

Cookeville/Putnam County Chapter 1956
Minutes of Meetings
March 18, 2014

The Cookeville Chapter of NARFE met March 18 at Shoney's restaurant with 12 members and guests present. Meeting was opened by an invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Speaker was Jennie Garland, Wellness Director at Heritage Pointe Senior Living Community.

President Collins stated the Future of NARFE (FON) committee was formed by the executive board last year to begin looking into ways to save the association from failure. The committee of 12 NARFE members has come up with several recommendations to address problems like declining membership, less member participation, fewer members willing to take on leadership roles, declining revenue, the need for other funding sources and more.

Parts of what they have done are look at other member based organizations and see what is working for them and how it compares with NARFE. As a result the committee has made many recommendations: restructure which will eliminate the positions of national vice president and secretary and reduce the number of regions from 10 to 5 thereby cutting 5 officer positions. They propose to eliminate the 50 federations and replace those with 50 state representatives at a savings of money.

They recommend the only change to chapters would be to eliminate the mandatory chapter membership. But President Collins stated that could mean that chapters will slowly die out since people today do not want to join groups like this or take part in local groups. Basically we have that now with what is called the NARFE Electronic Chapter. Most new members joining for the last 2 or 3 years have been placed in it.

There will be much more to report in this and there is much more information on this on the national website under the Future of NARFE Committee Report.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Myrna Estes stated for the February report dues received were \$43.92 and a balance of \$1485.70.

Membership Report: This month's membership report shows second dues notices were sent to James Boyington and Greta Witcher. Others sent second dues notices from previous months: Loretta Collier, James Clay, and Pat Tatum.

Members were encouraged to take some membership forms and reminded to put their member ID number on the form.

Legislative Report: Collins addressed the Postal Reform Bill S 1486 which is still being considered in committees in the US Senate. He is not sure when it will be brought to a vote in the full Senate, but he reminded those in attendance that NARFE is opposed to this bill and urged each one to contact our Senators to express our opposition to this bill.

Sunshine Report: Elisabeth Bryant fell and broke her hip.

Unfinished business: President Collins stated the federation board agreed to take the necessary steps to correct the issues with the Federation Constitution and Bylaws that I discussed last month.

The next regular meeting will be April 15, 2014.

Meeting was adjourned.

Reba Collins
Chapter Secretary