

Monthly Notes

Well folks the calendar pages keep dropping off, one month at a time bringing us to August. The heat is still with us and the days are getting shorter little by little. I hope you enjoy this months newsletter.

No news from the federation to include here. In times past there would be federation board meeting in this month, but the current president does not follow the same schedule as in times before. I know that in the last federation newsletter there was a call for new federation officers. Of course we in the chapter have the same need as you will see below.

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

June beginning balance—\$1673.96
Dues received —\$48.00

Disbursements—none
June ending balance—\$1721.96

News About Our Treasurer

Myrna has had some health issues of late and has decided to relocate from Cookeville to another city. And as a result, she is stepping down from her responsibilities as chapter treasurer.

Myrna has served as our treasurer since January of 2009 making over 14 years. That is remarkable,, her dedication and attention to detail is without question. Myrna is going to be missed and I wish her well in her upcoming move.

New Treasurer Needed-Urgent

We have a need for someone willing to serve as chapter treasurer. This is an important chapter office and one that is required. The duties include: track the dues that come in, pay any bills for the chapter, maintain the financial records and make a monthly report. These duties do not take a lot of time.

.ANYONE willing to be our chapter treasurer, please let me know. I can appoint you to that position.

Latest NARFE Webinars

- **Debunking Federal Retirement Myths** presented on July 19th.
- **Mid-Career Reality Check: Golden Handcuffs or a Move to the Private Sector?**
- **The Finale Countdown to Retirement: Smoothing the Transaction**

Presented on the NARFE website. Remember that there are many more that are archived that are still available.

COLA Watch 2024

According to the June CPI report, the cost of goods and services continue to show increases. They inched up another fraction of a percent by the amount of 0.34 percent.

Now there are 3 more reports until the end of this reporting year. Check here each month for the latest news.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2024
October 2022	+0.40	+0.38
November 2022	-0.17	+0.20
December 2022	-0.49	-0.29
January 2023	+0.90	+0.57
February 2023	+0.50	+1.10
March 2023	+0.33	+1.40
April 2023	+0.58	+2.00
May 2023	+0.22	+2.20
June 2023	+0.34	+2.60

Worth Noting in the Latest Magazine

In the August issue of the NARFE magazine, there are a few items worth paying attention to.

- OPM Renews FLTCIP Contract with John Hancock page 12.
- Understanding Your Options for Long-Term Care page 24.

Reminder About Alzheimer’s Donations

From time to time, I like to include this information. Make your check payable to Alzheimer’s Research, include our chapter number 1956 on the memo line and send to:

Donna Shackelford
14429 Round Lick Lane
Centreville VA 20120

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.

August is Advocacy Month

NARFE's main mission has always to work with Congress to protect and preserve our federal benefits. Sometimes that includes encouraging lawmakers to support those bills and actions that are good for us and sometimes urging them to oppose actions that would take away our benefits.

We have a good Legislative Department in NARFE and they do a lot to help in this area, but we are asked to do our part as well. The month of August is set aside every year to place emphasis on member advocacy. I would encourage you to read the article in the August magazine that begins on page 26 as it is very helpful.

There are several ways you can let your concerns be known to members of Congress. We talk a lot about the using email and phone calls to their Washington office using the Legislative Action Center that NARFE maintains on the website. But there are other ways as well. Remember in August many of them hold meetings in or near where we live and if so, that is a great way to speak to them.

And they all maintain district offices in the state and home districts. For us in the Tennessee and Sixth Congressional District, note the following.

- Representative John Rose has offices in Cookeville and Gallatin.
- Senator Bill Hagerty has offices in Nashville, Cookeville, Knoxville and other Tennessee cites.
- Senator Marsha Blackburn has offices in Nashville, Chattanooga, Knoxville as well as other Tennessee cities.

For any of our members that live in other states, you can find local offices for your members of Congress by calling their office or looking it up online.

It would be a good idea to visit one of their district offices and get to know their staff members and build a relationship with them. That would be very valuable. You can also call the local offices, you can find the phone numbers on their websites.

And as a finale thought, this is what I put in most newsletters. 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.

Monthly Reports

For the month of July, we had 1 member renewed by annual renewal and 3 members renewed by dues withholding. I am always pleased by our loyal members renewing year by year. The reports also showed 1 member with a new email address.

If anyone would like information on dues withholding, let me know.

Legislative Report

Bill introduced to strengthen and expand Social Security. Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, Rep. John Larson, D-CT, and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-CT, introduced the Social Security 2100 Act, along with nearly 200 cosponsors. The NARFE-endorsed bill would repeal the windfall elimination provision (WEP) and the government pension offset (GPO), and aims to strengthen Social Security to fulfill the promise of retirement security for all Americans.

Notably, the bill would extend the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund, provide a 2 percent across-the-board benefit increase, improve cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) by basing them on changes in the consumer price index for Americans aged 62 and older, improve survivor benefits for middle-income widows and widowers from two-income households, and more. Expanded benefits provided by the bill and extension of solvency would be financed by applying social security taxes to earnings above \$400,000 per year (with credit towards future benefits), and applying a 12.4 percent net investment income tax for taxpayers earning more than \$400,000 per year.

Concerns About the Republican Study Committee

I posted an article last month about the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024. On the surface, it proposes many changes to federal spending in regards to the federal community.

As of now, I see no new news about that report. It has not been written into a bill as of yet. And if it does, most likely it will go through several changes.

Most of the items in the proposal would apply to new federal hires and to future federal retirees. One item mentions a change to the way the COLA is calculated, converting it to the Chained-CPI but talk of that has been in the works for many years and so far nothing has been changed.

New FDA-Approved Alzheimer's Drug

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued full approval of the new Alzheimer's drug Leqembi on July 6. Leqembi, whose generic name is lecanemab, was developed by Japanese pharmaceutical company Eisai in collaboration with its U.S. partner Biogen. While "Leqembi cannot repair cognitive damage, reverse the course of the disease or stop it from getting worse, data from a large clinical trial suggests that the drug — administered every two weeks as an intravenous infusion — may slow decline by about five months over about 18 months for people with mild symptoms."

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org