



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

March 2017

February Meeting Report

The warm Spring like weather continued for the February meeting. There was some light rain that may have keep some away. Attendance was only 1 member more than the previous month. I keep hoping that we will see more of you out for the meetings.

I reported on the January Consumer Price Index Report. That report showed a larger than normal increase in the cost of living as tracked by that index. There was an increase of 0.62 percent which is more than twice the amount of all of last year that our January Adjustment was. It is early in the reporting year and lots can change before the finale numbers are known.

There were some other items that I discussed, they will be referenced in other articles within this newsletter. We had the normal officer reports as well. Dan Hilton was present to present the Legislative Report Myrna presented the Treasurer's Report and I covered the Membership Report.

There was 3 business items that needed to be acted upon dealing with the upcoming Tennessee Federation Convention. We needed to approve an Ad in the Convention Program Book, approve the purchase of door prizes, and approve those delegates who have expressed interest in going. Even though we were still short on the number of members in attendance to bring items such as this to a vote, those in attendance agreed to these items pending finale approval whenever that can take place.

Next Meeting

The March meeting will occur on the same date as the meeting in February. That is March 21st., it will be Spring time by then so I do expect that we will see more of you in attendance. So be there with "Bells On" and call a fellow member and ask them to come as well?

The meeting place and time are 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.

As talked about in a meeting some time ago, we are considering trying a lunch-time meeting but no decision has been made. Remember your chapter and do your best to support it.

Sunshine Report

We have several names to mention this month. First of all, we wish a speedy recovery to Kathy Hilton who has a broken foot. And to Tom Banker who has a broken leg due to a run in with a cow.

We also learned that Elizabeth Benson, wife of member Bill Benson passed away. She has attended several of our meetings over the years.

Another death occurred to Freddie Maxwell, he was a member for several years but he was dropped for non-renewal of dues last year. Perhaps his declining health was a factor in that.

Thanks to those who help keep us informed of these events. We extend our sympathy to the family members of the deceased. If you learn of any members going through difficult times, please let us know.

Last Call for Convention Delegates

The date of the Tennessee Federation Convention in Nashville is fast approaching, it is April 17 and 18. This month's chapter meeting will be the last opportunity we have to appoint anyone interested in attending as a delegate for our chapter. We have 2 so far, but can have up to 4. Those thinking about going as a delegate needs to let me know by the meeting date.

Of course all members are welcome to attend whether a delegate or not. Registration is required and I have all the required forms with me at the meetings. Forms are also available in the latest issue of the Federation Newsletter and online on the Tennessee Federation Website.

I would certainly encourage any of our members to attend our NARFE Convention. It will be a time to consider any business that comes before the Convention and elect Tennessee Federation Officers for the next year and hear from Guest Speakers.

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

Late News: Myrna Estes had a fall which resulted in a broken wrist and some other injuries. Hope she heals quickly.

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

NARFE-PAC Comments from President Thissen
(From the March NARFE magazine) *March is*

NARFE-PAC Month! You can see just by looking at the cover wrap on this issue that we are facing an unprecedented assault on our earned pay and benefits. I cannot overstate the importance of NARFE-PAC.



By its very name, it is a Political Action Committee, and provides a vehicle for NARFE members to pool their resources to contribute to the campaigns of our supporters in Congress, as well as to the Democratic and Republican campaign committees. NARFE-PAC contributions are provided to members of Congress of both parties as well as independents. The story on page 28 list our criteria, but support of the federal community is the number one requirement for receiving PAC funds. One of the most important results of NARFE-PAC contributions is that it provides NARFE officers, staff and members another platform to engage members of Congress and talk about NARFE's priorities. It sends the message that NARFE is paying attention to their actions (or inactions).

Let me address some common myths I hear about NARFE-PAC. For one, not every member of Congress or candidate for office receives funds; only those who support our objectives receive contributions. To that end, NARFE-PAC didn't play a role in every election in 2016, but rather only in the ones where we could make a difference. We have a consultative process, as you'll read in this issue, and PAC decisions reflect the wishes of the constituents, through contact with the federations that coordinate with their chapters. Both of these are explained in further depth in this issue.

NARFE has an ambitious goal of raising \$1.5 million in PAC contributions in this election cycle (2017-2018). This is a substantial increase over our goal for the last cycle (\$1 million) and reflects the importance of having a strong arsenal at our disposal. I encourage each of you to contribute on a one-time or recurring basis. We encourage contributions through the Sustainer Program, in which an individual can contribute \$10 or more each month, which provides continuous funding to NARFE-PAC. Please see the wrap to make a contribution today!

Richard Thissen
NARFE National President

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You may ask, "How is the best way to make a donation to NARFE-PAC". The best way is the use the special form and envelope contained in the cover wrap of the March magazine, that envelope is pre-addressed and postage paid. When filling out the form, indicate the amount of your donation based on the 4 levels shown or choose another amount. Be sure to fill out your name, address, and NARFE membership number so that the donation will be applied to our chapter. For convenience you can donate by check or credit card. The NARFE-PAC pins are new this year reflecting the 115th Congress.

If you choose, you can bring donations to the March meeting and I will mail them in for you.

Legislative News

There are some new bills which have been introduced in the new Congress that have the potential of benefiting our members. They are:

CPI-E Act of 2017: H.R. 1251, this bill would require the use of the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) instead of the current Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) when determining annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for Social Security, federal annuities and veterans' benefits. NARFE applauds the introduction of this bill.

Social Security Fairness Act of 2017: H.R. 1205, this bill that would repeal both the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). NARFE has long opposed these unfair penalties and supports repeal of both provisions. This has been a long standing issue for NARFE members.

I will have more details of both bills at the meeting.

Webinars

The next webinar available to you as a NARFE member is **What's YOUR Best Retirement Date?** It will be presented on Thursday, March 16th at 1 pm CT. The presenter is Federal Benefits and Retirement Expert, Tammy Flanagan. Of course, this particular presentation will be of interest to those not yet retired. Even those who are not NARFE members can watch it, with a fee of \$39.95. But it is free to NARFE members.

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.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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