

NARFE Chapter 1956
Cookeville, TN
July 15, 1008 Chapter Meeting

President Ronnie Collins opened the meeting and asked Ellis McCowan to give an invocation, which was followed by all giving their pledge to the USA flag. Ronnie then welcomed all attendees and guests present. Newly-elected Tennessee Federation Officers, President Carey Frazier and 3rd VP for the Middle Tennessee Area, John Wells were introduced.

TN Federation President Carey Frazier was meeting speaker. President Frazier addressed the importance(s) of NARFE membership and stressed the need for chapter recruitment and continued membership retention efforts. He noted that NARFE membership has declined by 10,000 members this year alone. Although the Cookeville Chapter has remained relatively consistent, it has done so due to the efforts of past and present officers and members. President Frazier recommended mailing brochures such as "What NARFE Can Do For You" and the "Top 5 Reasons For Joining NARFE" to prospective and renewing members.

Minutes of the May 20 meeting were read and accepted.

President's Report: President Collins stressed President Frazier's request to recruit members and encouraged all to support renewals by speaking to those we are acquainted with to join, attend, and recruit. Those members who had not renewed from May 2006 thru April 2008 were read President Collins asked that we all contact these folks and support their renewing NARFE memberships.

President Collins asked for suggestions for next year's chapter picnic regarding potential locations and menu.

President Collins presented to Chuck and Jan MacKenzie, a Chapter Appreciation Plaque signifying their countless contributions to NARFE through their hours of serving the Chapter and NARFE membership. Picture taken.

Committee Reports:

Legislative Report August has been designated as "Meet Your Candidates Month". Legislative Chair, Matt Bower, will be attempting to set up meetings with our legislative candidates during August. It was suggested that members focus on questioning their position on 1) Entitlement Reform and these candidate's position; 2) Health Care Premiums and their position on or support of and, 3) Social Security and Medicare and their position on or support efforts. Candidates Lamar Alexander, Bart Gordon and Lincoln Davis need to be contacted.

Membership Report Chuck McKenzie submitted that in the month of June the Chapter lost six members who did not renew their dues. He made efforts to contact these members with the following results: Two members had disconnected telephones. One member said he would renew. One member declined renewal, and Chuck had difficulty contacting two members. He will be continuing efforts to contact these people. During June, 12 two members renewed their memberships; Chuck, as well as TN Federation VP John Wells, acknowledged our tenuous economic climate, but stressed the importance of the COLA issue to NARFE membership.

Sunshine Report Our thoughts and best wishes go out to: Joan Oswalt, Jim Evans, Bill Masters, Kenneth Milligan and Jimmy Walls.

Alzheimer's Report Reba Collins reported that \$45 was collected, including a contribution received at the chapter picnic.

New Business No report

Announcements The next regular meeting will be held August 19. Lt. R.C. Christian, Tennessee Highway Patrol, will speak to us about driver safety and education.

The meeting was adjourned

Sharon Martin, substituting for Secretary Elizabeth Bryant