



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

January 2011

Happy New Year!

Christmas Banquet

I think everyone enjoyed the time of fellowship and good food at last month's banquet. We had plenty of time to meet and greet fellow members, catch up on their family news, trips, activities and more. This was followed by a very delicious meal of holiday fare. We even lots had holiday music and decorations.

The day ended with the installation of officers for the coming year. Pictured below is Treasurer Myrna Estes, President Ronnie Collins, Secretary Reba Collins and Vice President Betty Robinson. We ask that you do all that you can to support your chapter officers this year.



As our tradition is, we took up a collection for a needy family to help brighten their lives at Christmas time, the total amount was \$262 which was given through the Putnam County Helping Hands Organization. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this. Thanks also for the personal gifts to myself.

Important Dates Coming Up

- January 17 MLK Day
- January 18 Next chapter meeting**
- February 2 Groundhog Day

This month, we did not schedule a speaker. I would like to take some time to discuss what we can do to increase attendance at our meetings, and participation in our chapter. So it is very important that you attend this month and take part in this discussion. If you need a ride, please call 252-2973.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

We Survived Another Year, YEA!

If you are reading this, then you have survived another year. Happy New Year to all of you. I hope that the year 2011 is filled with much happiness and joy.

In January we usually send out these Newsletters to everyone by postal mail including those who receive it by email. We do this for 2 reasons, one we need to verify that we have everyone's correct mailing address and second, we send out the list of members so that you will know who all the other members are. On this list is some very important information; names, addresses, phone numbers and your agency that you worked for or if you are a spousal member. Please look over those details and if anything is not accurate or missing, let me know. We would especially like to have a telephone number for everyone. Please remember this list is to be kept private and do not use it to send out solicitations and such. Thanks for your cooperation. While this list of members is up to date presently, it changes almost every month as members are added or dropped. Updated lists are available at any time on our chapter website, in order to access them, click on the Membership List link from our Home page and type in your last name and NARFE ID number.

New Membership Rates

NARFE headquarters begins this month phasing in the new rates that were approved by the members at the last National Convention. For anyone joining now, the first year rate is \$45. For those who are renewing members, headquarters will start mailing out the updated renewal forms for those whose anniversary date is in March. Those of us who are on dues withholding, the new rates will begin with the April deduction. Anyone with questions, let me know.

Chapter Officers

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Betty Robinson
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myra Estes

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Membership News

Since last month we have 2 new members, a big welcome to Jerry Flowers of Monroe and Lois McCart of Cookeville. Hope to meet you soon.

Looking back over the past year, we added 12 new members, we lost 3 members due to death and 1 member was dropped for non-renewal. But we have 2 or 3 other members who have not renewed and will be dropped soon if they do not renew. This is so hurtful for them and our entire organization.

Do help up recruit for more members. Those who you know from your agency; friends and family that work for or retired from any federal service or even the spouses of those who worked for any federal agency.

We are always glad to see new members sign up, but we also have members that drop out from time to time, that is so very disturbing especially in light of the fact that there is so much at risk. Federal employees and retirees have never been well thought of in the public sector and by Congress. And during times of budget problems, too many times, it is us that receive more cuts in benefits, etc than other groups out there.

Even though the Commission on Debt Reduction failed to pass the recommendations listed in its report. Many of those ideas will find its way to Congress this year. In reading the reports, it seems that far too many of the recommended cuts were directed towards the federal workforce or the retiree group.

It is a fact the government has gotten out of hand and something must be done to reduce the size and the runaway spending that is a blight on this nation. I think most of us would agree, that we just want to be treated fairly and not received more in cuts than other sectors do.

This is why we need to strengthen our membership numbers by retaining all our current members and recruiting new ones. NARFE is our friend.

Email Addresses

As mentioned earlier, we do send out these newsletters by email, so if you change your email address, be sure to notify me. Also if anyone has an email address that is not currently receiving these newsletters by email and would like to, send your email address to me to be added to the list. Right now I currently send these out by email to 66 members and by postal mail to 69 member households. Believe it or not, it takes a lot of time to print, fold, stuff and address 69 envelopes each month. This month it was 122 envelopes. Anyone want to help?



Thanks to everyone who has renewed recently!

The New Congress

On January 5th, the 112th Congress was seated. There are many changes in both the U S House and the U S Senate. In all, Tennessee has 4 new U S Representatives while our U S Senators remain the same. For us in Tennessee District 4 and 6, our new Representatives are Diane Black in District 6 and Scott DeJarlais for District 4. You will find their Washington DC contact information in the mailing enclosed with the mailed copy of this newsletter this month. If you have a opportunity to meet and speak to either of these, let them know that we need their help in supporting legislation that protects us.

All the bills that were being considered by the last Congress and did not get passed, died with the close of the 111th Congress. New legislation will soon be introduced to support NARFE and its members.

Be sure to read the article in the January issue of your NARFE magazine about the 112th Congress (beginning on page 8).

Federal Taxes And Your Annuity Payment

Because Congress was late in extending the existing tax rates that were due to expire on December 31st. it will affect our annuity payments for this month and February. Normally each January there is some change in the Income tax withholding. For this year it will be late January before the IRS publishes the rates for this year. So for your January payment, it was for the same rate as last year. OPM says that they will make the adjustment on the February payment.

NARFE Perks

You are reminded that one of the benefits of NARFE membership is the member perks that are provided to us. If you will notice in the back of every magazine there are listed 2 pages of ways to save money on such things as moving services, vacation rentals, insurance, hotels, car rentals and more. Check those out and take advantage of all that will help you.

Question

A doctor and a bus driver are both in love with the same woman by the name of Sarah. The bus driver had to go on a long bus trip that would last a week. Before he left, he gave Saran seven apples. Why?

Answer

An apple a day keeps the doctor away!

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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