



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

April 2010

Notes From the Last Meeting

At our March meeting, the speaker was Lieutenant Mike Smith of the Cookeville Police Department. He was very animated in his talk to us and made it very interesting. Some of the things that he shared with us included; the Cookeville crime rates which to me seemed low compared to other places, ways to be alert to dangers, ways to stay safe in your home and when out and about. He said that many of those that commit crime are repeat offenders, they see some of the same ones over and over. Smith advised us to be on guard to the many scams going on these days, people calling on the phone and asking for financial information. Also he said that the price of surveillance cameras have come down and those are a good thing to have installed outside your home to help see anyone who should not be around your house. These are only a few of the very valuable things he mentioned, if you missed this you missed a lot. And even though he spoke about Cookeville, these same things would apply no matter where you lived.

I asked those present if there was an interest in having our usual picnic this year, and the response was yes. So we will try to schedule one in the month of June. Stay tuned for more information on that.

The chapter approved the donation of a door prize to take to the State Federation Convention in April.

Thanks to those who contributed to the NARFE-PAC at our last meeting. For those who were not there, you can make a contribution anytime by using the information that was mailed out to you by the National Office or the coupon that you will find in the NARFE magazine (March issue). This being an election year for many in Congress, your dollars will be put to good use. Help out NARFE-PAC

April Is Federation Convention Month

Remember that since we will be away attending the Convention and it falls on the date of our chapter meeting, there will be no chapter meeting in April. Our next regular meeting will be May 18th.

I have not been made aware of any resolutions or changes to the Federation Constitution and Bylaws to be brought up. There will be an election of Federation officers. A full report will be made next month.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Dues Withholding, A Smart Choice

We have had a rash of members reported to us and having been sent a Second Dues Notice. It is so very important that you help us with this. Please renew your membership when you get the first dues notice which should reach you about 2 months before your current expiration date. In the past, I am certain that many of the first dues notices did not reach our members. I would like to know if this is still happening or not. If you think that is the case with you, will you kindly let me know?

Your continued membership is very, very important to maintaining all our benefits so do keep your membership current. If you have received a phone call or letter from our Membership person Betty Robinson, then send in your dues immediately. We are counting on you.

This would be a good time to mention once again, using dues withholding as a way to pay your dues. This is by far the easiest and cheapest way to keep your dues paid. And you can stop it at anytime you decide you want to. This is available to most all retired members and their spouses who pay by the year. The only exception are those who are Life Members. We have lots of members using dues withholding, if everyone that is eligible would use this method, it would make less work for us in tracking down those that are sent the second dues notice. The way this works is, the amount of \$2.96 per month is deducted from your annuity payment by OPM. You will find a sign up coupon in the magazines or ask me for information about this program. You can sign up at any time of the year. They will not start it until your current dues expire. Give it a try, it is easy and painless.

Chapter Officers

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Sunshine Report

For those who have not heard, we lost a long time member last month just after the Newsletter went out. Paul Burgess of Baxter passed away March 10th. Our sorrows are extended to his wife Lois and family. He was very active in NARFE and our chapter in years past when he was in better health.

I got this report from our Membership Report from NARFE Headquarters, Orpha Lusk of Monterey passed away on January 18th. Sorry to be late in reporting this, but I was unaware of it. Our sorrows go out to her family.

I have heard of no other reports, please inform us and cases of illnesses and deaths among our members.

Legislative News

As you probably know the Health Care Reform bill recently passed Congress and the President has signed it into law. Some of the changes the bill provides is: Members of Congress and their staff will be required to enroll in the state exchanges once they become operational, the excise tax on high value health care plans will not be imposed until the year 2018 and the bill provides a \$250 rebate this year for Medicare Part D beneficiaries who are in the 'doughnut hole'. The May issue of the NARFE magazine will have more details on this bill as it relates to us as federal employees and retirees.

The tax filing date is fast approaching, don't forget to claim the \$250 economic recovery credit if you are receiving a federal annuity and not eligible for Social Security benefits.

A bill has been introduced to allow federal employees to invest the cash value of unused annual leave in their Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) account. NARFE is supporting this bill.

You are reminded that NARFE National sends out email alerts on legislative issues and other important news to its members who are part of the Global Electronic Messaging System (GEMS). If you are not receiving this timely alerts, send your request to be added to me and I can have your email address added to the system.

NARFE Updates Popular Form

I made mention of the document *Be Prepared for Life's Events* back in February, but since then, Headquarters has updated and expanded this booklet. It is a handy place where members can record in one location all the important facts and details needed after a death. The booklet (F-100) can be found online in 2 forms, one which can be printed out on paper to be filled in and also a form which can be filled in online and then printed. Members can also obtain the booklet by calling 703-838-7760, or by email to retbenefits@narfe.org. Be sure to ask for F-100

Spring Has Sprung

Hope you are enjoying the warmer spring weather and that you had a blessed Easter. Besides the warmer temps, we have green grass, the trees are turning green again and it is time to work in gardens.

No matter which season it is, remember that our work continues with NARFE and all that is done on the national, state and chapter levels. Don't forget we need your continued help and support. If your membership is due then please take care of that as soon as possible. Though we don't meet this month, we hope that the longer daylight brings an increased in attendance to our monthly chapter meetings and other events. Support your local chapter and its officers.

Consumer Price News

The latest report from the CPI-W which is the cost of living index and from which our annual cost of living adjustments are based, is for the month of February. It shows little change from previous months. The next report for March will not be available until later in April. Currently we are running at -1.4% towards the next COLA.

Gasoline prices have been going up over the last several weeks and I have heard reports that by summer we will see much higher prices.

Other Membership News

We welcome 2 new members thanks to those who responded to my request to enroll your spouses. Bishop Holliman enrolled his wife Ellen Holliman and Ellis McCowan enrolled his wife Maureen McCowan. We appreciate this and ask that others of you enroll your spouses.

Horse Sense

One day a man accidentally drives his car into a deep ditch on a country road. Luckily a farmer happened by with his big old horse named Benny. The man asked the farmer for help and the farmer said that Benny could pull his car out. So he backed up and hitched him to the man's car. Then he yelled: **Pull Nellie, pull!** Benny didn't move. Then he yelled really loud: **Now pull, Fred...pull hard!** Still, Benny just stood there. Then the farmer said: OK, Benny, now pull. Benny then pulled the car out. The man was most appreciative but asked the farmer, why did you call your horse by the wrong name those 2 times. The farmer answered, well you see, old Benny is blind and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he would not even try.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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