



**PUTNAM COUNTY
COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE**
Member of the Tennessee Federation

Chapter 1956

Newsletter

March-April 2023

Monthly Notes

Hello chapter members, we are now entering the Spring season and the Winter is behind us. This is the time for new growth, warmer weather and more daylight. Make the best of it.

Tax season is in full swing, I hope each of got your return done ok. But the bad thing is that it comes around every year. I guess we have to pay all those people who are too lazy to work, ha-ha. Speaking of taxes, there is a proposal in Congress to make Social Security benefit payments non-taxable. If passed this would be great for most all SS beneficiaries. Right now up to 85 percent of SS payments are taxable and has been since 1984.

The Federation Annual Meeting is still planned for April 17-18, 2023 in Lebanon at the Ramada Inn. It is located at 704 S. Cumberland Ave. The phone number there is 615-444-7400. A block of rooms have been reserved for NARFE. Members need to make their own reservations to attend. The room rate is \$69.99 plus taxes.

Registration for the Annual Meeting is only \$10.00 and the early deadline to register is March 31st, the finale deadline is April 10th. The registration form and much more information is in the February issue of the Federation Newsletter and can be found on the federation website. Questions can be addressed to the Federation Secretary, Karen Voshel phone number 270-305-2348, email kykopp@apex.net

Anyone going from our chapter can be reimbursed for the cost of attending. I would encourage you to go and meet some of the other members from across the state and hear from the speakers.

The Federation officers will be confirmed and take the oath of office at the conclusion of the meeting. There were no new members nominated for the coming year and the current officers have agreed to continue in their office for another year.

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

January beginning balance—\$1503.96
Dues received January—\$48.00
Dues received February—\$32.00

Disbursements—none
February ending balance—\$1583.96

FEDHUB

Don't forget to check out the news and information on FEDHUB. It is updated continually. And there is a page for Tennessee NARFE members.

COLA Watch for 2024

Moving along the year of reports for the CPI, after 2 months of decline for November and December, the January and February reports show an increase in the costs of goods and services.

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	+0.90	+0.57
February 2023	+0.50	+1.10

Latest NARFE Webinar

- **How to Prepare for Long-Term Care: Aging Gracefully While Financially Secure.**

Presented on March 14th and available on the NARFE website.

NARFE-PAC

The month of March each year is designated as NARFE-PAC Month. While members can make donations at any time, donations are expressly asked for in March.

Keep in mind that donations to the PAC are completely voluntary and the amounts received are kept separate from the NARFE operating funds.

While this in not an election year, I am sure that many members of Congress are requesting donations from the NARFE-PAC. This PAC supports those running for Congress that support the NARFE goals and legislation.

You can find much more information on the NARFE-PAC in the March issue of the magazine. The article starts on page 22.

Chapter Officers

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

Contact Information:

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

Legislative Report

Saving the Civil Service Act, (H.R. 1002/S. 399). This bill did not pass in the last Congress and now has been re-introduced again. It is meant to provide protection for Civil Service workers from being hired and fired for reasons other than merit.

Equal COLA Act. (H.R. 866). This bill was also re-traduced from the last Congress and would provide Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) retirees with full cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). NARFE National President William Shackelford issued a statement in support of the legislation and called on lawmakers to support the Equal COLA Act. Currently, FERS retirees do not receive a full COLA if consumer prices increase by more than 2 percent. If consumer prices increase between 2 and 3 percent, FERS COLAs are 2 percent. If consumer prices increase above 3 percent, FERS COLAs are always 1 percentage point less. This policy, enacted in the 1980s with the establishment of FERS, fails to protect the earned value of FERS annuities.

The Fair COLA for Seniors Act. (Not sure of the Bill number). This bill is another that was re-introduced and would provide more accurate COLAs for federal retirees by calculating COLAs using the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E), which better tracks the spending habits of seniors than the current methodology. Under the current COLA calculation method, which is based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), retirees lose purchasing power due to underestimated inflation. The CPI-W tracks the spending habits of the urban workforce, thus inadequately assessing the differences in costs for the goods and services seniors frequently purchase. For example, medical care costs for seniors are double the rate of the general population. The CPI-E, in contrast, only tracks the spending habits of Americans age 62 and older thus better representing federal retirees and the costs associated with living on a fixed income. When measuring costs experienced by seniors with the CPI-E, inflation is greater by an estimated 0.27 percent per year than what the CPI-W shows, highlighting the need for Congress to take up this key legislation.

There are several other bills that NARFE supports and you can read about them in each issue of the NARFE magazine or online at the NARFE website.

This is one of the main focuses of NARFE so stay informed and express your opinions.

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

Monthly Reports

The latest monthly chapter reports are as follows. In January 3 annual members renewed and 5 dues withholding members renewed. We also welcome a new member to our chapter from the Crossville area, Allen Turner. In February, 2 annual members and 1 dues withholding member renewed.

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

Sunshine Report

Most of you remember that we use to report on the well being of our members from time to time as reports would come in. But I seldom hear of any news about our members. I know we are getting older and all have health issues, I am not aware of any particular issues. We have not had any member deaths reported recently which is good news. I would welcome any reports that you may be aware of.

On the Light Side

- *Why did banana go to doctor? It wasn't peeling well.*
- *What kind of jokes do you make in the shower? Clean jokes.*
- *What did the duck say when he bought lipstick? Put it on my bill.*
- *What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? It gets toad away.*
- *What never asks questions but receives a lot of answers? The telephone.*
- *Why did the robber take a bath? Because he wanted to make a clean getaway.*
- *Teacher: "Which book has helped you the most in your life?" Student: "My father's checkbook."*
- *My friend thinks he's smart. He told me an onion is the only food that makes you cry, so I threw a coconut in his face*
- *What do you call sad coffee? Despresso.*

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org