



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
PUTNAM COUNTY—COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE**
Protecting Our Future

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

April 2015

Notes from last month

Well, the year is moving on, Spring is here, can Summer be far away? Thanks to each of you who came out to our March meeting, we had a good number out. Special thanks to our newest member, Bob Whiteman and his wife Crickett who were there for the first time. We also had 1 non-member guest who may be a potential member.

The speaker was well received, he was the newly elected Sheriff of Putnam County, Eddie Farris. He told us that he grew up in Putnam County and began his long career by working for the Sheriff Department. then later working for the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He began serving as Sheriff on September 1st and has made many improvements to that department, which includes such items as; updating the uniforms, patrol cars and bringing in more experienced members of the department. He said that Putnam County is the 18th largest county in the state and he has 143 employees which includes 64 deputies. They currently have 255 inmates in the local jail.

When asked what the biggest problem is that they have, he said it was dealing with the illegal use of prescription drugs. This leads to many other crimes such as burglary. He said that all law enforcement departments also have this problem.

In other news, we went over all the latest reports, and encouraged those in attendance to support the NARFE-PAC by taking advantage of the form and envelope attached to the March magazine. The chapter agreed to use the Alzheimer's donations from the January meeting and the March meeting to cover the costs of a quilt to be sold during the silent auction at the Federation Convention. All the items donated there goes to support Alzheimer's research. The chapter also agreed to provide 2 \$25 restaurant gift cards as door prizes for the upcoming Convention.

No April meeting

Do to the fact that the State Federation Convention is held on the same date as our normal meeting, we do not have a meeting for the month of April. The next meeting will be on May 19th, see you then.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

2015 Federation Convention

You are still invited to attend the Convention. It will be in Clarksville on April 20-21 at the Riverview Inn. You can register at the door if you have not done so already. I know that we have 3 who are attending from our chapter. I will have a report of all the happenings next month.

Legislative news

At the March meeting, Dan Hilton mentioned several new bills which have been introduced in the new session of Congress that could have affect on both retired and current federal employees.

- HR 973, A bill to repeal the Government pension offset (GPO) and windfall elimination provisions (WEP). NARFE supports this bill.
- HR 1230, A bill to adjust the calculation of average pay for purposes of federal retirement annuity to 5 years. NARFE opposes this bill.
- HR 313, A bill to provide leave for the purpose of undergoing medical treatment to any new federal employee who is a veteran with a service-connected disability. NARFE supports this bill.

Those of you with computers are urged to follow these and other bills on the NARFE national website, [Legislative Action Center](#). There you can also learn about the Key Issues, learn about these Bills, and Contact your members of Congress by sending them a pre-written letter (which you can edit) on any of the upcoming matters that you may support or oppose.

There is lots more information that NARFE provides about legislative matters that you will find on that website section. This includes Issue Briefs and Fact Sheets, House and Senate Schedule. You will also find the latest information from the recent NARFE Legislative Conference that was held in Washington DC. Check it out!

Chapter Officers

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

Contact Information:

NARFE Chapter 1956
118 Ballenger Rd., Carthage TN 37030
E-mail: rwcollins@hydroguy.com
Phone or Text: 931-284-4835

Membership news

I am glad to welcome a new member to our chapter, she is Linda Ingram of Sparta who I met at the March chapter meeting. Linda is a current federal employee who works as a Civil Engineer at my old place of work, Center Hill Powerhouse. Her work there is with the rehab of the 3 generating units.

This is a reminder to update your membership records if you have made any changes such as address, phone number or email address. This helps our national office to send your magazine and other information and it helps me as well. You can update your records with the national office by calling 800-456-8410 during normal business hours or on the NARFE website. Or, you can send me the changes and I can take care of that for you. Thanks for keeping us up to date.

And of course, I continue to ask that you help recruit more new members, pick up a membership form and pass it along to a potential member. We all know or run across people from time to time that are eligible to join. Remember NARFE membership is open to all federal employees of any agency, retirees from any agency and to spouses and former spouses of current or retired employees. This is anyone who is receiving or will be eligible to receive a federal annuity or survival benefits.

Membership forms are in each magazine that you can use or ask the potential member to call 800-627-3394. They can also go online to NARFE's website to join. It helps if you remember to include your member ID and our chapter number when a new member joins. Your member ID is on the magazine that you receive and our chapter number is 1956.

News on health insurance

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is asking the plans that participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEHBP) to add a new category to the list of plans for next year. Currently there are plans for Self and the Self and Family, the new plans will be called Self Plus 1.

The new plans have been in the works for a few years now and are designed mostly for married federal workers that have no children, but the plans will also be available to retirees who have no dependent children.

Initially the Self Plus 1 plans are expected to have lower premium rates. But they say that the bad news is that if a lot of retirees with higher medical bills switch to the new plan, it could result in higher costs.

So when the new plans are made available, during the Open Season that comes at the end of this year, you may want to consider making a switch.

Thanks to all who have recently renewed.

Staying in touch

At all levels of NARFE, we try our best to keep you informed of the latest news and information about our association, legislative issues that could affect you and much more. This information comes to you from 3 sources.

Our national office mainly uses the magazine to keep you informed. Each of you should get a copy in the mail each month. For those with email addresses included in your membership records, you get national news and alerts sent out by email.

As part of the Tennessee Federation of NARFE chapters, you should be receiving 4 times a year the *Tennessee Federation News* by postal mail. This is used to keep you updated on Tennessee Federation news and to remind you of national news of importance.

And as far as I can remember, we have also sent out a monthly chapter newsletter. Not all chapters do this, but we do and I believe it is needed and appreciated by our chapter members. We try to inform you of the latest news about our chapter, and to urge you to keep informed about other NARFE matters. Some of you receive this by postal mail and some by email. You can always inform me of your preference.

I know that some of this overlaps and sometimes gets repeated, but I do hope that you take time to scan over these publications when they are received.

Member congratulations

Congratulations to member Larry Hackett whose daughter, Callie Hackett was recognized as one of three finalists for the Class AA Miss Basketball from Tennessee. She is a Senior at Smith County High School and has won numberless basketball awards over her career.

More funny thoughts to ponder

- *When does it stop being partly cloudy and start being partly sunny?*
- *Why is vanilla ice cream white when vanilla extract is brown?*
- *Why is it that when we "skate on thin ice", we can "get in hot water"?*
- *If money doesn't grow on trees then why do banks have branches?*
- *If pro and con are opposites, wouldn't the opposite of progress be congress?*
- *What's the difference between normal ketchup and fancy ketchup?*
- *In some books, why do they have blank pages at the very end?*

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org