



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

January 2017

We Are Off To A Brand New Year

We have made it to another year in our lives and in our organization. With each new year, it brings much in things to consider, to do and try to accomplish. I am sure that this year will be no different in that aspect.

As of now, we will continue to have meetings this year as we have had. Our Chapter Officers remain the same as before. I am glad that both Reba and Myrna have agreed to continue along with me. It would be great to have new leadership for the chapter, but it is not likely that will occur. If anyone is interested in serving as an officer or any position, I would like to hear from you.

Please do not forget about the monthly meetings that we have. Make plans to come out and support the meetings, listen to the latest news and details of the NARFE organization, and make comments and suggestions going forward. I do try to include in these newsletters much of the news from the meetings, but there is not enough space for everything. I know that we have busy schedules, but make as many as you can. Speaking of meetings, the first one for the year will be January 17th.

Location and time is the same for now, Shoney's Restaurant on S. Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. I would suggest that you get there by 6:00 PM or before to have time to eat. Our business session starts at 6:45 PM. Just come in and proceed to the private meeting room in the back.

With the recent changes approved by members who attended the last National Convention, there will be many changes forthcoming that will have great impact on the entire organization, including the local chapters. I will try to learn of any details and share them with you at the upcoming meetings.

Our national officers are doing their best to turn around the longstanding problem of membership losses. For many years now, the number of new members has not keep up with the number of deaths and members who failed to renew their membership. This has affected our total number of members and the number of members in our chapter and all other chapters. Let's all do our part in maintaining our own membership and take any opportunity to encourage others to join. LET'S HAVE A GOOD YEAR.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Legislative Accomplishments

The 114th Congress has ended and NARFE is reporting these accomplishments during the last 2 years. Just the headlines are listed here.

-) Thwarted ALL attempts by Congress to cut the earned pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.
 -) Successfully mitigated disproportionate and unfair increases in Medicare premiums.
 -) Protected postal retirees' health benefits through the Federal Health Benefits Program (FEHBP).
 -) In response to significant spikes in premiums (by an average of 83 percent and as much as 126 percent) under the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP), NARFE secured critical information and support for enrollees and pushed Congress to act to avoid a repeat of the situation.
 -) Worked to keep Association members informed regarding the data breaches at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).
 -) Worked to increase identity theft protection provided to individuals impacted by the data breaches at OPM.
 -) Supported efforts to protect TSP participants from receiving bad financial advice.
 -) NARFE's media coverage reaches new heights
- And one other state accomplishment
-) Increase in state income tax exclusion for New Jersey retirees

Full details of these accomplishments are available for those who want to read. I do not have the space to include that here. They were listed in a recent issue of the weekly email newsletter **NARFE Newswatch**. If you have an email account, you can sign up to receive this informative news.

Chapter Officers

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

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Please renew if you have received a reminder about your membership, thanks.

Membership

This being the first of the year is a good time to remind you about a couple of things. First of all, the current list of chapter members is available on our chapter website. You must be a member to access the list and supply your last name and membership ID number. I can provide paper copies of the list upon request to chapter members.

I would encourage each of you to look at the list and update me on any information that is missing or incorrect. If you have moved or changed your telephone number or email address, I would like the new details. Also if you have recently gotten an email account, it would great to have information on that.

The other item of reminder has to do with the delivery of the chapter newsletters. You have the option of getting them by email each month or getting them by postal mail (or if you want, you can get it both ways). This is why I need your correct address.

Federation Convention

The next annual NARFE Tennessee Federation Convention is coming soon. This year it will be on April 17-18 in Nashville TN. The host chapter will be the Donelson Area Chapter. They are making plans for a interesting convention this year.

All chapter members are invited to attend. You have the option of attending as a Delegate for our chapter or simply as a Guest. Registration is required in either case. I will have available at our meetings, Registration Forms and Delegate Forms. or you can find them in the Federation Newsletter or on the Federation website. The registration costs are: \$55 for both the convention and the banquet, or \$20 for just the convention. Registration deadline to avoid late fees is March 1st.

For those who register as a Delegate from our chapter, the chapter will reimburse you for the Registration costs. We will select delegates at our monthly meetings by March.

The location of the convention this year will be the Nashville Airport Hilton Hotel, 2200 Elm Hill Pike. This hotel has been recently redone including a name change. Rooms are available at a special NARFE rate of \$119 per night plus taxes.

I invite you all to attend, if you have never been to a Federation Convention. This will be a good time to start attending being that it is close by in Nashville. You will meet lots of interesting NARFE members and learn a lot of information about the state organization. I hope you will consider going, we typically only have 2 or 3 members from our chapter attending. Many chapters have many more than that. Remember it is not till April, so think about it.

Webinars

The next webinar available to you as a NARFE member is **Speeding The Retirement Journey**. It will be presented on Thursday, January 26th at 1 pm CT. The presenter is Federal Benefits and Retirement Expert, Tammy Flanagan.

If you are not able to watch it live, it like all webinars are recorded and available after the live date on the NARFE website. All the previous webinars in this series are available now if you would like to view any of them.

Dues Withholding

This is my annual plea to encourage you to make use of Dues Withholding for payment of your membership dues. A big portion (34) of our chapter members already do that, but many more are eligible to do so. The only members who cannot use Dues Withholding are; Life Time Members and Current Federal Employees, everyone else can.

The way it works is, instead of having to write a check or make a credit card payment every year or so, OPM will redraw from your annuity check each month an amount of 1/12th. of the total dues, which for our chapter is \$3.67. For those who pay by the year, this will give you a lower rate and will save you \$18 over the course of 3 years. And it also has the convenience of being automatic and that helps you and our chapter.

You can make the selection at any time and it will go into effect on your next anniversary date. I can supply you the form that is needed. And if both you and your spouse are members, then both can have your dues paid that way. So why not make the switch and help us and you. There are no disadvantages to this at all.

Just For Fun

A man walked into a Convenient Store, and demanded all the money in the cash drawer. Apparently, the take was too small, so he tied up the store clerk and worked the counter himself, for three hours until police showed up and grabbed him.

Police had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup. When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words, "Give me all your money or I'll shoot." the man shouted, "That's not what I said!"

A man was arrested for trying to hold up a Bank of America branch without a weapon. He used his thumb and finger to simulate a gun, but he failed to keep his hand in his coat pocket.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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