



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

January 2016

Notes from December luncheon

Thanks to those who attended this year's December Luncheon. This is a special meeting each year in which we do not discuss business, but rather just enjoy a meal and the time together. Normally we would install officers for the coming year, but due to the fact there is no interest in anyone else in the chapter willing to serve as officers, and there was no one new elected for this year, so 3 of the current officers will continue for the coming year.

There were 15 who attended this time, which is down from what we normally have. Some who had signed up had to cancel at the last minute and some were unable to attend because of sickness, and there were some that I did not hear from. Everyone seemed to enjoy the location. Many expressed their appreciation for having it there. The food is bountiful and good for the most part. Many attendees could not wait to get started eating, even before we all got there and had the usual announcements and had the blessing on the food. Sorry if any planned to come and could not make it.

We had not announced before the event anything about the collection for a needy family in the community. This is something we normally do, but because I had not had the opportunity to discuss this with the one who normally takes care of this, we had not planned it. But after talking to him just a few days before, we decided to go ahead and take up that collection again this year. Thanks to Tom Pointer for doing this again this year. Those in attendance contributed \$86 this year. I am sure that will be of some help to some family in need. Hopefully, we will get a report on how that goes.

Next meeting

We will resume our regular meetings this month. The next meeting will be on **January 19th.** at our normal location which is Shoney's Restaurant on Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Remember to get there early enough to order and eat prior to the business session which starts promptly at 6:45pm. I would suggest you get there by 6:00pm or earlier.

I have contacted potential speakers for this month, but as of this writing, they have not confirmed. If they do, we will have a speaker. So come to hear him/her.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Well, if you are reading this, you have made it to a brand new year. How many of you would have even thought of seeing the year 2016? Here is wishing you and your family our best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe year to come. I hope you make the most of it.

Looking forward

As we think of the coming year, I want to again to encourage you that are in the area to attend our monthly meetings. I know we are all busy with many other responsibilities and interests. But keep in mind that the reason we have a local chapter is so that we can discuss the matters that have the potential of changing or doing away with our earned benefits. As I have said many times before, what Congress has given, Congress can take away. With all the bad publicity that federal workers receive in the news, and with talks of budget cuts, Congress is not friendly toward federal employees or federal retirees.

I try to keep up with all that is going on, but sometimes I miss some items and our meetings are a good time to bring these sort of items up for discussion. I place as much news as I can in these newsletters, but there is limited space. More can be said at the meetings. Make a determined effort this year to attend. It means a lot to have your support.

I am serving as president again this year, but I don't have anyone to back me up in case something were to happen that I had to be away. Neither do I have anyone to plan our programs or get speakers for this year. So, I can't promise you that we will have a speaker for all the meetings. I hope you think enough of our chapter and organization that you will come out to our meetings anyway. See you there!

<u>Chapter Officers</u>	
President	Ronnie Collins
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Thanks to all of you who have recently renewed your membership

2016 NARFE Conventions

This year we will have the Tennessee Federation Convention and the National Convention. I hope that you read the news and information about both of these. You will find news of the Federation Convention in the *Tennessee Federation News* which is the newsletter that is sent to you in the mail 4 times a year. The November 2015; and the January and March 2016 issues have lots of information on this. For news on the National Convention, look to your monthly NARFE magazine. Also you can find out about both conventions online at the respective web-sites.

The Federation Convention this year will be on April 25-26 which is a week later than normal. That is because it will be in Pigeon Forge Tennessee and the committee had to schedule around other events in that area. Many changes are being planned for this year's convention compared to previous years. The opening of the convention will be on Monday this year which will leave more time on Tuesday for the business session.

Hosting the convention is the Knoxville Chapter and it will be at the MainStay Suites in Pigeon Forge. The room rate is \$79 and the registration costs is \$55 for both Monday and Tuesday. Larry Minniear has requested that chapters get delegates selected earlier this year to give time for him to assign delegates to the various committees. We will begin the selection of delegates at this month's meeting.

I hope you will consider going to the state convention this year. Spring is a good time to visit the area where the convention will be. The convention committee is working to make this an interesting convention and worthy of your time. Take your NARFE membership seriously, at these conventions, both state and national there is important business conducted that has great effect on our organization. If you have never been, or if you have, I hope that you will consider going this year. I will bring some Delegate and Registration Forms to the meeting this month.

At this time, I don't have much to report on the National Convention other than it will be in Reno Nevada, August 28—September 1. This will be the 34th NARFE National Convention which is held every 2 years. You may want to go to this convention and visit that area of the country. They have begun the process of requesting those interested in committee assignments. I can give you information on that if you are interested.

The work of the Strategic Planning Committee is ongoing and will be greatly discussed and decided at the both conventions. Watch for more details.

Chapter dues

We recently made a change in the cost of our chapter dues to decrease them from \$11 to \$10 per year. The new total dues amount which includes the national and chapter dues are now: \$50 for 1 year, \$92 for 2 years (a savings of \$8), and \$132 for 3 years (a savings of \$18). I hope that you will take advantage of renewing for more than 1 year.

Those of you who renew annually (or 2 or 3 years) will see the new rate the reflected the next time your membership comes up for renewal. For those of us on Dues Withholding, will see the change take place on the anniversary date of when we went on Dues Withholding. I can tell you when that is if you want to know. That rate will change from \$3.75 per month to \$3.67 per month withheld from your annuity check.

While I am on this subject, I would be very pleased if more of our members would switch to the Dues Withholding method of pay NARFE dues. This allows you to get the advantage of the maximum discount on total dues (see above savings) and you will not receive those renewal letters in the mail or calls to renew. Neither do you have to write those checks or make other payments. There is a form to submit to go on Dues Withholding, you can find that in the monthly magazine. If you and your spouse are members, both can switch to this. Many thanks.

Speaker information requested

We always welcome your suggestions for those to invite as speakers for our chapter meetings. Think of those whose program would be of interest to most of our group and give me their names or subjects. Give me contact information if you have that and we will consider inviting them to speak at an upcoming meeting.

If anyone of you would be willing to assist in arranging the speakers for our meetings, that would be most welcome. Living outside of the Putman County area, I am at a disadvantage of knowing about available speakers in the area.

Membership news

This is a updated Chapter Membership List available on our website. Go there to get a copy or let me know and I can get you a copy. This list is restricted to only members of our chapter.

Legislative news

There is lots of legislative news to share, but I did not have the space to list it this time. We always report on this at the meetings, Come and hear!

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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