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CHAPTERS

TENNESSEE FEDERATION NEWS

News of Interest to Active and Retired Federal Employees

June 2010

Larry Cunningham elected as new federation president

The 54th Annual Convention of the Tennessee Federation of Chapters is now history. For those who attended, thank you, and for those who were unable to attend, you certainly missed a very good one. Sevierville did an excellent job hosting the convention. That just goes to show what a small chapter can do. We may need to change their name to Sevierville, the Cable Chapter (Get ER Done).

I want to thank all for your trust and confidence that you have placed in me to fulfill the office of President for the upcoming year. I will honor that trust and confidence and promise to be a good steward of this organization. As an organization, we have been successful in preventing any reductions to civilian retirement or health benefits since 1993. Although we have not attained all of the goals that we have strived for, we have

certainly achieved a lot. We must stay vigilant to protect those things that we have gained. Our success is measured and produced by our chapter's activity and numbers. It is important to involve yourself in chapter activities, but the very most important thing that you as a member can do, is to retain your membership.

We have a full executive board, and we're ready and willing to go to work. We are under your watch and need your input. Suggestions and requests that will improve our organization should go to the vice-presidents of your area. Should we and can we get better in achieving our goals? Absolutely.

- Larry Cunningham
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Turner passes on his NARFE-PAC duties to Minnera

There comes a time when we make changes and Larry Minnera has been appointed to serve as our new NARFE-PAC chairman. Larry has the experience and knows the importance of having a strong NARFE-PAC. I look forward to having him as our new chairman. Chapter 2133 in Franklin County was the recipient the Leo Potts PAC award for 2009. We congratulate this chapter for contributing the most per capita to our NARFE-PAC. We collected \$700 in contributions at our re-

cent federation convention for a total of \$5,662. This covers the period from January 1, 2009, to the present. We still have until December 31, 2010, for this cycle. Any member can contribute any amount at any time by using the form printed in our monthly magazine. It has been a pleasure for me to serve as your NARFE-PAC chairman, and I look forward to having Larry in his new position.

- Glenn Turner
Past NARFE-PAC Chairman

Frazier welcomes Cunningham as new federation president

It will be June 1 by the time you read this, and our NARFE Tennessee Convention will be history. Our new federation president is Larry Cunningham. Larry knows the challenges we face. He will be a great president, and I ask that we all cooperate and work with him in every way possible.

We had a number of guests at our convention. Joe Beaudoin, national vice-president; Paul Carew, Region X vice-president; and Bill Martin, president of the Virginia federation were all there. We had chapter officer training for all chapter officers who could attend. Our thanks go out to John Wells, our 1st vice-president, who put together the PowerPoint presentation. We are appreciative of Bill Martin who contributed his computer skills and knowledge in solving last minute computer glitches to get the presentation up and running. We say thanks to Gene Carpenter and his wife Annette and all the members of the Sevierville chapter who hosted this past convention. It was a lot of work, and they did a great job.

Loss of members has been and continues to be our number one challenge. It is very possible we will be receiving information about a dues membership increase. No one likes an increase in dues. However, keep in mind what your membership brings back to you in the way of knowledge as to what Congress is doing. I have said many times, I do not have the money or the knowledge to walk the aisles of Congress to persuade them to protect my benefits as a federal employee, whether active or retired. NARFE and its staff have that capacity. Read the legislative columns in your NARFE magazine and get the facts.

It annoys me to no end when friends give their "opinions" on political matters and tell me how "I should vote." What does their opinion have to do with facts? Do they really know what they are talking about or is their opinion based upon the last person they have listened to or a radio or television talk show host whom they refer to as giving them the facts? If I am a talk show host receiving \$37 million a year, do I really care about facts or is my primary concern one of keeping my show on the air no matter the true facts?

NARFE helps us in getting the facts. Look and read your NARFE magazine. It is a factual report. Sometimes, there may be an opinion where certain

legislation may lead, but it is factually presented.

Please do not let your membership drop or lapse! One of my Dad's favorite expressions was: "Do not be penny wise and pound foolish." We tend to save on small items and then spend on a large item which is not that important. How many times have we gone on vacation and spent excessive amounts and only have a memory left? How many times have we spent money on some meal at a fancy restaurant, and the next morning we do not know what we ate? How many times have we spent money on grandchildren, expensive toys, clothes and two weeks later the grandchild does not know where they are to be found? We may think we are cutting corners or saving when we let our NARFE membership drop or lapse. How foolish. Our NARFE membership is one of the best investments we can make.

