

Monthly Notes

Happy Autumn season to everyone. Some leaves have begun to fall, but I have not seen much color in them yet. Hope you all continue to stay safe and well.

I have some news to report on the Tennessee Federation level. It has been rather quiet over the last year since the elected President in 2019 stepped down due to health issues and the current President, Wayne Baker assumed the duties of the President.

As you know there was no Annual Meeting this year in April, mostly due to the lack of interest from a host chapter, but that was also the time when the COVID virus was getting worst.

We just had a joint meeting which was held by video conference with the Federation Board and the Tennessee Chapter Presidents. This was the first time for such an event. We discussed several items of importance regarding NARFE, the Federation and the Chapters.

One of the items of discussion was what can the Federation do to support chapters and be of help. It was mentioned that the greatest need is for the Federation to provide news and information to the members and the chapters. The Federation has not published a newsletter in over a year now and as a result, the Tennessee membership has heard nearly nothing from the Federation.

The Tennessee Federation has a shortage of officers. They have a President, and 1 Vice President for the West Tennessee area. They do have a Secretary and Treasurer and Membership Chairman. But they do not have Vice Presidents for the Middle and East Tennessee areas. Neither do they have a Legislative Chairman or any of the appointed positions such as Newsletter Editor, Public Relations Officer, NARFE-PAC, Alzheimer's Chairman and some other positions that are needed and vacant. Efforts to find members to fill these positions have failed. There was no election of officers for this year and no new appointed officers put in place.

Also discussed was that many chapters are having difficulty in getting members to serve as officers in the chapters, and that there have been several chapter closings in recent years. There are some other chapters that have expressed a desire to close.

Overall, membership numbers continue to decline nationwide as well as in Tennessee. There is a new person in headquarters developing new strategies in the area of recruiting and retention. —continued

.2021 COLA Watch

The August report of the Consumer Price Index has been reported and there was another increase in prices over the previous month. Now there is just 1 more month to go in this reporting year. After the September report we will know what if any COLA will be in January

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
June 2020	+0.61	+0.34
July 2020	+0.63	+0.97
August 2020	+0.38	+1.36

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

August 1 balance—\$2,299.00
Dues received—\$29.88

Disbursements—\$44.00 dues refund checks cleared during August. And \$84.00 for the chapter website.
August 31 balance—2,200.88

Chapter Dues Refund Checks

As of the end of September, there are still 2 members who received dues refund checks that have not cashed or deposited them. Please go ahead and do that so that our chapter treasurer can clear them off her records. Many thanks for taking care of that.

Chapter Officers

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

Contact Information:

NARFE Chapter 1956
118 Ballenger Rd., Carthage TN 37030
E-mail: rwcollins@hydroguy.com
Phone or Text: 931-284-4835

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

—continued from first page. The Federation Membership Chair is hopeful that this new person will make a difference in the area of membership.

Another item discussed in that conference call was: the Federation President, Wayne Baker suggested that all the chapters in Tennessee close and transfer all the members to National Only members. It seemed that his reason was the lack of Federation support and that in his view, the chapters would benefit from this. This to me does not make good sense. He received a lot of push back on this idea from the chapter presidents in the meeting.

No one knows at this point how such a plan would be carried out. This goes against everything that NARFE and the Federation stands for. There are some weak chapters and there is a way for weak chapters to close, but when that happens the members of a closing chapter have the opportunity to transfer to the chapter of their choice. To close all the state's chapters has never been done before.

I would like your comments on this in order that I can relay them back to him. It is not likely that something like this would be done, but I would like to hear from as many as can let me know your thoughts.

NARFE Voting

I reported just briefly last month on the NARFE election results. This month will be a little more details.

For Officers, the current President was unopposed but he received 12,672 votes. For National Secretary/Treasurer, the incumbent Kathryn Hensley received 7,661 and Cindy Renee Blythe received 5,038. For Region X Vice President, the incumbent Bill Shackelford received 1,234 and Robert Allen received 820. There were contested elections for some other Regions, but I will not report on those outcomes.

There were various Bylaws, Standing Rules and Resolutions proposed. A total of 13 were recommended for adoption and all 13 received the required votes to be adopted. There were 7 which were recommended to be rejected and the voting was to reject those.

Of note, one of the changes called for an increase in the membership dues, from \$40.00 to \$48.00. That was one of the ones which the members approved but a slim margin, 67.75% to 32.25%. It was required to pass by 2/3rd.

Open Season

Open Season runs this year from November 9th to December 14th. There is quite a bit of information about it in the October magazine. You can take a look at that. I am sure more details are coming on what the premiums will be for 2021. So far I have not seen those. Remember Open Season is for the health insurance, vision and dental plans.

Member Death

I am very late on reporting this, I just found that long time member Tom Banker died several months ago. Sorry that I did not know and did not report it. Tom was very active in NARFE, the Federation and the chapter. While he never held any officer position that I know of, he was a great new member recruiter. He was the one who got me to join and many others. He would attend gatherings of federal employee groups to recruit and pass out membership applications wherever he could.



He was 74 and in declining health over the last few years and he will be greatly missed. Our deepest condolences go to Connie and the family.

Chapter Meetings

Remember that chapter meetings are suspended due to the current Covid-19 virus. At this point, I am not sure when to plan on holding in person chapter meetings. I plan to talk about other ways to have them going forward.

NARFE Webinars

The next one scheduled is **To B Or Not To B: Is Medicare Part B Right For You**. It will be presented on October 22, 2020. If you have questions about Medicare Part B, then this may be of interest to you. To pre-register, do it on the NARFE website.

There are still all the past ones available. To see the list of those, log in to the NARFE website and look for member webinars. Remember these are a great recruiting talking point for potential members.

Membership Report

I downloaded the chapter reports for the month ending September 30th. While NARFE is not providing these reports to officers, I have concerns that what is reported is not accurate, but there is no way to be certain of that. This past month, not much member activity was reported. The reports showed 2 members with changes to their contact information, it was the same as I already had. Nothing else was reported this past month.

Federation Dues

Normally all the NARFE chapters that are part of the Tennessee Federation are required to pay per-capita dues yearly in the amount of \$3 per member. This year the Federation has waived those dues. That is a savings for use this year.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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