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CHAPTERS

TENNESSEE FEDERATION NEWS

News of Interest to Active and Retired Federal Employees

January 2010

Frazier asks important questions to members

As you read this article, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year and other holidays of Hanukkah and Kwanzaa will have come and gone. This season of the year is a time to look back and look ahead. As Federation President, nothing saddens me more than the continual decline of our NARFE membership. Our National VP, Joe Beaudoin, says it is a problem of communication. He may be right. However, closely akin to that thought, are the words: "involvement and participation." What motivates people to want to be involved or participate? Parents participate or become involved in the schools where their children attend. We become involved in our places of worship. We participate with others in social gatherings, picnics, bowling, hunting, hiking, hobbies of various kinds and acting as volunteers in all types of ways. Why is it that 90 percent of our federal employees are not interested in being a member of NARFE? Why is it that our members let their membership lapse and not renew? Why is it that only 20 percent on average of our members attend a chapter meeting? Why is it that so few of our members want to be involved as a chapter or federation officer? Why? We all know the answer is several and not one. Communication is a big problem. Advancing age and health problems are a factor. Under the communication umbrella is the sub-heading of knowledge. Our potential members and current members simply do not know the importance of NARFE. If they were truly convinced of what NARFE does for them and can do for

them, they would be involved. They would participate.

I encourage everyone to read December issue of the NARFE magazine. Turn to page 8 and read about legislation which NARFE helped pass into law and signed by President Obama. Please turn to page 12 and read the testimony given by our NARFE President Margaret Baptiste on Long Term Care Insurance. Turn to page 14 and read of the threats to our Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan and how NARFE is fighting those threats. Read, read and then read some more. Learn, learn and then learn some more. Now, do you want to be a member of NARFE? Now, do you want to be involved? Now, do you want to participate? I hope your answer is a resounding **YES!**

Looking ahead to our NARFE State Convention in April of 2010, this newsletter contains the delegate form we will ask each chapter secretary to complete and return to our Federation Secretary, Lynda LeMay. I need to know who is coming to the convention so that I can make committee assignments. The sooner I know, the sooner I can do my job. Please help.

Let me close by wishing all of you the very best over the holidays. I also want to thank our members, chapter officers, federation officers, and our Region X Vice President, Paul Carew, for all your help this past year. Without your help, nothing would get done.

- Carey Frazier
Tennessee Federation President
(615) 373-4817
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Whitney encourages NARFE members to do something

Well folks, I have good news and not so good news. First the good news: Both NARFE National and the Tennessee Federation had an overall increase in membership for the month of October. NARFE increased their overall membership by 1,428 members, giving them a new total of 309,548 members. We here in Tennessee increased our overall membership by 5, giving us a total Tennessee Federation Membership of 4,402 members. Hopefully, this trend will continue and we will have more positive months for the rest of the year.

Now for the not so good news: Since 1986 NARFE National has only had **FIVE** years of increase in membership!! For the years 1986, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1999, there was a total net gain of 11,085 members. For the other 18 years, the net losses totaled 183,390. In 1986, NARFE's total membership was 489,758, and currently the membership is 309,548. This downward spiral has got to stop!! For the year 2008, there were only three months of net gains of membership. These months were April, October, and December for a total net gain of 2,723 members. For the other nine months, the net losses totaled 20,121 members for an ending total net loss of 17,398 members for the year.

So far for the year 2009, NARFE National has only had two months of a net gain. In April there was a net gain of 724 members, and now in October there is a net gain of 1,428 members. For the other eight months, there have been losses giving an accumulative yearly loss of 8,226 members through the end of October. As I previously stated, the current NARFE National membership is 309,548; but keep in mind, in 1986 the membership was 489,758. If these losses continue, they could very well break the back of NARFE, and without good membership numbers, NARFE will be no more. We must increase our efforts in retention and recruitment, continue working those M-112's, and increase the phone calls to recruit new and prospective members.

