

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Ho Ho Ho

Monthly Notes

December has arrived, this means this year is coming to a close. Time to remember the Christmas Season and the reason for the season. I wish all of you a very merry Christmas time. Stay safe if you travel and stay warm and well.

During this time of year, things seem to slow down in the world of NARFE and Congress. I hope all you received the November issue of the Tennessee Federation Newsletter. If not, drop me a line and I will follow up on that.

By the time that this newsletter gets to you, the Federal Benefits Open Season will be closing for this year. The last day to make changes in your health insurance plans is December 13, 2021. The changes in plans will take effect on January 1, 2022. The change in premiums will not change until the February annuity payment.

This month be on the lookout for your Annuity Statement from OPM that shows the amount of you gross pay and the various withholdings for the coming year and your 2022 benefit amount from SSA.

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

October 1 balance—\$1,347.96
Dues received—\$6.00

Disbursements—none
October 31 balance—\$1,353.96

NARFE Webinars

There are some new webinars available for the watching if you are interested. Based on what I see, one was shown on December 2nd. and another will be shown on December 16th.

- **Leaving Federal Service Before Retirement: What You Need to Know** December 2nd.
- **Estate Planning: Strategies for Feds** December 16th.

These are free to members on the NARFE website, but registration is required. All are live at 1 PM CT on the dates shown. They will be recorded and can be watched later.

I am sure more will be scheduled throughout the year to come. These can be very informative and I would encourage you to watch them. They can be used for recruiting purposes as well.

COLA Watch

We start a new year of reports now that the 2022 COLA has been established, Look for a 5.9 percent increase on your January annuity check and Social Security check.

Surprisingly both the October and November CPI reports came out before this newsletter and both show a continued rise in the consumer prices adding to the overall inflation we see for goods and services. So who knows what the coming months will show as we move forward. As they say, Stay Tuned.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2023
October 2021	+0.92	+1.17
November 2021	+0.55	+1.72
December 2021		

NARFE 2021 Fall Membership Drive.

We have till the end of December for this. A membership form is included in each NARFE magazine. Include your name and member ID on the forms in order to get credit for the new recruit. **Important, New members have to opt in to join a local chapter, it is not automatic anymore. Our chapter number is 1956, so enter that on the form.**

Medicare Part B

The costs of Medicare Part B is going up in 2022 as expected. Most will see the costs go from \$148.50 to \$170.10 per month. That is an increase of 14.5 percent. Sounds mighty high to me.

Those with higher incomes based on 2020 income of more than \$91,000 for single tax filers and \$182,000 for joint tax filers, the premium will be \$238.10 per month. These two sets of income will cover most all of us, but there are more income levels besides these in which some will fall into that must pay even higher premiums.

Chapter Officers

President & Newsletter Editor	Ronnie Collins
Vice President	Vacant
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When you get your renewal notice, be sure to renew both your National and Chapter Dues.

Monthly Membership Report

The latest Member Reports that I get from NARFE regarding our chapter shows 3 members renewing this past month. The amounts that I see are all correct which is good.

Please watch for any notices to renew your membership, the holiday season is approaching and it is easy to overlook such things as this. Thanks for all of our members who stay with us.

Legislation News

On Wednesday, December 1, 2021, NARFE National President Ken Thomas testified before the House of Representatives Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on Government Operations in a hearing considering the future of the federal workforce.

Thomas' testimony was to address the need to recruit and retain the next generation of federal workers, both to fill current skills gaps and to ensure that the workforce is properly staffed in anticipation of a coming retirement wave. To that end, Thomas was to highlight the importance of updating federal hiring processes and personnel management laws to simplify and improve hiring practices across the government. Additionally, he spoke about improving recruitment, retention, and the importance of providing competitive pay and benefits; the need for broad implementation of modern work practices such as flexible telework and paid family leave; improving federal internship programs for college students and recent graduates; and more.

Thomas also highlighted the importance of strengthening and revitalizing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to meet the needs of an evolving federal workforce. He will touch on a 2020 report on OPM from the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), which laid the groundwork to reform OPM through numerous recommendations for improving its services and solidifying its leadership in human capital. Thomas also discussed NARFE's support for Subcommittee Chairman Gerry Connolly's, D-VA, newly introduced bill, the Strengthening the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Act, H.R. 6066, which implements several recommendations from the NAPA report. The bill would help solidify OPM's independence and ensure continuity of leadership and human capital expertise within the agency.

You can watch a recording or read his testimony if you want. I can point you to that.

Keep up with other legislative news by either going to the NARFE website or reading the information provided in the magazine.

Contact your members of Congress with your concerns. If you do not have access to the internet you can also use this phone number is 866-220-0044 to contact them.

NARFE Launches FEDHUB Online Members-Only Community

NARFE's new online member community, FEDHub, launched Monday, November 8, and NARFE members around the country are already making connections and sharing ideas in the Open Forum community.

NARFE created FEDHub to support your success by bringing you the knowledge and value of our entire community. Thanks for being part of the NARFE community.

If you're new to online communities, visit the Quick Start Guide and learn more about how FEDHub works. When you visit FEDHub, you'll log in using the same credentials you would use for NARFE's website (if you need assistance with your username and password, please email loginhelp@narfe.org).

Be sure to update your profile to include a picture and bio, visit the Community Notifications page on your profile to adjust your settings for the Open Forum community (choose "Daily Digest" to receive one daily email with all the community conversations listed), and post a hello in the Open Forum..

You can get to this place by signing in to NARFE at the [home page](#) or at this web address fedhub.narfe.org. Give it a try.

Yearly RMD

If you have an IRA account or a 401K account you may need to make a Required Minimum Distribution from those accounts before the end of the calendar year. That means by December 31st. The rules have changed but this year under current rules, everyone must begin making RMDs the year they turn 72. If not made on time, there is a huge tax penalty imposed.

Recommended Reading from the Magazine

Look in the December issue for the article: Grants Awarded for Alzheimer's Research for the latest in updates on that.

Also Congress wants to end what is called Backdoor Roth contributions, there is an article on that: Congress Has Backdoor Roth Strategies in Its Crosshairs: Act Now.

Seasonal Funnies

I wanted our street to have the prettiest decorations in the neighborhood, so I strung lit colored balls from house to house, all the way down the block. I did all the electrical wiring myself.

If you'd like further information, just drive down Moorpark Street in North Hollywood. We're the third pile of ashes from the corner. —Bob Hope

STAY SAFE

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org