



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

October 2017

September Meeting Report

Attendance dropped off last month for some unknown reason. There was a thunderstorm that passed though that afternoon that may have kept some away from the meeting. We always welcome you to our meetings so try to come next time.

We reported on several items of interest last month, including; the letter sent out to some chapter members from our middle Tennessee NARFE Vice President-Ed Evans. It seems that some received that letter and some did not. If you were one who did get it, could you inform me of that and any comments you have on it?

I mentioned the latest report on the Consumer Price Index. There is only one more report to be released this year to determine a cost of living increase for retirees in January.

There is a brand new Membership Drive that I reported on. The national office is once again holding this during the months of September through December. Last year, it proved to be successful in bringing in lots of new members. As an incentive, recruiters will receive \$10 for each new member who joins and both the recruiter and the new member will be entered in drawings to win prizes. More about this in another part of this newsletter.

We covered the Treasurer's Report, Membership Report and the Legislative Report. As far as business items, we intended to hold a vote on making a change from monthly meetings to quarterly meetings. I believe this would be a good move, but we failed to have a quorum of members in attendance.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be October 17th. I hope to see you this month, so don't forget. 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.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

COLA News

This is the Consumer Price Index report for August. The reports always seem to come out between the time these newsletters go out and our monthly meetings. So this report was covered at the September meeting. The August report showed an increase of 0.35% and that adjusts the yearly total so far to an increase of 1.87 % toward a Cost of Living Adjustment.

There is one more report to come out in this reporting year. It will be the September report and will be published October 13, just a few days before our October meeting.

Membership Drive: September 1—December 31

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.**

<u>Chapter Officers</u>	
President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myrna Estes
Contact Information:	
NARFE Chapter 1956	
118 Ballenger Rd., Carthage TN 37030	
E-mail: rwcollins@hydroguy.com	
Phone or Text: 931-284-4835	

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

Get Ready for Open Season

The federal benefits Open Season this year is from November 13—December 11, 2017. 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.

You can expect to see information about Open Season in the NARFE magazine, online from the OPM website, the various plans websites and from your current employing agency.

As I see more information, I will share it here and at our upcoming meetings..

2017 Virtual Benefits Fair

Something that I have not seen before this year is this Health Fair presented online. You can read about in the October magazine, page 53. It reads: Chat with participating FEDVIP, FEHB, and FSAFEDS carriers and Explore your benefits in one convenient online location.

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 webinars will help. On October 26, you can take part in **FEHB & Medicare: What's Best For You?** AND on November 30 another will be presented called: **Health Plans: Discover Your Best Option.** Both 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, non-members pay \$39.95 but it comes with a free NARFE membership.

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.

Updates Requested

Don't forget, if you move, or change phone number, email address, etc. I would appreciate the update on your information. Occasionally the newsletters and mail sent to you, is returned and I do not know the new address. Thanks for your help.

Steps To Take on Death of a Retiree

First, notify the bank or financial institution where the retiree's annuity was being deposited. Annuity payments received after the date of the retiree's death need to be returned to the U.S. Treasury.

Then report the death to (OPM). This can be done in several ways.

1. Call OPM directly at 888-767-6738 between the hours 7:45am and 5pm, ET, Monday through Friday. Have available the deceased's Civil Service Annuity (CSA) retirement claim number.
2. Complete an on-line Report of Death at: www.servicesonline.opm.gov/RSR/AnnuitantDeath/ReprtAnnuitantDeath
3. Email OPM at retire@opm.gov. Again, provide the deceased's CSA retirement claim number.
4. Write to OPM at Retirement Operations Center, P.O. Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017, ATTN: Death Benefits. Again, provide the CSA number.

After OPM receives notification of the retiree's death, they will determine who is eligible for both annuity death benefits and for proceeds from the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance. OPM will then mail a Death Benefits Application package to those entitled to benefits. The forms will need to be completed and returned to OPM along with copies of the death certificate. If the surviving spouse wants to change the federal health insurance coverage to Self Only, include a request for OPM to do that.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN: If the deceased has funds in a TSP account, call them at 877-968-3778 or write to: Thrift Savings Plan, P.O. Box 385021, Birmingham AL 35238 to report the death and ask about survivor benefits. More details may be found online at www.tsp.gov.

SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVOR BENEFITS: If the deceased was drawing Social Security at the time of death, survivors may be eligible to apply for widow/widower benefits based on the deceased beneficiary's Social Security amount. To notify the Social Security Administration of the death, call the local Social Security office or call 800-772-1213 They can be reached Monday through Friday between 7 am and 7 pm. NOTE, in most cases the funeral home will report the death to Social Security.

To apply for SS widow or widower benefits, call or go to the local SS office. Call ahead for an appointment and a list of documents to bring with you.

This is a brief summary of information taken from the NARFE website on Federal Benefits. The entire article can be found online.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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