Tennessee Federation President Carey Frazier states in his article (in this newsletter): "Our potential members and current members simply do not know the importance of NARFE. If they were truly convinced of what NARFE does for them and can do for them, they would be involved. They would participate." Well said and very true. NARFE has an identity problem, and it's up to each and every mem-

ber to help resolve this problem. Get the word out, talk with potential members, talk with your neighbors, and even if he/she is not eligible to join, he/she probably knows someone who is eligible to join. Invite them to your monthly meeting, buy them their lunch, give them an incentive to join, think about a gift membership --- do anything it takes to bring them on board, but at least **DO SOMETHING!!**

I would like to wish each and every one of ya'll, a very Merry Christmas and a most prosperous New Year. I'm looking forward to seeing some of you folks at the up and coming NARFE State Convention in Sevierville in April of 2010.

- JC Whitney
 TN Federation Membership Chair
 (931) 358-4855
jcwhitney@cdelightband.net

Address Changes

Names and addresses for newsletter distribution come directly from NARFE'S National Office. To correct your address, please contact the National Office at (800) 456-8410.

- Max Coats, Newsletter Editor

Resolution to change Federation Constitution By-Laws

All chapter presidents are reminded that if anyone wants to submit a resolution to change the wording of the Federation Constitution and/or Bylaws, such resolution must be submitted to the Federation Secretary, Lynda LeMay, at least 60 days prior to the convention or by February 18, 2010.

Lynda LeMay will then transmit such resolution to all chapter presidents at least 45 days prior to the convention or by March 4, 2010.

NARFE Chapters – They are Too Important

In my NARFE Magazine article (November, 2009), I elected to discuss a critically important issue for NARFE – the value of chapters in the day-to-day life of the organization and, most especially, in protecting and enhancing our earned benefits. As the article was restricted to 300 words, a little more should be said about this important issue.

Simply stated, all things flow from the chapters, as they are the fundamental governing unit of the organization. There is a very important value-added component to chapter life that motivates the membership to participate in NARFE activities and work to achieve its goals. This value-added element emanating from the chapters is critical to NARFE's success in achieving its mission. However, the awareness of the value-added benefit has waned dramatically in recent years.

Why? Right now, only about 10-12 percent of NARFE members attend chapter meetings on a regular basis. The vast majority of our membership cannot or will not attend chapter meetings for various reasons, and this absence dilutes the organization's effectiveness all the way from the chapters, through the federations, to the headquarters. Members count and active and motivated chapter members count even more, especially during times when our earned benefits are threatened.

There are numerous reasons why so few members attend chapter meetings, but the principal one is the failure to convincingly articulate the value-added nature of chapters. If there were a cookie-cutter, one-design-fits-all answer to this problem, it would be an easier problem to solve. But chapters, like most organizations, have uniquely separate and distinct cultures that have evolved over the years, and it is this cultural uniqueness that evinces and underscores the chapter's value-added component and stimulates members to attend meetings and actively join in chapter life. There is no textbook solution to this concern, nor would a policy statement from headquarters assuage the problem. For starters, chapters must address certain fundamental questions: Why are there chapters and what should they provide to their members? What is missing? Has time and technology diminished the role of chapters? What must change in order to attract the disenchanting members? Once addressed, the "value-addedness" of chapters will be enhanced and participation will grow. But the answers must come from the chapters themselves.

- Paul H. Carew
Region X Vice-President



Does NARFE have your correct email address?

In order for NARFE to be able to send you Action Alerts and urgent notifications using the Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS), they need your email address.

To be sure that your email address is listed correctly in your member profile, send it along with your name to GEMS@narfetn.org.

It will only be used for official NARFE-related messages.



Chapter Officer Training

Chapter Officer Training will be held at our NARFE State Convention in April of 2010. Any chapter officer who has not received any training is invited. The Federation is considering some type of reimbursement to those attending. In order to determine the amount, we need the names of all officers who plan to attend. Please email your name and your chapter name to Carey Frazier at ctfraz@comcast.net. You may also call Carey at (615) 373-4817. We need this information as soon as possible.



