



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

July 2010

Notes From Our Picnic

I believe all those that attended our picnic last month enjoyed it. We missed those of you who could not be there. Cane Creek Park is a great place to visit, the food was plentiful and very good. And as it turned out, the weather was not as hot and uncomfortable as it had been just days before the picnic. So all in all, I think it turned out well. There are **pictures** from the event posted on the chapter website.

I would like your comments on suggestions for future social gatherings such as this. It takes a lot of planning and organizing for these events and I need to know your wishes and thoughts on what you would like to do in months and years to come. So let me know at one of our meetings or contact me by phone or email. All suggestions and help to make our chapter more interesting are welcome.

Legislative News

On June 25th, President Obama signed into law H.R. 3962, legislation to temporarily arrest a twenty-one percent cut in the rate of Medicare reimbursements to health care providers, particularly doctors. On June 24th, after a month of Congressional brinksmanship, the House voted to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3962 delaying the 21% payment cut for physicians for six months and increasing their reimbursements by 2.2 percent during that time. The Senate passed H.R. 3962 by voice vote on June 18.

August has been designed by NARFE as "Meet You Candidates Month" As you have opportunity to get to know more about the candidates running this year, try to find out how they stand on issues relating to the protection of our federal benefits among all the other issues that are important. As far as our U S Representatives, in District 6, Bart Gordon is retiring and a someone new will be elected to that office, in District 4, incumbent Lincoln Davis is running along with many others. Rep. Davis has been supportive of the various NARFE goals.

Sunshine Report

The husband of Beverly Prichard recently had a heart problem. To all the ones who have chronic health problems, we wish you the best.

Please inform us if you know of others which have health issues or deaths in the family. THANKS

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Coming Up At Our Next Meeting

You are encouraged to attend our next meeting on July 20th. at Shoney's Restaurant on S Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Our planned speaker will be from the local Master Gardeners Program. This is a state-wide program under the University of Tennessee Extension Office. Come and enjoy hearing about this.

We have been missing several of our faithful members at our meetings this year. I know everyone is busy, but try to squeeze in our meeting this month.

Remember if anyone in the Cookeville area needs a ride to the meeting, contact Roy Byrd by calling 252-2973.

Membership News

Since the last report, we have gained one new member. We welcome Rebecca Maxwell of Cookeville to NARFE and our chapter.

We have 2 reinstatements of members who were previously dropped, many thanks. But there are still have some that have not renewed or are late in renewing and this is of great concern. If this is you, please help us with this and send in your renewal.

Ways to renew - You can also renew by using the form that was mailed to you, by telephone by calling 1-800-456-8410 and use a credit or debit card. For those of you which have computers, you can renew online at the NARFE website. www.narfe.org. As always, if you have questions call me and I will be glad to help.

Very important, when you renew, don't make the mistake of creating a new membership. We have had 3 occurrences this year where members renewed by filling out a new memberships. This causes us all sorts of problems.

Chapter Officers

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

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National Convention

I am planning on attending the NARFE National Convention beginning the end of August. There will be many important issues come before the convention that are very important. I have received the proposed changes to our **Bylaws, Standing Rules and & General Resolutions** for this year. There are a total of 22 proposed changes. Many of these have to do with dues and many will be revised by the various committees at the convention. We have 2 copies of what has been proposed, plus they are available on the NARFE website. I would invite you to review these and let me know your thoughts. We will discuss many of them at the July and August chapter meetings and I need your input on these as I go to the convention. There will also be new officers elected to the National offices. These are critical times for NARFE as a whole and it is important for the future of our organization that the best proposals be acted upon and the best leaders get elected.

Common Myths and Truths -By Bill Price

Note: There are several of these type of articles and they will run for several months as space permits.

MYTH: NARFE has been around a long time. Whether I join or not, or drop out or not, will not make any difference.

TRUTH: NARFE effectiveness in fighting back reductions in your pay and benefits is at risk. NARFE needs those who are not members to join and those who are members not to drop out. Membership numbers have dropped an average of 10,000 per year over the past five years and revenue has decreased accordingly. Overall, NARFE members have declined from 491,067 in 1984 to 306,299 as of April 9, 2010, a 37.6% loss. This has caused a steady decrease in member dues that is critically needed to maintain operations. In fact, NARFE has experienced significant operating losses over the past three years. One of the primary reasons for this result is an annual 8-percent decrease in members since 2006, which translates into over \$635,000 annual decrease in dues revenue. And, decreases in members cause increases in dues. As the National Treasurer recently reported: "Overall, NARFE's financial results for the last three years indicate that it is time for NARFE to increase its national dues, coupled with more stringent cost-cutting steps." Even worse, if the trend continues, NARFE will lose political clout in fighting back proposed legislative reductions in federal pay and benefits. Every single person's membership and dues is critical to NARFE remaining viable and to maintaining a strong political voice before the Congress and the President. No longer can anyone sit back and do nothing: NARFE needs additional members and financial support via dues and contributions to NARFE-PAC. Failure to

join and not contribute will result in significant reductions in your federal pay and benefits. NARFE also needs all members to write their senators and representatives about legislative issues raised by NARFE. Special note to readers: ironically, if more members would join and less dropped out, there would be no need for dues increases; dues could actually decrease!

To Contact Me

Remember my contact information is always listed on the front of each of these Newsletters. You can also find this by going to our website.

On The Light Side

A man goes to the doctor and tells him that he hasn't been feeling well. The doctor examines him, leaves the room and comes back with three different bottles of pills.

The doctor says, "Take the green pill with a big glass of water when you get up. Take the blue pill with a big glass of water after lunch. Then take the red pill with another glass of water before going to bed."

Startled to be put on so much medicine, the man asked, My goodness, Doc. Exactly what's my problem? The doctor says, "You're not drinking enough water." ☺

Mr. Johnson, a businessman from Colorado, recently went on a business trip to Arizona. He immediately sent an email back home to his wife, Jo Ann, to let her know that he had arrived safely.

Unfortunately, he mistyped a few letters and the email ended up going to a Mrs. Joan Johnson, the wife of a preacher who had just passed away.

The preacher's wife took one look at the email and promptly fainted. When she finally revived, she nervously pointed to the message, which read: "Arrived safely, but it sure is hot down here." ☺

An irate senior citizen calls the newspaper office demanding to know why her Sunday paper was not delivered that day. "Madam", said the person on the line, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper will be delivered tomorrow". Oh! said the lady, that is why no one was at church today. ☺

Thanks to all who have renewed your membership

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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