



TENNESSEE FEDERATION NEWS



News of Interest to Active and Retired Federal Employees

June 2012

A PUBLICATION
OF THE
TENNESSEE
FEDERATION OF
CHAPTERS

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Wells honored to be elected as new Federation President

When John Hicks talked me into accepting the Legislative Chair in 2006, I didn't realize how fast time would go by and that I'd be sitting in the position that I'm now in as your Tennessee Federation of Chapters (TFC) President. I would like to thank all who supported me in the election; I will give it 110 percent. I feel that we had a very successful convention in Memphis on April 16-17, 2012, even with less than usual attendance. The four chapters: Germantown, Memphis, Memphis Postal and Millington, did an outstanding job in planning and hosting the convention.

This is my first report to you as your new president. I want you all to know how very honored and humbled I am to be chosen by the Federation membership to lead this organization in Tennessee. I know that I will make mistakes, and I might not always do things the way each of you may feel is best, but I want you to know that I truly welcome comments---both positive and negative---and want you to know that I will always consider your comments or suggestions before any decision is made. I also want to offer my sincere gratitude to Larry Cunningham and all of the former Federation Officers who have sacrificed so much of their time and effort to make the TFC the vibrant organization that it is. And I also want to thank the current officers who have stepped up and offered their services to the Federation for the future service of our membership. An organization is only as strong as its membership, and just as I am proud to be a retired Federal employee, I am also proud to represent the TFC.

We are happy to welcome aboard

Tom Duncan of Nashville Chapter #227 as our new 3rd Vice President. After the convention I received a letter of resignation from Camellia Duncan, the recently installed Federation Secretary, it was reluctantly accepted. Since then I have appointed Marilyn Evans, who ran for the office, as the new Federation Secretary. Also I appointed Ed Evans as the Public Relations Chair. The full listing of TFC Officers can be found on the TFC website at <http://narfetn.org/officers.html>.

We have challenges like never before with likely a lame duck Congress after the elections in November and a new Congress starting next year. Within the TFC we have, starting with the Federation Board meeting in mid-August, the National Convention in Reno, Nev., the last week of August, and Legislative training in February 2013 for the 113th Congress.

Speaking of the National Convention, all chapter presidents should have received your Delegate Form and your Proxy Form by this time. The deadline for your Delegate Form (C/12-2) to reach National Headquarters is June 30. The Proxy Form (C/12-2) deadline is to the Office of the National Secretary no later than August 11. None will be accepted if postmarked after that date. A delegate cannot hold proxies for more than three chapters. If you have a member planning to attend the convention, please let me know. If you are going to use a proxy, please send the signed form to me as soon as possible so I can appoint a member attending the convention to represent your chapter. If you

(Continued on Page 2)

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

New Federation President (continued)

haven't received the forms, contact me ASAP. We would like to carry 100 percent coverage for Tennessee to the convention. The vice-presidents for your area of Tennessee should be contacting you on this matter. I would like to thank you in advance for your assistance.

Chapters that issue a chapter newsletter are to be commended. Please include the Federation President on that distribution and Ronnie Collins with electronic copies so we can post them on the TFC website. For those chapters that have a website or just an information link for meetings, make sure this information is correct and current. For those chapters that do not have the information link for meetings, I suggest that you work with Ronnie Collins to get something in place and keep it current. Most all of our new members have

been using e-mail and the internet in their job before retirement and will be expecting the TFC website to be up-to-date and a helpful resource.

As a parting thought, check out the Federation website at www.narfetn.org. We'd like to thank Ronnie Collins for all of his hard work. Posting and maintaining current content on the TFC website will be one of our focus points this coming year. We will be looking at opportunities to add more information so that the TFC website is more useful to you the members.

*- John F. Wells
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Legislative front is about the same

Everything is about the same on the legislative front. The threats to our benefits are still being talked about on the Hill. We still seem to be the target for reductions by both sides of the aisle, and it doesn't seem to matter to the decision makers that what they save by reducing our benefits will not come close to covering the amount that needs to be cut to reduce the overall debt.

Everyone is saying nothing will change until after the election in November. That is the good news for us, at least for now. Nobody knows what will happen or how any changes will eventually be implemented. Both sides are hoping to improve their position, whether in gaining control in their chamber or just improving to "super majority" status.

Our legislative staff is doing an outstanding job of keeping on top of any proposed changes, and we are having conference calls every week or two in which Sarah Holstine

brings us up to date on the latest proposals and what they are doing. Julie Tagen was very impressive in her presentation at the convention that reaffirmed the legislative staff is always ready and able to help us and answer all our questions. The website is loaded with material we can use to answer an editorial and factsheets to pass on your legislator.