In closing, let me say once again, how appreciative I am to all of you for your help and support during the last two years. It was an honor and privilege to be your federation president.

- Carey Frazier
Past Federation President



New Federation President Larry Cunningham (on right) accepts the gavel from Past-President Carey Frazier.

Email Address Changes

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.

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.

McDuffie looks forward to new position as 3rd vice-president

As the newly elected 3rd vice-president of the Tennessee federation serving East Tennessee, I will pass along some of my history and experiences.

I currently live in Morristown, Tenn., having retired from the National Weather Service in 2004. Life began for me in the small town of Greenfield (Weakley Co.) in West Tennessee back in 1942. I graduated from high school there and later graduated from UT Martin in 1964. I entered the U.S. Air Force in late September 1964, became a 2nd Lt. on December 21, 1964. I then attended Texas A&M University for 12 months of meteorology study. I served some 14 years at various locations (Texas A&M, Orlando, Fla.; Guam, Vietnam, Italy, Germany, and Biloxi, Miss.) all in the meteorology field. In 1979, I entered the civilian government career field with NOAA at Kansas City, Mo. After that I had various positions at Sioux Falls, S.Dak.; San Francisco, Calif.; Los Angeles, Calif.; and Morristown, Tenn., for a total of almost 40 years of government service.

At both Los Angeles and Morristown, I was the meteorologist in charge of the office.

Over the years in the NWS, I have had the opportunity to work with many of the other government agencies, such as FAA, FEMA, TVA, Oak Ridge National Labs, Army Corps of Engineers, US Forestry, National Park Service, Department of Agriculture, plus state and local governments.

I have been enjoying my retirement immensely. Other than going back to West Tennessee to visit my sister, I try to travel a few times a year. This fall I will be on an extended trip out west and up to Vancouver Island. Last fall I journeyed to my old homeland of Scotland for a clan gathering of the Macfie's (McDuffie's).

I look forward to visiting with the offices in East Tennessee and learning a lot about your offices, methods, successes, and people. I will be learning a lot from all of you for I will be on a large learning curve for a while. I will do my very best to help any office or person I can. I certainly will be asking questions and seeking assistance from our new president and others. Since my sports playing days of high school and college, as well as the military, I believe teamwork is a very important method of success.

My name, address, phone number and email address is listed below; feel free to contact me whenever you need. We will try and begin our visiting in the near future.

Thanks to all for the confidence you have shown. I will try to fulfill that trust. Enjoy the summer.

- Jerry O. McDuffie
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Glenn encourages members to consider next year's convention

Since I first became interested in the workings of NARFE, I have thought legislation was the most important aspect of what we do. I still believe that, but I have learned during my tenure as federation legislative chairman is that the other parts of our organization exist to better accomplish what is good for retired federal workers as well as current employees.

Attending our recent convention in Sevierville, I was reminded that while we were working, the federal government always tried to hire the "best and brightest" employees and that these same employees make the "brightest and best" retirees.

If you have ever attended a convention, you know we have our committee meetings on Monday. As we began to discuss legislative issues, other attendees began arriving at our table to just join us in the discussion. I was amazed at the knowledge and the understanding by everyone of what was going on in our congress. We touched on all the legislative issues from WEP/GPO and increase in Medicare to the latest proposal on the "sub-option." We even discussed possible new ways to contact our legislators. Everyone contributed and I feel left the meeting with an even better feel for our positions on the issues.

So for all of you who have never been, try to look ahead to next year and make plans to attend so that we can benefit from your knowledge and expertise. I can guarantee you will meet some really great people who share your interests and concerns.

-Jim Glenn
Federation Legislative Chairman



Is it time for a dues increase?

It seems like clockwork that every five to seven years the National Executive Board petitions the National Convention for an increase in national dues. The last time was in 2004 when dues went from \$20 to \$29. Well, here it is 2010, and the inevitable cycle continues.

Why, might you ask, is a national dues increase request being proffered right after the defeat of the national referendum addressing the same issue? Actually the unsuccessful referendum and the soon to be proposed national dues increase might seem outwardly similar but are distinctly different. The referendum was meant to establish a single or NARFE dues with a more simplified structure than presently in place. The proposed dues increase is driven by the necessity to offset both the loss of dues income from the incessant drop in NARFE membership coupled with the recession driven loss in investment revenue, both required to meet our everyday obligations.

