



**PUTNAM COUNTY
COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE**
Member of the Tennessee Federation

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

March 2020

Monthly Notes

We are now in the month of March which means that Spring arrives soon. It will begin on March 19th at 10:49 CDT this year. That is a time of new beginnings with more time spent outside. Hope it is good for you. We are now back on Daylight Savings Time and have more daylight in the evenings.

We had our chapter meeting on February 18th. at Nick's Restaurant. The meeting was attended by several who could get out on a winters night. We missed you if you were not there. We discussed the state of the national office and the federation as well as chapters. These are challenging times for all parts of our association. Many of us who are older are leaving by way of death and the younger group does not want to be part of organizations like this.

Here is the details of the Chapter Financial Report that was given at the February meeting.

January 1 balance—\$2,170.84

Dues received—\$42.00

Disbursements—Alzheimer's funds sent, \$45.00

January 31 balance—2,167.84

We are still waiting on the national office to supply us with all the monthly reports that we need. Some have been made available, but not all.

Next Chapter Meeting

We are planning to have our next chapter meeting in the month of May. I will let you know for sure as soon as I can get it scheduled.

NARFE Webinars

Some recent webinars include: **Smart TSP Strategies to Build a Strong Financial Future and Set Your Retirement Goals and Plan the Process.**

These and many more are available to watch on a recorded basis. Coming soon are:

March 26: Act II - How Federal Reemployment Affects Your Benefits.

April 16: It's Never too Early to Start Planning:

May 14: Understanding the Evil Twins: GPO and WEP.

To watch any webinar live, you need to preregister on the NARFE website and then go back there on the date it is to be presented. All of them start at 1 p.m. These are always free to members and can be also viewed by others for a fee.

2021 COLA Watch

The report for the month of January showed a fairly large increase in the Consumer Price Index 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

NARFE PAC

The month of March every year is designated as NARFE-PAC Month. You probably received something in the mail about this. And there is information about it in the March magazine.

Remember that funds for this are always voluntary and held separate from the general NARFE membership and operating funds. The donations that are received for NARFE-PAC are given to Congressional candidates that request the funds and that NARFE believes will support the legislation that NARFE supports though out the session.

As you know, 2020 is an election year for all of the US House and Representatives and about a third of the US Senate positions.

There are several suggested donation amounts listed in the information provided. It can be a one time donation or a monthly donation as you may choose. They offer various incentives for the donations, including a pin and more.

Just keep in mind that candidates running for office may not always support other values and concerns that you may have.

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.

Candidate Statements

You will notice that the March magazine includes the names and statements of those running this year for a national officer position with NARFE. We will be voting for the National President, National Secretary/Treasurer and the Regional Vice President. Those of us in our chapter mostly are in Region X which includes: Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

I see only one person running for President and that is our current president, Ken Thomas. Running for Secretary/Treasurer is the current one, Kathryn Hensley and Cindy Renee Blythe. And I see 2 candidates running for Region X VP: the current one, William (Bill) Shackelford and Robert Allen. Please read the statements they have written. Voting will take place later in the year for a 2 year term.

Legislative News

Here are some of the current legislative bills that NARFE supports and that would be good for members.

- Repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). There are 2 bills that are being considered; H.R. 3934 and H.R. 4540.

H.R. 3934 would provide a \$100 rebate per month to the primary worker (turning age 62 before 2022), provide a \$50 per month spousal-based benefit and provide for a new formula for the calculation of benefits.

H.R. 4540 would provide a \$150 rebate per month to primary worker. (turning age 62 before 2022, it does not provide any spousal-based benefit, but it does provide for a greater new formula for all future retirees.

- Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2019, H.R. 1553. This bill would make a change from the CPI-W index that is currently used for the annual cost of living adjustments to the CPI-E index. This would better measure the cost of goods and services like medicine, health care, housing and other living expenses seniors most often purchase.
- The USPS Fairness Act, H.R. 2382. This would end the requirement that the U.S. Postal Service fully pre-fund the future health benefits of its retirees. The prefunding mandate has been the prominent factor in the increasingly dire financial situation of the Postal Service.

There are others bills and I would encourage you to look at the Legislative Action Center section of the NARFE website for ways you can help support these and other bills. Phone calls and emails are the most effective way to contact the member of Congress. Let them hear from you.

Any Updates? IMPORTANT

If you have changed any of you contact information, such as mailing address, telephone, or email address; then let me know. This is a big help to me so I can continue to send you our newsletter and get in touch at other times. Thanks for your help in this area.

Worth Reading

The magazine that we get each month as part of our membership always has some interesting articles. This month, I would point you to a couple of the ones in the March issue. There is an article on the Secure Act which is a recent tax law changer regarding IRA retirement accounts. Also there is an article on Alzheimer's Disease that you may want to read.

Hope everyone is safe after the tornadoes that went through the area earlier this month.

On The Light Side—Reprints from Church Bulletin Boards

The sermon this morning; Jesus Walks on the Water, The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off—let the church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang: 'I will not pass this way again' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm.- Prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of find dining, supper entertainment and gracious hospitality.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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