



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
PUTNAM COUNTY—COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE
NARFE Works For You**

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

March 2010

Notes From the Last Meeting

We had a cold snowy night for our February meeting, but we still had a good turnout. It was good to see several of our members that we had not seen in awhile. Thanks to all who put forth the extra effort to be there.

Our member Russ Robinson was our speaker and did a excellent job talking to us about federal income taxes. He has been a tax preparer since his retirement. He said of the changes for this year, many relate to dependant children (and grandchildren). There was a new Schedule M this year. This is the form used to claim the amounts from the economic recovery bill passed last year including to the \$250 credit for federal retirees (read my separate article relating to my credit). Also he mentioned the Schedule L which is used for claiming property taxes, and certain sales taxes in cases where a person does not itemize their deductions.

Tax returns are always changing and very confusing, Russ answered questions from many that were present. Anyone needing help with their taxes can contact him at the Senior Citizens Center in Cookeville. Contact the center for the hours that tax help is available.

In other news from the last meeting, the chapter approved sending Reba and myself to the State NARFE Federation Convention as delegates to represent the chapter. This convention is open to all our members and will be held April 19-20 in Sevierville. If anyone else who could not attend the February meeting wants to go, contact me and we will work that out.

The Next Meeting

The next meeting will be March 16th. at Shoney's on Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. You will need to arrive by 6:00 pm. if you desire to eat. The business session will begin promptly at 6:45 pm.

The scheduled speaker will be Sergeant Mike Smith from the Cookeville Police Department. He will speak about crime awareness and answer your questions.

If anyone in the Cookeville area needs transportation to any of the meetings, contact Roy Byrd at 526-1895 or 252-2973.

Legislation Report

March is designated as NARFE-PAC month. Even though contributions are sought every month, there is a special interest during the this month. Keep in mind that NARFE-PAC is a separate area within the NARFE organization that directs contributions to political candidates running for the U S House and Senate that have in the past supported our legislation or is likely to do so in the upcoming session. Contributions are voluntary and no membership dues or money received from other sources is every used to support candidates.

NARFE-PAC has donated to candidates of both major parties and only donates after they receive a request from the candidate. This is an election year and all the U S Representatives offices are up for election and a third of the Senate offices. In Tennessee, there are several Congressmen retiring or running for other offices so there will be many potential changes this year. Neither of our U S Senators in Tennessee have to run this year.

I suggest that you read the NARFE-PAC article in the March issue of the NARFE magazine on pages 18 - 22 to learn more about this.

NARFE encourages its members to give as much as you can. For an amount of \$20 or more you will receive a NARFE-PAC Pin as a gift. We will receive your contributions at this months meeting, but if you can't be there, you can mail in your donation using the form in the March issue of the NARFE magazine. Or you can mail your checks to my address. I will take our chapter's donations to the Federation Convention when I go next month. Remember to include your NARFE ID number with your donation so that our chapter will receive credit for your gift.

Chapter Officers

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myra Estes

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Membership Report

We welcome our latest new members; Jackie Maxwell who recently joined and Robert Tower who transferred to us from the Wilson County Chapter.

Sunshine Report

I have learned that Frank Britnell recently fell and broke a hip. He will go to a rehab. facility after getting out of the hospital. We wish him a quick recovery.

Spousal Members

One of the ways that we can obtain new members is within our own group. As many of you are aware, spouses of active and retired federal employees are also eligible to join NARFE. We currently have about 12 couples in which both are members, we also have about 14 other members who either joined as a spousal member or became members after their husband or wife passed away.

We have a great potential of more members if those of you who currently have spouses would sign them up as NARFE members. The cost is not much considering the benefits it would create. It would strengthen our chapter numbers and add to our nationwide numbers. If chapters everywhere would encourage this, it would swell our influence and do much to protect our retirement benefits.