It is up to us to stay alert, learn all we can by reading the latest releases, discuss all the proposals with our fellow NARFE members (go to all the chapter meetings), and pass on to our senators and representative our thoughts on whatever comes up. And of course always look for the possible employee or retiree to invite to join NARFE which improves our position with Congress.

*- Jim Glenn
Legislative Chairman*

Duncan encourages members to write and pass down your life stories

Fellow Tennessee NARFE members, this is my first article for the newsletter. First of all I want to thank all of you who supported me in the election in Memphis for the 3rd Vice President Middle Tennessee office. I am extremely honored that you have chosen me to serve in this effort. I look forward to working with the other two Vice Presidents, President John Wells, and all of the other officers on the Tennessee Federation Board.

I learned today that my prior Public Relations appointed position on the Board has been filled. John Wells appointed Ed Evans of the Donelson Chapter as Public Relations Chair. The appointment of Ed Evans is an excellent choice. Also, Marilyn Evans has accepted the position of Secretary to the Federation Board as a result of Ms. Camellia Duncan's resignation. This will make a valuable added team to the Board.

During the past three years on the Federation Board as Public Relations Chair, it provided broad insight into NARFE. It provided a great wealth of knowledge, understanding, and purpose of our mission. I have the highest appreciation for the quality of individuals and their enormous volunteer contributions rendered in carrying on the many important duties of NARFE. Many people assisted me in various ways as PR Chair. I say thank you!

I have attended every State NARFE Convention and every National NARFE Convention since I have been a member. I want you to know that the recent Memphis Convention ranks among the best. The hotel, the program, the training, and the choice of speakers were excellent. My hat is off to those local chapters and all of the teams involved in planning and in carrying out such a successful event.

On Tuesday morning, April 17, Rev. Dr. Kenneth S. Uselton led our Memorial Service at the convention and delivered a message that will stay with us who heard it for a long time. He talked about an ageing member of his congregation who had a story to tell. Dr. Uselton en-

couraged the man to write his story about his growing up experience in the "Land between the Lakes." The man wrote his story as a gift to Dr. Uselton. After reading the transcript, Dr. Uselton was so impressed that he facilitated getting it published. Now the man is deceased, but thousands of copies of the book have been sold. All of us as active or retired federal employees have a story to tell. Dr. Uselton encouraged us to start writing our stories to be passed on to our children, grandchildren and others.

At our regular luncheon meeting a few months ago, we were without a speaker for the day. Therefore, we decided to go around the room and ask each person to stand and tell a few things about their past and present. The results were wonderful. I believe it was one of the best meetings we have ever had. It was like looking through a glass and seeing for the first time hidden treasure.

I am now gearing up to attend our National NARFE Conference in Reno/Sparks, Nev., during the last week of August. I am hoping that many of you will also attend. I have received our Chapter Delegate Package, and I am in the process of completing it. If a Delegate from your chapter is not planning to attend, I can carry up to three Chapter Proxy forms for other chapters. Please let me know if I might assist you in this area.

I am in the process of scheduling visits to all Middle Tennessee chapters. I plan to visit every Middle Tennessee Chapter at least one time this year. Please contact me about scheduling a visit to your chapter. I welcome the opportunity to serve you.

- Thomas F. Duncan (Tom)
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Henderson describes the convention planning process

A few weeks before the 2010 State Convention, Ms. S. Bernice Bridgeforth told me that the Germantown, Memphis, Memphis Postal and Millington chapters had agreed to co-host the 2012 convention in the Memphis area. When she asked me during the convention a few weeks later if I would help with this event, I immediately said, "Yes." Thus began a very interesting, sometimes challenging but always rewarding journey. Our committee met for the first time on July 15, 2010, with approximately 20 members present. Sometimes we met at the Old Timer's Restaurant in Millington, but most often we met at the Piccadilly in Memphis and, regardless of the location, all of our approximate dozen meetings were held around noon. The delicious lunches and wonderful fellowship that we shared on those occasions were always special times, and eventually the total number of members on our committee grew to 32.

Two years later, approximately 114 delegates, members and guests were registered for the 2012 State Convention at the Hilton-Memphis, and their kitchen served 117 plated meals at the banquet as specified by attendees on their registration forms. Representatives from the offices of Sen. Alexander, Sen. Corker, Congressman Cohen, Governor Haslam and Memphis Mayor Wharton visited the convention and Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr. spoke to us at the banquet on Monday night. During his speech Mayor Luttrell indicated that he was eligible for NARFE membership and, within minutes of his departure from the speaker's platform, Jim Cooke of Chattanooga Chapter 108 had a commitment from him to become a member.

