



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

July 2016

Notes from our June meeting

We had a disappointingly low turnout for the June meeting. I had hoped with summertime and the longer days, more would be there. We missed many of the regulars at the past meeting. I am hoping that we can have an increased number there for the July meeting.

Sharron Martin who is one of us, presented a program on Genealogy and did a great job. I think everyone there got a lot out of her talk. Thanks to Sharron for doing this.

She said that this was one of her most liked interest and got started in it as part of another group that she is involved with, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) For some the study of Genealogy is an interest, for others it is an accession. And it could be a lot of work and take much time.

In simple terms, Genealogy is record or study of ancestry. Some states have very good records and some don't, she said that Tennessee is a good state to find many family records.

There are many sources of information available to those wanting to do a search of family history or records. She talked about many of these and passed out a list of some sources. Some are free to use and of course, some require a fee. Walking through grave sites reveals lots of information. Some of the markings or epitaphs many times are very funny and interesting and reveals a lot about the person buried there.

If you have any interest in this subject or have questions, I am sure Sharron will be happy to assist, just contact her for that.

We did cover the usual NARFE and Chapter business including some details of the Strategic Plan. News of the past Federation and upcoming National Conventions was shared.

The members approved last month, the cost of sending out the automated chapter meeting phone reminders. Some of you have expressed your appreciation for the automated calls about the upcoming meeting. Those go out to members who live within driving distance and have shown interest in the meetings in the past. If you would like to be included or excluded from the calls, or use a different phone number (cell phone, etc.), please let me know.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

News on next meeting

This month, I have asked Betty Robertson to speak on the Volunteer Program at the Cookeville Regional Medical Center or get someone who works in that department to speak on this. I think this would make for an interesting program this month. I invite all of you in the local area to attend. The date of our meeting this month is July 19th. Put a reminder on you calendars.

I really hope that you will support our regular meetings and make the most of the longer days that we have in the Summer. (I would not like being there by myself)

Location is Shoney's Restaurant on Jefferson Ave. be there by 6:00pm or before to eat, meeting begins at 6:45pm.

Membership recruitment incentive—Reminder

Please help us find new members as that is very much needed to replace those who drop out and those who pass away. To give an incentive, the NARFE Tennessee Federation Board has approved a limited program to award current members who recruit new members. The Federation will give any member a \$10 incentive award who recruits a new member. Those who get 2 or more, then the incentive \$10 per new member. This membership incentive runs from July 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. In order for them to be able to track your recruits then your name or Member ID number must appear on the new member's application form or otherwise show you as the recruiter of the new member.

I hope you will consider talking to potential new members and ask them to join, this could be a federal retiree or current federal employee. Membership forms are available at our chapter meetings and in the monthly NARFE magazine.

Chapter Officers

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myrna Estes

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**Our Members Are The Life-Blood Of NARFE
Please Keep YOUR Membership Active.**

Legislative report

Here is the latest information that I have seen from our NARFE Legislative Department. I hope you appreciate them watching Congress and keeping us informed of all that is going on there.

Postal Reform Draft: While this proposed bill is an improvement of the previous bill by the same name, NARFE continues to oppose it because it requires postal retirees, spouses and survivors to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B or forfeit their Federal Employees Health Benefits Program coverage.

The bill does however includes automatic enrollment of those required to enroll in Medicare Part B so that there is no risk of losing their FEHBP coverage. The bill includes a three-year transition period in which the U. S. Postal Service would pay a portion of the enrollees' Medicare premium; 75% 50%, 25% respectively for years 1, 2, and 3.

There would be the creation of separate health insurance plans for postal employees and retirees. These plans are expected to have slightly lower premiums (due to the savings from the mandatory Medicare enrollment) but would offer the same coverage.

Also the six-day mail delivery would continue and it does not end the to-the-door delivery for existing addresses. But does provide a transition to cluster box delivery for businesses, new addresses and residential areas that volunteer for cluster boxes.

Social Security Trustees Report This June report found little change overall in the finances of the Social Security Trust Fund and predicted the fund will remain solvent until 2034.

They have predicted a small 0.2 percent cost of living adjustment for Social Security beneficiaries in 2017. (I have already reported on how that could impact those who have Medicare Part B).

Other: NARFE urges all its members to contact Congress and express their concerns of any and all bills that relates to them. Use the NARFE Legislative Action Center or the NARFE toll-free phone number (866-220-0044) to contact your members of Congress.

Congress is scheduled to begin its summer recess on July 15 and continue to after Labor Day.

OPM is updating security details.

Because of the cyber attacks and breeches from last year, the Office of Personnel Management is making changes to its website to keep the public informed. Some of you have said that you were affected by those series of security breeches, so you may want to check this out. OPM has said that letters were mailed out to those who information was compromised, but about 10% were returned undelivered.

National Convention update

I have been reporting in these newsletters and at the past few chapter meetings on the 3 Resolutions to be presented and voted on at this years' National Convention. These 3 are part of the overall Strategic Plan to make changes in the NARFE organization going forward. Again, those 3 Resolutions recommended by the National Executive Board are: Optional Chapter Membership, One Member—One Vote, and Authorizing the National Board to make small changes in members dues if needed.

I don't want bore you with going over the details of these 3 again, I think I have explained them sufficiently over the past few months. There were some good comments made at the last meeting, and I would still welcome any other comments by you.

While I have been focusing on the resolutions put forward by the National Executive Board, there are always many other resolutions presented to the National Convention each time. We did receive the Resolutions Book that is mailed out prior to the Convention and I see that there are a total of 48 Proposed Resolutions. All but the 3 previously mentioned have been submitted by various federations and chapters across the nation.

Of these, they are broken down as to whether they would make changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules or not. And they are further broken down as to the subject they address; Legislation, Membership, or General topics. While I only have one copy of all of these which I will have at the upcoming chapter meetings between now and the convention, all of these resolutions are available on the NARFE website in the section on the National Convention.

I am in the process of reading these, most are not very likely to be consider due to the changes being proposed and those which will merit a vote, it will be done by floor vote which on a Delegate from a chapter can take part in. We don't have a Delegate going, so, our chapter does not have a vote on the floor of the Convention. Some of the proposed resolutions, which call for changes to membership dues must be voted on by ballot. And the voting for the National Officers is done by ballot as well. If we have someone from another chapter representing us by Proxy, then that person can cast votes for us on the ballot votes. As of right now, we do not have a Proxy assigned.

As far as National Officers are concerned, the President and the Secretary/Treasurer are running unopposed, as well as our Region X Vice-President.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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