

Happy New Year

Monthly Notes

We have made it past the old year and now well into the new year of 2022. The years of 2020 and 2021 were challenging with all the health, financial and other issues. Not too sure at this point if 2022 will be any better.

I will try to keep you updated on the NARFE news as the year progresses. You will notice that the January and February issues of this newsletter has been combined. Since I work helping people file their tax returns, I have limited time at this time of the year.

By now you should have noticed that your federal annuity and Social Security payment increased on the January payment based on the 5.9 percent Cost of Living Adjustment. And the change in cost (if any) in your health insurance was reflected on the February annuity payment.

Keep an eye out for the related tax documents that should come by January 31st to show the amounts received in 2021 for retirement benefits and Social Security benefits.

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

November 1 balance—\$1,353.96
Dues received in November—\$12.00
Dues received in December—\$42.00

Disbursements—none
December 31 balance—\$1,407.96

NARFE Webinars

With the new year comes new webinars that members and potential members can watch. You can determine which, if any are of interest to you. I list just some here, but you can go to the NARFE website to see all the past and new ones coming up.

- **From Employee to Annuitant: Special Retirement**
- **Post-Retirement Tax Planning for Federal Employees**
- **Leaving Federal Service Before Retirement: What You Need to Know**
- **Estate Planning: Strategies for Feds**

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.

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.

COLA Watch

As this year progresses, we will monitor the monthly reports as published by the Consumer Price Index.

As you can see, inflation is still on the rise. The most recent report is for December. It shows an increase of .32 percent.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2023
October 2021	+0.92	+1.17
November 2021	+0.55	+1.72
December 2021	+0.32	+2.05

Monthly Membership Report

I have the member reports through December and they show that 5 of our members renewed and it does not show any members dropped out. That is the good news. Thanks for keeping your membership renewed each year.

The sad news is that the financial reports do not agree with membership reports. This has been an ongoing problem for a very long time.

Legislation News

All current legislation continues into the new year as the US Congress sessions last 2 years. At the close of this year, any existing bills not passed will need to be re-introduced in the next Congress.

There are many bills that could impact the federal community and NARFE urges support for those that would be of benefit to federal employees and retirees. Refer to the NARFE website Advocacy section or the magazine for more information on these various pieces of legislation.

And as always, 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.

Chapter Officers

President & Newsletter Editor	Ronnie Collins
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myrna Estes

Contact Information:

NARFE Chapter 1956
118 Ballenger Rd., Carthage TN 37030
E-mail: rwcollins@hydroguy.com
Phone or Text: 931-284-4835

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

Continuing Resolution Through February 18 Signed Into Law

With just hours to spare, Congress avoided a government shutdown by passing, and having the president sign into law, a bipartisan continuing resolution (CR) that provides government funding at fiscal year 2021 (FY 2021) levels through February 18. The December 3 deadline to fund the government was established by a previous short-term CR that was signed into law on September 30. The new CR gives Congress additional time to negotiate spending bills for FY 2022, although NARFE remains frustrated by government funding consistently coming down to the wire, leaving agencies scrambling to prepare for potential shutdowns.

The resolution does not include a raise or suspension of the debt ceiling—a limit that Congress sets on the amount of debt the federal government can borrow at any given time. The Department of Treasury currently estimates that Congress has until December 15 to act on the debt ceiling. Action on the debt limit is just one of several objectives in a packed agenda for Congress as the year comes to a close. Without a debt limit suspension, the federal government will risk defaulting on its financial obligations. Please continue to check NewsLine and NARFE's website, archive.narfe.org, for more information. To learn more about the debt limit and the risk of default, please consult NARFE's fact sheet, which covers the issue in detail, including how a default could delay payment of federal salaries and annuities.

NARFE Launches FEDHUB Online Members-Only Community-Repeat

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](#).

2022 Federation Annual Meeting

I have been trying to find out the details of this year's annual meeting. So far all that I know is that it will be another online meeting using the Zoom Meeting program. Last year was the same way. It will be a one day meeting on April 19th. I don't have a start time or end time. The host of the meeting will need to supply attendees with the Meeting ID and login details. And you should have the option of using a computer with video or just call in with a telephone to join.

A registration form is available. I am sure this will be included in the February issue of the Federation Newsletter along with other details. Those who register and attend will be entered into a \$100 cash drawing during the meeting. So keep an eye out for the next newsletter.

Future of Chapter

The chapter support from the National Headquarters and the Tennessee Federation has been becoming less and less over the last few years. Membership has dropped as well. Our chapter currently has 59 members, down from a high of about 140 back in the early 2000s.

Our chapter has had the same officers for many years now and past pleas for new officers has had no results. We do not have a current vice-president. I have served as president since 2008. Reba has served as secretary for nearly as long and Myrna has served as treasurer for nearly as long. I appreciate their many years of service.

NARFE is not able to attract younger members and as far as our chapter the only recent additions to our chapter are those who transferred from other chapters.

Many chapters are just barely hanging on and many have closed. Those that have closed are due to the lack of officers and declining membership. With that said, I wonder if it is time to think about closing the Putnam County Chapter?

This is just something to think about, no plans at this time to close our chapter. While we are not able to have meetings, I will still send our the newsletters to keep everyone informed. Your thoughts and comments are welcome.

STAY SAFE

We have had a lot of snow and cold weather so far this winter. Be careful if you must get out in it. Falls would be extremely hurt to those in our age bracket.

And that virus things keep going around. Take all needed precautions when dealing with it.

And stay warm.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org