In memory of Donald K. Smith

Mr. Donald K. Smith, former Tennessee Federation President, died on Thanksgiving, November 26, 2009. Don was very active in NARFE, both at the Chapter and Federation level. He was tireless in his efforts in promoting the goals of NARFE. Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife Lorene and his son Donald.

NARFE State Convention 2010

April 18-20, 2010

Oak Tree Lodge, Sevierville

(Located on US Hwy 441 midway between Sevierville and Pigeon Forge, across from Five Oaks Shopping Center. Shopping and restaurants within walking distance.)

Room Costs:

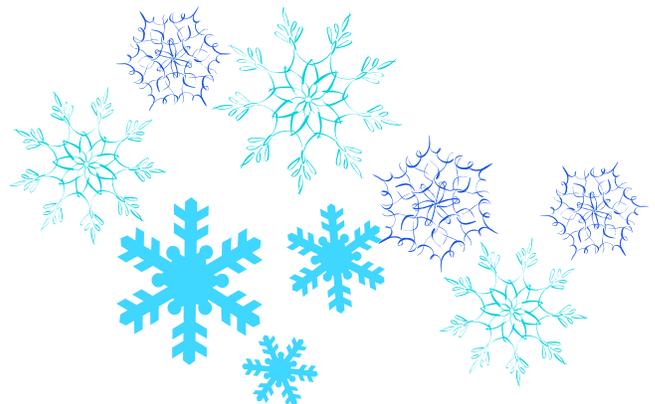
Weekday	Beds	Cost
Sunday	2 Queen	\$45
Sunday	1 King	\$65
Monday	2 Queen	\$65
Monday	1 King	\$75

Local and State sales tax is an additional 11.75%

We have reserved 60 rooms. More rooms can be added, if available, but they must be requested prior to reservation cut-off of March 18, 2010.

Guests must call the toll free number 800-637-7002 for their individual reservations and state they are with NARFE to receive the group rate.

- Gene R. Carpenter
President, Sevierville Chapter



First Vice-President's Report

Welcome to 2010. To those of you who are seniors, like me, we made it through another year. With that comes a look at the past and thoughts of the future. AS a NARFE organization, several accomplishments were obtained, but many of our goals were left on the table. Our membership has continued to decline, and we have not been able to turn that around. We all should be recruiters and promoters of this organization. If we all could recruit just one member, that would be huge.

This issue of the newsletter contains a delegate form for our 2010 convention, as well as a registration form. The delegate form needs to be signed by the chapter secretary, and mailed to the federation secretary. The registration form should be completed and mailed to Glenda Huff, and hotel reservations should be made directly with the Oak Tree Lodge. Let's get those reservations made and forms sent in while it is still fresh in our mind. I certainly hope that every chapter can send at least one delegate to the convention. If for some reason, no one from your chapter will be able to attend, please select a proxy from another chapter to carry your votes. Please contact me for any questions that you may have.

Remember, to those who are retired, up and at it. It may not make you wealthy or wise, but it will certainly make you healthier. Get off the couch.

- Larry Cunningham
Federation 1st Vice President
865 933-0229



Henderson reminds everyone to remember our less abled members

Our holiday season started on a sad note this year. Donald K. Smith, a member of the Millington Chapter and a past Tennessee Federation President, passed away on Thanksgiving night. On behalf of the federation, I would like to express our gratitude for his dedicated service to NARFE. Mr. Smith was a truly fine person who touched many lives, and he will be greatly missed.

Although the Christmas season will have passed by the time you receive this newsletter, any season is always right to remember our less abled members. A visit, telephone call, or card could really brighten their day.