With numerous unrelenting threats to federal worker pay and job security, mounting concern about future cuts to pensions and benefits, and inflation far outpacing recent COLAs, hearing NARFE-Alzheimer's Region X Coordinator Clara Weston speak about the resounding success of the NARFE initiative to support Alzheimer's research was a very welcome and refreshing topic. The prospect of reaching our goal of raising \$10 million by the end of the current

year is an accomplishment in which we can all take pride.

Our convention was not eligible for a speaker from National Headquarters at NARFE expense this year, so the Federation Executive Board agreed to pay the expenses for National Legislative Director Julie Tagen to be our keynote speaker. She shared a PowerPoint presentation and answered numerous questions afterwards. I heard so many positive comments about Ms. Tagen, she may have been the "star" of the convention, and I believe she put to rest any doubt that anyone may have had about her selection as our National Legislative Director. National Headquarters obviously made an excellent decision by choosing Ms. Tagen for the job, and most of the delegates I talked with seemed confident that she will continue to be an outstanding advocate on our behalf. We are very fortunate to have Ms. Tagen on our National Headquarters team.

Two resolutions submitted for consideration were adopted. One simplifies the annual payment of per capita dues and the second removes the requirement from our Bylaws for a non-NARFE Parliamentarian at our annual conventions.

I served on the Financial Ways/Means & Audit committee and had an opportunity to see firsthand the outstanding job our Financial Secretary, Glenda Huff, and our Treasurer, Marie Anglin, do on behalf of the Federation. John Gaessler served as our committee chair and did an excellent job.

We sold program ads and table space this year to help defray the expense of the convention and were very pleased with the response from members, chapters and businesses. This was the source of approximately 15 percent of our total revenue and was a tremendous help in keeping registration fees as low as possible. To all of our generous convention sponsors, a big THANK YOU! One element the committee could influence but not control was delegate participation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the chapters across the great state of Tennessee for your support and the delegates, members and guests who chose to make a difference with your presence and participation. The convention could not have been a success without all of you.

(Continued on Page 5)

Membership in NARFE is a good investment

I want to start by saying a big THANK YOU to the Memphis, Millington, Memphis Postal, and Germantown chapters for hosting a great State Convention. The hotel accommodations and food were excellent. We had good speakers and a lot of useful information was shared. It was nice to visit with NARFE members from across the state. Everyone who I talked with really enjoyed the Convention.

We continue to feel the effects of the dues increase in our declining membership numbers. I think that NARFE membership is still a good value when you consider all that you receive -- the monthly magazine; a benefits department which provides advice and assistance to federal workers, retirees, and their spouses; timely legislative updates on issues which directly affect NARFE members; and a voice on Capitol Hill -- and that's just a few of the many benefits of NARFE membership. You can save on your national dues by renewing for multiple years or by dues withholding. You receive an \$8 discount when you renew for two years or an \$18 discount when you renew for three years. Another way to save is with dues withholding - folks who opt for dues withholding save 15% on their na-

tional dues.

With the continuing attacks on our benefits, it is very important that we all work together to stop the decline in our membership and start to see an increase. Please continue to ask your former coworkers and other potential NARFE members to join. Some folks that you have previously asked who didn't join at that time may have since "seen the light" and are ready now to join NARFE in the fight to protect the benefits that we have worked so hard for and earned. As Region III Vice President Donald Stewart pointed out in his article in the May 2012 NARFE magazine, we need a strong membership base for credibility and clout when we approach our congressional representatives and senators. As he also noted and I totally agree - Membership in NARFE is an investment, not an expense!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Membership Chair again. I look forward to working with all of you as we strive to increase our membership. Please contact me if I can be of assistance in any way.

- Rhonda Mooney

Tennessee Federation Membership Chair

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Henderson (continued)

Congress will be in summer recess from August 6 until September 7. It is the longest recess of the year and is an excellent time for NARFE members to meet with their Congressional delegation to discuss issues and legislative concerns. If you have not already begun making plans, now is a good time to start!

Our 32nd Biennial National Convention is being held August 26-30, 2012, in Reno-Sparks, Nev. Delegate forms must be received by the Office of the National Secretary by June 30. If your chapter cannot send a delegate this year, arrangements should be made for someone to serve as your proxy. A revision of the National Bylaws and Standing Rules proposed by the Bylaws Revision Committee will be considered this year, and it is

very important that we have as much of our voting strength as possible at the convention.