NARFE membership has plummeted dramatically in recent years. From 1991 to March of this year, membership has decreased by 32.2 percent, and if this pace of decline in membership were projected through 2015, our numbers would have dropped by 42.6 percent.

Revenue has decreased but the cost of keeping the doors open at Headquarters while providing the necessary membership services and other operating expenses have not decreased.

There are two suggested national dues increase levels, a \$10 increase to \$39 and an \$11 increase to \$40. The \$10 increase would see us through 2014 when the NARFE budget would again fall into the red column. The \$11 increase to \$40 would provide the necessary financial recourses for a period beyond 2015.

Keeping NARFE financially solvent and operating effectively for the future does not hinge solely on increased dues. It also means taking a hard look at Headquarters operations in total and making the necessary adjustments and updating that is the hallmark of a 21st century not-for-profit organization. NARFE can be lean and mean while accomplishing its crucial time-honored mission of protecting our earned benefits. We have much to do; let's get to work.

- Paul Carew
Region X Vice-President

Whitney shares membership information

Our Tennessee State Convention is over and done with, and a good time was had by all. The convention was a huge success and an “attaboy, job well done” is due to the Sevierville Chapter 1678 lead in part by Gene Carpenter and his lovely wife Annette. I would like to personally thank the members of my membership committee who met on Monday. They were Gail Jones, Dickson; Mark Bastian, Gallatin; Juanita Beckett, Millington; and Jeanette Wilson, Memphis. We also had six guests join us, and we had a very productive meeting and discussed various aspects of membership retention/recruitment.

Our membership totals do not look very good at this time. For the last three months (January, February, and March), we have had an overall loss of 99 members here in Tennessee. NARFE National has not fared much better; for the same three months, they show an overall loss of 4,003 members. Through the end of March, our new membership totals are 4,316 for Tennessee and 306,299 for NARFE National. I sure hope this downward trend stops soon and we start increas-

ing our overall totals. I truly believe that putting NARFE magazines in places like hospitals, post offices, social security offices, doctors' offices, dental offices and libraries will help to recruit new members. As I have said before, NARFE has an identity problem, and this is a very good way to get the word out about NARFE. I would like to pass on some information that I have previously sent to all the chapter presidents and membership chairs. Ya'll can get extra copies of the NARFE magazine by calling NARFE Recruitment/Retention at 1(800) 627-3394. The magazines will come without a mailing label, and I would strongly suggest you make up your own labels with a good point of contact with a name, phone number and e-mail address. This way anyone can get in touch with someone local and, just maybe, we can start increasing our membership totals.

- JC Whitney

Tennessee Federation Membership Chair
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Photos from the State Convention



Kudos to Sevierville chapter

Hats off to the good folks of Sevierville Chapter 1678 for the excellent job they did in hosting our 54th Annual Tennessee Federation Convention. And a special thank you to Ben King and Gene and Annette Carpenter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the chapters across the great state of Tennessee for sending delegates or proxies to the convention. It could not have been the huge success that it was without the strong support of a significant majority of our chapters. As the vice-president for West Tennessee, I was very pleased that approximately 80 percent of the West Tennessee chapters were represented either by one or more delegates or a proxy and more than 90 percent of our voting strength was present.

I know there were a number of our loyal, dedicated members who would have liked to attend the convention but were unable for a number of reasons. Please remember our less abled senior members who make up a large percentage of this group. A phone call, card or visit could really brighten their day.

Important upcoming events are rapidly approaching. August will be NARFE's second biennial "Meet Your Candidates Month." Congress will be in summer recess from August 9 until September 10, and that is an excellent time for NARFE members to meet with candidates to acquaint them with the association and our legislative concerns. Also, our 31st Biennial National Convention is being held August 29 – September 2, 2010, in Grand Rapids, Mich. Delegate forms must be received by the Office of the National Secretary by June 30.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve another term as your vice-president for West Tennessee. It is truly an honor for me to represent the West Tennessee chapters and members in this capacity.

- James L. (Larry) Henderson
Tennessee Federation 2nd Vice-President
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The *Tennessee Federation Newsletter* will accept brief articles from chapters that describe their respective success in raising membership and or improving attendance at the chapter meetings. Publication will depend on space available for each issue.

