

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES



Cleveland, Tennessee 37312

CHAPTER 860

February 2009

Dean McAlister, President Don Ledford, Vice-President Danny Britt, Secretary and Treasurer
Don Rollens, Service Officer Maxine Eaves, Legislative Ruth Hale, Sunshine
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*Here's a message from J C Whitney, TN FED
Membership Chair:*

Hey Ya'll,

Kinda good news!! This (December) is the third month in a row that we have NOT lost members here in Tennessee. We didn't gain any new members for the month of December but at least we didn't lose any overall. November's total membership was 4502 and that's exactly what it is for the month of December. Keep up the good work and I really believe that retention is the name of the game. We had a gain in membership for October and November and held our own for December so MAYBE things are swinging in the right direction. Thanks for all you do and let's hope that we continue to increase our membership.

Things do not look real good for NARFE nationwide. For the entire year of 2008, we lost 17,398 members overall. We gained 29,421 however, we lost 46,819. Overall, we lost 9,414 members in 2007 so right now our Total

NARFE Membership stands at 317,774. Folks, this in NOT good. Hopefully this trend will stop for 2009 and we can get back on a positive note.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 12, 6:30 PM, St. Therese Catholic Church, Cleveland. After our Covered Dish Dinner, the speaker for the evening will be Kim Frady, the County Agent for Bradley County. He will present a Powerpoint presentation on the mission of the UT Extension Service as it affects Bradley County. In addition he will inform us on current issues that are facing farmers and the Extension Service.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL WEB SITE

<http://www.narfe.org>

Margaret L. Baptiste, president of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees' Association (NARFE),

today applauded Reps. Howard Berman (D-CA) and Howard “Buck” McKeon (R-CA) for swiftly introducing legislation in the new 111th Congress to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), social security laws that unjustly deny federal retirees and other public sector retirees their earned Social Security Benefits. NARFE’s President reiterated her association’s long-standing opposition to these provisions of the Social Security Act and pledged to work closely with Congress to ensure action this session.

AND ALSO FROM THE WEBSITE

On December 23, 2008, President Bush signed the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-458), which allows individuals to suspend required minimum distribution (RMD) payments for 2009 from individual retirement accounts (IRA’s) and defined contribution plans—401(k)s. In the past, individuals 70 ½ and older

were required to take a minimum amount of money out of certain retirement accounts on an annual basis unless they meet select criteria, such as if they were still working. The RMD applies to IRA’s and 401(k)’s, including the Federal Government’s Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). Individuals are responsible for withdrawing the RMD each year, or they face federal tax penalties.

For 2009, however, individuals 70 ½ and older will be allowed to skip a year of withdrawals from their retirement accounts without penalty. The reason for this recent tax change is that it may help certain seniors by allowing them to leave money in their accounts to bolster their retirement income rather than forcing them to withdraw money from accounts that have experienced great declines. Additionally this change helps to offset the unusually large RMD required in 2008, due to the stock market gains as of December 2007. It is important to note that this new law did not alter 2008 RMDs.

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BETSY DEACON, EDITOR

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