



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

December 2014

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Notes From The Last Meeting

It was a cold, cold night for our last meeting. Even with that and the fact that some could not make it because of injuries, the attendance was not down as much as I was afraid that it would be.

I am sure that most of you are animal lovers which prompted a suggestion for our program last month. We had Linda Westin and Debi Smith from the Cookeville/Putnam County Animal Shelter. No they did not bring any furry creatures with them, but they did talk about the need for animal shelter and about the new facility that they will have just moved into.

Linda said that about 68% of households have pets, there are even more pets than babies in this county. Speaking about the need to control the dog and cat population, she said that in just a few short years 1 dog could produce 67,000 more dogs and 1 cat could produce 370,000 more cats. That is why it is important to control the pet population.

The local animal shelter was begun in 2004 and for many years operated out of a location on W. Jackson St., but they are glad to be moving to a new 12,000 square foot facility on Gainesboro Grade right next to the Hyder-Burks Pavilion.

Of course they have animals available for adoption, they also provide spay and neuter services among many more services. They asked if anyone would be interested in volunteering which would be of great help to them. They welcome donations of cash and many other items. They are open Monday through Saturday from noon to 4pm. I am sure that if you call them at 931-526-DOGS(3647), they will answer any questions that you have and fill you in on ways that you can be of help to them.

They have 2 websites available that you can find out more about all they do:

cookevilleputnamcountyanimalshelter.com
friendsofcpcanimals.org

Other news from the last meeting includes: the election of chapter officers was held, and the current officers were elected by acclamation. We covered the usual reports, latest news from the NARFE national office and reported on the change in location for our December, Christmas Luncheon.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Next Meeting and Luncheon

There will not be on regular chapter meeting for the month of December due to our annual Christmas Luncheon. Our next regular meeting will be in January on the 20th.

Don't forget about our Christmas Luncheon which will be on Saturday, December 13th at Golden Corral Restaurant in Cookeville. It is located at 1380 Interstate Dr. We will all sit together and enjoy the time and food and conversation. Plan to arrive at 11:30am and pay as you enter the restaurant. The Senior costs is \$7.99, drink \$2.29 and tax. We also plan on taking up a collection for a needy family in the area, as that is our tradition. So come prepared for that.

Help Wanted

I certainly appreciate our chapter officers and are glad to have their support for another year. Many of us are holding down other chapter responsibilities as well. We have a few chapter members who are filling appointed positions too, some more than one. We could use a few more members who would either take on full responsibility or be willing to work with another member in a non-officer area.

Here is a list of some of those jobs that we have that you may be interested in and could be of help with. Some of these jobs are currently filled and some are not: Alzheimer's Committee, Legislative Committee, Membership Committee, Service Officer, Newsletter Editor, Programs Committee, Publicity Committee, Sunshine Committee, and Historian. Years ago, we had a long list of those who served on the Telephone Committee who called members each month, but we no longer have anyone active in that.

If you would be willing to help with any of these jobs or maybe some other, that would be great! Just let me know.

Chapter Officers

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

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Membership Incentives

This is the finale call about the 2 membership recruiting incentives offered by the Tennessee Federation and the NARFE national office which continue to the end of this month. We need all the new members that our organization can get, help us gain new members and have a chance to win money and prizes at the same time.

Hand out a [Membership Form](#) to someone eligible to join, (that could be a current or retired federal employee or a spouse) Just be sure that you write in your membership ID number on the Membership Form in order to be eligible to win the prizes. Or have them call NARFE's membership phone number, 800-627-3394 during regular business hours. Just let them know to mention your ID number. The first year dues which can be paid by credit card are just \$40 which includes both national and chapter dues.

Reminder About Promotional Mailings

I have reported on this a few times before, but maybe a reminder is needed, especially for our newest members. NARFE sends out to its members, greeting cards, calendars and such, several times a year. Included with those mailings is a request for a donation. You are not under any obligation to make a donation, but if you do, it goes to help NARFE to have funds for its normal operations.

The money that NARFE receives from membership dues is not enough to fund its budget, so that is why they send out those gift items and ask for donations. Many members do send in voluntary donations which amounts to thousands of dollars each year. I don't recall how much, but it is a large sum.

You are free to use whatever you are sent or just toss it out as you please. I think you can call the national office and ask to be taken off the mailing list for those promotional items if you choose.

Legislative News

Here is a bit of information taken from a recent GEMS message to NARFE members. *The 114th Congress will convene on January 6, 2015, and is expected to hit the ground running. Between budget proposals, the debt ceiling deadline, an extension of the highway trust fund and other major policy debates, NARFE members could face serious threats to their earned retirement and health benefits early on in the new Congress.*

With the ongoing budget issues, the new Congress will attempt to make cuts in spending which could impact federal employs and retirees. So that you will be kept aware of all that NARFE is doing on your behalf, sign up for the GEMS email messages or call the Hotline each week, 877-217-8234.

Have a Blessed Christmas

NARFE Magazines and Member Perks

Have you ever wanted to refer to a back issue of the NARFE magazine but you no longer had it or you could not find the article you are looking for? All the magazines are archived on the national website. By going there you can search for an magazine article or view a copy of the any magazine going back to several years.

And speaking about NARFE and the magazine, don't forget to check out the list of member perks that are shown on the back pages of each issue. There are several categories listed and from time to time some may be of benefit to you. I recently made a trip to Texas and needed a place to stay, so I used the hotel discount that we get as NARFE members. I saved 20% off the advertised rate for a room. I have found that in order to get the discount, you need to call the nationwide phone number listed in the magazine and not the particular hotel.

Gift Memberships

Don't forget when you are doing your gifting this year, that a NARFE membership is a great gift for those working for or retired from any of the federal agencies. Makes for a Christmas gift and for those who retire at this time of year, it makes a great retirement gift. Those with computers can print out the **gift membership form** by [clicking here](#), if you don't have a computer, call me and I will mail you the form.

Now for Some Holiday Fun

Q: *What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?*

A: *A rebel without a Claus*

Q: *Why is Christmas just like a job?*

A: *You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit get all the credit.*

Q: *What do you call an obnoxious reindeer?*

A: *RUDEolph*

Q: *What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?*

A: *Frostbite*

Q: *What goes "oh oh oh?"*

A: *Santa walking backwards*

Q: *What do call a scary reindeer?*

A: *A cariboo*

Q: *Who doesn't eat on Christmas?*

A: *A turkey because it is always stuffed*

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org