



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
PUTNAM COUNTY—COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE
NARFE Works For You**

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

August 2009

July Meeting

We had a low turnout for our last meeting, and I don't know why. I am sure that some may be traveling, some may have been busy and the date slipped their mind. Hopefully we can overcome this and get back up to our normal levels this month. In this Newsletter is a questionnaire for you as a member to give us some feedback on our chapter. Please take part in that.

Our speaker got sick and was also unable to attend. That was a disappointment too, I think some may have come to hear from him. Maybe he will come at a later meeting. But, speaker or no speaker, I hope that you realize that our meetings are important for the business of NARFE. I try to bring to your attention the various actions that NARFE is doing to help us and what is going on in Congress that relates to us as federal employees and federal retirees.

We did come to a finale decision about our December meeting and Christmas Banquet. It will be at the Hyder-Burks Agriculture Pavilion in Cookeville on December 12th. The meal will be catered by the same folks who have catered for us before. Do mark your calendars for this meeting date and help us make this a good meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be August 18th. at Shoney's on Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. You will need to arrive by 6:00 pm. to eat. The business session will begin at 6:45 pm.

The speaker for this month will be Kent Bilbrey, investment representative for Invest Financial Corporation.

I want to encourage all our members to attend. Please support your chapter at our monthly meetings and help us with the work of the chapter.

Membership News

I just received this months Member Activity Report which covers membership activity for the month of July. I am glad to report that we have a new member, she is Brenda Daniels of Rickman. Let's welcome her to NARFE and our chapter. The report also shows that Michael Walsh was dropped for non-renewal, hopefully he will soon renew his membership.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Legislative Report

There is no doubt that most of you have heard of the national health care reform bill that is currently being considered in Congress. This bill would likely make many changes to all health services, insurance, etc. and it will come at a very high cost to taxpayers. In the most recent message from NARFE Hq. it says that NARFE has taken NO position on this proposed bill, mostly because the bill is still being drafted and at this point we cannot know for sure how it will affect our Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP). As of now, nothing in the various versions of the bills seem to have any affect on us as federal retirees. NARFE promises to print in the monthly magazine an in depth analysis of this legislation, but with the rush to get this bill passed, there may not be time allowed for news to get to members or even the public before it is voted on.

It is noteworthy that NARFE did send out a message via GEMS on July 10th. Indicating that the health care reform bill would provide NARFE a vehicle to include the Premium Conversion legislation that we have long wanted to see passed. Our National President, Baptiste asked each member to contact our legislators to encourage their support to include this measure. But in my opinion, this is not a good idea knowing what else the huge reform bill is going to do. I would encourage each of you to carefully study the proposed health care reform bill and make up your own mind on whether this is in your best interest or not. In my opinion this would not be in our best interests.

August has been designated as "NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month" Both the US House and the US Senate —continued on next page

Chapter Officers

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Ellis McCowan
Secretary	Reba Collins
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take the month of August as a break from the Capital. Most will use this time to visit their districts and conduct meetings. Be alert to any opportunities that you have to talk to your elected officials.

NARFE Magazines Now Available By Telephone

This is being reprinted from the NARFE Magazine.

Monthly issues of NARFE magazine are now available on NFB-NEWSLINE®, a telephone-based service of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB).

The service is free of charge for anyone who cannot read printed publications due to vision loss, dyslexia or a physical disability.

Using a telephone keypad, subscribers to NFB-NEWSLINE can punch in an ID number and security code, and listen to stories from NARFE magazine and hundreds of other publications. Some of these publications include *AARP the Magazine*, *The New York Times* and *USA Today*.

To subscribe, call your state's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, or call the National Federation of the Blind toll-free at 866-504-7300 to request an application. You may also download an application or fill out an online application at www.nfbnewslines.org.

Also on cassette, issues of NARFE magazine are also available on cassette through the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. To find out about availability in your area, call toll free 800-424-8567 and ask for the Reference Section

Membership Questionnaire

Included with this Newsletter is a questionnaire that I am asking each member to fill out and send back. It is short and will not take up a lot of your time. But we need some feedback on how we are doing and what we might do better. You do not need to place your name anywhere on the questionnaire but your answers and comments will be most helpful. Tell us what we are doing right, or what we are not doing right. This will help us plan for the future. There is a place for comments so make use of that. If there is a particular speaker or subject that you think would be good to have at our meetings, then give us that information.

We are not able to include a return envelope for you to use, but are asking that you mail it back to us at the address provided. For those who have access to the internet, you can fill out the same questionnaire online at our chapter website. On the Home page, you will see a link to click on. It is restricted to members only, so when you click on the questionnaire from our website, use the password: **member**

We Appreciate Your Membership!

If you have trouble accessing it online, just let me know. For those attending the August meeting, I will provide a box to receive your completed forms.

Thanks in advance for your response to this.

****Helpful Information****

To call NARFE headquarters, dial 1-800-456-8410

Email addresses for some of NARFE offices

National President	natpres@narfe.org
NARFE Magazine	rl@narfe.org
Legislative Dept.	leg@narfe.org
Member Records	memsrvcs@narfe.org
Recruitment and Retention	rr@narfe.org
Retirement Benefits	retbenefits@narfe.org

On The Light Side *our government in action* —

A New York lawmaker called and asked, "Do airlines normally put your physical description on your bag so they know whose luggage belongs to whom?" I said, "No, why do you ask?" She replied, "Well, when I checked in with the airline, they put a tag on my luggage that said (FAT), and I'm overweight. I think that is very rude?" After putting her on hold for a minute while I "looked into it" (I was actually laughing), I came back and explained the city code for Fresno, CA is (FAT), and that the airline was just putting a destination tag on her luggage.

A New Mexico Congressman called to make reservations, "I want to go from Chicago to Rhino, New York." The agent was at a loss for words. Finally, the agent said, "Are you sure that's the name of the town?" "Yes, what flights do you have?" replied the lady. After some searching, the agent came back with, "I'm sorry, sir, I've looked up every airport code in the country and can't find a Rhino anywhere." The man retorted, "Oh, don't be silly! Everyone knows where it is. Check your map!" The agent scoured a map of the state of New York and finally offered, "You don't mean Buffalo, do you?" "That's it! I knew it was a big animal," he said.



NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956:	www.narfecookevilletn.org
Tennessee Federation:	www.narfetn.org
NARFE Headquarters:	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.

Membership Questionnaire

(circle your answers)

- 1. Is the chapter keeping you informed on NARFE matters? Yes No
- 2. Do you read the chapter newsletter? Yes No
- 3. Do you attend the chapter meetings? Yes No
- 3. Are the chapter meetings at a convenient time for you? Yes No
- 4. Do you like the location of our chapter meetings? Yes No
- 5. Have the special speakers been of interest to you? Yes No

Please explain any of your answers

What can we do better to serve you and your family? Explain.

Thank you for taking the time and effort to respond to our questionnaire. Please return this sheet to us. It is not necessary to place your name on the form. To return it to us, mail it to our postal address.

NARFE Chapter 1956
118 Ballenger Rd.
Carthage TN 37030

For those who have internet access you can alternately fill out this questionnaire online at this address: <http://tinyurl.com/ldbcpi> and enter the password: **member**

There is a link to this on the Home page of our website. If you have trouble let me know.