



Monthly Notes

Welcome to the year 2023. None of us have ever been here before. I hope this is a safe and prosperous year for all of you.

This newsletter will be a combined January and February newsletter. I am again working on tax returns and that takes much of my time.

Things tend to be slow during the holiday season, but now should pick up somewhat. Plans are still underway for an in-person Annual Meeting in April of this year. But with the late start of the preparations, and seemingly lack of interest, the leadership of the NARFE Tennessee Federation may not be able to pull it all together for an in-person meeting. We will follow news of that and update you as I learn more.

In fact I just learned that previous plans to have the Annual Meeting at Montgomery Bell State Park has been changed to the Ramada Inn in Lebanon TN. Same dates as before, April 17, 18, 2023.

The new National Officers took over in January.. Those are: William (Bill) Shackelford—President, Kathryn Hensley—Secretary/Treasurer, and Richard Allen—Region X Vice President. Of course if you live in states other than Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia or West Virginia; then you would have a different regional vice president.

The 118th Congress began on January 3rd under a split party control.

You should have by now received your Annuity Statement for 2023 showing the new amounts of your monthly payment along with the deductions. Look for the new health insurance plan premiums to be deducted on your February annuity payment.

COLA Watch for 2024

As we get into the new year of the Consumer Price Reports, the report for showed an increase, but the months of November and December were negative months. Back a few weeks ago gasoline prices were lower, but now they are back up. I have not seen any other items going down, but yet the reports don't seem to indicate that.

Stay tuned as the reports continue for the next several months to see where it goes.

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		
February 2023		

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

November beginning balance—\$1473.96
 Dues received November—\$12.00
 Dues received December—\$18.00

Disbursements—none
 December ending balance—\$1503.96

Federation Newsletter

The Federation Newsletter for February will soon be mailed out or made available on the Federation website. It will contain articles from the federation officers, and others from NARFE. Chapter news from some chapters and more.

It will also have information on the 2023 Annual Meeting to be held in Lebanon TN on April 17-18, 2023

The Newsletter Editor does a very good job on these, I hope they are informative for you.

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

The 118th Congress is now in session after a slow start on the House side. NARFE's legislative representatives are already working with the new Congress on its goals for this session. Here is a brief message from the new NARFE President.

From NARFE President William Shackelford

"A new Congress, with new policy priorities, may mean changes to the federal workforce, and to the earned pay and benefits for federal employees and annuitants.

NARFE staff members have been working tirelessly to ensure that we continue to provide accurate and up-to-date information for all members of the federal community.

Even though the balance in power in Congress may change, NARFE's priorities do not. We remain dedicated to protecting and enhancing your earned pay and benefits."

WEP and GPO Repeal Legislation Reintroduced

The Social Security Fairness Act, a bill that would fully repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) was reintroduced last week. The bill was submitted by Representative Garret Graves, R-LA, a new lead sponsor than in previous sessions, after Rep. Rodney Davis, R-IL, lost his primary election in 2022. Rep. Graves is joined by Rep. Abigail Spanberger, D-VA, as the lead Democratic sponsor, marking this bill as a bipartisan effort. Of note, the legislation retained its bill number from the previous Congress, still listed as H.R. 82

Take a look at the January/February issue of the magazine on pages 32-35 for NARFE's Advocacy Positions for the new Congress.

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.

Donations to Alzheimer's Research

Remember to send any donations for this to the name and address below, not to the address in the magazine.

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

NARFE Perks

Don't forget about the perks of NARFE membership. Most are listed in the magazine or shown online at narfe.org.

NARFE'S 2022 Membership Survey

NARFE recently asked members to respond to a survey, you can see the results of the 6 questions in the January/February magazine beginning on page 36. On the first question it is interesting that nearly 86% of our members are retired federal or postal employees.

Monthly Reports

The monthly chapter reports for December show 3 annual members renewed and 2 members who are on dues withholding were renewed. The financial report from National show the chapter to receive payment for 3 members. There were some updates to member addresses, etc. Let's hope there will be some improvements in these reports in the months to come.

Again if your NARFE record does not have your current contact information, 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.

Social Media

For those that have social media accounts, you can find NARFE there. As far as the National headquarters, I see they have Facebook and Twitter accounts. You may want to do a search for them and follow their posts.

On the Light Side

You don't need a parachute to go skydiving. You need a parachute to go skydiving twice.

Why didn't the tea introduce itself at the party? It was a little chai.

Three guys were walking down the street. Two of them walked into a bar. The third guy ducked.

What did the cannibal serve with tea? Finger sandwiches.

The road to success has so many tempting parking spaces.

George Carlin: "Honesty may be the best policy, but it's important to remember that apparently, by elimination, dishonesty is the second best policy."

Groucho Marx: "I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury."

A computer once beat me at chess. But it was no match for me at kickboxing.

Groucho Marx: "Room service? Send up a larger room."

I'm going to stop putting things off, starting tomorrow.

HAHA

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org