

Monthly Notes

We are now well into the spring season in our part of the world. Time for outdoor activities like walking, gardening, mowing, etc. The days are longer and the extreme cold days of winter are behind us. Enjoy the spring season.

Again this time this newsletter is a combination issue of April and May, as my work keeps me plenty busy most of the time during tax time. The filing deadline was extended to May 17th this year.

I was told that the Federation Newsletter was sent out during the month of February, by email if you have an email on file or by regular mail if not. I did not get it either way, not sure if you did or not, but just in case, those who have access to the internet can [click here](#) to read it.

The NARFE Tennessee Federation held its Annual Meeting on April 21st.. It was an online meeting using what is called Zoom meeting. More details about the meeting in another section of this letter.

Nearby Chapter Closes

The NARFE chapter in Cumberland County informed the Tennessee Federation that it is closing. No reason was given as they had active officers in the chapter and they had members who participated in meetings. Normally when a chapter closes, the members are given the choice to indicate where they want their membership transferred to, but the officers of the Cumberland County chapter failed to follow the guidelines and the members were not given that opportunity during the closing process.

This is just the most recent chapter closing and it just happens to be the nearest chapter to us. Chapters normally close when there is no longer interest among the membership for chapter officers and participation.

We have had several chapter close in Tennessee over the years. I have heard of one other Tennessee chapter that is also closing. This will leave a total of 19 chapters remaining in Tennessee. Other member organizations like ours are doing likewise.

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

February 1 balance—\$2,275.80
 Dues received—\$0.00 (February)
 Dues received—\$24.00 (March)
 Disbursements—\$0.00
 March 31 balance—\$2,299.80

COLA Watch

We continue to monitor the reports on the COLA. The past 2 months, February and March, there was significant increases in the costs of goods and services reported. I guess that you have noticed to rising price of gasoline, which is a big part of the increase in the reports. We are now half way through this reporting year as we watch for the 2022 COLA.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2022
October 2020	+0.03	+0.26
November 2020	-0.10	+0.16
December 2020	+0.10	+0.26
January 2021	+0.48	+0.74
February 2021	+0.61	+1.35
March 2021	+0.81	+2.20

NARFE Webinars

The most recent webinars presented by the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute are listed here. They are still available to be viewed by recording on the NARFE website.

- **New Congress: New Administration: What's in Store for Your Federal Benefits**
- **Telemedicine and Telehealth: The Future of Your Healthcare Experience**
- **Tax Planning for Federal Retirees**
- **CSRS Offset: The Best of Both Worlds or a Nightmare?**
- **Is There a 'Best Date' to Retire?**

Upcoming webinars that are scheduled include these: Both of these will be presented live at 1:PM Central Time, and can also be watched later.

- **Navigating the Retirement Process: Smooth Sailing to Your Life After Retirement, May 6th.**
- **Plan Ahead: Helping New and Mid-Career Feds Manage Your Benefits, May 20th.**

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.

Report on the Federation Annual Meeting

As previously stated, the Annual Meeting this year was held online using the Zoom format. There was not many members who participated, about 20. The meeting was chaired by outgoing Federation President, Wayne Baker. He has served in that roll since the previous president, Ed Evans resigned in 2019.

There were 2 interesting speakers from the NARFE Headquarters who spoke to us. The first one was Dave Bowman, who is in the Membership Department there, he spoke about what NARFE is doing to attract new members, both those who are still actively employed and those who are retired. He addressed where we are now in the area of membership and where we need to be. Also speaking was Marsha Padilla-Goad from the Legislative Department. She addressed the relationship with working with the current Congress, the current Administration and the legislative goals that would benefit NARFE members. Both speakers took questions from those in attendance at the end of their talks.

We heard reports from the Region X Vice President and the Region X Alzheimer's Chairman, as well from the Federation Membership Chair and Treasurer.

There was no resolutions or bylaw changes presented and no new business to come before the Meeting.

The 2 Annual Awards presented each year, the Weida White Tolley Alzheimer's Award was won by the Cleveland Chapter and to my surprise the Leo Potts NARFE-PAC Award was won by our chapter. Both of these awards go to the chapter that donates the most per capita to those funds. The total donations for our chapter to the PAC was \$686.00 for the year 2020.

The federation officers elected to serve for the coming year include these:

- President—Billy (BJ) Godwin
- Secretary—Timothy Powers
- Treasurer—Norris Alderson
- Membership Chair—Rhonda Mooney

The 3 Vice President positions and the Legislative Chair position are not filled as no candidate was willing to serve in either of those offices.

At the close of the meeting, the new president addressed those in attendance and shared his goals going forward. He will be working on having an in person Annual Meeting for 2022.

Suggestion for High Bank Balance

Based on the response I received, I am proposing that we make a donation to Alzheimer's Research in the amount of \$1,000 from chapter funds. Unless there are objections, we will make plans to do that in the coming months. Let me know of any objections to that or any other suggestions.

Financial Audit Completed

Our annual audit of the treasurer's records was recently completed by fellow member Roy Byrd. In his report, in part he stated: "All deposits and disbursements are correctly recorded in the bank book, bank statements, and monthly treasurer's reports," He found everything for year 2020 to be in perfect order. He went on to say that Myrna Estes, Treasurer has done an outstanding job for several years and is to be commended for her work. I agree with that statement and our thanks to Roy for conducting the audit again this year.

No Federation Dues Again This Year

Once again the Tennessee Federation is waving the payment by chapters for member dues. This is the second year in a roll they have done this. Normally each chapter is required to pay \$3.00 per member as dues to the Federation. No reason was given as to why this decision has been made.

These dues amount to a big part of our chapter operating expenses each year and this is one reason we have maintained a high bank balance.

Membership Report

The latest reports of member activity that I see shows that we had 5 members that renewed and 2 members sent the Second Renewal Notice. We also had 1 that dropped for non-renewal and 1 new member.

We would like to welcome Cheryl Daly of Gainesboro to our chapter. We are glad to have her as a NARFE member and hope that we can be of service to her.

Legislation Report

For the latest news on the legislative front, I would refer you to the latest issue of the magazine which lists the status of current legislation and also to the NARFE website, Legislation Action Center for up to the minute information on bills currently in Congress.

On The Light Side— Driving Tips

The faster you drive through a red light, the smaller the chance you have of getting hit.

Learn to swerve abruptly, after all, the state highway department puts potholes in key locations to test drivers' reflexes and keep them on their toes.

Remember that the goal of every other driver on the road is to get there first, by whatever means necessary.

Under no circumstances should you leave a safe distance between you and the car in front of you, or the space will be filled in by somebody else putting you in an even more dangerous situation.

Enjoy

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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