



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**February 2013**

**Notes From The Last Meeting**

It was a cold and wet night for our last meeting, making it somewhat miserable to be out. Even though we had a fairly good turnout for that meeting. We even had some who normally cannot come. Thanks everyone for coming.

Our speakers were Luke Collins, Executive Director and Randall Killman, Field Operations Program Specialist; both with the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency (UCHRA). Before sharing with us about some of the programs and services the agency provides, Luke spoke about some of the problems the agency has gone through in recent months and how they are working to make improvements. The UCHRA is funded mostly by federal grants, but also receives funding from state and local governments.

They spoke about 2 of the transportation programs that the agency provides, the UCARTS and CATS. The UCARTS provides public transportation with pickup at your door to take people to doctors, hospitals, stores and more. Customers need to schedule a trip at least 48 hours before, it only costs \$1.00 to ride and is available in all counties of the Upper Cumberland. The CATS program is the Cookeville Area Transit System of buses that run on fixed routes in and around Cookeville.

They spoke about the nutrition program, which consists of the meals on wheels service and the meals delivered to the various Senior Citizens Centers. There is also a commodities distribution for those who qualify. Again these services are provided to all 14 counties of the Upper Cumberland.

These are only a few of the 62 programs that they provide in our area. To find out more or to even assist in their many programs, contact them at the office in Cookeville or at your local county office. Their main phone number is 931-528-1127 and website address is [uchra.com](http://uchra.com).

In other news, we talked about the current legislative battles with the fiscal bills and proposals and how we all need to be active in voicing our concerns to our elected members of Congress. Again, I asked for anyone to assist in the many functions of the chapter. We really do need more to take part. The chapter authorized sending up to 6 delegates to the upcoming State Federation Convention.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

**Coming Up At The Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is February 19th, that will be here before you know it. Our speaker this month will be Dr. Summer Weary, a Podiatrist with the Cookeville Foot Center. Be sure to come out and hear what she has to share with us and take part in our meeting.

Our normal meeting time is on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Shoney's Restaurant on S Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Our business meeting begins promptly at 6:45pm, but you should arrive by 6:00pm to eat and fellowship with our fellow members.

**Conventions This Year**

Again, I want to remind you of the upcoming NARFE Federation Convention for Tennessee. It is to be held in Chattanooga at the restored Chattanooga Choo-Choo Train Station which is now a hotel. That in itself should be interesting. The Convention takes place on Monday and Tuesday, April 15 –16th.

Attendees need to register by March 1st, but delegates need to be selected as soon as possible, especially if you would like to be placed on a committee at the Convention. Some have already indicated an interest in going, but there is room for more. If you would like to go as one of our chapter delegates, then let me know by this coming meeting.

If you have questions about how the convention process works, see me. If you have questions about the location and activities, check out the Federation website page, [www.narfetn.org/convention\\_news](http://www.narfetn.org/convention_news) or call Larry Minniear, 423-875-5612.

**Update Your Record**

Does NARFE headquarters have your latest contact information? Call 800-456-8410 or Email [memberrecords@narfe.org](mailto:memberrecords@narfe.org) to give them any updates

**Chapter Officers**

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

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## A Member We Will Miss

Long time member Frank Britnell passed away last month after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's. Frank had a 37 year federal career, mostly with the U S Army Corps of Engineers. He was a charter member of our chapter and was active until he became sick. His wife, Jo is also a charter member and our sorrows go out to her and the rest of the family.



Of interest in the fact that all of NARFE has recently gone over \$10 million in donations to the Alzheimer's Association to find a cure for this devastating disease which Frank suffered from.

## Some Chapter History

In doing some research this past month, I ran across some history about our NARFE chapter that you may or may not know. There was group of 32 who meet for the first time on December 6, 1982 to begin our chapter. In the coming months, forms were filed, By-laws written and a charter was received designating us the Putnam County Tennessee Chapter No. 1956. The charter was dated May 13, 1983 showing 36 charter members. The first officers being shown as: Clarence Streeter-President, Robert Hagens-1st Vice President, John Schaller Sr.-2nd Vice President, and Inez Mytinger-Secretary/Treasurer.

So by that we are in our 30th year with our chapter. Many chapters are much older as NARFE was first formed in 1921. With your help we can move forward and continue to protect and preserve our benefits.

## Membership News

Here is some thoughts on membership from our National Secretary, Elaine Hughes.

After decades of decline, our goals have been to slow, halt and then begin to build NARFE's total membership. Although analysis had revealed that retention among our members was excellent relative to any industry standards, NARFE had simply not recruited as many new members as were necessary to replace lost members. Sadly, as a growing number of our oldest members pass away, the need for new members only increases.

As we close 2012, we are encouraged to have slowed the historical membership decline. After a long-term trend of losing, on average, 2,500 in total membership per month, we have made some significant progress. By the November 2012 close, we were within 50 members of the previous month's

close. In December 2012, we posted a membership gain of 799.

The 2012 year-end results afford us just a moment to appreciate the fruit of our past efforts. As we look to 2013, we are confident that this more positive trend will continue in the long term. We also are well aware that it will take much work and months of ups and downs as we travel the road to growth.

## Legislative News

Much is going on in Washington to find a solution to the nation's debt and financial problems. It does seem like most of what I hear has and will continue to affect those who are currently working for the federal agencies, and not so much for those already retired. But we had better keep close what on that!

It surprises me that very few current federal workers have an interest in joining NARFE which is basically their only defense against such legislation. If you know of those still working that are could potentially become members, help me get the word out to them.

I have seen some of the responses from our Senators and Representatives to NARFE members who have called or emailed their concerns to them. Many of our members of Congress are saying that federal workers earn more than those in the private sector. While that may be true in some instances, I think it is wrong to paint all federal workers with such a broad brush. There are some in executive positions which are highly paid, but there are lots of office workers, laborers, etc. that make much smaller amounts and not more than the private sector. Many are in highly specialized positions that can't be compared with other jobs.

If you have contacted your members of Congress about these concerns, thanks very much. Remember, federal employees and retirees have already been affected by previous and ongoing cuts.. Use the NARFE provided telephone number to make your calls— 866-220-0044.

## ***On The Light Side—Why I Like Retirement!***

*How many days in a week? 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday*

*When is a retiree's bedtime? Three hours after he falls asleep in the recliner.*

*What do you do all week? Monday through Friday, NOTHING.....Saturday & Sunday, I rest.*

*What do retirees call a long lunch? Normal.*

## **NARFE IS ON THE WEB**

Chapter 1956: [www.narfecookevilletn.org](http://www.narfecookevilletn.org)

Tennessee Federation: [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)

NARFE Headquarters: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

**If you have received a Renewal Notice, please send that in today—thanks!**