



# **NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

## **Chapter 860 Cleveland, Tennessee 37312 April 2011**

**Don Ledford, President Jim Burner, Vice-President Danny Britt, Secretary and Treasurer  
Don Rollens, Service Officer Maxine Eaves, Legislative Ruth Hale, Sunshine Dean McAlister,  
Membership Chair Visit [www.narfeclevelandtn.org](http://www.narfeclevelandtn.org)**

### **NOTE TO ALL NON MEMBERS OF NARFE**

*If you are receiving this complimentary copy of our newsletter and you are not already a member of NARFE, a friend or neighbor has asked that you receive a copy. Please visit [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and our local Chapter site [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org) for more information about NARFE. We welcome all retired and active federal employees. Please consider being a part of NARFE during these times that our earned benefits are being threatened.*

### **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**AMERICA'S HEARTBEAT!!** What do you think of when you hear these words? Have you stopped to think that you may be the heartbeat of America? Our national office thinks so. NARFE headquarters is using this phrase to launch an attack against the assaults on the benefits you and I, as retirees and active Federal employees, have worked for during our careers. Have you read the article on pages 22-23 of the April 2011 edition of the "NARFE" magazine? I encourage you to read it. If you have, please consider reading it again.

In addition to reading the article, please visit the website [www.protectamercasheartbeat.org](http://www.protectamercasheartbeat.org). There are several actions we can do to help thwart the ill conceived threats that are being launched against active and retired Federal employees. Our county is being bombarded almost daily from the media and others that think Federal employees are overpaid and not needed. This website makes

you stop and think just how important you were in your position as a Federal employee and how your contribution helped make America a better place to live and rear a family. Just recently I had the opportunity to correct an individual about rates of pay for federal employees. This person was listening to the media and not validating the information for himself.

I like the quote in the article from former Sen. Ted Kaufman, D-DE, when he made the following statement on the floor of the Senate when he described Federal employees as "silent sentinels of our nation's wellbeing." Don't let the budget cutters get away with making Federal employees the scapegoat for balancing our Federal budget.

### **GOOD FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP**

Where can you find both of these wonderful activities? At the Chapter meeting at 6:00 PM, April 14 at St. Therese Catholic Church. Be sure to

**mark your calendar and plan to spend some time with other people that are America's heartbeat.**

**In addition to good food and fellowship, each attendee will receive information that may help us plan for some of our future needs. Don Ledford, Jr., Agent with Cornerstone Senior Service of Chattanooga, will be our guest speaker. Don will discuss options available to federal retirees in the areas of long term care insurance and Medicare supplemental insurance.**

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Yes, NARFE is celebrating ninety years of protecting the earned benefits of federal employees and retirees in 2011. NARFE has been there for us and many that preceded us, but now NARFE needs us more than ever. In 1995 NARFE membership peaked with nearly 500,000 members. Now the membership is just over 300,000. Last year the loss was 9,000+ members. 2009 was a loss of over 7,000 members. Our TM Federation fared better than nationally. TN ended 2010 with a net increase of 78 members for a total of 4,324 members. Our Chapter lost some members and gained some but managed to maintain 49 members. These staggering losses are disturbing even in good times, when benefits aren't under attack. In times like**

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**these when we are in the direct sights for major benefit reductions these losses are almost suicidal. We need to work hard to convince our friends and acquaintances to become members. If you know someone that you would like to receive a complimentary copy of our newsletter, please send the address to [dmcAlister41@hotmail.com](mailto:dmcAlister41@hotmail.com) or bring it to the April meeting.**

### **FUN TIME IN NASHVILLE**

**The Federation Convention will be April 18-19 in Nashville. The only delegate attending this year from our Chapter will be Dean McAlister and his wife Bertha. Dean will be serving as Chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.**

### **THANKS TO BANK OF CLEVELAND FOR PRINTING SUPPORT**