

Monthly Notes

We are half in to the year 2020 and it seems like this is year that never was with so many businesses and the like being closed for a long time and so slow to reopen fully. The virus continues to hamper normal activities over fear of what could happen.

With that in mind, I need your thoughts on whether or not we should or should not proceed with having the August chapter meeting. It is scheduled as of now, but it does not look as though the virus is going to go away anytime soon. As you know, the health officials say that people in our age group are more susceptible to problems associated with the virus. I would like to hear from those of you who normally attend our chapter meetings what you think of having the August meeting.

Here is the latest statement regarding reopening of the NARFE national office: [In response to Governor Ralph Northam announcing that nonessential businesses in northern Virginia can reopen on Friday, June 12, as part of the state's phase two response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with directives issued by local government and health authorities, NARFE National Headquarters will implement a phased reopening beginning Monday, June 22.](#)

["As it has been since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the safety and well-being of NARFE employees and the broader federal community continues to be the association's top priority," said NARFE National President Ken Thomas. "Now that it is safer to resume business operations in a more traditional setting, we are instituting a maximum flexibility approach that includes the opportunity for telework and allows for flexible work schedules to accommodate the various and unique personal, medical and caregiving needs and situations that our employees face."](#)

[NARFE's return to work plan specifies that, effective June 22, employees will be able to return to the office on staggered schedules, currently furloughed employees will be recalled, and the entire staff will not be on premises at full capacity until September.](#)

["It's essential that NARFE employees return to work knowing they are conducting business in a safe place. To that end, professional industrial hygiene cleaning services have been applied throughout the headquarters building, and employees will be provided with a comprehensive outline of measures to protect themselves, colleagues and common workspaces," continued Thomas.](#)

2021 COLA Watch

The May report of the Consumer Price Index was unchanged from the previous month. It is still negative 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

More Virus Related News

NARFE cancels the FEDcon20, the bi-annual conference that was scheduled to take place August 30 though September 1, 2020 over health concerns.

Chapter Financial Report for the Month of May.

May 1 balance—\$2,233.84
Dues received—\$30.00

Disbursements—\$77.00 for postage stamps
May 31 balance—2,186.84

Next Chapter Meeting?

As of now we are planning the next meeting for August 18th. at Nick's Restaurant in Cookeville. But this depends on the risks associated with the virus and any responses that I receive from chapter members who may or may not attend. Let me know sometime in July what you think.

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 Webinars

The latest webinar presented was: **Financial Check –Up for Mid-Career Feds**. It was presented live on June 25, but can be still be viewed by recording. The next one is: **Discover Your Best Retirement Date** on July 16, 2020.

The Check is in the Mail

Since some of our Chapter 1956 members were overcharged and overpaid the chapter portion of membership dues during 2019, refund checks have been issued. I was able to identify 20 members who were due a refund and those 20 will receive a check this month from our chapter. Our Treasurer, Myrna Estes has written the checks and they will go out in the mail, either with this newsletter or a separate mailing to those who get the email version of the newsletter. Of the 20, most will receive a refund of \$4, while some will receive \$8 or \$12.

You need to know when renewing your membership dues if you are billed from the national office, the correct amount of dues should be \$46 if renewing for 1 year, or \$84 for 2 years, or \$120 for 3 years.

Those of you who are on Dues Withholding, please check your records with OPM and make sure that \$3.34 per member is being withheld from your annuity check. (In some cases both the member and spouse are on Dues Withholding.)

All the overpayments that I have found were in 2019. So far, I have found none in 2020. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask.

Upcoming NARFE Voting

Refer back to the June/July magazine for a list of the proposed Bylaw changes that will be on the ballot and March magazine for officer candidate statements. All of this is online as well on the NARFE website.

The official ballot will appear in the August magazine which you should receive in the mail in the latter part of July. You will have till the end of August to submit your ballot by mail or online.

There is a 37 page booklet which explains the many proposed ballot issues. I can provide a electronic version of that for you upon request. On the ballot, we will see the National Officers to be voted on and the Region Vice President. Most of us are in Region X but we do have some members in other NARFE Regions.

My recommendations for National Officers are as follows. Ken Thomas, the current President is running unopposed. I recommend a vote for him. Of the 2 candidates for National Secretary/Treasurer, I recommend Cindy Renee Blythe rather than Kathryn Hensley. For Region X Vice President, I recommend Robert Allen over Bill Shackelford. But of course, the decision is yours to make. Hope you will vote.

Annual Chapter Awards

Each year the Tennessee Federation recognizes the chapters within the state that made the most donations to Alzheimer's research and to the NARFE-PAC. This year the winners are: The Weida White Tolley Alzheimer's Award goes to the Cleveland Chapter and the Leo Potts NARFE-PAC Award goes to the Chattanooga Chapter.

Legislative News

I don't have any news about NARFE's legislative work, but just to remind you that 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.

Membership Report

The latest Membership Report for the month of June shows that 4 members renewed. There was no other activity for June. Thanks for the renewals.

More Famous Quotes

If you could kick the person in the pants responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month. —Theodore Roosevelt

Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please. —Mark Twain

If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance. —George Bernard Shaw

I have had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it. —Groucho Marx

I looked up the family tree and found out I was the sap. —Rodney Dangerfield

Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive. —Elbert Hubbard

If you live to be one hundred, you've got it made. Very few people die past that age. —George Burns

It is a scientific fact that your body will not absorb cholesterol if you take it from another person's plate. —Dave Berry

The next time you have a thought, let it go. —Ron White

And Then There's This Parting Thought

We do not have to include the year 2020 in our age, since we have not been able to use it.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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