

**Monthly Notes**

This has been a difficult time the past 2 or 3 months dealing with the coronavirus and all the changes that that created. It looks like the worst is now behind us and things are slowly returning towards normal.

Parts of the nation is still closed including the state of Virginia where NARFE national headquarters are located. They are very limited in their operations at this point. Here is the operating status statement that they have provided.

On March 30, 2020, the governor of Virginia issued a stay-at-home order that requires individuals to remain in their residences and extends the directive to maintain social distancing and prohibit gatherings of more than 10 people. As a result, NARFE's headquarters building will remain closed through **June 10, 2020**, unless the governor changes his order.

Certain NARFE staff members have been designated as essential and will continue to work remotely throughout the duration the closure. Among them, staff members from the Federal Benefits Institute as well as the advocacy and communications department have been going the extra mile to ensure you stay up to date on how the federal community is being affected by and responding to the coronavirus crisis. We also have staff handling membership functions and other critical core business needs.

In other words, despite some limitations, we are doing everything we can to continue protecting your benefits and delivering the clear, reliable information you value, just as we've done for nearly 100 years. As we continue to navigate this challenging situation that is touching the lives of so many Americans, we appreciate everyone's continued patience, understanding and support.

To reach NARFE National Headquarters in the meantime, please use the following email addresses, which are being monitored through the closure:  
 Advocacy: [advocacy@narfe.org](mailto:advocacy@narfe.org)  
 Federal Benefits Institute: [fedbenefits@narfe.org](mailto:fedbenefits@narfe.org)  
 Membership Recruitment and Retention: [membership@narfe.org](mailto:membership@narfe.org)  
 Member Services: [memberrecords@narfe.org](mailto:memberrecords@narfe.org)  
 FEDcon20: [fedcon@narfe.org](mailto:fedcon@narfe.org)  
 Chapter and Federation Services: [fedchpsrvcs@narfe.org](mailto:fedchpsrvcs@narfe.org)  
 General Headquarters Inquires: [hq@narfe.org](mailto:hq@narfe.org)  
 Or call 1-800-456-8410.

**2021 COLA Watch**

The report for the month of March showed an decrease (as expected) 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
February 2020	+0.23	+0.69
March 2020	-0.22	+0.47

**Next Chapter Meeting**

With all the health concerns pertaining to the coronavirus and the guidelines that restaurants have to adhere to, I think it best to cancel our May meeting and plan to meet again in August. We will have to see if everything works out for that at that time. Hope you understand.

**NARFE Webinars**

I do not see any new webinars scheduled at this time. The last one was shown live on May 14, 2020 on **GPO and WEP: Understanding the Evil Twins**. If you have not watched it, it is still available as a recording as well as all the other pass webinars. You can go to the NARFE website and watch these pre-recorded ones at any time.

**Chapter Financial Report for the Month of March.**

March 1 balance—\$2,185.84  
 Dues received—\$18.00  
 Disbursements—none  
 March 31 balance—2,203.84

**Chapter Officers**

President & Newsletter Editor	Ronnie Collins
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myrna Estes

**Contact Information:**

NARFE Chapter 1956  
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 Phone or Text: 931-284-4835

**When you get your renewal notice, be sure to renew both your National and Chapter Dues.**

## 2020 Is an Election Year

Not only is it an election year for many federal, state and local officials, it is also an election year for NARFE officers and other business. There is still scheduled the NARFE National Conference at the end of August this year. So prior to the conference, members will be asked to vote on matters of business pertaining to the National office. Please refer to this information as we consider NARFE issues.

In the March issue of the magazine, you will find the candidate statements for those who are seeking a national officer position. We will need to vote on a National President, National Secretary/Treasurer and a Regional Vice President. Tennessee is in Region X and we only can vote for the candidates seeking the Region X Vice President position.

The current National President, Ken Thomas is running unopposed. There are 2 that are running for National Secretary/Treasurer, Kathryn Hensley (incumbent) and Cindy Renee Blythe. There are 2 running for Region X Vice President, Bill Shackelford (incumbent) and Robert Allen. I encourage you to refer to the March magazine and/or the NARFE website for their statements. I will print more later.

If there are Bylaws proposed changes, that will be included in the June/July issue of the magazine and posted on the website. Study any of these. I will comment on these after I see them.

In the August issue of the magazine, you will find the voting ballot for the officers and Bylaws. You will have until August 31, 2020 to get your paper ballot to where it needs to go, you will be able to also vote online at a website set up for this. Complete voting information will be in the magazine.

## Combined Magazine Issues

There will not be separate issues of the NARFE magazine for June and July this year. Instead a combined June/July issue will be published in late May. The normal schedule will return for the August issue.

## Monthly Membership Reports

I have mentioned many times that NARFE is not providing the Chapter Activity Reports. That is been the case for nearly a year. Some of the items that I could learn on those reports are: Members who transferred in and out of the chapter, Members who were sent the Second Dues Notice, Members who dropped out for non-renewal, Changes to address, Phone or email, Payment status changes, and Members who were reinstated. I don't know when if ever these reports will be available again.

They do provide a current list of members. There I can see who are in the members now. But when members leave, I do not know if they dropped out or transferred. We were promised the Activity Reports would return, but it has been delayed many times.

## Legislative News

There are many items listed on the NARFE Legislative Action Center, pertaining to federal workers and retirees. Over the last 2 months I listed a summary of them.

The Legislative Action Center on the NARFE website allows us to compose a message that can be easily sent to Members of Congress on these and other bills that are listed there. 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.

## Update on Chapter Dues Payments

I continue to monitor the financial reports that I can find on the NARFE website, officer portal section. I have found no overpayments so far for calendar year 2020. That is a good thing. I am still troubled that the amount of dues collected from our chapter members do not match the amounts that NARFE sends to our bank account.

For calendar year 2019 there are still the **21 members** who were charged too much during the past year for the chapter portion of the membership dues. I can't find reports for every month, but most of them now are available. Some of you are billed on an annual basis and pay by check or credit card and some are on dues withholding and a portion of the dues are deducted each month from the annuity payment.

For most members the amount of the overcharge is \$4. But some who are billed annually renewed for 2 or 3 years and paid \$8 or \$12 too much (\$4 per year).

I may not know all the members who were over-charged, so if you think you were, I would like to know. If you are not sure, I would be glad to check my records for you.

I am still asking everyone to contact me if you **do not want a refund (if any) that is due you**. You can use my email address or phone number (call or text) to let me know, or to ask questions. My contact information is listed in each newsletter.

**Hope everyone is safe and well.**

*Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.*  
—Albert Einstein

*Tomorrow hopes we have learned something from yesterday.*  
—John Wayne

## NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: [www.narfecookevilletn.org](http://www.narfecookevilletn.org)  
Tennessee Federation: [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)  
NARFE Headquarters: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)