

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



Cleveland, Tennessee 37312

CHAPTER 860

August 2008

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Membership continues to be a hot topic in NARFE this summer. There was a lot of emphasis placed on recruitment and retention of members at our TN Federation Convention in April. Since the meeting, I have received several communications from the Federation leadership concerning our declining (Nationwide) membership. Recently TN Federation President Carey Frazier sent me a listing of members (10) that our Chapter #860 has lost within the past two years. That is a decline of over 15%. Without a successful recruiting program we will fall quickly in the nationwide rate of decline. Until I saw these figures, I thought we were holding our own. True, we have added some new members during this year, our rate of decline is exceeding our increases. President Frazier asked me to contact these 10 former members and encourage them to reinstate their membership. I am in the process of doing that but I need

your help. I will not mention their names in this newsletter but we will discuss this topic at the next meeting. Those of you that know any of the lapsed members may be in a better position than I am to encourage their return to Chapter 860.

An article in the June 08 edition of NARFE Magazine detailed the result of a survey NARFE conducted on membership. Here are a couple items from the survey: 1. Almost 45% of members learned about NARFE from a friend or NARFE member
2. Average length of membership is 14 years; over 36% have been members less than 10 years, over 37% 10-19 years, 18% 20-29 years and over 5% over 30 years. Almost 80% of respondents said they joined and continue to renew their membership to support NARFE's legislative fight for our earned benefits.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, August 14, 6:30 , St. Therese Catholic Church Cleveland.

This will be our summer picnic meeting. The chapter will furnish hamburgers and hot dogs. Members are asked to bring covered dishes to complement our meal. No formal program is planned for this meeting but a business session will be conducted. The major topic will be a discussion of selected resolutions that will be voted on at the National Convention in Louisville, KY December 7-12. Our chapter can have a voice at the convention. Delegates attending will be voting on changes to NARFE operating rules. For example: will it continue to be mandatory for members to belong to a chapter? What about voting for our national leaders? Should every one vote or just the ones that attend the convention? What about dues? Should the dues structure be a lot simpler than it is now? These are examples of some of the changes that will be voted on in Louisville.

NARFE CHAPTER 860
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Be prepared to discuss these proposals and let's come up with our chapter position. Then our proxy will place our vote at the convention.

CRISTMAS BANQUET LOCATION HAS CHANGED

We have moved the banquet to the Holiday Inn, Cleveland, Thursday, December 11, 6:30 PM. Please mark this change on your calendar. We will have more details about the menu etc., at our October meeting.

New Members

Anthony Wilson, Georgetown, TN
Myrtle Bishop, Benton, TN
Tom Darden, Reliance, TN
Lewis Corrington, Cleveland, TN

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