



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

July 2019

Monthly Notes

Summer is officially here now. That usually means hotter temperatures and humidity to deal with and scattered thunderstorms. Try to stay cool during the heat and be careful if you are out on the road driving.

I have been testing out the new member portal on the NARFE website. It seems to be very confusing to get logged in now with the changes. They show several combinations of Username and Passwords that you can use, They urge members not to create a new account if you already have one, hopefully one of the existing Username and Password combinations will work for you. You can try calling 800-456-8410 or emailing memberrecords@narfe.org if you need help logging in. As a member, after you get logged in, you can access your profile and make updates to your mailing address, telephone number and email address. It seems that you can renew your membership dues, though, I have no way to test that as my dues comes out of my annuity. There are a few other things that you can do there if you want to look around. I would be interested in any comments you have about the changes.

Also as part of the new member account page is the Officer Portal for chapter and federation officers. That area is very disappointing to me, the lack of information and accuracy is very bad. As far as chapter reports go, there is very little to see and I am not at all sure that the information is correct. NARFE is working with a contractor to set up this new member section. The launch was delayed several times and in my opinion seems very disappointing. We will just have to see if they can make it usable.

Meeting Update

I did not get a response from Shoney's the last time I requested an update by email. I have tried calling their corporate office in Nashville but can't get through their telephone menu to speak to a live person. I left a message one time and they did send me one email message which I relayed here, but it seems hard to get any information on any potential remodeling plans for the Cookeville location.

And driving by, I still do not see any activity underway there. If you have heard anything about their plans or know anything, I would like to know. In the meantime we will keep trying to learn something and I will keep you updated as what I hear.

2020 COLA Watch

The last report covers the month of May which shows a small increase. There are still 4 months to go before the year closes with the September report.

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

NARFE Webinars

Here are the most recent NARFE webinars and the upcoming ones, some of which may be of interest to you and some may not:

TSP and You: Sound Savings Strategies. *recorded*

Social Security: A Key Ingredient in Your Retirement. *recorded*

Divorce and Federal Benefits. *recorded*

Understanding CSRS Offset: Your Retirement Explained. *recorded*

Special Category Feds: Retirement Rules and Exception. (law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers). *recorded*

Your Best Retirement Date Revealed, July 11.

Retirement Forms, July 25 These last two, obviously would be of interest to those not yet retired. But there are more in the works and are posted on the NARFE website

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.

Dues Reporting Errors

I am repeating this information to be sure most of you are aware of this. NARFE has discovered some errors in their reporting of dues for Due Withholding. I have seen this as well in the reports that I have downloaded. They are working to fix the problem, and at this point I do not know if the errors are only on the reports or if it has affected the actual member dues. Their research shows the errors began in February of this year. I would urge you to check your dues information and see if the wrong amounts were charged to you for NARFE member dues and let me know. The amount that should be deducted from your monthly annuity is \$3.34 for the retiree and \$6.68 for both the retiree and spouse if you are on dues withholding. These rates are the amounts after your dues anniversary date this year.

Chapter Financial Report—Month of May 2019

May 1st balance—\$2,244.74

Dues received—\$6.00

Disbursements:

None

May 30 1st balance—\$2,250.74

Upcoming Referendum Ballot Vote

Please take note of the article in the July issue of the NARFE magazine about a member vote on changes to the national bylaws and standing rules. The article begins on page 42. As the article states, these changes were recommended by the Standing Bylaws and Resolutions Committees in order to improve the election process of national officers and improve the bylaws and standing rules.

Members will be asked to vote individually on 8 proposed changes by paper ballot or online ballot. The text of the proposed changes will be posted online soon and also in the August magazine. The voting will take place during the month of September. I have not seen the wording as of yet, but will have more information in next month's newsletter.

Legislative News

There were 2 bills recently passed by the House; One was the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bill which includes a 3.1 percent pay increase for current federal workers. This bill also blocks the OPM reorganization. The other was a bill to provide retroactive pay for some contractors affected by the government shutdown which happened this past December and January. Both still need to be passed in the Senate.

Be sure to let your members of Congress hear from you. Call 1-866-220-0044. and just follow the prompts to get to the office you want. Use the NARFE website to send an email message.

The Cost of NARFE Membership

This is copied from the National President article in the July magazine. I thought was noteworthy. The numbers reflect only the national dues and does not include our chapter dues, but they are small. I hope you will agree the cost of membership is, as Ken Thomas said is **A Real Bargain**. - - - -

At one of the recent federation meetings, someone asked, "Why does it cost me so much to belong to NARFE?" This led me to do some simple math—does 10.9 cents a day, 76.9 cents a week or \$3.33 a month sound excessive? Let's face it, what can you buy for \$3.33 these days? You can't go to a movie and buy popcorn for that.

Why \$3.33 cents a month? NARFE members pay \$40 per year (less if you elect dues withholding). In the first year of membership, \$12.67 goes to NARFE headquarters; \$13.33 is rebated to the chapters (if the member decides to be a chapter member); \$4 goes to the federations. Sometimes, there are recruiting incentives for individuals and chapters. In year two of membership and afterward, \$36 is kept at NARFE Headquarters and \$4 goes to the federations to supplement their operating costs.

For what you receive as a NARFE member, \$3.33 a month is a bargain. That covers a number of benefits, including:

- *A subscription to the monthly NARFE Magazine, which is full of useful information about your benefits and updates on news that affects you.*
- *The security of our advocacy staff looking out for your interests on Capitol Hill, and access to all the alerts and information we share to keep you up to date.*
- *Access to our federal benefits experts and resources, including webinars, for current and retired federal employees alike. Our Federal Benefits Institute is like an extra personnel office throughout your federal career and into retirement, and its staff has helped thousands of members with problems.*
- *A host of Affinity Partners—businesses who offer discounts on products and services for NARFE members. That \$3.33 per month also supports our Membership Recruitment and Retention staff and gives members access to our yearly conferences. In the spring, NARFE's advocacy and events teams conducted one of our best legislative training conferences ever.*

My thanks to the thousands of dedicated NARFE members whose monthly dues help support our association. —Ken Thomas, National President.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org