



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Chapter 860 Cleveland, Tennessee 37312 January 2010

**Don Ledford, President Jim Burner, Vice-President Danny Britt, Secretary and Treasurer
Don Rollens, Service Officer Maxine Eaves, Legislative Ruth Hale, Sunshine
Visit www.narfeclevelandtn.org**

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This is my first column as your new Chapter President. I feel honored that you have chosen me to serve you for the next two years. I have a lot to learn as I begin my term and I ask for your support and advice. As I get acclimated, I will depend heavily on our current leadership as well as those of you that have served in leadership roles in the past.

Some of the things I want to do are:

(1) continue to provide excellent programs at each of our meetings, (2) strengthen our responsibilities in the area of recruitment and retention, (3) keep our chapter focused on giving to help fight the dreaded disease Alzheimer's, and (4) reach out to our members that do not attend the Chapter meetings.

Thank you for being a vital part of our Chapter 860 here in Cleveland. Let's grow and make our Chapter even stronger in the coming years.

JANUARY MEETING

February 11 will be our first meeting of the new year. We will begin with a covered dish meal at 6:30 PM at St. Therese Catholic Church. If you haven't attended one of our meetings in a while or never attended, please consider this a special invitation to be part of this meeting. Our program is followed by a short but informative business session.

The program for February will feature our wonderful Museum in Cleveland. Our speaker will be Lisa Simpson-Lutz, Director of the Museum. She will update us on what the Museum has done recently. In addition, the program will focus on coming events and how we can become involved to help support our Museum.

MEMBERSHIP DECLINE

In the January issue of the "Tennessee Federation News" our Federation President, Carey Frazier, emphasized some very important items about our decline in member ship. President Frazier used these two words to begin his column about our membership plight - involvement and participation. He went on to ask, "What motivates people to want to be involved or participate?" He stressed that we get involved and participate in a variety of activities and events, i.e. school, worship, picnics and a multitude of sports and hobbies and various volunteer types. Then he asks this question, "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?" We know there are many reasons, but let's examine our

role in NARFE Chapter 860 and strive to place greater emphasis on NARFE this year. If you have not read President Frazier's article, please do so. If you did read it, take a second look at it.

**FEDERAL TAX WITHHOLDING
CHANGE FOR 2010**

Some of you may have questioned why there was a change in the amount of Federal Income Tax that will be deducted from your annuity in 2010. The Office of Personnel Management informed us that the IRS changed the tax brackets into which people fall for 2010, expanding them from 6 to 8 and with different amounts. This resulted in a change in the amount to be deducted, in most cases to our good. If you have any questions, OPM has asked that we contact the IRS.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Does NARFE have your email address? Have you recently changed your address and failed to correct it with NARFE? See page 3 of the January 2010 issue of the "Tennessee Federation News."

2010 NARFE STATE CONVENTION

The convention will be held in Sevierville this year. Complete details including registration forms are in the

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Federation Newsletter. If you haven't been to a NARFE convention before, consider making this your first. The Convention is close to us this year and, as you know, there are many things to do and see in that area. We will finalize the number that will attend at our February meeting.

MEDICARE PREMIUM FAIRNESS ACT

Despite overwhelming passage in the House and White House support, the Senate has not taken any action on this ACT that will protect Medicare Part B beneficiaries from a premium increase in 2010. Under present law, about 75 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are not required to pay for the increase in Part B premiums in any year when they receive no Social Security COLA. However, over a million federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible to receive Social Security benefits are not protected by this provision. NARFE have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to get the House to approve the bill and continues to push for passage of the bill in the Senate.

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