



**PUTNAM COUNTY
COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE**
Member of the Tennessee Federation

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

August 2019

Monthly Notes

We are in the middle of the summer months now, so far it has not been extremely hot or stormy .Hope all of our members are well and enjoying this part of the year with all of the various activities and so forth.

I have reported on the new member log-in procedure and the new look of the member page of the NARFE national website. I hope some of you have looked it over and been able to log in as a member.

The officer portal in which I said last month was very lacking is getting better. I am able now to see some more reports that I need to see about our chapter. Progress is very slow in this area, the IT Department sends out emails saying they are working on getting everything up and running. I am not seeing all they promised would be available, but we will continue to watch and hope.

NARFE headquarters has rolled out its new branding and logo along with a new tagline. Gone is the old familiar NARFE round seal that has been around for a very long time. That new tagline which reads, "Federal Benefits Experts" is being questioned by some in the NARFE community, but is NARFE's attempt to reach new members.



Recruiting Incentives

Remember the Tennessee Federation is giving current members a \$20 award for recruiting new members, currently if for the first 25 members state wide, but that could change. This incentive runs through the end of this year.

NARFE national will begin its new recruiting contest in September. In it, members will receive \$10 for getting a new member and a chance to win other gifts in a drawing. More details to follow on this.

Meeting Update

I was able to speak to someone from Shoney's. I was told they still have plans to remodel the Cookeville location. They are working on other locations and don't know when they will reopen here.

2020 COLA Watch

The June Consumer Price report shows a small decrease, reversing the trend in the cost of living. There are 3 more months of reporting for this year.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2020
October 2018	0.19	0.28
November 2018	-0.45	-0.17
December 2018	-0.47	-0.64
January 2019	0.14	-0.49
February 2019	0.44	-0.05
March 2019	0.63	0.57
April 2019	0.63	1.21
May 2019	0.22	1.43
June 2019	-0.05	1.38

NARFE Webinars

The list of webinars through the end of year is out. You will need to log in as a member to see any of these, You can watch them live by pre-registering, or later by recording. All webinars start at 1:00 pm, CT. Some will of interest only to current workers.

Retirement Forms: Tips to Avoid Delays July 25.

FEGLI—Manage Your Options August 15.

Find a Clear Path to a Smooth Retirement. September 5.

Survivor Benefits: Pain Free Planning. September 19.

FEHB and Medicare: What's Your Best Choice. October 24.

The Pros and Cons of Consumer Driven Health Plans. November 7

Health Plans—What's your Best Option?. November 21

Chapter Officers

President
Secretary
Treasurer

Ronnie Collins
Reba Collins
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.

Chapter Financial Report—Month of June 2019

June 1st balance—\$2,250.74

Dues received—\$42.00

Disbursements:

None

June 30th balance—\$2,292.74

Legislative News—Advocacy Month

August each year is designated as Advocacy Month as Congress generally recesses for about 6 weeks. They use that time to, among other things to visit in their districts to talk to constituents. This is not an election year, so they will not have campaigning to do as such. NARFE wants its members to attend any meetings in which our members of Congress hold nearby and speak to them concerning legislation that NARFE either supports or opposes. But we can also try to speak with them about any issue that is important to us.

We have 2 new members of Congress this year for those of us in TN District 6. Our Representative is John Rose who is in his first term and a new Senator for the entire State of Tennessee is Marsha Blackburn. And we have Senator Alexander as well. Be on the lookout for any meetings any of them will have near where you live and try to attend those meetings.

In other news, I did see reported, 2 new bills that would be good if they could pass and become law. They were reported in a recent NARFE Legislative Hotline message.

The first one that I will mention is a bill to reform the Windfall Elimination Provision. This bill would change the calculation for WEP-affected Social Security beneficiaries who benefits are reduced because they worked as a federal employee. The bill would provide, in part a monthly rebate of \$100 to those over age 60. The name of the bill is Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2019, HR. 3934.

The second one is called the Social Security 2100 Act, H.R. 860. Currently, this bill would **not** apply to federal retirees, but would apply to anyone on Social Security. Among the proposed changes is the calculation use to determine cost-of-living adjustments, switching from the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) to the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E). This is good and hopefully wording will be revised to make this to apply to federal annuities as well.

NARFE supports both of these bills. If you don't get a opportunity to speak to members of Congress in August, then be sure to call their office, 1-866-220-0044. and just follow the prompts to get to the office you want. Or Email them from the NARFE website, Advocacy section and Legislative Action Center.

Upcoming Referendum Ballot Vote

The text of the 2019 Bylaws Referendum is in the August magazine beginning on page 48. I would encourage you to read the 8 proposed changes and become familiar with them. Most are mostly needed to make corrections to the bylaws for resolutions which have previously been passed by members and for clarification.

The most important change that is proposed is number 19-05 which would change the way we vote on national candidates when there are three or more candidates for an office. If approved, this proposed resolution will put in place the preferential voting method that was used last time in the 2018 voting. Current bylaws state that a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast to win, this will change that.

Members will be asked to vote individually on the 8 proposed changes by paper ballot or online ballot. The voting will take place during the month of September. The text of these proposed changes is available on the NARFE website, including 19-01 which seems to be the proposed full text of the bylaws.

Updated Membership Application

I read in a publication that NARFE sends out to chapter officers about the fact that the membership application has been updated and will be in the September magazine. The membership form is going to ask the question; Would you like to receive a FREE one-year chapter membership? The applicant can then check the chapter closest to home or another chapter number.

This will be somewhat of an improvement regarding chapter membership. Hopefully most will check the box provided with that question.

How Many Read the Newsletter

I would like to know how many of you take a few minutes to read at least some of these monthly newsletters. If you can, just reply with an email message, text message or phone call. And don't forget to let me know if you have changed your mailing or email address that I use to send these to.

You May Be Older Than Dirt If You Remember

- Wax Coke-shaped bottles.
- Candy cigarettes
- Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles
- Home milk delivery
- Party lines on the telephone
- Pee shooters
- 45 RPM records

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org