- Max Coats
Newsletter Editor
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Attention chapter presidents

If you or another authorized delegate do not intend to attend the national convention, your voice will be heard through the proxy. Our Federation President Larry Cunningham remarks:

All chapters should have received their National Convention Delegate and Proxy package by now. The deadline for delegates is June 30, and the deadline for proxies is August 13. Chapters that are not planning to send a delegate should contact their federation vice-president in order that we can find someone to carry their proxies. We need to have as many delegates and/or proxies as possible to attend to ensure that Tennessee has a say in the future direction of NARFE. Each delegate can carry three proxies. The above dates will be on us before we know it, so please help us to get the ball rolling. Any questions should be directed to your area vice-president or myself.

- Larry Cunningham
(865) 933-0229
larrycunningham@narfetn.org

1st Vice-President: John Wells
jfwells65@aol.com
(615) 331-0705

2nd Vice-President: Larry Henderson
henderson@click1.net

3rd Vice-President: Jerry McDuffie
jerrymcduffie@charter.net

Glenda Huff summarizes the recent convention hosted by Sevierville chapter

Sevierville Chapter 1678 hosted the 54th Convention of Retired and Active Federal Employees (NARFE) at the Oak Tree Lodge on April 18-20, 2010.

Convention Chairman Ben King did a wonderful job presiding. Gene Carpenter, president of the local chapter, welcomed everyone and kept things running smoothly.

Glenda Huff and Annette Carpenter got everyone registered and provided each attendee with a goodie bag filled with donations from local business, including pens, note pads, discount coupons, wine corks, brochures, etc., that all members of Chapter 1678 had solicited from their favorite business so our visitors could see what all Sevier County has to offer.

Retired federal employees from all across the state of Tennessee enjoyed a great convention with a warm welcome to the area from Mike Werner, City of Gatlinburg; Leon Downey, City of Pigeon Forge; and Dale Carr, City of Sevierville. Congressman Phil Roe and Bill Snodgrass stopped by the convention on Monday to talk with guests and welcome them to the 1st district, but due to a prior commitment, he could not stay for the Tuesday session.

The Young Marines posted the colors very patriotically. John Hicks lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, then Debora Gillespie sang the National Anthem beautifully.

Glen Cardwell and Annette Carpenter with the good singing of Deborah Gillespie had a touching memorial service for the 95 members who passed away during 2010. Randy Pope, Don Utterback and Philip Hirsch graciously answered questions about how to find places of interest and good eating in Sevier County.

Winnie Utterback and Kathleen Pope provided a great hospitality room with plenty of refreshments and relaxing visiting for the attendees to renew acquaintances and make new ones. Georgiana Harned and Faye Cardwell furnished delicious homemade cookies.

Ray Sellers, Sevierville Alzheimer's chairman,

was present to help where needed.

East Tennessee Area Vice-president Larry Cunningham was a very valuable help to the Sevierville Chapter in planning this convention and was elected as president of the Tennessee federation for the ensuing year.

Damon's Restaurant provided a wonderful banquet meal. Winnie Utterback and Annette Carpenter also did a wonderful job decorating the convention hall.

Chasity Parrott was convention photographer and provided a great historical record of events for the 2010 convention.

Representatives from the Knoxville Post Office Credit Union, BlueCross BlueShield, and Government Employees Insurance Company were available for questions and furnished information helpful to retirees.

Any retired or active federal employee wanting more information on how to join NARFE may call Public Relations Officers Don and Winnie Utterback at (865) 453-4174. Sevierville Chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn in Pigeon Forge at 6 p.m.

*-Glenda Huff
Federation Financial Secretary*



Gene and Annette Carpenter were among many who hosted the convention at the Oak Tree Lodge.

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

The US Marines Color Guard were on hand to post the flags at the convention.



Protecting the Future for Retired and Current Federal Employees

2010 Federation Officers



Seated L-R: Lynda LeMay, Federation Secretary; Larry Cunningham, Federation President; Marie Anglin, Federation Treasurer. Standing L-R: Jim Glenn, Federation Legislative Chair; JC Whitney, Federation Membership Chair; Larry Henderson, Federation 2nd Vice-President; Jerry McDuffie, Federation 3rd Vice-President. (Not pictured: John Wells, Federation 1st Vice-President)

TENNESSEE FEDERATION OF CHAPTERS, NARFE

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