



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**December 2009**

**Merry Christmas to One and All!**

As we come to a close of another year, we enter the traditional holiday season. I hope that you have a joyous time spent with family and friends. In your rush to get all the things done that seem to be important at this time of year, do remember the real meaning of Christmas and take time to give thanks for the greatest gift of all.

Thanks for making this a good year for our chapter. As we close this year, we look forward to the year to come. Let's all work to keep our chapter and the entire NARFE organization strong in the year to come.

For those not well at this time, we wish you a quick recovery and better health.

**Last Meeting**

Our speaker last month was Nadine Armstrong, Executive Coordinator with the Putnam Co. Clean Commission. In today's environment controlling litter and recycling are becoming increasingly important. Even though our speaker this month talked to us about the programs in Putnam County, each and every county has similar programs in place. We all need to be aware of what these are and do our part in making sure litter and recycling programs work to keep our communities clean. Last year the State of Tennessee spent \$11 million to pick up litter on the state highways, money that could have gone to other areas if people would not throw their trash on the roadways. There are 2 kinds of litter; intentional and unintentional. Be sure that when you haul loads of trash to the collections sites, that they are secured in order to prevent some of it from being blown out of your vehicle. Remember, much of what we throw out can be recycled; plastic containers, aluminum and steel containers, cardboard, newspapers and other paper products, car batteries and motor oil are just some of the items. Become familiar with your local collection sites and what is available in your community and do your part. In Putnam Co. more can be learned by going to [www.cleancommission.org](http://www.cleancommission.org) or calling 537-3278

We had a discussion on the purpose of the local NARFE chapter and concluded that our chapter is needed and has these functions; **1) Keep our mem-**

**bership informed on matters concerning annuity benefits, health benefits, etc. 2) To stay in touch with other members and be informed about cases of sickness and deaths, etc. 3) To have time and means to socialize with one another. 4) And also, since NARFE is a grassroots organization, the local chapter must help recruit new members and retain current members. With these things in mind, are you helping us in these areas? I hope the answer is yes.**

In other news from last month, the report of the Nominating Committee was read. The committee was able to secure officers for the position of Treasurer and Secretary, but not for the office of President or Vice President. After a discussion at the meeting, I agreed to stay on as President or else the chapter would be forced to close. So after a motion was made to place in nomination the chapter elected the following officers as officers for next year. President - Ronnie Collins, Secretary - Reba Collins and Treasurer - Myrna Estes.

We are looking for someone to serve as Vice President and to work toward the position of President at a later time. Some appointed positions are filled. We do have vacancies and a need for someone to help with these functions; **Programs Coordinator and Legislative Coordinator**, also more **telephone callers** are needed. Will you help us? I will publish next month the complete list of appointed officers.

**A Member We Will Miss**

We lost a long time member this past month, A K Booher passed on November 13th. He retired from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Our sorrows go out to his wife, Edna. His membership will transfer to her.

**Chapter Officers**

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Ellis McCowan
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myrna Estes

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

## Annual Christmas Luncheon

Don't forget that the Annual Christmas Luncheon will be this coming Saturday, December 12th. beginning at 11:00 am. The location will be the Hyder-Burks Agriculture Pavilion multipurpose room. If you have not been contacted about attending and want to come, call me immediately.

The meal will consist of the traditional holiday menu of turkey and dressings with all the trimmings. Everything will be provided at a cost of \$13.00 per person. Come and enjoy the time of good food and fellowship.

The chapter decided that we would exchange gifts, so we ask that you bring a wrapped gift of around \$5 in value. Also, as we normally do, we will take up a collection for a needy family in the community, so come prepared for that.

For those that need directions to the Hyder-Burk building, it is located at 2390 Gainesboro Grade in Cookeville. That is 12th Street just 2.2 miles west of Willow Ave. If you need more detailed directions, contact me.

## Open Season

Don't forget that the open season to make changes to your federal health insurance plans as well as dental, vision and medical savings accounts continues until December 14th. this year. The open season for the federal long term care insurance has been extended to February 15, 2010.

## It Doesn't Cost to Belong to NARFE, It Pays

Full membership in NARFE and our Chapter is just \$40 per year, that is only \$3.33 per month (even less if you use dues withholding). That is really just pocket change in today's economy. What does that \$3.33 purchase for you? First of all, it brings you the monthly NARFE magazine which is chocked full of information about FERS and CSRS pensions, the Thrift Savings Plan, health and life insurance, Social Security, Medicare, and more. That sum also provides you with the services of 4 highly qualified NARFE lobbyists- in contact with Congress- lobbying to protect the earned benefits of all active and retired federal employees. You also get a monthly newsletter from your chapter with information about chapter meetings, members and events. I hope that you realize the bargain that it is to belong to NARFE.

Why not consider giving a gift membership to someone you know that is eligible to join. This is an excellent idea for your mail carrier, or someone retiring soon. Right now, new memberships and gift memberships are just \$33 for the first year. I have the Gift Membership Forms for you, just ask.

**Thanks to everyone who has renewed recently!**

## Census Bureau Hiring For 2010 Census

Recruiting is underway for the 2010 U.S. Census. The Census Bureau estimates that it will hire up to 1.4 million individuals to help with this once-a-decade effort. To apply, call the toll-free jobs line at 866-861-2010 where you will be routed to your local Census Bureau office. You also can visit [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov). You can prepare by downloading the Census Practice Test from the web site. These jobs should not affect in any way your federal annuity. So if you are interested, check it out.

## Legislative Report

Congress continues to consider the health care reform legislation. As I see it, there are many things wrong with what Congress is trying to do but I will limit my comments to how it could possibly affect federal employees and retirees. Some in Congress are pushing to open the FEHBP to non-federal civilians without separate risk pools. That would have an adverse effect on our plans. Also some are calling for members of Congress, federal employees and retirees to be made to switch to the newly created public plans or exchanges. There are just too many issues and possibilities that Congress can do harm to us, for that reason I would hope that they go nowhere with this proposed bills.

The Senate still has not taken up the Medicare Premium Fairness Act which is needed to protect all Medicare Part B beneficiaries from the 2010 premium increase from \$96.40 to \$110.50 per month. If you are affected by this, NARFE encourages you to contact your two Senators and urge them to pass this bill.

## Sunshine Report

These are the latest members that I have reports on; Dixie Bilyeu is resting at home after heart surgery, Eula Brown and Reba Collins both are battling bronchitis. The brother of Rural Peace recently passed away. Also former chapter members, Chuck and Jan McKenzie lost their son-in-law to an accidental death. Sorry if I have missed anyone else.

## On the Lighter Side!

One night a man and his kids were sitting around talking. He told his kids "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependant on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug". To his surprise, they got up, unplugged the computer and threw out his wine. !!

### NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956:	<a href="http://www.narfecookevilletn.org">www.narfecookevilletn.org</a>
Tennessee Federation:	<a href="http://www.narfetn.org">www.narfetn.org</a>
NARFE Headquarters:	<a href="http://www.narfe.org">www.narfe.org</a>