In closing, please remember our less able senior members; a phone call, card or visit could really brighten someone's day. I am honored and want to thank you for the opportunity to serve another term as your Vice-President for West Tennessee. It is always a special occasion when I am able to represent the West Tennessee chapters and members in this capacity, and I sincerely appreciate your support.

- Larry Henderson

Tennessee Federation 1st Vice-President

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Minnear lauds West Tennessee chapters for outstanding convention

The 2012 Tennessee Federation of NARFE Convention is in the record books. Convention Chairman Don Smith and all the hard working members of Memphis 0078, Millington 1382, Memphis Postal 1733, and Germantown 1968 chapters deserve a huge round of appreciation. They all pulled together and presented a super convention. The site was very nice as well. Vice President Larry Henderson did a great job as their advisor. This convention will be a hard act to follow. But we will try as you join the NARFE members from East Tennessee for the 2013 convention in Chattanooga on April 15-16, 2013, at the Chattanooga Choo Choo. We hope to have an early registration form in an upcoming issue.

We had a few changes in our officer ranks due to the elections. We had competition for 3rd vice president and secretary. Tom Duncan was elected 3rd Vice President from Middle Tennessee, and Camellia Duncan was elected Federation Secretary. However, Camellia has since resigned and President John Wells has appointed Marilyn Evans to take her place. John also appointed Ed Evans to the vacant public relations position. Larry & Larry moved up the vice president ranks. It looks like we have a very strong board.

I was very glad to see our Region Vice President Bill Martin in attendance. He has made a remarkable recovery from his accident just prior to Christmas. Physically he looks good, but emotionally, we know he still has scars from this terrible incident.

The summer is getting a head start with the warm temperatures. It looks to be a hot one. It will get even hotter as the presidential election gets in full swing. During an election cycle is the best time to get a little face time with your elected officials (or those who want to be). They tend to be more available and often it is the only time you will get them to listen. I would urge each of you to plan something during the August recess. They will be home almost the entire month. That is a perfect time

to make an appointment or plan to attend one of the many events they will be attending. Let them know that federal employees and retirees do not appreciate being used as a doormat for their inability to manage the people's money. We have been shafted for far too long with GPO/WEL debacle. We may never win that fight, but I believe we have sacrificed plenty. We do not need to be robbed anymore of benefits we justifiably earned.

As the summer closes, NARFE will hold the biennial national convention in Reno, Nevada. I will be going this year for the first time. I am looking forward to attending, learning more about NARFE, and representing Tennessee at the convention. I know newly elected President John Wells will also be attending and perhaps several more from the Volunteer State. The chapters should have received the delegate/proxy forms by now. You need to contact one of the officers who will be going, so they can carry your proxy to the convention. Each attendee is allowed to carry up to 3 proxies. It would make the most sense to carry proxies from the chapters with the most votes.

Your elected vice presidents (myself included) will soon be making chapter visits. I want to get in as many as possible prior to the national convention. Please make room on your agenda for us. We need your input during these visits. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us during the year, if you have the need. That is what we are here for.

I wish you all the very best. We will have an executive board meeting in August just prior to the convention. If you have any concerns, send them to us for discussion at that meeting (August 16-17).

Have an enjoyable summer!

- Larry Minnear
2nd Vice President
Tennessee Federation

**Tennessee Federation Financial Report
Period Ending December 31, 2011
By Marie Anglin, Treasurer**

Beginning Balance - 1/1/2011		\$ 15,383.62
REVENUES		
National Dues Rebate - 10% Refund	\$ 12,029.63	
Interest in Checking	\$ 1.82	
Per Capita Dues Jan 2011	\$ 10,983.00	
Per Capita Dues Dec 2011	\$ 10,303.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 33,317.45	
Total to be accounted for:		
LESS EXPENSES		
Vouchers	\$ 15,546.22	
Newsletter Expenses	\$ 5,877.20	
Non-Vouchered Expenses - Ramada Inn	\$ 577.80	
Insurance	\$ 51.00	
Recruitment	\$ 368.27	
Training	\$ 123.20	
Check Printing Fee	\$ 47.67	
Memorial Gifts	\$ 100.00	
TOTAL DISBURSED	\$ 22,691.36	
Ending Cash Balance - Checking Account 12/31/11		\$ 26,009.71
CD's US Bank		
Account Ending - 5601		\$ 3,345.87
Accounting Ending - 4540		\$ 3,510.38
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 32,865.96

Bank statement shows balance as of 12/31/11 as \$26,109.71.

Convention Photos

Federation Officers



L-R: Larry Henderson, 1st Vice President, Marie Anglin, Treasurer; John Wells, President; Tom Duncan, 3rd Vice President; Larry Cunningham, Past President; Jim Glenn, Legislative Chair; Bill Martin, National Vice Pres. Region X; Rhonda Mooney, Membership Chair; Larry Minniear, 2nd Vice President.

