



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**May 2019**

**Monthly Notes**

We are back from the 2019 Federation Annual Meeting. This was the 63rd such meeting of the Tennessee NARFE Federation. We enjoyed seeing and talking to other NARFE members from across the state. We got there on Sunday the 14th and registered and checked in. Monday and Tuesday both were filled with activities. There were a total of 65 attendees at this meeting.

On Monday there were the opening and welcoming remarks from the host chapter and local officials. Also some presentations about long term care and options for senior living. We also heard from the Federation President, Region X Vice President and the Region X Alzheimer's Coordinator. But during the general session, I would say that the talk by the National President, Ken Davis was the highlight. To say the least, he is not like any other national president I have seen and heard from in the many years that I have been involved in this association. More on that later. There was a presentation about the NARFE Legislative Conference held in Washington DC.

Monday night was the banquet and the featured speaker. That was to have been Miss Tennessee, Christine Williamson, but it was reported that she came down with an illness prior to the meeting and we had a substitute speaker, Miss Tennessee Valley. Also the awarding of the Alzheimer's award which was won by the Cleveland chapter again, and the NARFE-PAC award which was won by the Cumberland County chapter again. These 2 chapters are almost constant winners of these awards.

Tuesday's time included officer reports and committee reports other business items and the installation of the 2019-2020 Federation Officers. After the initial talk by the National President on Monday, some items were postponed and/or eliminated by the will of the attendees because they wanted to hear more from Ken Thomas.

Ken Thomas spoke about recent government shutdown and all that NARFE was able to do to be of help to federal employees. He talked about the coming changes in member reports soon to be available for federations and chapters. He talked about the need for NARFE rebranding and a new logo; and also about the upcoming NARFE Centennial in 2021.

But the thing that peaked the most interest were about problems at the National Office, —continued

**2020 COLA Watch**

Here is the latest monthly data that I have relating to the 2020 COLA. There was an increase reported on the March. report. Next report is due soon.

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

**New Federation Officers**

There were no contested officer positions, so those nominated to be officers were declared elected. There was not anyone elected to serve as Membership Chair, so one was appointed by the new president. The 2019-2020 Federation Officers are:

- Ed Evans—President**
- First Vice President, East TN—A Wayne Baker**
- Second Vice President, West TN—BJ Godwin**
- Third Vice President, Middle TN—Donald Dotson**
- Secretary—Timothy Powers**
- Treasurer—Norris Alderson**
- Legislative Chair—Larry Minniear**
- Membership Chair—Rhonda Mooney**

There are also these other appointed persons that serve as well:

- NARFE-PAC Chair—Larry Minniear**
- Newsletter Editor—Merylyn Evans**
- Network Coordinator—Ronnie Collins**
- Service Officer—Larry Cunningham**
- Alzheimer's Chair—Joan Gates**

**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.**

### **NARFE National President's Remarks, continued**

Ken Thomas spoke about some personnel problems that he experienced as took office in November and was trying to get processed in. He spoke on the problems with the current business model and how it had to be changed if NARFE is to continue, he committed that chapters are going away and of the membership decline. We are below 200,000 members now nationwide and that has its affects.

There was a Town Hall meeting with him in which members asked him many questions. Some comments he made in response were: There is a need for more financial revenue for NARFE, member dues are down and not sufficient for the long term, revenue from the calendars, cards, etc. is down as well. He said that NARFE has only had one positive year, financially in a long time, and most years, the national offices has had to dip into its investments in order to pay its operating costs. He commented that when he arrived on the job, NARFE had not paid its property tax bill that was overdue and did not have money to pay other costs. The national office does have investment accounts that have been used to keep it in operation, none of the previous national presidents have said anything about this. The executive board will have to find ways of other funding.

In response to a question about GPO and WEP he said that these bills were in Congress and NARFE still supports their passage. He commented on the proposed government reorganization of OPM. He said that improvements have been made to the membership forms that has helped.

Overall Ken Thomas is not like the normal national president and is very open and candid about the current situation at the national headquarters.

### **Chapter Financial Report**

The March 2019 Treasurer's Report:

March 1st balance—\$2,364.06

Dues received—\$67.80

Alzheimer's donations—\$39.00

Envelopes purchased for newsletters—\$17.00

Federation gift cards for Annual Meeting—\$100.00

March 31st balance—\$2,353.86

The Alzheimer's funds will be sent when there is a sufficient amount to send. If you would like to donate, give you donation to Myrna of mail a check to either her or me.

### **Sunshine Report**

I have not received any reports in the last month or so. Please help us to stay informed of any sickness, surgeries, deaths, etc. Just sent a phone call, email or text message to me or any other officer.

### **Meeting Place Update**

There has still not been any work started on the remodel of the Shoney's Restaurant in Cookeville. In an attempt to get an update, I have called the location and the corporate headquarters. I have received the following update from them. *"We have met with our construction team and are finalizing plans to start the remodel"*.

May would have been our next meeting month, sorry be we will have to postpone our meeting again due to the fact that we do not have a place to meet. Please be patient with this and hopefully we can resume our meetings soon. And again, if anyone has suggestions as to a meeting location, let me know.

### **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:

**Four Simple Steps to a Smooth Retirement.** *recorded*

**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. Live on May 23rd.**

These are presented live with a question and answer session afterwards at 1 PM central time on the date listed. If you missed the live presentation, you can always watch the recorded version on the NARFE website. And they are free to NARFE members.

### **Legislative News**

The NARFE national president, Ken Thomas recently commented to Congress about the proposed bill on postal reform, and our Legislative Department is monitoring the proposed budget for the coming year. As always there is the NARFE Bill Tracker in the magazine and the online legislative information in which you can find more updates on.

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.

### **Public Service Recognition Week.**

**May 5-11, 2019 was the week set aside this year to recognize those in the federal service for the important work they do. Thanks if you took part in this.**

### **NARFE IS ON THE WEB**

Chapter 1956: [www.narfecookevilletn.org](http://www.narfecookevilletn.org)

Tennessee Federation: [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)

NARFE Headquarters: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)