, thus reducing expenses.