Knoxville Chapter 204

Weida White Award



Second Vice President James Henderson accepts the Weida White Award Trophy for the Shiloh Chapter 0861.



Passing the gavel



Larry Cunningham passes the gavel to new Federation President John Wells.

Heartfelt message from Region X Vice President Martin

As many of you may know, I lost my wife Gail in an auto accident on December 23rd. I want to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers. It has been a difficult time for me and my family, but being part of the NARFE family has helped so much. Although Gail was not a retired federal employee, she was a faithful member of NARFE, serving in many capacities, most recently as Secretary of the Louisa chapter 2065.

I would like to give special thanks to the NARFE Service Officers in every chapter and federation. I'll not single out any particular individual as those who helped me in particular know who they are. My thanks go to all of you who serve in this position. You may never know how much your help means to those of us in our time of need. Thank you.

I hope to see all of you at the national convention in August in Reno. Although Gail will not be with me in person, she'll be there in spirit.

- Bill Martin, Region X Vice President

New Federation Board Members

President	John Wells	Immediate Past President ...	Larry Cunningham
1st Vice President.....	Larry Henderson	Region X Vice President.....	Bill Martin
2nd Vice President.....	Larry Minniear	Legislative Chair	James Glenn
3rd Vice President.....	Thomas Duncan	Membership Chair	Rhonda Mooney
Secretary	Merilyn Evans	Website Chair	Ronnie Collins
Public Relations	Ed Evans		

Chattanooga Chapter 108 Officers



L-R: Mary Lynn Wilson, Secretary; James Cooke, President; Larry Minniear, 3rd Vice President, Tennessee Federation; Janice Fountain, Membership Chairperson; Don Mitchell, Treasurer; Virginia Moats, Vice President.

In Memory of Chuck Gonta



Charles (Chuck) Gonta, former Treasurer of the Tennessee Federation, passed away on February 1, 2012. He was the Federation Treasurer 13 years (1992-2005). Chuck was a loyal and faithful member of NARFE. He will be missed by many of his friends in Tennessee.

He was not only active in the Tennessee Federation but in the Gallatin Chapter as well.

Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife Betty and to members of his family.

112th Congress from Tennessee

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Jackson: (731) 423-9344
Nashville: (615) 736-5129
Chattanooga: (423) 752-5337
Knoxville: (865) 545-4253
Tri-Cities: (423) 325-6240

Senator Bob Corker (R)

SD-185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3344
Memphis: (901) 683-1910
Jackson: (731) 424-9655
Nashville: (615) 279-8125
Chattanooga: (423) 756-2757
Knoxville: (865) 637-4180
Tri-Cities: (423) 323-1252

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Representative Phil Roe (R)

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Kingsport: (423) 247-8161
Morristown: (423) 254-1400

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TN 3rd District

Representative Charles Fleischmann (R)

511 Cannon House Office Building
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Chattanooga: 423-756-2342
Oak Ridge: 865-576-1976

TN 4th District

Representative Scott DeJarlais (R)

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TN 5th District

Representative Jim Cooper (D)

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TN 6th District

Representative Diane Black (R)

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TN 7th District

Representative Marsha Blackburn (R)

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TN 8th District

Representative Stephen Fincher (R)

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(202) 225-4714
Jackson: (731) 423-4848
Dyersburg: Opening soon

TN 9th District

Representative Steve Cohen (D)

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NewsWatch. To make changes or add your email address to your member records, simply call 800-456-8410 or send an email to memberrecords@narfe.org.

Members without email can get the Legislative Hotline by calling 877-217-8234. This recording is updated weekly.

West Tennessee chapters earn praise from Cunningham

To Donald Smith, Julia Metcalfe, Linda Mashburn, Convention Committee Chairs, Convention Committee Members, Memphis Chapter 0078, Millington Chapter 1382, Memphis Postal Chapter 1733 and the Germantown Chapter 1968, thank you all very much for all of the hard work that was done in hosting the Tennessee Federation of Chapters 56th Annual Convention.

The Hilton Memphis was a very good choice for the convention and the service at the banquet was outstanding. I can't remember the last time that we were served a sit-down dinner in such short order. It seems as if every time I turned around, someone was asking if I needed anything (great service). Being my last convention as Federation President, I could not have asked for a better one. Next years convention will be in Chattanooga, and they will have a hard time topping this one, but I'm sure that they will try.

As always, stay as active as you can, you will feel better about yourself.

- Larry Cunningham

Immediate Past President

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