



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

February 2015

**In Memoriam
Handley “Ozzie” Oswalt**

We say goodbye to a long time member of our chapter. Ozzie passed away at age 80 on January 22th. He was a very devoted member of NARFE and our chapter. He attended nearly every monthly meeting and held several positions in the chapter including 3 terms as chapter president, 1995, 1996, 1997.



Our sincere condolences to his wife Joan, their 3 children and the rest of family. We will miss his good humor and jokes that he shared from time to time.

Notes from the last meeting

We had some nice weather on the days leading up to our last meeting. Sadly the turnout was not up to par. We miss you all when you can't come. Hope to see you next time.

It was a very informative meeting with Judge Ronald Thurman, Chancellor with the State of Tennessee Thirteenth Judicial District. This district covers the counties of Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam and White. He has served as Chancellor since being elected in 2006. He said that the 13 Tennessee Judicial District was the largest in the state. In addition to being a judge, he attends church with some of the members of our chapter.

Many do not know what a Chancellor is and what sort of court cases this involves. Mr. Thurman explained his duties and the court very well, saying the title Chancellor goes back all the way to the old days of England. The Chancellor was named by and served the King of England to serve as a Court of Justice.

The types of cases that come before his court are domestic and family type issues; such as divorces, child custody, alimony and adoption. And business issues like contract disputes, property disputes and conservator cases. He also administers probate cases. Judge Thurman cautioned to take seriously when setting up Powers of Attorney.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Another member death

I just found out about the passing of Edna Booher of Cookeville. She passed away on December 27, 2014 at the age of 86. I never meet her as far as I know, Many of you may remember that she was the surviving spouse of A. K. Booher who worked for the USDA. and attended our meetings



According to the details that I could find, she had 2 children, a son Randy Booher of Cookeville and a daughter Deborah Freeman of Seattle WA. Our condolences go out to them.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be on February 17th. Our special speaker will be Dr. Calvin Dickinson, retired history professor from Tennessee Tech University and author of several books. He was with us a few years ago and is very interesting. I would encourage you to come and hear him this month.

Our regular monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The location is Shoney's Restaurant on South Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Be there no later than 6pm to join in the meal. Our business session begins promptly at 6:45pm and we try to be out by 8.

Report sickness and deaths

You help in informing us of member deaths (or family deaths), sickness or when in the hospital is very much needed. If you know of someone that we need to know about please contact me or Connie Banker or use the handy form that I have available for this purpose on our [chapter website](#). My phone number is below, Connie's is 931-858-2839.

Chapter Officers

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Larry Harkleroad
Secretary	Reba Collins
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2015 Federation Convention

All of you are invited to attend and take part in the upcoming Tennessee Federation NARFE Convention. This year it will be on April 20 and 21 in Clarksville TN. There you can associate with NARFE members from across the state and NARFE National Officers who will be there. Complete details are still being worked out, but the host chapters, Clarksville, Dickson and Jackson are working to make this a great convention. The special speaker from NARFE headquarters will be National President, Richard Thissen.

Registration is required and there is a cost to attend, \$50 for the full convention or \$25 for just the business session. Early registration runs till March 16th this year. We selected 3 delegate to represent our chapter at the last meeting, We can have 2 more if any of you would like to go as a delegate.

To find out more or to get Registration and Delegate forms go to the [Federation website](#). Or contact me with any questions that you may have.. If attending as a delegate, you can serve on any number of committees which meet on the first day of the convention. Delegates from our chapter can also get their registration fees reimbursed.

Legislative news

The new Congress is still just getting settled in, but our NARFE Legislative Department is busy working on proposed bills to help federal employees and keeping an eye open to bills that would harm federal employees and retirees. Among the bills the bills that NARFE supports is the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act, which provides service-disable veterans employed by the federal government with 104 hours of paid sick time for medical leave at the beginning of their employment. This will make it easier for wounded veterans to schedule medical appointments and keep up with their rehabilitation from service-related injuries.

President Obama has requested a 1.3 percent pay raise for federal employees for FY2016, but NARFE has sent a letter to Congress with a 3.8 percent request.

NARFE scholarship program

This every year program began on February 1st and will run till April 24th. If you have children or grand children who are college age and looking for some grant money to help with college, you might tell them to check this out. You can find details on it and an application in the March magazine.

Applicants must submit a essay on the topic, Why do you think so many young people choose not to vote? Multiple winners chosen by the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Program

Send in those Sunshine Reports

Membership news

We currently have 10 chapter members who are spousal members along with the federal employee/retiree member. And there are a few others who were in this category but their spouse has passed away. We certainly appreciate these dual family memberships and want to encourage more. Over the years there have been attempts to make it possible for spouses of current members to have either free or reduced membership fees but that has never passed in any of the conventions.

From time to time, I have encouraged our chapter membership, those who have spouses to sign up their spouse as a member thereby increasing our total membership strength. Some of you have done that but we can do more. I know it costs a little more money out of your pocket but it would do so much to help our chapter and the NARFE. You do get a discount for the first year, the total dues are just \$40 and they would raise some after the first year, but not that much that we all could not do it. Do you currently have a spouse and is he or she a member? Why not consider signing them up?

As a special incentive, I am thinking about suggesting that our chapter do a one time rebate of the chapter dues to those who sign up this year as a spousal member. I think that would bring in a few more new members. Give some thought to this and we can discuss it at the upcoming meeting.

Now for the Light Side

A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads "Talking Dog for Sale." Intrigued, he walks in.

"So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog. "I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home."

The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?"

The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

Several women shared an apartment and didn't get along. Eventually, they ended up in court, each accusing the others of causing the trouble they were having.

The judge, with Solomon-like wisdom decreed, "Okay, I'm ready to hear the evidence...I'll hear the oldest plaintiff first."

The case was dismissed for lack of testimony.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org