

**Monthly Notes**

We are getting close to the end of summer, one more month till fall begins. Seems this summer has been hotter than normal in this area. But I think that I prefer summer over winter.

Everybody should have received the latest Tennessee Federation newsletter. If not, you can view it online on the federation website.

The scheduled Federation Board meeting with chapter presidents for August has been postponed, and no new date has been set yet.

**The Latest Chapter Financial Report .**

June beginning balance—\$1557.96

Dues received in May—\$36.00

Disbursements—none

June ending balance—\$1593.96

**NARFE National Voting**

Voting for NARFE officers and Bylaws proposals is now OPEN. You have until August 31st. to cast your ballot. The ballot is in the August magazine along with voting instructions. Please read carefully the instructions, especially the part where there are more than 2 candidates for a particular office as in the case of National President and Region II Vice President. Most of us in the Putnam County Chapter will vote in Region X, but we have one member in Region II. You can only vote for the Regional VP that is in region you live in.

You may vote by mail by marking your ballot, placing the ballot in an envelope and mailing to the address on the ballot. Ballots must be received by August 31st. You can also vote online by going to the website shown in the magazine or [clicking here](#). You will need your member ID number and the Unique Pin from your ballot or email sent to you.

Again I will mention that NARFE is using the preferential voting in cases where there are more than 2 candidates running for the same office. You must mark the candidates by 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, and so on.

There are 10 bylaws proposals to be voted on. They are briefly explained on page 10 of the magazine along with the committee recommendations. But vote your will for these.

While voting is not required, it is important to exercise your right to vote. If you have questions on the voting process, call 866-720-4357 Monday—Friday between 9am to 5pm ET..

**COLA Watch**

The June Consumer Price Index report has been released and it shows a continued rise which was expected. While the price of gas has come down some, other products such as food, utilities, etc. continue to rise.

There are 3 more monthly reports for this year to determine the 2023 COLA.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2023
October 2021	+0.92	+1.17
November 2021	+0.55	+1.72
December 2021	+0.32	+2.05
January 2022	+0.87	+2.93
February 2022	+0.96	+3.92
March 2022	+1.52	+5.50
April 2022	+0.49	+6.02
May 2022	+1.21	+7.30
June 2022	+1.57	+8.99

**NARFE Webinars**

Here is the list of the latest webinars offered by the Federal Benefits Institute. You can determine which, if any are of interest to you. Remember there are more available besides these.

- **Understanding FERS Deferred/Postponed Retirement Options.** Live on June.8th.
- **Understanding Military and Civilian Federal Service Credit.**
- **The TSP's New Mutual Fund Window.** Live September 14th.
- **To B or Not to B: Is Medicare Part B Right for You.** Live September 29th.

These are free to members on the NARFE website, but registration is required to view them live. They will be recorded and can be watched later.

**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.**

## **NARFE Advocacy Month**

Grassroots Advocacy Month is here! As you know, NARFE's Grassroots Advocacy Month is held each August in conjunction with the extended congressional recess, when members of Congress leave Capitol Hill and return to their districts and states to engage with constituents through Labor Day. This year, the House will commence its recess August 1, while the Senate will begin August 8. Both chambers will return to Capitol Hill on September 6. The month-long recess gives members ample opportunities to interact with lawmakers through virtual and in-person meetings and events, letter-writing, phone campaigns, social media and more.

Our advocacy will focus on two leading NARFE legislative priorities: repeal or reform of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO); and improving cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for federal retirees. Our top WEP/GPO priority is gaining support for the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82/S. 1302, which would fully repeal both WEP and GPO. These two provisions unfairly reduce Social Security benefits for federal retirees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) simply due to their receipt of a federal pension. At this time, total cosponsors of total bill have surpassed 290 allowing it to be placed on the consensus calendar for a vote. But for that to happen, the bill must maintain at least 290 cosponsors for 25 legislative calendar days. To ensure we maintain the 290, our advocacy effort will continue to get as many Representatives as possible who have not already cosponsored the bill to do so.

In case the repeal path is not available, we're also seeking to build support for H.R. 2337, the Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act, to reform WEP and provide some relief to current retirees.

On improving COLAs, we're focusing on two bills, one that would improve COLAs for all federal annuities and Social Security benefits and one that would improve COLAs for Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuities. The first bill, the Fair COLA for Seniors Act, H.R. 4315, would require the use of the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E), which calculates a price index for Americans aged 62 and older, instead of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), to determine annual cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security beneficiaries, federal annuitants, military retirees and certain veterans' benefits. Historically, the CPI-E would lead to higher COLAs, and the index better reflects price changes experienced by seniors, such as higher spending for medical care. NARFE also supports the Equal COLA Act, H.R. 304/S. 4221, which would provide FERS retirees a full COLA when consumer prices increase by

more than 2 percent. Under current law, the FERS COLA is just 2 percent when consumer prices increase between 2 and 3 percent, and it's reduced by 1 percentage point when consumer prices increase by more than 3 percent.

Thanks for your support and advocacy. Please contact NARFE if you have any questions at [advocacy@narfe.org](mailto:advocacy@narfe.org).

## **Monthly Membership Report**

The chapter activity report for July shows that we had 1 annual member renewed, and 3 others by the dues withholding. There was no other activity reported this past month.

I also look at the list of total chapter members online each month and this month, I see a name was added who dropped about a year ago. I also see a member who lives in Crossville that has not been listed before. Items such as these 2 should appear on the monthly activity report, but they did not..

## **TSP's New Mutual Fund Window**

If you are still invested with the Thrift Savings Plan, you may be interested in the new funds available in that plan. There will be a webinar on this subject on September 14th. You may want to watch live on that day or watch later.

## **Legislative Report**

This month I will direct you to the NARFE magazine for the latest news on the legislative front. The August issue has a good run down on pages 12-16 in the column called Washington Watch.

## **On the Light Side—Quotes by Others**

*Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence. - Helen Keller*

*Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best. -St. Jerome*

*Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy. - Norman Vincent Peale*

*Well done is better than well said. -Benjamin Franklin*

*You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.-Les Brown*

*Where there is a will, there is a way. If there is a chance in a million that you can do something, anything, to keep what you want from ending, do it. Pry the door open or, if need be, wedge your foot in that door and keep it open. -Pauline Kael*

*The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power. -Unknown*

## **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)