

Monthly Notes

Folks the calendar keeps moving along, and we are now in the month of August. I am preparing this near the beginning of the month and so far this year we have not had any extreme high temperatures this summer. That could change but it has been good so far. I hope all is well for all of you.

As I mentioned last month about the July issue of the *Tennessee Federation News* went out and I received my copy and I hope you all did as well. If anyone did not, let me or the Newsletter Editor know.

Our chapter treasurer did mail a donation check in the amount \$1000 to Alzheimer's Research on behalf of our chapter. I hope that helps to find a solution to this illness that affects so many people.

I am still uncertain what to do about reestablishing chapter meetings. According to some news reports the COVID virus is still causing many people to be sick. And precautions are still in order for some people. So at this time, no in person meetings are planned. As mentioned last month, we could have telephone meetings and we may try that soon. So far I have not received much in the way of response to that sort of meetings. I believe that I cover most of everything in these newsletters that we would have to talk about at chapter meetings.

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

June 1 balance—\$2,380.46

Dues received—\$36.00

Disbursements—\$110.00 for postage stamps

June 30 balance—\$2,306.46

NARFE Webinars

The next webinar to be presented is one that I doubt that many will be interested in. It is **Protecting Your Federal Benefits in Divorce**. It will on Thursday, August 12th. You can find this on the NARFE Federal Benefits Institute section of the. National website alone with these past ones.

- **Discover the True Cost and Value of CSRS/ FERS Survivor Benefits**
- **Financial Strategies for Mid-Career Federal Employees**
- **Plan Ahead: Helping New and Mid-Career Feds Manage Your Benefits**
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- **Navigating the Retirement Process: Smooth Sailing to Your Life After Retirement,**

COLA Watch

The consumer prices continue to rise in ways that we have not seen since the year of 2008. The June report showed an increase of 1.06 percent, and so far we have 5.13 percent towards the next adjustment. We all pay higher prices for goods because of this, I hope prices do not continue to rise as much.

There are 3 more monthly reports in this reporting year.

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
April 2021	+0.89	+3.08
May 2021	+0.91	+4.03
June 2021	+1.06	+5.13

Member Name Correction

Last month I mentioned a member that just transferred to our chapter, but I reported her name incorrectly. She is Helen Maurine Burton and goes by her middle name. We are glad to make the correction.

Updated Membership List

Just to remind you that the latest list of chapter members is available on our chapter website. This list is only available to current members. You will need to log in with your Username which is your Last name and Password which is your member ID. If you have any problems with that, I will help you.

Please do not share member information outside our chapter. Anyone desiring a list that does not have internet access can request a copy.

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.

August is Advocacy Month

This month is a good time to meet with your members of Congress. They generally come back to their district and state during the month of August. Even though this is not an election year, there still should be some events nearby where our Senators and Representatives will hold meetings. I do not know when that will be where you live, I would recommend that you watch local news and whatever is available to find out when meetings are going on near you.

Of course you can speak with your elected officials on any topic, NARFE encourages you to speak to them regarding legislation pertaining to federal workers and retirees. You can find help on these topics on the NARFE website. Click on the section called Advocacy and there you will find listed several ways that you can take part.

Members Still Being Overcharged

I have just found out that some of our members were overcharged for chapter dues again. This happened last year and I contacted someone at NARFE headquarters to attempt to get it resolved but was not successful. As you may remember, we as a chapter ended up sending refund checks to those who were overcharged. For most, the amount of the overcharge was \$4.00. There is was no problem in the National portion of the members dues.

On the July financial report, I see 4 members who use dues withholding that are being overcharged this year. I contacted a different person from last year and this person has assured me that she has gone in to their system and manually corrected the problem. I hope so, but I have no way to verify this for you.

For those on dues withholding, each year on the anniversary date of the time that you enrolled in dues withholding, OPM will send you a Annuity Statement if there is a change. The amount for NARFE dues shown should be \$4.00 each month. This is for national and chapter dues. I believe some will show \$4.33 which is incorrect. The person I spoke to was to correct this, but I would ask that you log in to your OPM account and check the amount of the NARFE withholdings from your monthly payment.

I will continue to monitor this in the months to come and if the problem persists we will try to refund the overcharge. Please bear with us on this.

Biden Issuing Vaccine Mandates

President Biden has said that he will force all federal employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19. While many federal employees may already be vaccinated, I think this should be left up to each person to decide. We should have personal freedom and this should not be mandated on anyone. What will follow, will he also mandate that retirees be vaccinated?

Legislation Report

In previous newsletters I have made mention of several important bills that have been filed in Congress. This month I want to mention 1 other.

It is named, the Social Security Fairness Act H.R. 82 and S. 1302. Similar bills have been around for many years that would fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). This current bill continues that effort and it would benefit those federal employees who also receive Social Security benefits. Currently there are 175 Cosponsors for H.R. 82 and 29 Cosponsors for S. 1302 as reported in the August magazine. If you are not familiar with these Social Security actions, there is a position paper on the subject that you can read by clicking this [link](#).

Use the NARFE website or your phone to contact your Representative and Senators about these bills. That phone number is 866-220-0044.

Noted Magazine Articles

In the August issue there is an article on page 48 with the title, **If We Can't Reach You, You're Missing Out—Update Your Member Profile Today**. NARFE needs your current mailing address to get the magazine to you and current email address to get other important information to you. The article encourages members to log in to the NARFE website to make any updates needed. And for those who can't or do not want to do it online, there is a phone number provided for that same purpose.

And don't forget, I would appreciate you informing me as well.

Conservative Senior Organization

I mention this from time to time, that there is an alternative to the liberal leaning AARP group that you may not be aware of. The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has been around for many years and it offers a more conservative incite of news and information for seniors than AARP. They provide a monthly magazine, member perks and much more. Their membership rates are low and affordable, to all. You can find them online at amac.us or at phone number 888-262-2006.

On The Light Side—Stupid Signs

In a department store: BARGAIN BASEMENT UP- STARS

Outside a secondhand shop: WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A GREAT BARGAIN?

Spotted in a safari park: ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org