

Monthly Notes

Welcome to another newsletter. The calendar keeps moving along and we are now well into spring. Can summer be far away? We have switched to daylight savings time and the days are also getting longer. Time to plant gardens and mow the grass :-)

I hope each one enjoys this time of the year. Stay safe if you have travel plans.

The Tennessee Federation of NARFE held its 2022 Annual Meeting via Zoom online meeting on April 18th. I was not able to attend the meeting due to my work schedule. I know they had several speakers from the national office lined up to speak during the event.

The only business that I know of was the presentation of the annual awards and the election of Federation Officers for the year to come. They normally announce the time and place of the next annual meeting as well. As of yet, I have received no news of what was done, etc. There were no new nominations for officers, so I expect the same ones to carry forward to the coming year.

The next Federation Newsletter should be out in July, I am sure it will include some news and information from the meeting.

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

March beginning balance—\$1,473.96

Dues received in March—\$12.00

Disbursements—none

March ending balance—\$1485,.96

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.

- **Post-Retirement Tax Planning for Federal Employees.**
- **Leaving Federal Service Before Retirement: What You Need to Know.**
- **Estate Planning: Strategies for Feds.**
- **Managing Your TSP in Retirement.**
- **Understanding FERS Deferred/Postponed Retirement Options.** Live on June.8th.
- **Understanding Military and Civilian Federal Service Credit.** Live on July.7th.

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.

COLA Watch

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

As you can see, inflation jumped a large amount in March as prices for most everything continues to rise as you can tell when you shop. I don't know what the remaining reports will show for this year, but we are nearly to the yearly cost of living amount for the whole of last year.

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

Monthly Membership Report

The chapter activity report for March shows activity from 2 members, including renewals, change in payment options, and changes to address, phone number or email..

The chapter reports that I get from the national office leave much to be desired in completeness and accuracy but it is all they provide us.

Chapter Finances in Good Order

The audit of the chapter financial records for 2021 finds everything to be find and in perfect order according to Roy Byrd, who did the audit. He goes on to say that our Treasurer, Myrna Estes has done an outstanding job for several years and should be commended for her work.

I appreciate the audit work by Roy for several years and agree that Myrna does excellent work.

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.

National Officer Candidates

There is always a lot of interest in those who want to be NARFE national officers. These are elected by members every 2 years and this is the year for that.

These include the national president, national secretary/treasurer and a vice president for each of the 10 regions throughout the nation. We in Tennessee are in Region X and that is the only region that we have a vote in.

These national officers will be vote on by ballot prior to the 2022 National Conference (FEDCON as it is now called). The ballot will be included in the NARFE magazine in an upcoming issue around June or July.

The candidate statements are included in the May issue of the magazine, I encourage you to read what each one has to say about themselves and what they want to do as an officer. I would also like to make a few comments about some of them.

There are 4 candidates for National President and I have to say that I am not impressed by either of them. They are

- Bill Austin who was several years ago our Region X Vice President.
- Jon Dowie who was a previous National Secretary/Treasurer
- Gary Roundtree the current Region II Vice President
- William Shackelford our current Region X Vice President.

I will be giving more thought to each of these but at this point I cannot recommend either of these for National President. Consider what your choice is.

There is only one candidate for National Secretary/Treasurer and that is the incumbent Kathryn Hensley. As far as I know, she is doing a good job in that position.

There are 2 running for our Region X Vice President position. They are:

- Robert Allen who I highly recommend and was a past North Carolina Federation President.
- Charles Talley who is a North Carolina Federation Vice President.

FEDCON 22

This is also the year for the NARFE National Conference, now called FEDCON. It is 2 and a half day event that will take place in Scottsdale AZ on August 21-23, 2022. More information will be included in the magazine as the dates gets closer.

Prior to the National Conference be on the lookout for a ballot to be included in the NARFE magazine that will list the Officers, proposed Resolutions and By-laws changes to be voted on. You can mail in the ballot or go online and vote by that means. Instructions will be included and a phone number for questions will be shown on the ballot.

New Guide Available for Survivors

A new guide that list a lot of helpful information for survivors or federal annuitants has been published my NARFE. It is called; *Affairs in Order: Benefits Guidance for Survivors of Federal Annuitants*. The topics covered include:

- What Happens When a Federal Annuitant Dies?
- Reporting the Death of an Annuitant.
- Social Security Survivor Benefits
- Social Security Benefits for Surviving Children
- Social Security Benefits for Surviving Dependent Parents
- Social Security Benefits for Surviving Divorced Former Spouse.
- Federal Benefits Available to Adult Children Incapable of Self-Support.
- CSRS and FERS Children Survivor Benefits.
- Survivors of Active Federal Employees: Accessing Benefits.
- Reporting the Death of a Spouse Designated for a Survivor Benefit.

This guide is available on the narfe.org website and is about 11 pages of useful information and phone numbers and forms relating to the topics listed. If you would like a copy [click on this LINK](#) and it can be viewed, or downloaded to a computer or phone. Also you can print a copy if wanted.

Legislation News

The NARFE supported Postal Reform Act of 2022 was signed into law on April 6th after passing both houses of Congress. This version of the bill included provisions that were better than previous versions of postal reform.

The act establishes the Postal Service Health Benefits (PSHB) program, which will be administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and made available to postal employees and annuitants in January 2025. While most current postal employees (future retirees) will be required to enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65 as a condition of coverage, current postal retirees (as of January 1, 2025) will not face the new mandate thanks to NARFE's advocacy. However, current postal retirees will have the opportunity to enroll in Part B without a late penalty through a special six-month enrollment period starting April 1, 2024. Plans in the PSHB will be designed to mirror current Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program plans but with different rates that reflect a separate, postal-only risk pool as well as cost savings accrued from increased Medicare integration.

And as always, contact your members of Congress with your concerns, 866-220-0044.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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