

**Monthly Notes**

We have made it to another month in this current year, this month brings the beginning of Autumn which occurs on the 22nd of September. That means fall colors and cooler temperatures are soon to come.

Again, I will say that I hope all are well and safe from the COVID-19 virus and the coming flu season. Take all necessary precautions during these times.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued membership in NARFE and our chapter. I hope you see the value that membership provides us.

**Chapter Meetings**

Remember that chapter meetings are suspended due to the current Covid-19 virus. Many other chapters have also cancelled meetings for the time being. I think this is best during these uncertain times.

**NARFE Membership Drive**

NARFE headquarters will once more sponsor a membership drive. It takes place this year from September 1 through December 31. Current members can earn \$10 for each new member they recruit, as well as be eligible for other prizes (complete rules and information can be found online at narfe.org/recruit). We realize, however, that things are not business as usual this year. As we continue to deal with the coronavirus pandemic, the health and safety of our members is our main priority.

While we invite NARFE members to recruit new members and help our organization grow, we encourage you do so remotely in order to minimize the potential risk of exposure to COVID-19. Take advantage of your telephone, email and social media contacts to recruit potential members.

Questions regarding the National Membership Drive can be found by calling 703-838-7760, ext. 274. At this point, I have not heard of a Tennessee Federation Membership Drive as in years past.

I just saw a national membership report and I can tell you that we certainly need to find new members for NARFE to help us in the cause.

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

July 1 balance—\$2,212.84

Dues received—\$142.16

Disbursements—\$56.00 dues refund checks cleared so far.

July 31 balance—2,299.00

**2021 COLA Watch**

The July report of the Consumer Price Index saw another increase in prices over the previous month. Now there are just 2 more months 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

**NARFE Webinars**

The next one scheduled is **TSP Withdrawal Options** and will be presented on September 24, 2020. If you have funds in the Thrift Savings Plan, this would be a good one to watch.

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.

**Chapter Dues Refund Checks**

As of the end of August, 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](mailto: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.**

## **PRESENTING THE FEDCON20 WEBINAR SERIES Weekly on Thursdays in August and September**

NARFE had an abundance of useful content planned for FEDcon20, and we are pleased to bring you some of the most sought-after information from the conference virtually, in the form of a six-part FEDcon20 Webinar Series. Take advantage of this great material from the convenience of your own home or office. NARFE members can sign up for these webinars for \$45 each or take advantage of the members-only bundle price of just \$99 for all six webinars.

Each webinar is followed by an hour-long Q&A session. Registrants will have access to the webinars after they air live. Register today at [www.narfe.org/fedcon20](http://www.narfe.org/fedcon20). I don't have room here to include all the details of each one, but here are the dates and titles of each one.

- **August 6, 1 p.m. ET – Legislative Update for Current and Retired Federal Employees:**
- **August 13, 1 p.m. ET – How to Be an Effective Voice for Change:**
- **August 20 1 p.m. ET – Cybersecurity: What the FBI Knows That You Don't, but Should**
- **August 27, 11 a.m. ET – Caring for the Care-giver**
- **September 3, 1 p.m. ET – The Four Things You Can Change After You Retire**
- **September 10, 1 p.m. ET – Be Prepared for Life's Events**

## **Legislative News**

The current Congress is winding down. They have a few more weeks to consider bills until the election. Then after the election, a few more weeks. Congress is mandated to pass the annual appropriation bills by September 30th, but they rarely do. Expect them to pass a continuing resolution again this year to allow government to stay open.

Please refer to the magazine or NARFE's website for the latest legislative news. 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.

## **Open Season**

Open Season runs this year from November 9th to December 14th. Watch for coming information in the October and November magazines.

## **Membership Report**

The latest Chapter Membership Report for the month of August that 2 members renewed their membership and 3 others renewed by way of dues withholding. It also shows a change in phone for 1 member and a change of address for 1 member.

I am glad to see it when members update their contact information, this helps us to stay in contact. If you have made any changes that we do not know about, either update your record on the headquarters website or let me know.

## **NARFE Voting**

Here are the results of the 2020 NARFE voting. I will just mention officers of the 2 contested positions that apply to us. For Secretary/Treasurer-Kathryn Hensley won over Cindy Renee Blythe, for Region X Vice President-William "Bill" Shackelford won over Robert Allen.

In the various ballot issues, these were **REJECT-ED**:

- B-2002 Ballot Design Standards
- B-2008 Equality in Proposing Amendments
- B-2014 Simplify Voting Process
- B-2017 Voting Member Privileges
- B-2018 Add Spousal Members
- B-2021 Federation Payments
- S-2002 Ensure Committee Diversity

These ballot issues were **ADOPTED**

- B-2004 National Executive Board Authority
- B-2005 National Officers' Vacancies
- B-2006 Bylaws Provision
- B 2007 Voting
- B-2009 Federation Mergers
- B-2010 Secretary/Treasure Term Limits
- B-2011 National Officer/RVP Office Terms
- B-2015 Executive Director Duties
- B-2020 Dues Increase
- BRC-01 Member Categories (Combines B-2003, B-2012 and B-2019)
- S-2005 Chapter Payments
- R-2001 Eliminate WEP
- R-2002 Increase Social Security
- NEB-01 NEB Salaries

These are only the titles of the ballot issues and do not say what they propose to change. You can get a brief description and vote tally on the NARFE website. I have the Booklet that gives the full details of all these issues and can answer any questions that you may have.

There were a total of 13,411 ballots cast which is 7.43 percent of the total membership. I hope you were able to get your ballot cast during this election.

## **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)