So will you help us in this effort? Let's see how many new members that we can gain. With this in mind, some will see a membership form in the newsletter this month. Sign up your spouse and mail it in to the address listed of the form and pay by check or credit card. If you wish you can also sign up your spouse by calling NARFE toll free at 1 800-456-8410 and join by credit card. Just be sure to tell them your were referred by chapter 1956 and use the ID number on the form or your own ID number. If this does not apply to you then maybe you can pass the form to some other person you know who can use it. Thanks for your cooperation and help.

Trouble With Some Email Addresses

I am very thankful for those of you who have requested to receive our newsletters by email. That not only saves the chapter funds for printing and mailing, but it also means that I have fewer envelopes to stuff, address and lick. But I am afraid that many of the email notices that I send out each month about the newsletter is not reaching your email account. I include a delivery request in the message that I send out, that works for the paid email providers such as Charter, Comcast, Frontiernet, DTC, Twin Lakes etc, but it does not work with the free email providers such as Yahoo, Hotmail, Live Mail, Gmail and others. Also each of these have very different ways to handle what it thinks is SPAM, so I don't have any way of knowing if you are receiving the newsletters or not.

--continued on next column

So this month I am making a special request, **if your email account** is with one of the free email providers and you are seeing this newsletter, then **let me know** by sending me an email reply. Also check the options for your email account and see if there is a place to add rwcollins@hydroguy.com (my email address) to your list of approved senders, white list or do not block list. If you need help, just ask.

We try hard to keep you informed by sending out these newsletters, but if they do not reach you, I would like to correct that. I also want to thank the many of you who have had good things to say about the newsletters in recent months.

Looking Ahead

I would like to know how much interest there is among you, our membership in having our usual picnic this year. Seems that last year, there was not as much interest as in the past. We could substitute another activity in place of the picnic if there is interest in something else or have a regular chapter meeting. Whatever we do, it will need to be scheduled soon, so please contact me and let me know your thoughts.

Government Retiree Credit

Since I do not receive Social Security benefits, I qualify for the Government Retiree Credit. So when I filed my tax return this year I claimed the credit using the Schedule M according to the instructions. When I received my refund, it was \$250 less than what was shown on my return. There was no explanation for the difference so I called the IRS to ask why. To make a long story short, I was first told that I did not qualify for the credit and that an explanation was mailed to me. I questioned their answer and spent an hour and forty-five minutes on the phone talking to 3 different agents. In my conversation with them, it was clear that they do not understand their own instructions and forms. In the end, they admitted that I should have received the credit but they do not understand why I didn't get it. They said they will make an adjustment. I will just have to wait and see if it happens or not.

So if you qualify for this same credit and it is disallowed like it was for me, you may need to call and question them too.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed recently!

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956:	www.narfecookevilletn.org
Tennessee Federation:	www.narfetn.org
NARFE Headquarters:	www.narfe.org

NARFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For Active and Retired Federal Employees

www.narfe.org

1. Please enroll me in NARFE chapter 1956
(leave blank if not known)

Also enroll my spouse

2. CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree | <input type="checkbox"/> Former spouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Former employee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Survivor | <input type="checkbox"/> Active employee |

3. The first year membership fee includes National and Chapter dues. Upon renewal you will be billed for National and Chapter dues at the prevailing rate on your anniversary date.

<u>\$33</u>	X	=	_____
membership fee			total
per person	# of people		payment
	enrolling		

- Charge to my credit card
- Check or money order (payable to NARFE)
- Send Dues Withholding information
- Send Life Membership information
- Bill me

Mail to:

NARFE Membership Services
606 North Washington Street
Alexandria VA 22314-1914

Contact Information:

Full Name: Mr. / Mrs. / Miss / Ms.	
Street Address	Apt. / Unit
City / State / Zip	
Home Phone Number	
E-mail Address	
Federal Agency	
Actual / Expected Retirement Date	
Date of Birth	
<u>10460378</u>	<u>1956</u>
Recruiter's Membership and Chapter Number	

Credit Card Information:

- MasterCard Discover VISA AMEX

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____
(MM) (YY)

Name on Card (print): _____

Signature: _____