I read a statement recently that said, "The benefits we have and the benefits we lose are all by legislative act." With regard to current and retired federal employees, this expression describes where the "rubber meets the road." It also centers our focus toward the direction in which our energy needs to be directed. It is imperative that we persistently and frequently keep in touch with our senators and representatives through meetings, telephone calls, e-mails and letters to let them know our opinion on current issues of interest. In fact, this would be an appropriate time to add a New Year's resolution to your list to become more involved in our NARFE association at every level. An excellent way to start would be by making plans now to attend our state convention in Sevierville April 19-20.

It has been a pleasure to work with the members of the Federation Executive Board this year, and I have sincerely enjoyed working with the officers and members of the chapters in West Tennessee. Your suggestions, support, participation, generosity, and cooperation are very much appreciated. Happy New Year to all!

- James L. (Larry) Henderson
3rd Vice-President
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Humboldt, TN 38343-2761
731-784-0675
henderson@click1.net

**Tennessee Federation of Chapters
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

2010 Convention Registration Form
54th Federation Convention
Hosted by Sevierville Chapter 1678
Sevierville, Tennessee
April 18-20, 2010

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 18, 2010) TOTAL enclosed _____

Registration forms must be submitted by March 18, 2010 (Late or on-site registration extra \$5)

Make checks payable to: NARFE

Mail to: Glenda Huff, 415 Mountain View Dr., Seymour,
TN 37865-4321

For additional information, contact Ben King, Convention
Chair at 865-453-9139 or Gene Carpenter, Chapter
President at 865-428-1502

Oak Tree Lodge
1620 Parkway
Sevierville, TN 37862
Phone: 800-637-7002

Your reservation is to be made by contacting the hotel
directly. Rates are \$45 to \$75 plus tax.

RESERVATION CUT OFF DATE: March 18, 2010

Directions

From I-40, take exit 407, Hwy 66,
toward Sevierville.

Approx. 10 miles to Hwy 441.
follow 441 through Sevierville,
approx. 4 miles.

Hotel is on the right across from
Tanger Outlets Mall.

**Delegate Form
2010 NARFE State Convention
April 18-20, 2010**

TOP PORTION (to be returned to the Federation Secretary)

Please print or type:

Chapter No: _____ Chapter Name: _____ Location: _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Delegate _____ Alternate _____ Proxy for Chapter _____

I wish to serve on the following committees: Membership _____ Legislation _____ Service Officer Committee _____

Public Relations _____ Rules _____ Nomination _____ Alzheimer _____ Resolutions _____ Credentials _____

Constitution & Bylaws _____ Financial Ways & Means and Audit _____ PAC _____ Time & Place _____ Ballot & Teller _____

Signature of Chapter Secretary _____

-----Cut delegate form in two separate pieces-----

**Delegate Form
2010 NARFE State Convention
April 18-20, 2010**

BOTTOM PORTION (to be carried by the proxy holder to the Convention)

Please print or type:

Chapter No: _____ Chapter Name: _____ Location: _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Delegate _____ Alternate _____ Proxy for Chapter _____

Signature of Chapter Secretary _____

Instructions: If you plan to attend the Convention as a delegate or alternate fill out both the top and bottom portion; Chapter Secretary must sign. Leave blank the "Proxy For Chapter." Please return top half to the Federation Secretary, Lynda LeMay, 1608 Hunt Lane, Pleasant View, TN 37146, in enclosed self addressed stamped envelope. The Delegate will carry the bottom portion to the Convention and present to Credentials Committee.

If no one from your Chapter will attend, please find someone from another chapter who will serve as proxy. The name, address of the person serving as proxy should appear above and the "Proxy For Chapter" should have Chapter Number of the Chapter not sending any delegates. The Chapter Secretary should still sign. The top half should be mailed as outlined above and the bottom half carried by the proxy holder to the Convention. If there is any question, please call Carey Frazier at (615) 373-4817.

We're on the web!
www.narfetn.org

Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

2010 Federation Convention

April 18-20, 2010
Oak Tree Lodge
Sevierville



At the foothills of the Smoky Mountains
between Sevierville & Pigeon Forge

Hosted by the Sevierville Chapter

Additional information can be found on Page 4 inside.

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS, NARFE

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