



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**January 2010**

**Happy New Year!**

Well we have made it to another year. Seems like they come and go much quicker than they used to. Maybe you have had your hog jowl and black-eyed peas or whatever your New Year's tradition is.



As we look forward to what this year will bring, let's hope that each of us will receive much in the way of happiness. May we all keep in prospective the most important things, like faith, family, friends and our associations with those around us.

Let's all work together to make this a very good year for our chapter. As the year goes by, I will bring to your attention, things that we need to be doing and ways that you can help. I hope that you value your NARFE membership and will Help Us, Help You in the year to come.

**Christmas Banquet**

Even though it was not yet officially winter, it was a cold day as we gathered for our annual banquet. But spirits were warm and there was plenty of good company with one another. We missed some of our regular attendees but were glad for those that did make it. We all enjoyed a delicious meal, punch, holiday music and gifts. Again, I want to thank everyone that helped make this a great event.

As is our custom, we took up a collection for a needy family. This year it will go to a single mother with 3 children. The \$230 collected will be directed though the Helping Hands Organization to purchase much needed household items and help with household bills. Thanks to everyone who donated.

At the close of the event, the chapter officers elected at the November meeting were installed for year 2010. They are listed in the panel on the right side of this page.

**January Meeting**

The next meeting will be November 17th. at Shoney's on Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. You will need to arrive by 6:00 pm. if you desire to eat. The business session will begin promptly at 6:45 pm.

The scheduled speaker will be Melahn Finley, Director of Marketing at Cookeville Regional Medical

Center. She will update us on the recent additions to the hospital. Please join us.

Do make it a point to attend as many chapter meetings as possible this year. If anyone in the Cookeville area needs transportation to any of the meetings, contact Roy Byrd at 526-1895 or 252-2973.

**More Help Needed**

In addition to the elected officers, a chapter needs many more of its members to take a roll in the day to day operation if we are to be effective and meet the needs of all our members. Let me first list those who are already helping. Some have worked in these roles for many years and we do appreciate your many years of service. Some are brand new.

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|------------------|----------------|
| Alzheimer's      | Reba Collins   |
| Historian        | Jacque Pine    |
| Service Officer  | Roy Byrd       |
| Membership       | Betty Robinson |
| Sunshine         | Joan Oswalt    |
| Public Relations | Roy Byrd       |
| Newsletter       | Ronnie Collins |

Those that make up the Telephone Committee are: Dixie Bilyeu, Liz Bryant, Loretta Collier, Ronnie Collins, Myrna Estes, Kent Fletcher, Sharon Martin, Rodney Middleton, Mildred Milligan, Tom Pointer, Lou Richards, Betty Robinson, Russ Robinson.

We do have a need for someone to serve as Vice President, Programs chairperson, Legislative Chairperson and we could use a few more telephone callers. Will you contact me about helping with some of these functions?



**Chapter Officers**

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| President      | Ronnie Collins |
| Vice-President | Vacant         |
| Secretary      | Reba Collins   |
| Treasurer      | Myra Estes     |

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

## Where We Are And Where We Need To Be

As we begin another year in the history of our chapter, I want to give you a summary of the gains and losses from last year. During 2009, we gained 5 new members, (4 people joined up and 1 transferred from another chapter). But we lost 4 members who transferred to other chapters, 7 members did not renew their dues and we had 3 member deaths last year, one of which, the membership transferred to a spouse. Our current chapter membership stands at 130 members.

This is typical of what other chapters are experiencing. NARFE as a whole continues to do a good job of gaining new members, but we must do a better job in keeping the members we currently have. For some reason, some of our members do not realize the importance of NARFE membership. In last month's Newsletter I gave several reasons it pays to belong to NARFE, so I will not repeat those items. But I have said before and will repeat that NARFE is the **only** organization that there is that works to protect and preserve our annuity, health and other benefits. If we do not remain a strong group by keeping our membership base large, then we lose any help we have in preventing Congress from stripping away or doing harm to our financial future. Being a federal employee or retiree is unique. It is not like the private sector, what we have received over the years is what groups like NARFE has lobbied Congress for and they have passed. But remember, **what Congress gives, Congress can take away.**

With that said, I want to encourage each of you to maintain your membership and **Help Us, Help You.** Also, help us recruit more members. Each of us has family or acquaintances that are potential members. Any federal employee, retiree, spouses and former spouses are potential members. Tell them about us and invite them to join. Send me their name and contact information and I will send them membership materials. I am counting on you to help.

## Staying In Touch With Our Membership

It is our goal to stay in touch with all our chapter members. We do this 2 ways; this Newsletter is the main way we keep you informed of chapter news, activities, illnesses, deaths, etc. The other way is by through our telephone volunteers who attempt to call our members each month.

We send out the monthly newsletter by email to those who we have an email address for and by postal mail to everyone else. The chapter has been doing this for several years, mainly to save us costs, but it also helps us be a little greener and it saves me the time of addressing and stuffing many envelopes each month. Please let us know if you have an email address and we don't know it or if it changes so we can keep up to date.

In January each year, we typically send the Newsletter to everyone by postal mail, just in case for some reason we have lost touch with you by email. So those on email will get this both ways this month. Please remember to alert us of any problems with the email delivery of them. Also you will find a membership list this month. Look over it and let us know if there are errors or omissions. Save the list for future reference. Remember our list of members changes constantly through out the year.

We do try to contact each of you each month by telephone to remind you of the upcoming meeting and to ask how you are doing. If you are not being called, it may be that we do not have a valid phone number for you or of some problem on our part. If you are not being called, contact us so that we can fix the problem. We know that some would rather not be called each month, if that is the case with you, just let the caller know that, but we may still call for our special events to see if you want to attend. Please be kind to our callers, they do a great job for the chapter and want to be of help.

## Referendum Results

You will remember the NARFE national office conducted a referendum a few months ago on changes to NARFE dues. Ballots were sent and voting took place between September and December. With the votes now tabulated, the results showed 3,237 votes (65.41%) in favor of the changes, and 1,712 votes (34.59%) against the changes. Having not received the required 2/3 margin, the referendum failed to pass.

There were 1,508 ballots sent out and each chapter had a various number of votes depending on the number of chapter members. Some ballots were not returned and some were filled out incorrectly and not counted. As for our chapter, we voted to cast its 3 votes in favor of the issue, and I am certain that our ballot was returned correctly.

The whole purpose of the referendum was to simplify the dues structure and thereby help with the overall recruitment and retention of members. Counting the times that a similar vote has come before the National Convention, this makes several times it has failed by a very small margin. It is very likely that this will again be bought up at the national convention that will take place later this year.

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

### 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>