



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**April 2018**

**April Notes**

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather, more daylight and warmer temperatures. Remember that there will not be a meeting in April. Normally our meeting date falls on the same date that the Tennessee Federation meets and we skip our April meeting. But we have also changed our meeting schedule as well.

The Tennessee Federation Convention this year will be on April 16 and 17. I will report on that in the next newsletter. This should be a good meeting with what I have seen being planned.

**Next Meeting**

Mark on your calendars that our next meeting date is May 15th. By then the weather should be nice and the days will be longer. Hope to see you then.

**Caution**

I continue to see that some of our chapter members are being transferred out of our chapter to the National Division. I know that the renewal letters that come in the mail are confusing and some are doing this inadvertently. But it is a big concern. Look carefully and select the option to remain as a chapter member.

**NARFE Webinars**

Below are the upcoming webinars offered by NARFE. You are encouraged to watch these each month. The dates shown is when they are presented LIVE but they are recorded and can be watched later. To watch live, register before hand and go online by 1 p.m. Central Time on the date shown.

You can also go back and watch the past webinars held by the Federal Benefits Institute section on the NARFE website. Upcoming webinars include:

**TSP: Maximizing Your Retirement Savings, April 26**

**How Much Do YOU Need for a Secure Retirement, May 24.**

**Steps to a Speedy Federal Retirement, June 21.**

**Survivor Benefits: Ensure Your Peace of Mind, July 26.**

Meeting Location: Shoney's Restaurant  
880 S Jefferson Ave., Cookeville TN  
6:00pm to eat, 6:45pm for the business meeting

**.National Conference and Voting**

Since the NARFE national association is changing this year from a bi-annual convention to a bi-annual conference, the voting process will need to be changed. Each member individually now has the responsibility and the right to vote on the matters of business as well as for the national officers.

The voting will be done by ballot which as far as I know now will be published in the June issue of the magazine. The March issue contained the list of candidates running for various national offices along with their candidate statements. The April issue contains a list of Bylaws changes and Resolutions which members are to vote to approve or reject. Also on the NARFE website, there is a section on the upcoming voting with this same information and more.

To access the voting information on the website, go to narfe.org and log in with your last name and members ID number. Look at the moving banners near the top of the page, and click on the one with the 2018 Balloting Information. Here you will find the latest information. There has been 4 other voting issues added that are not shown in the magazine as of now. The Committees have gone over all the changes submitted and condensed them down to the current list and added their recommendations if they should be approved or rejected. But each member should read about what the changes are and decide for themselves if you want to vote to approve or reject.

The same for the list of officers, there are 4 candidates running for National President and 2 candidates running for National Secretary/Treasurer. We in our chapter will also cast a vote for 1 of the 2 candidates for Region X Vice President. I will report more details on this in May and June.

<u>Chapter Officers</u>	
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.**

### Legislative News

A new Postal Reform bill has been introduced in Congress. I am copying in part, the information on it which was contained a recent .NARFE Legislative Hotline message. Some of you may have already received it.

Sen. Thomas Carper, D-DE, introduced S. 2629, The Postal Reform Act of 2018 on March 23

The bill would require current USPS retirees to enroll in Medicare Part B in order to continue receiving their current health insurance coverage through the FEHB Program, ultimately raising their overall health insurance premiums an additional \$1,600 or more per year, despite the fact that they previously declined this coverage.

The goal of this requirement is to decrease USPS health insurance costs by shifting primary responsibility for retiree health care costs from USPS to Medicare. This shift in responsibility would cost taxpayers \$10.7 billion over 10 years.

NARFE opposes the bill because it unfairly burdens tens of thousands of postal retirees and their survivors by changing the bargain regarding their health benefits after retirement, removing choice with regard to their health care and setting a dangerous precedent for all federal employees and retirees. NARFE President Richard Thissen's statement in response to the bill can be seen [here](#).

However, S. 2629 does contain several improvements over the leading House postal reform bill, H.R. 756, Postal Reform Act of 2017, that would address circumstances that NARFE found particularly concerning and had stressed to members of Congress. First, S. 2629 includes an exception for those living in a geographic area "in which there is a lack of participating Medicare Part B providers." This allows those who retired overseas, for example, where doctors do not accept Medicare to be exempt from the new requirement. Second, it includes an exception for those who "would not derive benefit from enrolling in Medicare Part B because of comprehensive medical coverage provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs or other programs." Both of these provisions prevent the bill from imposing a new cost without any benefit at all for the postal retirees in question.

NARFE members must act now to prevent this legislation from becoming law. We encourage members to write and call their legislators and urge them to vote "no" on S. 2629 and H.R. 756. Members can access the Legislative Action Center for assistance in contacting their legislators regarding postal reform by [clicking here](#).

Or call the Toll-free number 866-220-0044.

### Consumer Price Index Watch

In this section of the newsletter, I will be posting the monthly adjustments for the year relating to the CPI-W so that you can see the changes month by month.

J	October 2017	Decrease of 0.15%
J	November 2017	Increase of 0.04%
J	December 2017	Decrease of 0.06%
J	January 2018	Increase of 0.58%
J	February 2018	Increase of 0.44%

### Doug Winford

We are sorry to learn of the passing of Doug Winford, he died at age 72 on April 3rd. He was a member up until October of last year. During his federal career he worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. Condolences to his wife and children.

### NARFE Blog

For those of you who have internet access, there is available on the NARFE website a blog that members can use. For those who do not know what this is, let me explain. A blog is a discussion or informational website of articles, often in informal diary-style text.

Recent discussions include such topics as: upcoming narfe national voting, narfe resolutions, narfe national candidates, FERS, CSRS Offset and more. You are welcome to read the various posts and replies as well as start a new topic for discussion.

To access this, just go to the NARFE website, log in as a member and look for the NARFE Blog button near the top of the home page.

### AMAC

Many NARFE members also belong to other senior groups like AARP, but some may find AARP to be more liberal than they like. For those who would prefer to be part of a seniors group that is more to their liking, I would point you to the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC).

Formed in 2007 they have over a million members and with a purpose of responding to and writing about the issues that seniors face today. The Founder and CEO is Daniel Weber. He and the other staff speak about Health Care, Social Security, Veterans Issues, National Debt, Taxes, Illegal Immigration and more.

Joining is easy and a 1 year membership is only \$16. They offer many member benefits like other groups do. You can call 888-262-2006 or go to their website [amac.us](http://amac.us) to find out more about AMAC.

### NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956:	<a href="http://www.narfecookevilletn.org">www.narfecookevilletn.org</a>
Tennessee Federation:	<a href="http://www.narfetn.org">www.narfetn.org</a>
NARFE Headquarters:	<a href="http://www.narfe.org">www.narfe.org</a>