



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

August 2014

Notes From The Chapter President

We had a fairly good number out for the July meeting even though I heard that there was a candidate forum held that same night featuring those running for local office. We had a member and wife there for the very first time, that is always good to see. Also it was good to see some who have not been there in awhile.

The program last month was the Executive Director of Mustard Seed Ranch, Tammy Depperschmidt. She shared a little about that ministry which helps boys and girls, ages 5 to 17 which have been abused, neglected, orphaned or in need of a family environment. It has been in existence for just 5 years and takes children by private referrals from Tennessee and surrounding states.

They have 115 acres for the ranch in Putnam County with live in house parents for each of the homes they have. They offer home schooling as well as place some children in public schools. They currently have a total of 17 children that they care for, which is their maximum for now. Being a ranch, they have horses that each child is responsible for the care of. This is operated as a family type environment and well rounded activities for each one there.

They are non-profit ministry and receive no government funding. They do accept grants from various sources and donations from individuals, churches and other groups. After Tammy left, it was brought up in our meeting a desire to make a donation to the work there. While we cannot use chapter funds for anything other than NARFE related functions, we can take up collections the same way that we do with the Alzheimer's fund. So we plan to do this over the next 2 monthly meetings. I would encourage to help in any way that you can.

In addition to our program, we covered all the usual reports. I reported that I have contacted a NARFE member from another chapter who will be attending the National Convention and he is willing to serve as a proxy for our chapter. So after I get a sense of the voting wishes of you, our members, I will give him our voting instructions.

I talked about some of the many resolutions which have been submitted this year for consideration. I will discuss those later on in this newsletter.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Coming Up This Month

Our next monthly meeting will be August 19th. We are expecting to have Michael Detwiler, who is the Field Rep. for Congressman Diane Black. He works in her Cookeville office and will also bring the local case worker. Come and bring your questions and comments for him and Rep. Black. Since legislative concerns are of utmost importance to our NARFE organizations, we will allow Mr. Detwiler to have more time than usual for the program. I am sure you will have lots of questions for him.

As always we meet at Shoney's Restaurant on South Jefferson Ave. We ask that you get there no later than 6pm if you plan to eat. The restaurant is usually short handed and it takes awhile to get served. The business session of our meeting begins promptly at 6:45.

While all members are sent these newsletters, I am sure some do not take the time to read them, so call and remind someone this month to come out to this meeting.

National Membership Update

Recent emails that I have received from some in our federation and other NARFE members discuss the ever critical declining membership. The membership numbers have been going in the wrong direction since the 1980's. There are probably many reasons for this and many in the organization are trying to get a handle on this. This truly needs to turn around if our organization has the future that we all want it to have.

To quote a one comment that I saw, "One thing I do know, for an organization to be successful it needs to have a saleable and acceptable product. Something that people are attracted to and want to be part of!" I agree with that.

Chapter Officers

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| President | Ronnie Collins |
| Vice-President | Larry Harkleroad |
| Secretary | Reba Collins |
| Treasurer | Myrna Estes |

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Proposed Resolutions and Bylaw Changes

Important—Please Read. For every National Convention there are always lots of resolutions for members at the convention to consider. Some are proposed by our National Executive Board but most come for the various chapters and federations around the country. Each chapter and registered delegate receives a book with the complete list of proposed changes. And they are available online on the NARFE website. I would encourage you to look at those on the Convention section at narfe.org.

This year there are a total of 43 that have been proposed. I will discuss here and at the chapter meetings as many as I can. Chapters that send delegates that attend the Conventions have the greater influence on the voting. Chapters that are represented by proxy such as us this time will a vote only on the issues that are voted on by ballot. The rules require that certain types of issues are voted on by ballot and while delegates can vote to send any issue to a ballot vote, most are voted on by floor vote.

I reviewed 4 proposed changes at the last meeting that I am certain will be placed on a ballot. They are:

No. 14-01 Developing the Vision for Future NARFE. This would allow the Board to continue to develop and make changes based on the recommendations of the Future of NARFE Committee Report. We supported this.

No. 14-04 NARFE Uniform Dues Structure. This would make a change to the dues so that each member no matter which chapter they belong to would pay the same dues. I think this is a good idea in concept, but this particular resolution would only send \$8 to the chapters. We did not support that.

No. 14-05 Membership Retention-Five Year Membership for the Cost of Four Years. Again this is a good proposal, but in the way it is written, the chapters would receive \$7 each year for 4 years and nothing in the fifth year. We did not support this.

No. 14-06 Reduce National Officers to Two. Currently there are 4 national officers. This proposal would eliminate the National Vice President and Secretary positions. The money saved would be used to hire professional marketing and legislative staff and allow NARFE to begin the search to hire a Executive Director. We felt like this was a good proposal.

There are several proposals having to do with the voting strength of very large chapters, such as the newly formed eNARFE chapter. In just a few years, that chapter has grown to the point of more than 20,000 members. According to the Bylaws, they are entitled to 400 votes as a chapter. That far out numbers even the largest normal chapter and give the eNARFE chapter too large a voice to determine a ballot vote. Basically it is proposed that any chapter's voting strength be limited to five percent of the total voting strength of the convention. Another proposal

would allocate the votes of the eNARFE chapter to the federations of the state where the member resides. I am sure that the committee that reviews these resolutions will recommend that they be combined some way or another.

There are many other resolutions that propose changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules that I will not discuss. Experience has shown that many will be dropped during the committee process and those that make it out of committee are dealt with by floor vote where only the delegates in attendance can vote. There are also several general resolutions on the subjects of legislative concerns, membership concerns and other concerns. These types of resolutions if passed, give directions for the Executive Board to follow and these types of resolutions are always handled by floor vote if they make it out of committee. And since we are not sending a delegate, we cannot take part in a floor vote.

All of the proposed resolutions can be read online and are available to print from the NARFE national website. I will also have the book of these at the upcoming meeting for you to review.

Membership News

Special recruitment incentives are being offered for the month of September. This has just been announced by the National President, Beaudoin in an effort to increase our membership numbers.

Recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member, this includes a current federal employee or someone retired from federal service. Don't forget spouses are eligible to join as well. Recruiters will also be entered in a drawing for a Kindle Fire tablet. This incentive applies to all you sign up during the month of September. Don't forget to use your Member ID #.

I have the membership forms with me at meetings, you can get them online and print out; or you or the new member can call this number to join: 800-627-3394. Deadline to mail the forms or have the member join by phone or online is September 30.

Other News—this and that!

We will take up a collection for the Mustard Seed Ranch ministry at this and the next meetings. Come prepared for that if you want to have a part in it. Otherwise, you can mail a check to our Treasurer to be included in this donation. Send that to: Myrna Estes, 2573 Stone Seminary Rd. Cookeville TN 38506. Make the check payable to NARFE and indicate that is for the Mustard Seed Ranch.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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