



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

August 2017

July Meeting Report

The lazy-hazy-dogdays of Summer are upon us. This was evident at our July meeting. Attendance was about the same as previous months, still missing some of our regulars. Always thankful for those who make the extra effort to join us.

In my officer's report, I updated everyone on the Consumer Price Index report that comes out each month. There is always a new report that comes out in the days between dates these newsletters go out on our monthly meetings. I will report that same data elsewhere in this newsletter, a COLA history and new report.

I spent quite some time speaking about the referendum to allow the current National President to seek a third term. Lots has happened on that since last month. The National Executive Board (NEB) which is made up of the 2 National Officers and the 10 Regional Vice Presidents had 2 recent meetings in which much was discussed on the many negative comments and much opposition to this referendum. In the first of the 2 meetings, the NEB voted to rescind the original referendum and to revise the wording pending approval of a joint NEB meeting and the Federation Presidents from the various states. In that meeting which was held early July, the NEB discussed the revised referendum and voted again. On this vote, it was 5 voting in favor and 6 voting opposed to moving the revised referendum forward. So it seems the referendum matter is dead for now.

There was to be a ballot in the August issue of the magazine for this referendum. That since has been changed. You are still likely to see information on the referendum as it was written and printed prior to the latest NEB vote. I am thinking about the July edition of the Federation Newsletter which is being mailed out as I am writing this. In it, you will see a lot of background information, just remember it is dead for now.

We covered the normal reports, and Dan Hilton filled us in on legislative news. Everyone was urged to contact their U S Representative about the proposed fiscal year 2018 federal budget. NARFE is opposed to many of the cuts that will affect both federal retirees and current federal employees. July 18th was a special call-in day, but you can call anytime.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be on August 15th. I hope that we can have good attendance for this meeting so make plans now and put on your calendars a reminder to attend and support our chapter. Meetings are helpful since I do not always have space in these newsletters to fully discuss all that is needed.

Keep in mind the meeting place and time will still the same; Shoney's Restaurant on S Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Try to be there by 6:00pm if you plan to eat. We will start the business session at 6:45pm.

We will discuss further going to quarterly meetings as opposed to monthly meetings. This was brought up last month with mostly positive views. But I want as much input as possible from as many members as possible.

Member Webinars.

I hope some of you are taking advantage of the webinars that NARFE is making available. Some are aimed at current federal workers and some for the retired, they can be very helpful.

The next scheduled webinar will be: **From Employee to Annuitant: Master the Process.** It will be presented online and available through the NARFE website on Thursday, August 24 at 1 p.m. CT. It is free to view for members, non-members pay \$39.95 but it comes with a free NARFE membership.

It will be recorded and made available to watch within a day or so after the live presentation.

COLA News

In June there was a slight increase of the Consumer Price Index of 0.09% bringing the net increase so far of 1.60% towards any possible Cost of Living Adjustment for next January. See chart-next page.

Chapter Officers

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When you get your renewal notice, be sure to renew both your National and Chapter Dues.

August is Advocacy Month

This month many NARFE members will meeting with their U S Representative and U S Senators during their August break. While it remains unclear how much time they will be in their home districts and states during August, they will have some time to meet with the voters.

Legislative advocacy is one of the mainstays that NARFE urges its members to take part in. So if you have any concerns that you want to express to either of your members of Congress, you may want to watch for times they will be holding meetings near you. Sometimes these meetings are published in the local media, and sometimes you can find details of meetings on their respective websites or by calling their offices.

I keep you updated on the monthly webinars aimed for members, but NARFE also has Legislative webinars as well. These are for those who want to know more about the NARFE related legislative threats and to give you more information on how to address your members of Congress on behalf of NARFE. Right now I see there is available on the NARFE website a webinar called: **Federal Benefits Under Attack—What you Need to Know**. It is by Jessica Klement who is the NARFE Legislative Director. It is only 18 minutes long so watch it if you are interested. You will find this on the Home page of the NARFE website on 1 of the rotating banners near the top. To see more legislative information, go to the Legislative Section.

Don't forget to use either the NARFE Legislative Action Center to send an email message to your members of Congress or use the NARFE telephone number to call their offices and voice your concern. That number is: 866-220-0044. You can find sample wording for emails and talking points on the Legislative Action Center. Instructions for using the NARFE phone number to call Congress members:

Once you reach the capitol switchboard, you will be asked if you want to be connected to your senator (press 1) or representative (press 2). You will be asked to enter your zip code, and then to confirm who you would like to be connected with.

Once connected to their office, give the staff person your name and address so they will know your are a constituent.

In order to speak to both Senators and your Representative, you will need to make 3 phone calls. It takes a little time but it is really easy to do and NARFE pays for the call.

While our members of Congress may not always respond to our issues the way we want then to, they do welcome our comments to them.

History of the COLAs

The table below shows the history of the Cost of Living Adjustments over the years as it relates to S S benefits. Should be the same for federal annuities. The annual COLAs began in 1975 being set by the yearly increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). Before that any adjustments were set by legislation. In early years COLAs were adjusted in the same calendar year as the rate was set. In 1983 the cycle was changed, the new rate did not adjust till January of 1984 which resulted in no adjustment for 1983. New rates ever since start in January.

Year	COLA	Year	COLA	Year	COLA
1975	8.0	1989	4.0	2003	1.4
1976	6.4	1990	4.7	2004	2.1
1977	5.9	1991	5.4	2005	2.7
1978	6.5	1992	3.7	2006	4.1
1979	9.9	1993	3.0	2007	3.3
1980	14.3	1994	2.6	2008	2.3
1981	11.2	1995	2.8	2009	5.8
1982	7.4	1996	2.6	2010	0.0
1983		1997	2.9	2011	0.0
1984	3.5	1998	2.1	2012	3.6
1985	3.5	1999	1.3	2013	1.7
1986	3.1	2000	2.5	2014	1.5
1987	1.3	2001	3.5	2015	1.7
1988	4.2	2002	2.6	2016	0.0
				2017	0.3

Upcoming Tennessee Federation Board Meeting

As the Network Coordinator for the NARFE Tennessee Federation, I will be attending the upcoming board meeting just before our chapter meeting. I know there will be a lot discussed on the one member, one vote and the optional chapter membership issues as well as other items. If there is some concern that you have, then let me know prior to our meeting on August 15th. Call or email me.

Sunshine Report

I received a report that Tom Pointer is hospitalized due to a heart condition. We still have several other members recovering from broken bones. We wish them all well and if you know of others, we would like to hear from you. Thanks to all.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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