



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**May 2016**

**Notes from the Federation Convention**

I am back from the annual NARFE Tennessee Federation Convention. It was well attended this year with some chapters and some members present that I had not seen in awhile. The reported count of delegates were 67 with many more guests. The Main-Stay Suites in Pigeon Forge was the location this year and I think it is the best location we have used for the convention.

It was a busy 2 days there with much going on. The committee from the Knoxville Chapter did a good job in arranging all the details and activities. Quite different this year, was the fact that the Convention opened on Monday morning rather than Tuesday. While the business of the meeting took place on Tuesday, there were a lot of other information shared on the first day.

The Congressman Dr. Phil Roe which represents that District was there to welcome the attendees and to comment on things going on in Washington. On the first day, we also had a video presentation by 2 staff members in the NARFE headquarters who spoke about current work going on in the area of marketing NARFE around the nation and what is being done to reach out to potential new members.

In the Memorial Service, we honored 155 members from Tennessee who died over the last year.

Bill Shackelford, the NARFE Region X Vice-President spoke to the group mostly on Strategic Plan that has been in the news of late. The NARFE magazine has had details about this and I will be saying much on this at time goes, but briefly, there are 3 main points to know about. They are known as: Optional Chapter Membership, One Member/One Vote, and Membership Dues Adjustment.

The banquet speaker this year was Martha Gilchrist who was working in the Pentagon on the day of the 9/11 terrorist attack. She was a survivor of that attack and she spoke on what it was like that day and what she and others did to get out of the building.

One Tuesday, we had another video presentation, our National President, Richard Thissen spoke to the group on several topics of concern, including the Strategic Planning and the future of NARFE. He took questions from the attendees.

—continuing NARFE Convention

The National Office is going forward on plans to hire an Executive Director to run the NARFE organization, mostly in the area of marketing and fundraising. They want someone who has experience in running a non-profit organization like we are.

There are always 2 awards given out each year. One is the Weida White Tolley Alzheimer's Award given to the chapter which donated the most per-capita during the past year for Alzheimer's. The winning chapter this year again was the Cleveland Chapter. The other award is the Leo Potts NARFE-PAC Award which goes to the chapter donating over the past year to NARFE-PAC. This year's winner was again the Cumberland County Chapter. For the past few years there have been a Silent Auction held to raise money for the Alzheimer's Research, this year the total raised through that was around \$800.

As usual, an election took place to elect the Tennessee Federation Officers for the coming year. They are: Larry Minniear—President, Rhonda Mooney—1st Vice President (West Tennessee), Ed Evans—2nd Vice President (Middle Tennessee), George Prewitt—3rd Vice President (East Tennessee), Marilyn Evans—Secretary, Norris Alderson—Treasurer, Jim Glenn—Legislative Chairman. The position of Membership Chairman remains vacant.

Next year the Convention will move to the middle Tennessee area, the exact location has not been determined as of yet. The location always rotates to all 3 main divisions of the state. With it in the Nashville area next year, maybe you will want to attend.

This year's convention not uneventful as there was power failure early Tuesday which caused some inconvenience. There was much more that went on during the convention, but this were the highlights.

**Chapter Officers**

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

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

**Don't forget our meeting this month.  
Thanks to each of you for your support.**

### **News on next meeting**

After a month off, we resume our chapter meetings for May. I hope that you will make plans to attend. The days are longer now and we are not likely to have bad weather. The meeting date this month will be on May 17 and the planned speaker will be Mike Davidson, the Cookeville City Manager. Most of you live in the Cookeville area and I am sure, he will have some interesting information to share.

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

### **New member perks**

NARFE has for a long time through its partners has offered some great discounts to us, but there are some new ones now available, some of which may be of interest and available to you. Some of the new discounts that I see are: LegalShield & ID Shield, Mercer Insurance Services, Sprint and Verizon phone service, and Omaha Steaks. While other member associations also offer some of these same member discounts, it has been said that those that are offered as a NARFE members are much better. Look at the NARFE website or in the magazine to see the details on all the discounts available to us. Everybody likes to save money wherever possible.

### **Stamp out hunger food drive**

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, sponsored annually by the National Association of Letter Carriers, is May 14. NARFE members are encouraged to collect and bag nonperishable food items and leave the bag by their mailbox on Saturday, May 14, for pickup by their letter carriers.

This Food Drive is nation's largest single-day food drive. Last year, almost 71 million pounds of food were collected to help restock food banks, pantries and shelters around the country.

### **Latest news on the COLA**

The March report just came out and it shows the first increase in the Consumer Price Index this reporting year. The monthly change for March shows an increase of 0.54 percent, and so far this reporting year the index stands at a -0.87 percent. There are 6 more months to go till the end of this COLA year.

### **Postal rate decrease**

If you have purchased any stamps in the last few days, you may have noticed that they cost a little bit less than before. The cost of a first class stamp is now 47 cents where as before they were 49 cents. This rate cut was ordered by the Postal Rate Commission, rolling back previously rate increases. There is an article in the May magazine about this.

### **Membership**

Please help us by staying current with your membership dues. In looking over our list of chapter members, I see that in the month of April it was time to renew for several of us. For those who it is time to renew, you should have received a renewal letter in the mail. I hope you value your NARFE membership and will send your payment in. Remember you have the option of mailing in a check or paying by credit card. To make it even easier, you can do it online or call 800-456-8410.

### **NARFE's Strategic Planning**

As I mentioned previously, there are 3 main areas that are being focused on to move NARFE into the future. And soon, we should receive the proposed resolutions which will be presented to the National Convention this year. I would encourage each of our chapter members who can, to go online on the NARFE website, log-in and then click on the STRATEGIC PLANNING Banner and watch a new video which has been produced that will explain what these 3 areas of change are and answer many questions that you may have. Also there is much more information available there at the same location.

I have a copy of the Strategic Planning book that I will bring to the meetings, you can also look at that and I would encourage you to do so. It too, is available online. Please read the article in the May magazine on this topic, it is on pages 42 and 43.

In addition to three changes that must be approved by the membership, the national board has announced that it has no plans to reduce the number of Regions from the current number of 10 and there are no changes planned for Federations.

### **On the light side**

*I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature I had just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared the signature to the one I had signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.*

*Someone who lives in a small rural area recently had new neighbors move in to their community. One day they called to local township and asked that the Deer Crossing sign on the road be removed because too many deer were being hit by cars.*

### **NARFE IS ON THE WEB**

Chapter 1956: [www.narfecookevilletn.org](http://www.narfecookevilletn.org)  
Tennessee Federation: [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)  
NARFE Headquarters: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)