

Monthly Notes

Well folks, we are on the downhill part of this year. I have seen some comments from others that if they had known the year 2020 would be like this, they would not have stayed up on New Year's Eve to wish it in.

This virus bug keeps hanging on and does not look like it is going away anytime soon. I hope that you have not be affected by it thus far. Thankfully in our family, we have not contracted it so far.

The business of NARFE continues at the headquarters location near Washington DC. They are allowed by the Governor to reopen although many of the employees I believe still work from home. That seems to be the new normal these days.

Next Chapter Meeting?

After careful consideration and after hearing from some of our members, I have decided it would better to suspend our chapter meetings until the situation with the Coronavirus improves to the point that it is safe for us to meet. People in our age group are the most affected by this and many are avoiding crowds. Sorry if this disappoints any of you but I am able to get all the needed news and information out to you by means of this newsletter.

Chapter Financial Report for the Month of June.

June 1 balance—\$2,186.84

Dues received—\$42.00

Disbursements—\$16.00 for new checks

June 30 balance—2,212.84

NARFE Webinars

Somehow I missed reporting on a recent webinar that was held on July 30, 2020. It was **The Secure Act: A Retirement & Estate Planning Game**. The Secure Act makes many changes regarding retirement accounts. We can still view the recording of this and all the past webinars. The next one scheduled is **TSP Withdrawal Options** and will be presented on September 24, 2020.

Chapter Dues Refund Checks

These were mailed out during July to 20 of our members who were due them. All overpayments that I found were during the 2019 calendar year, I still have not found any so far in 2020. If you received a check in the mail from us, please deposit it or cash it as soon as possible in order for our treasurer to reconcile her bank records.

2021 COLA Watch

The June report of the Consumer Price Index saw an increase in prices over the previous month. It is once again positive for the year. We will continue to monitor these reports through out the year to see if we get annuity increase next year.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2021
October 2019	+0.26	+0.28
November 2019	-0.10	+0.18
December 2019	-0.08	+0.10
January 2020	+0.36	+0.46
February 2020	+0.23	+0.69
March 2020	-0.22	+0.47
April 2020	-0.74	-0.27
May 2020	0.00	-0.27
June 2020	+0.61	+0.34

NARFE Voting

Have you voted yet for the 2020 NARFE National Officers and on the bylaws and resolution changes? Every member should have received the August magazine which contains the mail-in ballot. There is information on the voting process in the magazine and instructions on how to find out more online or by telephone.

There is a brief explanation for the many bylaws amendments and standing rules changes. I have not said a lot about these. Please note there is 1 which asks you to vote for dues increase of \$8.00 per year, that one is number B-2020. I don't recommend that.

You can cast your vote by mailing in the paper ballot or vote online. You have until August 31st, 11:59 p. m. ET to get your vote in. Please consider taking part in this voting process.

Chapter Officers

President & Newsletter Editor	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.

PRESENTING THE FEDCON20 WEBINAR SERIES Weekly on Thursdays in August and September

NARFE had an abundance of useful content planned for FEDcon20, and we are pleased to bring you some of the most sought-after information from the conference virtually, in the form of a six-part FEDcon20 Webinar Series. Take advantage of this great material from the convenience of your own home or office. NARFE members can sign up for these webinars for \$45 each or take advantage of the members-only bundle price of just \$99 for all six webinars.

Each webinar is followed by an hour-long Q&A session. Registrants will have access to the webinars after they air live. Register today at www.narfe.org/fedcon20. I don't have room here to include all the details of each one, but here are the dates and titles of each one.

- **August 6, 1 p.m. ET – Legislative Update for Current and Retired Federal Employees:**
- **August 13, 1 p.m. ET – How to Be an Effective Voice for Change:**
- **August 20 1 p.m. ET – Cybersecurity: What the FBI Knows That You Don't, but Should**
- **August 27, 11 a.m. ET – Caring for the Caregiver**
- **September 3, 1 p.m. ET – The Four Things You Can Change After You Retire**
- **September 10, 1 p.m. ET – Be Prepared for Life's Events**

Legislative News

Please refer to the magazine or NARFE's website for the latest legislative news. The Legislative Action Center on the NARFE website allows us to compose a message that can be easily sent to Members of Congress on any of the issues that the NARFE Legislative Department is watching. They provide easy to send emails that can be sent to your members of Congress. If you do not know who your Members of Congress are, that can be found there as well.

Phone calls and emails are the most effective way to contact the member of Congress. That telephone number for the Capital Switchboard is 866-220-0044. Let them hear from you.

Another OPM Director Resigns

Dale Cabaniss who was appointed the Director of the Office of Personnel Management just a few months ago has stepped down. The agency is now without a director until someone is approved to that position. OPM is key to keeping federal employees and retirees informed on important matters.

It seems like I remember several different directors being the head of this department over the last few years. I hope they can find someone to stay in that position for some stability.

Grassroots Advocacy Month is Here

NARFE's advocacy team has been busy preparing for Grassroots Advocacy Month, and now it's time for us to turn the planning into action. The campaign, held every August, coincides with the month-long congressional summer recess when members of Congress leave Capitol Hill and head home to engage with constituents. The August recess is an opportunity for members to further raise awareness of NARFE's legislative priorities. This year's campaign will focus on legislation to reform or repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which significantly reduces the earned Social Security benefits of beneficiaries and their spouses. Members will also advocate for the Fair COLA for Seniors Act, which would change the way cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) are calculated to more accurately measure the cost of goods and services frequently purchased by seniors. The change would result in higher COLAs. This year's campaign is happening amid the COVID-19 pandemic that has kept most Americans under varying degrees of stay-at-home orders for months. Though this has presented challenges and added limits to our advocacy activities, we are encouraging members to stay safe and seek socially distant ways to make their voices heard. Members of Congress have ramped up their social media activities, and most of their interactions with constituents are happening virtually or by phone. NARFE members are encouraged to visit the Town Hall Project website; this site publishes congressional events throughout the country. By entering their postal ZIP code, users can access a list of public events. Additionally, NARFE members are encouraged to follow their legislators' Facebook and Twitter pages to receive daily communications and to engage with the lawmakers.

Membership Report

The latest Membership Report for the month of July shows that 1 member renewed. While there was no other activity reported, current chapter membership remains steady which is a good thing.

Did You Know?

10% of the world population is left-handed. It is said that men are more likely to be left-handed than women. Various studies have also suggested that the handedness of a person can be determined from the time they spend in the mother's womb. Some studies also suggest that one's heritage may also play a role in determining if someone will be left or right-handed.

The most commonly used letter in the English alphabets is E. The second most common letters are T, A, I, N, and O. The least used is the letter Q.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org
Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org
NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org