



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

June 2016

Notes from our May meeting

Our May meeting was good, the weather was nice that day. It was fairly well attended, but we would always like more to come. I invite you to make plans to be with us during the summer months.

The speaker for this past meeting was Mike Davidson, who is the Cookeville City Manager. While a good portion of our members live in the City of Cookeville, many do not but we may travel to Cookeville a lot and what he had to tell us was very informative.

Mike was born and raised in Cookeville, a graduate of Tennessee Tech and began his career with the State of Tennessee as an accountant. He held several jobs while working with the State and got the opportunity to move back to Cookeville a few years ago to work in finance with TTU. In 1997 he was hired as an accountant with the City of Cookeville. He has held the position of City Manager now for about 1 year.

During his presentation, Mike spoke about the many projects going in Cookeville, the big news is the new industrial park, West of town and the new interchange being build on the Interstate. He spoke about some other road projects going on, the building of sidewalks, walking trails and various traffic studies going on.

Traffic seems to be the biggest concern with a lot of citizens and visitors to the city. Improvements such as adjusting the timing and response of traffic signals are being studied to help move the cars through the intersections.

He also mentioned the City is wanting to build a new police station as their current location is no longer adequate and is quite old. There were many questions from those in attendance. He invited anyone to call his office with any questions or concerns that you may have. I do not have his contact information, but you can call the City of Cookeville office and get in touch with him.

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 the cost of sending out the automated chapter meeting phone reminders.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

News on next meeting

This month, Sharron Martin has agreed to speak on the subject of Genealogy and share what she has learned about this. For many this is an interesting subject and I am sure that there are many things to learn about it. I invite all of you in the local area to attend. The date of our meeting this month is June 21st. Put a reminder on you calendars.

Let's support our regular meetings and make the most of the longer days that we have in the Summer.

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

Member loss

We are sorry about losing another long time member. Former Chapter President, Billy Masters passed away on May 29th at age 77. He retired from the USPS in 1992 as Postmaster of the Gainesboro Post Office. He joined NARFE in March of 1996 and served as our president in 2005.



Just a few months ago, his wife Virginia passed away. They have 1 son and 1 daughter who survive and several grandchildren.

Alzheimer's goal is close

NARFE is very close to reaching its current goal for total donations of \$12 million which was set at the 2014 National Convention. At most chapter meetings, we take up a collection for this fund, but remember you can use the form in any magazine to send in your donations to this very worthy cause.

Chapter Officers

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

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If you have received a renewal notice, please renew and continue your NARFE membership.

Legislative report

Our NARFE Legislative Department is currently watching and reporting on several bills. Here is just a couple:

Postal Reform—The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform held a hearing on this in May. Prior to this hearing our National President sent a [letter](#) to each member of that committee explaining the reform provisions that NARFE supports and the provisions NARFE opposes. That letter is available online for further information.

Veterans First Act—NARFE joined with coalition partners to send a letter to the Senate Leaders opposing provisions of the this bill, claiming that it would undermine due process and merit-based service protections for VA employees and allow undue political influence over the workforce.

This being an election year, at our last meeting, Dan Hilton who serves as our Legislative Chair of the candidates who are running for U S Representative for the 6th Congressional District. That is the district that most of us live in. Dan passed out some handout on these candidates. We encourage you to look over those that are seeking this office and make the best decision on who to vote for. If you have questions on the information that was shared, contact Dan.

COLA watch

The Consumer Price Index for retirees for the past 2 reports has shown an increase of a small amount. Of course we do not know yet what the finale report for the reporting year will show, but I ran across an article that I mentioned briefly at the last meeting that I wanted to go into more detail here. Some of you may have seen this, it was reported in the NARFE Newswatch weekly news digest entitled 'What is Worse Than No COLA? A Small COLA'.

Medicare officials are likely to recommend an increase if the Part B premiums in January 2017. If the finale report for the Consumer Price Index is not more than it was for the same report a year ago, then Social Security recipients will not have to pay the increase in premiums as it was last January. This is because of a provision in the Social Security rules. But that provision does not apply for federal retirees who do not receive Social Security benefits. For last year Congress passed a bill that limited the increase in Part B premiums for federal retirees and they only had to pay a portion of the proposed increase. This same bill passed at the end of 2015 provided a clause saying that if there is no COLA increase even for 2017,

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— then no one who has Medicare Part B will see an increase in premiums regardless of what Medicare officials recommend for next year.

But if there is a small increase in the COLA, then it all changes. Again for those who receive Social Security benefits, then the increase in Medicare Part B would only be equal to the increase in the COLA. Premiums for those who have Part B but do not receive Social Security like most federal retirees, they would be pay a substantial increase because the Part B trust fund is legally required to be in financial balance. In other words, if there is a small increase in the COLA, federal retirees will have to make up the shortfall in the cost of Medicare Part B that Social Security recipients do not have to pay.

So I hope you can see that no increase in the COLA for next year would be financially better than a small increase for those that fall in the category I described. As of the report for April that came out in May, we are at a minus 0.34 percent toward the next COLA. The month of May numbers will be released on June 16th, and the last report is the September report which comes out in October.

Membership report

The NARFE Tennessee Federation Board has approved a Membership Incentive in order for us to find and recruit new NARFE 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 tract 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 an in the monthly NARFE magazine.

Garrett's Groundscape

Those of you who attend our chapter meetings at Shoney's know our server Jerry. He does a great job in taking care of us there and I always request him for each of our meetings. He also has other jobs, which now includes lawn mowing and take care of yards. If you need someone who would do a good job at a reasonable price, give him a call and talk to him about it. He is Jerry Garrett and can be reached at 931-206-1506.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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