

Happy New Year!

Monthly Notes

We have reached another milestone as we enter a brand new year and a brand new decade. Who would have ever thought that we would see the year 2020? As we begin this year, I hope that it is a good one for all our members and your families.

There is still no progress to report on the chapter reports from the national office. I still do not know who are the members renewing or not renewing each month or any of the member details that are needed regarding chapter members. I continue to hear they are working on it but as of this writing, I have not seen any results.

The Federation President, Wayne Baker has sent out a letter to all Tennessee NARFE members that you should have received. Some were sent the letter by email and some by postal mail. Let me know if you did not receive it and want to see it. It is regarding current status of Federation Officers and plans for the next Annual Meeting.

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

There are some new webinars scheduled that may be of interest to some. Remember that you need to pre-register to view them live or you can watch them after the date they are presented as a recording. Either way, access them on the NARFE website.

January 9, 2020: Avoid Post-Retirement Pitfalls, How to Maintain a Secure Future.

January 23, 2020: Long-Term Care Insurance.

February 13, 2020: Understanding the FERS Basic Benefit.

February 27, 2020: TSP 101

Magazine Archives

Just a reminder that if there were something you would like to refer back to, in any back issue of the NARFE magazines, they are available online on the NARFE website going back all of last year and years before that. This could be of helpful information that you can use.

2021 COLA Watch

There was a slight decrease in the Consumer Price Index for the November report.. I am not sure what went down, maybe it was the cost of fuel. Anyway, we will watch throughout the year.

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

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 November 2019

November 1st balance—\$2,2044.74

Dues received—\$42.00

Alzheimer's collections—\$45.00

Disbursements—None

November 30th balance—\$2,131.74

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.

Dues Withholding

This is my annual plea for members to sign up for dues withholding. Many of our members have their dues taken out of their annuity check already, but many do not. It has many advantages compared to paying membership dues the conventional way.

It saves you money because you get the advantage of the 3 year rate which saves you \$18 over a 3 year period. You will no longer get mailed notices to renew your dues and not risk the fact that you may forget to send in your membership renewal.

Making the switch is easy, and there is a form for this in the January magazine on page 39. Fill it out and mail it in, it will take effect on your next membership anniversary date.

And speaking of Dues Withholding, I ask again that each of you who are currently on it to check to see that the correct amount is being withdrawn. I hesitate to bring this up because I want to promote Dues Withholding as the way to pay the dues, but this goes back to the new reporting system that NARFE is trying to put in place. I believe that some are being charge more than they should for Dues Withholding. Again the correct amount is **\$3.34 per month per member**. Each of you should have received a Annual Annuity Notice from OPM and the amount is shown on it. Let me know if it is incorrect. I have already contacted NARFE about this and I will keep you informed.

Membership List and Minutes

I have placed an updated membership list on our chapter website. This list is only available to current members. To access it, you will need to log in with your **Last Name** and **Member ID** from the home page of our website. I ask that you review the information and let me know if anything needs to be corrected.

I have also placed there, the minutes of the November 2019 meeting. Both of these files and more are located on the chapter website. That address is: narfecookevilletn.org

Federation Annual Meeting

Normally I would reporting at this time details of this year's federation annual meeting which is scheduled to be held on April 20-21, 2020. The past federation president Ed Evans and the current federation president are having a difficult time finding a chapter to host the meeting. The meeting rotates between the 3 divisions of the state and this year a chapter in middle Tennessee was to be the host, but none of chapters in this area would agree to host.

—continued next column.

Preliminary plans made by Ed Evans was to hold the meeting at Montgomery Bell State Park because the hotels in and around Nashville were too expensive. The federation treasure and the Donelson Area chapter president were assisting with that. But more help is needed as it takes more than that to host a federation meeting.

With Ed Evans stepping down as federation president, Wayne Baker is now asking for assistance from the nearby Dickson chapter. Montgomery Bell State Park is just west of Nashville and we have been there for a federation meeting in years past. Their room rates are of reasonable costs and it is a nice location.

I have just received a message from Federation President, Wayne Baker that the Annual Meeting has been cancelled for this year due to lack of support.

On The Light Side—Hearing Problems

An elderly couple were driving across the country. The woman was driving when she got pulled over by the highway patrol. The officer said, "Ma'am did you know you were speeding?"

The woman, hard of hearing, turned to her husband and asked, "What did he say?"

The old man yelled, "He says you were speeding!"

The patrolman said, "May I see your license?"

The woman turned to her husband once again and asked, "What did he say?"

The old man yelled, "He wants to see your license!"

The woman gave the officer her license. The patrolman then said, "I see you are from Arkansas. I spent some time there once and went on a blind date with the ugliest woman I've ever seen."

The woman turned to her husband and asked, "What did he say?"

The old man yells, "He said he thinks he knows you!"

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%.

The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I have changed my will three times!"

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org