



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

October 2018

Monthly Notes

The days are certainly getting shorter as we enter the fall season. It will not be long till time to change the clocks again. Hope everyone is well this month.

I keep watching for news about the 2018 NARFE Annual Meeting FEDcon18 as it was called. I have not received anything by way of email but I do see some information posted on the national website which includes the many of the presentations given by speakers and some photos.. There is a video of the business meeting and candidate remarks which were given prior to the close of voting. I would invite you to go online for these.

Congratulations are in order for Linda Ingram who retired from federal service on October 3rd. She worked as a Civil Engineer with the US Army Corps of Engineers and worked the last several years at the Middle Tennessee Resident Office. We wish her well upon her retirement.

Next Meeting

On our new meeting calendar, we will meet next in November. That will be our fall meeting and will occur on November 20nd. We always try to bring important information to discuss and to keep you informed about at each meeting. As you interact with other members of our chapter throughout the time between now and then, encourage them to be part of our discussion and meetings. And if anyone is interested in being an officer or committee member, do not hesitate to let me know about that.

Second Round of Voting

The second round of voting for our national president ended on September 30th with 14,401 members casting a vote. That is 7.22 percent of the members. Ken Thomas has been elected, the results are:

1st Choice Vote totals; Thomas-6686 48%, Lenkart-5217 37%, Van Hintum-2051 15%. Since the winner must receive a majority of votes, they used the preferential method.

When doing the math using preferential voting, the results were; Ken Thomas received the most points, Steve Lenkart was second and Theodore Van Hintum was third. Complete results on the website.

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

NARFE Webinars

The next two webinars will be related to health insurance issues that most will be interested in. and the last one of the year will be on estate planning. You are encourage to watch these each month. 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:

FEHB & Medicare: Understanding Your Choices, on October 11.

Health Plans: What's New and How to Choose on November 8.

Estate Planning: What Feds Need to Know on December 13.

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.

- October 2017 **Decrease of 0.15%**
- November 2017 **Increase of 0.04%**
- December 2017 **Decrease of 0.06%**
- January 2018 **Increase of 0.58%**
- February 2018 **Increase of 0.44%**
- March 2018 **Increase of 0.20%**
- April 2018 **Increase of 0.47%**
- May 2018 **Increase of 0.48%**
- June 2018 **Increase of 0.17%**
- July 2018 **Decrease of 0.02%**
- August 2018 **Increase of 0.07%**

The September and finale report of this year will be released on October 11th . We know later this month what the January cost of living adjustment will be. It should be close to 3 percent.

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.

News Regarding Insurance

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced the average Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program premium for America's retired and active federal workers will increase 1.3 percent in 2019, with the average enrollee's share rising 1.5 percent.

Open Season, the annual period when eligible federal employees, retirees and survivors can make changes to their health benefits coverage for the following year, will be held November 12 through December 10, 2018.

FEHBP premiums increased 3.8 percent in 2012, 3.4 percent in 2013, 3.7 percent in 2014, 3.2 percent in 2015, 6.4 percent in 2016, 4.4 percent in 2017, and 4.0 percent in 2018.

Also announced, under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program (FEDVIP), plans will see the overall average premium for dental plans will increase by 1.2 percent, while the overall average premium for vision plans will decrease by 2.8 percent.

Legislative News

The fate of a federal pay raise for calendar year 2019 will be delayed until after the start of fiscal year 2019 (FY 2019) and possibly until December. The House-Senate conference committee negotiating a final, bicameral agreement on H.R. 6147 reached an impasse. The Senate version of the appropriations package includes the 1.9 percent pay raise for federal employees, while the House version is silent on the issue. With no agreement, the House and Senate simply passed a continuing resolution (CR) to extend funding at this year's levels for the agencies covered by the bill until December 7, 2018, postponing the battle for a federal pay raise. As a reminder, the president's proposed pay freeze will take effect if Congress fails to take action prior to the beginning of 2019.

At this point, Congress has passed five out of 12 spending bills so far, covering roughly 70 percent of discretionary spending for FY 2019. Congress now has until December 7 to finish the remaining seven appropriations bills.

If you don't already receive the NARFE Legislative Hotline email messages, you can sign up to get them, or you can call 1-800-456-8410 option 4 to hear them. To send an email to your member of Congress, use the Legislative Action Center section of the NARFE website to do that. To call either of your U S Senators or your U S Representative, call 1-866-220-0044. and just follow the prompts to get to the office you want. Keep in mind that in order to speak to all 3, you will need to make 3 calls.

2018 Virtual Benefits Fair

Again this year, there will be this online event to allow us to learn about and ask questions about the upcoming 2019 federal health plans. This will include those insurance carriers that participate in the health insurance plans, the dental and vision plans, the federal long term insurance plan, and the health savings plan.

There will be 2 dates that you can take part in; Tuesday, November 13th and Wednesday, December 5th. You will need to register for this by going to this [website](#). As I understand it, you can go there at any time to get information on the various insurance plans but to chat live to a representative, it must be on those dates listed.

Sunshine Report

Myrna Estes was scheduled to have surgery on October 4th for a hip replacement. Let's hope that goes well for her.

Membership Drive

The NARFE national office is once again offering incentives for current members to recruit new members by offering cash and other prizes as they have done before. The time period is now through the December 31st. New members can be current federal workers or those already retired.

For each new member you recruit, you will receive \$10 and a chance in a drawing for each new member. There will be 3 monthly drawings of a \$25 Amazon gift card and a Grand Prize of Bose SoundLink Revolve+Portable Bluetooth 360 Speaker.

Recruiters will need to supply their member ID on the Membership Form or by telephone, or online if the new member signs up by either of those ways.

Now Just for Fun

A woman got on a bus holding a baby. The bus driver said: "That's the ugliest baby I've ever seen." In a huff, the woman slammed her fare into the fare box and took an aisle seat near the rear of the bus.

The man seated next to her sensed that she was agitated and asked her what was wrong.

"The bus driver insulted me," she fumed.

The man sympathized and said: "Why, he's a public servant and shouldn't say things to insult passengers.

You're right," she said. "I think I'll go back up there and give him a piece of my mind."

"That's a good idea," the man said. "Here, let me hold your monkey."

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org