

*MERRY
CHRISTMAS*

Monthly Notes

We have reached the end of this year. December brings the Christmas season, and many times travel, gifts, food, family time and more. I wish all our members a joyous Christmas and remember the true meaning of Christmas.

The Federation held a board meeting using Zoom on November 29th. In that meeting, we discussed the upcoming joint board meeting with the chapter presidents and the agenda items to be covered during that meeting.

The Federation held the joint meeting on December 5th and 6th. This was an in-person meeting jointly with chapter presidents. Of the 17 chapters in the state, 8 were represented at this meeting. Each chapter went over the things that were working well in their chapter and the problems they had in the chapter.

The out-going Region X Vice President was there. He gave his finale report as a vice president and motioned some of his plans when he takes over as NARFE National President on January 3, 2023. He stated that his number one item was to address the problems with the Association Management System the AMS reporting system (as you may recall, this is what I have been complaining about for many months now in my Monthly Reports section).

There were training sessions to help everyone understand the benefits of FedHub the online discussion portal and to help chapter and federation officers to understand the various online reports.

We discussed having an Federation Annual Meeting for 2023 maybe at the Montgomery Bell State Park near Dickson TN. We have not had an in-person Annual Meeting in several years mostly due to COVID and the fact that no chapter has been found to host such a meeting. We were asked to poll chapter members whether they would attend the Annual Meeting if held at that location. I would encourage that. Let me know if you would attend.

There was much more discussed and some other reports given. One common concern was one that I have repeated many times was the need for officers at the chapter level and at the federation level. Any-one willing serve, please let me know.

COLA Watch for 2024

Here we go again, the start of another year of reports of the Consumer Price Index, CPI-W that determine any Cost of Living Adjustments.

On this first report for the year, October, inflation is still rising, a .40 percent increase.

Look for the 2023 COLA increase on your January payment. For those who retired under CSRS the increase will be 8.7 percent, but for those who retired under FERS the increase will be 7.7 percent

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2024
October 2022	+0.40	+0.38
November 2022		
December 2022		
January 2023		
February 2023		

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

October beginning balance—\$1581.96
Dues received—\$12.00

Disbursements—\$120.00 postage stamps
October ending balance—\$1473.96

Open Season for 2022

By the time you receive this newsletter, the annual open season will be coming to a close. The last day to make any changes is December 12th.

NARFE Webinars

The most recent webinars mostly had to do with the Open Season. So I will not list them now since it is most likely not useful anymore. There is one that I will list that is not related to Open Season.

- **Estate Planning: Strategies for Feds** December 14th.

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.

Legislative Report

I see that NARFE is still trying to get the Social Security Fairness Act, H.R. 82, a bill to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO), to the floor for a vote. . It does appear that this bill will be placed on the calendar for a vote before the end of the session.

There are other bills that modify the WEP and GPO that also are being considered.

Not directly related to NARFE, but Congress is yet to pass a bill to fund the government for this fiscal year, so far they have passed Continuing Resolutions to keep the funding at last years levels. The current funding runs out on December 16th. Congress must pass another C R, or some sort of Omnibus bill to keep funding the government. Note: They have not passed the 12 regular funding bills in many years now.

Here are ways to contact your Representative: Go online at narfe.org to **Advocacy** and then **Take Action**. That will get you to the Legislative Action Center where you can see the list of bills, read about them and send an email. OR call them using this phone number 800-456-8410 and select option 5.

Update On Donations to Alzheimer's Research

As you know that when we were able to have chapter meetings, we took up a collection from those in attendance for the Alzheimer's fund. Even then those not in attendance were encouraged to mail donations to our chapter treasurer. Members were also asked to use the form in the magazine and mail it with the donation directly to the Alzheimer's Association in Chicago IL.

But I learned at the recent federation board meeting that donations sent directly to the Alzheimer's Association do not get credited to the local chapter even though there is a space on the form for chapter number.

I do hope that all of us continue to donate to Alzheimer's Research. We do not have a Alzheimer's Chairman in our TN Federation so please make a note to mail in your donations to the Region X Alzheimer's Chairman:

Donna Shackelford
14429 Round Lick Lane
Centreville VA 20120

Help all that you can, thanks

NARFE Annual Membership Drive

This membership drive ends at the close of this month. Many current members across the nation do recruit new members, so let's take advantage of the current incentive and get a small reward and possible a chance to win the Grand Prize.

If needed, refer back to the previous newsletter to remind yourself of the full details.

Monthly Reports

The monthly chapter reports for November show 2 annual members renewed. The financial report from National show the chapter to receive payment for 1 member. Not a lot of data again this month.

Our Federation Newsletter Editor notified me that she had problems with certain email addresses and postal addresses in our chapter when sending out the newsletters. I was able to find the errors and make the needed corrections for those members.

I would also ask that you log in to your NARFE membership account and check to see that all your contact information is current, that helps me to keep my records updated. Or I can make the updates for you if you would inform me and any changes. NARFE **does not** share your contact information with anyone and we try to make sure you are not receiving too much in the way of email.

2022 Tax Forms

Be on the lookout for the needed tax forms that should arrive this month. One is the Form 1099-R from the Office of Personnel Management showing your retirement annuity payments and the other is the SSA-1099 from the Social Security Administration, if you receive SS benefits.

Let Us Know How We Can Help

Another thing that came out of the recent federation board meeting was, we were asked how the NARFE Federation could be of help to local chapters and members. So with that in mind, let me know what the chapter or the federation can do to be of better service to you.

Christmas Funnies

1. *How did the ornament get addicted to Christmas? He was hooked on trees his whole life.*
2. *Why does Scrooge love reindeer so much? Because every single buck is dear to him.*
3. *What do you get when you cross a duck with Santa? A Christmas quacker.*
4. *What do you call an elf wearing ear muffs? Anything you want. He can't hear you.*
5. *How is Christmas exactly like your job? You do all the work and some fat guy in a suit gets all the credit.*
6. *What's the absolute best Christmas present? A broken drum—you can't beat it.*
7. *Where does Santa keep all his money? At the local snow bank.*
8. *What do snowmen eat for breakfast? Frosted Flakes or Ice Crispies.*
9. *How do sheep say Merry Christmas in Mexico? Fleece Navidad.*

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org