



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

September 2014

Notes From The Chapter President

Last month's meeting was one of the best attended in recent months. Good to see the regular attendees there as well as some that we have not seen in a while. I hope that we continue to have a good number out for our meetings.

The scheduled speaker for last month was to be the Field Rep. from Congressman's Black Cookeville Office. But as it turned out, we had Charles Schneider who is her District Director out of the Gallatin Office. I think there was a lot of interest in the program last month which explains the good attendance.

Schneider began his comments with a brief explanation of how the duties and functions are split up between the Congressman's Washington office and the District offices. He said that the 6th Congressional District covers 17 whole counties and parts of several other counties. As far as those in our chapter, all of you live in Congressman's Black district except for 1 in the 4th District and those members of our chapter who live out of state.

The bulk of the meeting was given to questions and comments that those in attendance had for Mr. Schneider. He answered as he could and took notes to deliver to Congressman Black. Here are some of the questions and comments put forth during the meeting.

- Why does Congressman Black not support Obama Care?
- Federal employees and retirees have been hurt by some of comments or perceived comments that Congressman Black and other Members of Congress have said or written in response to calls and messages directed to their offices. Comments such as; federal employees are over-paid, and the benefits to employees and retirees are excessive.
- Black's voting record has not shown support for NARFE supported legislation.
- There is a distinction between entitlements and earned benefits and we feel that our benefits as retirees have been earned by many years of federal service.
- A question on the CPI and which index is used.
- A question about President's Obama use of Executive Orders. *-continued in next column*

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

With most of the meeting given to questions and comments on legislation matters, the rest of the chapter business was abbreviated.

As planned, we did pass around an envelope for donations to the Mustard Seed Ranch. The total was \$300 which was very good. For the sake of those who could not be at that meeting, we will hold on to this one more month and see if there are others who want to donate. If you can't make it and want to have a part, you can mail a check to Treasurer, Myrna Estes. I am sure more want to donate to this ministry.

Coming Up This Month

Our next monthly meeting will be September 16th. I will be the speaker for this month's meeting. Looking forward to the November election, in addition to the candidates running for state and national offices, there will be 4 Tennessee Constitutional Amendments on the ballot. All of these are important and this will be an excellent opportunity to educate yourself on just what they are. I will discuss these this month. And since I will be the speaker, I have asked our Vice President, Larry Harkleroad to moderate this month's meeting. I hope you will make plans to be at this month's meeting.

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 its takes awhile to get served. For the past several meetings, we have had as our server, Jerry. He does a very good job for us. I will try to ask for him each time. The business session of our meeting begins promptly at 6:45pm.

We inform everyone by this means and the media, but some of our members fail to hear about upcoming meetings, so would you call someone to remind and encourage them to attend this month?

Chapter Officers

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

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Update on the National Convention

The 33rd Biennial NARFE Convention was just recently held. Here is some of the news that I wanted to share with you. The total attendance was listed as 933, this includes delegates, other members and guests. There were 1,122 chapters represented, which is 88 percent.

On Sunday, the Chairman of the NARFE-Alzheimer's National Committee addressed the convention and reported that we were very close to the goal set at the last convention of \$11 million. That amount towards Alzheimer's research was expected to be reached by this month of September. A new goal was set of \$12 million for the year 2016.

The business session opened on Monday. It included remarks by Katherine Archuleta who is the new Director of Office of Personnel Management (OPM) who was the keynote speaker this year. Much of Monday's session was on a debate of many of the proposed resolutions and the report of Bylaws Committee. Floor votes were held on some of the resolutions. This one passed, which was a committee-substitute resolution which authorizes Headquarters to make grammatical and technical corrections to the Bylaws and Standing Rules before it goes to print. There were a few others voted on, but did not pass.

On Tuesday, delegates went to the polls to vote on Bylaws amendments. BC-02 which was rewritten by the Bylaws Committee to reduce the number of National Officers to 2, the President and the Secretary-Treasurer, 14-02 which deal with chapter's social members, and 14-19 which deal with a compliance issue with *Roberts Rules of Order* and revisions of the Bylaws; these 3 passed. There were 14 other resolutions voted on but did not receive the 2/3rds vote needed to pass. Most notable of these were; 14-04 NARFE unified dues, 14-05 five year membership for the cost of four; and several others that deal with establishing federation e-divisions, limiting the voting strength of large chapters, establishing the number of NARFE regions to 10.

In addition to the voting which took place on Tuesday, there were the nominations for National Officers, the Legislative Report, and information given about the branding of NARFE going forward. The only candidate running for Secretary-Treasurer was elected by acclamation

This brings us to Wednesday's news. Delegates again went to the polls and approved resolution 14-01 which authorizes the National Executive Board to continue developing the model for Future of NARFE. And they elected Richard Thissen as the next National President in a 3 way race. By floor vote on Wednesday, delegates approved the establishment of a standing Strategic Planning Committee which is tied very closely with the work of Future of NARFE.

—continued next column

In other floor votes on Wednesday, there were 2 resolutions approved; 14-36 which would add the words to the membership forms for those joining the eNARFE chapter, "email address strongly recommended", and 14-38 which established a single online blog for all NARFE.

Thursday closed out the Convention with acceptance remarks by the elected officers, and a banquet for the members and guests.

The 2016 convention will be held in Nevada and the 2018 convention will move back to the state of Florida. This is just a brief report of this year's convention, you can read more about on the [NARFE website](#) and they also have some video recordings of the proceedings. I am sure we will much more on the Future of NARFE and reports of this convention at this month's chapter meeting, in the NARFE magazine, and the federation newsletter.

Membership News

Don't forget that special recruitment incentives are being offered for the month of September. This is 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 place your Member ID number on the membership form

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!

Due to changes by the company that I have our chapter website on. I have had to redo the portion of our chapter website where I place the Membership List. I try to make this as private as I can and permit only our chapter members to have access to the list. As a chapter member, you can find this list by clicking the link on the right side of our [Home page](#). This will take you to a page where you must Login with your last name and member ID number. The current membership list is updated from time to time and shows names, contact information and the agency, records that I have. If you see any misinformation, please call that to my attention.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org