

Monthly Notes

Welcome to the month of February, the midpoint of winter, I guess we will have to wait to see if the groundhog got his prediction correct or not.

There is some progress that I have seen on the NARFE chapter reports. I see that some financial reports and some member reports have been posted, I am not certain that what I am seeing is totally correct. I have not had time to research these reports. This has been a very slow and disappointing transition from one reporting system to the other. I am still waiting on NARFE finance department to reconcile all the past year's payments to what they should have been.

And I have tried several times to speak with someone about the overcharges of the dues amounts during the year 2019. I find that I have to leave a voice mail for the person in member services and I have not received a call back.

On the Tennessee Federation, the current president Wayne Baker and the board is still working to find solutions to the need for officers on the federation level. And as I reported last month, the Annual Meeting for the year 2020 has been cancelled due to lack of chapter support.

There will be a National Conference this year. It will be held August 30 through September 1, 2020 and in Scottsdale AZ. Anyone interested in attending can find details in the NARFE magazine and online at the NARFE website. Registration opened this month.

Next Chapter Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 18th, at 6.00PM. The location will be Nick's Restaurant, 895 S Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Please make plans to join us there for this meeting.

Upcoming NARFE Webinars

Here are the webinars coming. They can be accessed on the NARFE website.

February 13, 2020: Understanding the FERS Basic Benefit.

February 27, 2020: Smart TSP Strategies

March 12: Set Your Retirement Goals and Plan the Process.

April 16: It's Never too Early to Start Planning: What New and Mid-Career Feds Need to Know.

2021 COLA Watch

There was another slight decrease in the Consumer Price Index for the December report.. This is supposed to be an indication that the cost of consumer goods have decreased.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2020
October 2019	+0.26	+0.28
November 2019	-0.10	+0.18
December 2019	-0.08	+0.10

Legislative News

For updates on federal legislation regarding current bills that might have an impact on the federal workforce or federal retirees. I would suggest the NARFE Bill Tracker in the January 2020 issue of the NARFE magazine. With Congress on break for days at the end of December, there is not much to report here. Congress did pass a bill to fund the government through the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2020

You can still contact your members of Congress and follow legislative efforts on the NARFE website, Legislative Action Center. And don't forget, the phone number to call Congress is .1-866-220-0044. You can make 3 calls to speak to all our members.

Chapter Financial Report—Month of December 2019

December 1st balance—\$2,131.74

Dues received—\$42.00

Disbursements—Postage of \$2.90

December 31st balance—\$2,170.84

Let me know if there is any questions about the monthly financial reports.

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.

NARFE-PAC

As you know, 2020 is an election year for federal elections. While NARFE-PAC asks for your donations in every year, they especially desire them when federal elections are being held.

NARFE-PAC operates separate from the member activities part of NARFE and no member dues or operating funds from NARFE go to support the PAC. NARFE-PAC donates funds to candidates running for Congress only and to those who are likely to support the NARFE legislative goals. They do not donate to presidential candidates.

If you are inclined to donating to this, there is always information in the NARFE magazine and on the NARFE website. Keep in mind that not all candidates hold the same views on all topics as you and I may have, but do consider what support you want to do in regards to the NARFE-PAC. Funds should be mailed directly using the form in the magazine.

Other Opportunities

You are reminded that there are other programs of NARFE that you can donate to. Such as Alzheimer's Research program. I think you are well aware of the purpose of this fund. Another is the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund. This fund exists to help federal employees during times of disaster and educational assistance to NARFE members, children and grandchildren.

Just look in any magazine for details and donation forms for either of these two programs.

NARFE Perks

Don't forget, as part of your NARFE membership, there are many discounts available as members. These change from time to time, so you may want to check the magazine for the updated list of ways that your membership saves you money. These are shown near the back of each magazine.

Membership Recruitment

Even though there are no incentives being offered currently, we still welcome members finding new members for our association. I have some updated membership forms that I will bring to the next meeting and you can always find the membership form in the magazine. New members can always join over the phone by calling 800-456-8410 or online.

Old Meeting Location

I continue to notice as I drive by that there is still no remodeling underway on the Shoney's building. It was a year ago this month that this location closed for a remodel, but still nothing is happening. I would be interested if you have heard any news.

Member Death

We say goodbye to another member of our chapter, Mary Elizabeth Bryant passed away on January 29, 2020 at the age of 87. She resided in Cookeville and retired from the Social Security Administration. She was active in our chapter during the years her health was good. Her history in the chapter goes back further than mine, but I know that she served as Chapter Secretary for a number of years.



Our sympathy goes out to her three daughters and several grandchildren.

Also I was notified that previous chapter member Rural Peace passed away on January 2, 2020 at the age of 89. He lived in Sparta.

On The Light Side—For Valentine's Day

Can't Go Through The Woods

A man was going to the county fair one day with a pig under one arm and a chicken under one arm, and a basket on his head. He came to a crossroads and didn't know which way to turn. While he stood there deciding, a young woman approached him, heading the same direction.

Please, ma'am, I'm on the way to the county fair. Can you tell me which way to go?"

Yes," she replied. "I'm on my way there, too. We'll go right down this way about a mile, turn left about a mile and a half, left again about a mile and we're right there."

He said, "Wait a minute... down here, turn left and left again? Couldn't we save a lot of time by walking through these woods?"

She replied, "Yes, we could. But I couldn't walk through those woods with you. Why... you might try to kiss me!"

Listen," he said, "how could I possibly kiss anybody with a pig under one arm, a chicken under one arm and a basket on my head?"

Well," she replied, "you could put that chicken on the ground, turn the basket upside down over the chicken, and I could hold that little bitty ole pig."

Hope everyone stays well during this time of year when there is so much flu and viruses going around.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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