



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED  
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
PUTNAM COUNTY—COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE  
Our 25th Year: 1983-2008**

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**January 2008**

**Happy New Year and Happy Anniversary**

As the new president of Chapter 1956, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each member and your family a very happy and blessed new year. Together we can make this a good year for the NARFE. I thank you for the confidence you have shown in selecting me to lead our chapter this year. Working with the other officers, committees and the membership, I hope we can continue to build on what has made our chapter one of the best in the nation. Our appreciation goes to those who have served this past year especially our outgoing president Chuck MacKenzie and secretary Jan MacKenzie who both have worked hard and done a great job.

This is our 25th. year as a chapter so Happy Anniversary to us all! The Putnam County Chapter was formed December 1982 and approved by the National Office January 1983. Let's make this a great year.

**Next Meeting**

Our meeting will be January 15th. at Shoneys Restaurant on Jefferson Avenue in Cookeville. We meet at 6:00 pm. for the meal, and the business meeting begins about 6:45 pm. The speaker for January will be George Halford who is the President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce. There will be door prizes and many things to discuss. I encourage all of you attend and bring your spouse or a guest. Come out and meet your fellow chapter members and stay informed about the chapter activities. If you don't normally come to our meetings, give us a try, we will do our best to make you feel welcomed. Our meetings are in the evening to make it possible for our working members to attend.

**Door Prize Winners!**

At each meeting we draw numbers for door prizes.. This is a fun time at the meetings, the prizes are useful, sometimes interesting and sometimes strange. Come to the meetings and try your luck at winning one. The door prizes given out in November were compliments of Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance Co. The winners were: Ray Wurm, Dan Hilton, Ellis McCowan and Clarence Richards. Everyone can win, members and guests.

**Introducing The Officers For 2008**

The new chapter officers for this year were installed at the December luncheon meeting. Pictured left to right are: Ellis McCowan -Vice President, Ronnie Collins -President and Jim Evans -Treasurer who returns again this year and is doing a great job in that post. Not shown is Elizabeth Bryant -Secretary who was unable to attend due to sickness.



The Christmas Luncheon is always a highlight for the year. Other than the installation of officers, no other business is done at the December meeting. This is great time to fellowship and to learn more about each other. It was great to meet some that I had not meet before. We enjoyed lots of good food and conversation. We had 27 members and guests to attend this year which is somewhat less than usual. Our tradition is to take up a collection for a Christmas donation for some needy family in the area, this year we located such a family with the help of the Helping Hands Organization. There was a total of \$215 collected and was used to purchase clothing and other items for the family. The chapter decided not to exchange gifts this year, but rather to apply the costs of the gifts to the needy family gift. Pictures of the Christmas meeting are on the chapter website. If you missed this past event, plan on being there next year an let us know where you would like to have the Christmas meeting next year as we must decide on that soon in order to reserve a location.

**Chapter Officers**

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Ellis McCowan
Secretary	Elizabeth Bryant
Treasurer	Jim Evans

**Contact Information:**

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

## Members List

As our custom is, the January newsletter is going out by postal mail to all members and included will be the current membership list, a list of officers and committee members and some other important data. Save these papers for reference throughout the year. Keep in mind that the membership list changes sometimes monthly due to new or dropped members. The most current membership list is always available on the chapter website, but if anyone wants a printed copy during the year, let me know and I can send you a copy. The printing and mailing costs are very high for the chapter, so to save money we send the newsletters by email to all that can receive them that way. If you have access to email and you are not currently receiving the newsletters that way, give us your email address so that we can add you to the list. This will be much appreciated. Email copies of our newsletters are in color and reach you sooner than postal mail. Please review the Membership List and check your information. If anything needs to be corrected or added, please let me know.

## Telephone Lists

To our telephone committee, your calling list and instructions are included with this newsletter. Please take a moment to review it. To all other members, please be courteous to the telephone committee when they call you each month and pass along to them any special health problems you may have or if there are deaths in your family. Think of our NARFE chapter as family.

## New Rates for Active Employees

Current federal employees are now referred to as active federal employees and new rates go into effect this month. Previously CFEs have received discounted membership rates, but now will pay the same rate as retired federal employees. For the first year the rate for everyone is \$33. which covers national and chapter dues. Upon renewal the rate is \$29 plus the local chapter dues, for us that is a total of \$40. Keep in mind that if you are an existing active employee member, you are grandfathered in at the old rates, you can continue to pay them as long as you remain to be employed by your federal agency. If you have questions about the old rates, call me. NARFE is moving towards a single dues structure, hence the purpose of this rate change. If you really consider it, our rates are not very high for what we receive. At the most the rates amount to only 11 cents per day. There is not much you can buy these days for 11 cents. We receive a lot for our dues.

**We Appreciate All Our Members**

## Membership News

The latest information, the December chapter activity and membership was not available from Headquarters in time to get it in this issue of the newsletter. Due to our January meeting on the 15th, I needed to get this and the other information in the mail. We did have 2 members who switched to Dues Withholding recently, we really appreciate that. Those of you who are retired members and not on Dues Withholding, why not convert at this time, you will be glad that you did.

## Programs Suggestions

We will be passing out cards at the next meeting for you to jot down any suggestions for program speakers or topics for the coming months. Along with the business of the chapter, we try to have programs that will make the meetings more interesting and inviting. We have members in a wide geographical area and interests., so we hope to have something of interest to everyone. If you cannot attend the next meeting, please call in or email your suggestions to me. All suggestions will be made available to our Programs Committee.

## Committees

We have a need for more of our members to serve on committees. We have vacancies and plenty of places for you if you will help. Even if you are unsure or unable to chair a committee, would you be willing to assist on a committee? If so, let me know. Do you have particular friends which are also members, that you would like to call and remind them of the monthly meetings? The committees include: Membership, Legislative, Alzheimer's, Sunshine, Telephone, Social Events, Programs and more.

## Sunshine Report

A get well card was sent to J B Robbins. Well wishes were sent to Louise Loftis who is now at NHC Healthcare, and we extend our sympathy to Lawrence Duewer in the loss of his sister.

### NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: [www.narfecookevilletn.org](http://www.narfecookevilletn.org)  
Tennessee Federation: [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)  
NARFE Headquarters: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

Lots of information is available on our the NARFE websites, information about chapter meetings, newsletters, legislative news, photos, current membership lists. You can update your mailing address, phone numbers, email addresses. Download and print forms and other files. Renew your membership, and more. Check it out, if you don't have access to a computer at home, a family member, friend or the local library can help you with this.