



**PUTNAM COUNTY
COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE**
Member of the Tennessee Federation

Chapter 1956

Newsletter

February/March 2021

Monthly Notes

This issue of the newsletter is getting to you late. My time to prepare these newsletters has been limited due to the fact that I switched employers which means additional training and learning a new process. So I have combined the February and March issues.

We are now through the main part of the Winter months. It has been a cold, icy and snowy winter this year. Spring is just around the corner. We should have much warmer days soon. I hope all is well with each of you.

The NARFE Tennessee Federation is planning an Annual Meeting for this year in the month of April. It will be a online meeting using what is called Zoom meeting. I will explain more on that in another section of this letter.

All Tennessee members should have received the expected Tennessee Federation News sent out to you in February. This is the first newsletter from the federation since July 2019, as we have not had a Newsletter Editor for a long time.

Things in Washington DC are heating up with the new administration and new Congress in place. Many of the things may or may not be of our liking, but all we can do about it is send our phone calls or emails there to express our concerns.

Tax Time

It is that time of year to file your federal taxes for year 2020. Wages and income reported is in most cases taxable including retirement income and in some cases part of the Social Security benefits.

Be sure to gather all your tax documents needed to include on your taxes, most of which should have been sent to you either by mail or download. There is a above the line deduction this year for charitable contributions up to \$300 even if you don't itemize your deductions.

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

December 1 balance—\$2,244.88

Dues received—\$31.92 (December)

Dues received—\$54.00 (January)

Disbursements—Stamps \$55.00

January 31 balance—\$2275.80

Chapter Meetings

Remember that chapter meetings are suspended due to the current Covid-19 virus.

COLA Watch

Here are the numbers so far this year, from October 2020 to January 2021. There have been increases in 3 of the 4 months shown. We are early in the COLA season so stay tuned till October for the finale numbers.

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

NARFE Webinars

Here is the information on the most recent webinars which have been held

- **New Congress: New Administration: What's in Store for Your Federal Benefits** (January 28, 2021)
- **Telemedicine and Telehealth: The Future of Your Healthcare Experience** (February 11, 2021)
- **Tax Planning for Federal Retirees:** March 18, 2021

These can be viewed live or after the date presented, just go to the NARFE website. You only need to pre-register to watch the webinars live. These and all others are available by recording after the date presented.

Suggestions for High Bank Balance

I am still looking for suggestions from you about how best to move forward with our bank balance which has remained large for several years. Let me know if a chapter donation to the Alzheimer's Research fund would be a good way to use some of our funds. Or any other suggestion would be welcomed as well.

Chapter Officers

President & Newsletter Editor

Ronnie Collins

Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Reba Collins

Treasurer

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

NARFE-PAC

Every year at this time, our headquarters staff asks us to remember that March is NARFE-PAC month. While 2021 is not an election year, donations are still encouraged. The March magazine has information on this year's push for contributors. I would encourage you to take note of that. There are always incentives to encourage members to donate.

Remember donations are voluntary and does not have anything to do with membership dues or the member operation of NARFE main function. Also remember that political candidates receiving NARFE-PAC money may or may not hold the same personal views as you, but they are required to support NARFE's views and goals.

Membership Report

I continue to monitor the Chapter Membership Reports made available on the officers section of the NARFE website. In the most recent 2 months I see several members who renewed and some with changes in their address. Keep us updated on any changes to your mailing address, email address or phone number. Having the latest contact information is very important.

2021 NARFE Federation Annual Meeting

Though we did not have an Annual Meeting last year due to COVID and no chapter willing to host the meeting, this year one is being planned but in a different way. It will be a virtual meeting done online using the Zoom meeting program. Participants should be able to join in by computer, table, or phone connection.

It will be a one day event on April 21, 2021 beginning at 9:30am Eastern Time, 8:30am Central Time. It is not known how long the meeting will last. All who attend will need to get the Meeting ID and Passcode from the Federation President, Wayne Baker. The Federation Newsletter will also have details about this upcoming meeting as well. All Tennessee NARFE members are invited and encouraged to take part.

The purpose of the Annual Meetings is and has always been for the purpose of electing the officers of the federation, voting on any proposed Bylaws changes and resolutions and any other business to come up at the meeting. Under the current Bylaws, the slate of officers and proposed Bylaws changes must be voted on prior to the meeting date. At an in person meeting, there is the opportunity to meeting with other members from across the state, but that will not be likely with a virtual meeting.

This will be something completely new and I am sure there will be some problems along the way. Many groups and organizations are now doing online meetings these days rather than in person meetings.

Member Death

I am sad to report the passing of Bob Harris, he died suddenly on February 28, 2021 at the age of 86. Bob attended nearly all of our chapter meetings since joining NARFE in 2012 and moving to our area. Bob worked for the USDA during his federal career.

Our deepest sympathies at this time go out to his wife Peggi and several children who survive. There is no formal service planned at this time.

NARFE's Legislative Accomplishments: For 2019-2020

I know that in recent years not much has been accomplished on behalf of federal workers and retirees in Congress, but our legislative department has been busy working for us there to both push for bills that would help and to block bills that would be harmful to the federal community. Remember there are a lot of bills that are introduced and we should be glad that someone is there to monitor all the activity. NARFE cannot take all the credit for these accomplishments but they did have a part in them. Here, I will just list the items, see the March issue of the magazine for details of these.

- Preventing cuts to earned pay and benefits
- Blocking the OPM reorganization plan
- Securing pay raises for federal employees
- Providing paid parental leave for federal employees
- Guaranteeing back pay for employees furloughed during government shutdown
- Suspending RMDs for TSP participants for 2020
- Securing Congressional hearing on nominees for the TSP board
- Extending the rehired federal retirees waiver authority
- Repealing the Cadillac tax
- Securing emergency funding for the Postal Service

NARFE Has an Updated Website

If you have visited the NARFE national website recently, then you may have noticed a new look to it. The page you see first is what members and non-members see. Take some time to explore what is available to non-members.

As a member, be sure to click on that header section to update your member records, renew your membership and go to the Members Home Page.

The COVID virus is still hanging on but getting less severe. Many are taking the vaccine, Use your own good judgement to stay safe and well during these times.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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