



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

November 2017

October Meeting Report

Attendance was up slightly for the last meeting, but we still need more members to have viable meetings. Grateful for those who come and for those who encourage others to come. We always look forward to seeing you there.

As far as details on the meeting goes, I shared information about this year's Open Season on the insurance plans, plan premiums, etc. (more on that elsewhere in this newsletter). The COLA was announced shortly before the last meeting.

I reminded attendees of the NARFE Membership Drive going on now until December 31, 2017. Hope you can recruit a new member during this period.

Also covered was the latest legislative news, membership report, treasurer's report, etc. All sorts of good information.

We failed short again on being able to conduct a vote on the a change in meetings due to lack of a quorum. There was no other business items discussed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be November 21st. That will be rather late in the month. I hope to see you this month and the same week as Thanksgiving. Place a reminder on your calendar. Thanks for your support our chapter. Anyone who wants to receive an automated phone reminder can request it.

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 try again to hold a vote on the change of the chapter meetings. In order to do this, we need enough members in attendance to make a quorum.

Magazine Late

Many of you may have heard that the November issue of the NARFE magazine was sent out late. This was due to the fact that the information needed about the 2018 Open Season insurance premiums was late being put out. The November issue always includes a special section on the Open Season which is important for a lot of members.

The December issue will also have more Open Season news and should arrive on schedule.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Membership Drive Continues

As an incentive for reaching new members, the national office is running a membership drive until the end of this year. Here is what you can win!

Recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member, current OR retired, who joins between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2017. (Applications must be postmarked, and calls or website joins must be received by the Dec. 31st deadline.

All recruiters will be entered into a drawing, one time for each new member they have recruited.

GRAND PRIZE: An Apple Watch will be awarded to a recruiter randomly selected from this pool. **MONTHLY PRIZES:** Each month a name will be selected from the pool of recruiters for a \$25 Amazon.com gift card. The pool includes an entry for every new member recruited and accumulates throughout the contest

Use the Membership Form in the magazine, or available at meetings, OR have the new member call 800-627-3394 to join or join at www.narfe.org. **Don't forget Your Recruiter (Member ID) must be referenced on the form, or the phone or online.**

2018 Cost of Living Increase

The anticipated increase in federal annuities and Social Security benefits will be **2.0%**. The increase will appear on the payments received in January 2018. This amount of increase is more than last year, you may remember that our adjustment for 2017 was 0.3%. The increase this coming January will be the most since 2012, in that year we received 3.6%. This increase in January will be welcomed.

According to reports put out by the Department of Labor, the spike in gasoline due to the recent hurricanes was a major factor in the final Consumer Price Index report for the year.

Chapter Officers

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

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

Open Season Begins

You could receive this newsletter on Monday, November 13 and that will be the first day of Open Season this year. It will run until Monday December 11. If you are thinking of enrolling or making changes to your enrollment in the Federal Health Benefits Program, the Federal Employees Dental or Vision Insurance Program or the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program; that will be the time to do it.

Remember if you don't have to make any changes if you are satisfied with your current plan and that plan continues to be offered in the coming year. Changes if made will become effective in January.

Be sure to check out your current plan information and any other plans that you may be interested in. For those of you who do not have children on your plans, remember there is the option to choose Self Plus 1 for health insurance coverage. In some cases Self Plus 1 is less expensive, some cases it is more than Self Plus Family.

I will have the new rates at the November meeting.

2017 Virtual Benefits Fair

Don't forget about the new Health Fair this year. This is an opportunity to chat with participating FEDVIP, FEHB, and FSAFEDS carriers and Explore your benefits in one convenient online location. You can read about in the October magazine, page 53.

Two dates are available: Monday, November 13, 2017 10 a.m.—5 p.m. and Tuesday, December 5, 2017 10 a.m.—5 p.m. Register at LTCFEDS.com/elearning

Keep in mind that some benefits are only available to current federal employees.

Webinar Series

In connection with the Health Insurance Open Season, the next webinar may help. November 30 will be the next one presented called: **Health Plans: Discover Your Best Option**. It will be presented online and available through the NARFE website. Start time will be 1.p.m. CT. They are free to view for members.

And as always, they will be recorded and made available to watch within a day or so after the live presentation. Previous webinars are available to watch as well.

Annual Request for Officers

Anyone interested and willing to serve as an officer for our chapter is requested to contact me. We have 4 officer positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. Also we have many other appointed positions available as well. Consider this!

Legislative News

The latest news that I have seen on the recently passed federal budget indicates that there will be no cuts to federal pay and benefits included in the 2018 budget.

The U S Senate just passed the TSP Modernization Act which will give more flexible withdrawal options for Thrift Savings Plan participants. This was previously passed by the U S House of Representatives and now heads to the President's desk.

NARFE leadership thanks members who contacted their lawmakers prior to the vote on the budget.

Next item most likely to be addressed in Congress will be the tax bill, which NARFE will monitor. Details are just now coming out about this.

NARFE's Legislative Department hosted a webinar on what's to come in Congress and how you can fight to protect what you've earned. The webinar, titled "Trick or Treat? Congress' Plan for Feds", reviewed the federal budget process and upcoming legislation. While this was presented on October 31 can still be viewed on the NARFE website.

You are encouraged to use the improved NARFE Legislative Action Center to quickly and easily send letters to members of Congress on a variety of NARFE issues. You can also sign up to receive action alerts.

To hear recorded weekly legislative messages, call 800-456-8410. The recording is updated weekly during times when Congress is in session.

Magazines Available Online

I mentioned earlier that the November NARFE magazine will be sent out late this month. As of the date I am typing this, I still have not received my copy. But this issue as well as previous issued going back many years are available to members online by going to the NARFE website.

On The Light Side—White Hair

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks. "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied. "Well every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while, and then said. " So, Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

Who can relate to that?

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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