



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

October 2010

Notes From Last Meeting

The last meeting we had fell on the last day of Summer. This year is moving right along and will soon be history. Our attendance was improved for the September meeting, thanks to those who came. Let's continue to increase attendance at the next meeting.

The speaker last month was Marcia Borys who is the Circuit Court Clerk in Putnam Co. She gave us a rundown of the goings on in the Circuit Court Clerk's offices. They are responsible for serving the civil and criminal courts in their counties. The state laws have recently been changed in the way they select citizens for jury duty. Now they make selections entirely from the drivers license lists. A computer program pulls names from that list when they need to contact people for jury duty. You are not required to serve on a jury more than once in a 24 month period. Marcia also told us that they try to accommodate people's personal needs and work with those who have hardships when it comes with serving on the jury.

In Putnam County those serving on the jury get paid the grand sum of \$11 per day. They handle 20-24 thousand cases per year and collect about \$5 to \$7 million dollars in fines and court costs per year. Anyone needing information on jury duty, court dates, fines, etc. can usually find what they need by phone or the internet.

Important Dates Coming Up

October 19th. Next chapter meeting
November 2nd. Election Day
November 7th. Daylight Saving Time ends
December 11th. Christmas Banquet

Coming Up At Our Next Meeting

For the speaker for our October meeting, we have invited someone we had a few years ago to come back. It is Joane Kibbons who owns the Ships "N Trips Travel. When she was here before, she shared with us some popular travel information. So plan on coming and hear from her this month.

We are always open to suggestions for speakers for meeting. Anytime you think of someone who make for a interesting speaker, let us know.

Remember if anyone in the Cookeville area needs a ride to the meeting, call 252-2973.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Membership And Dues

This is a good time to recruit new members, before the dues increase which will take effect. Right now new members can join for only \$33. If you know of someone who might be interested in joining, give them membership form or send their contact information to me so that I can get a form to them.

The new rates approved at the recent National Convention will be phased in starting in January. I would highly encourage everyone who gets the renewal information at the old rate to go ahead and renew which will save a few dollars. If you have questions on how the new rates will be implemented, send me a note or ask at one of our meetings.

Open Season

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has announced the dates for this year's open season on health insurance plans will be **November 8 - December 13, 2010**. This is the time that employees, retirees and survivors can make changes in their enrollment if desired. This applies not only to strictly health insurance, but also dental and vision plans. Current federal employees can also make changes to their Flexible Spending Accounts.

I remember many years ago, open seasons were a rare event, but now days we have one every year mostly because of the fact that rates are increasing. This year is no exception, while there will be some benefit changes that we need to know about, the overall rate increase is 7.3%, your plan may be more or less than that.. Full details will be made available by the agencies you work for, by OPM and the NARFE magazine. I will have current rates with me at the meetings.

Chapter Officers

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

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Myths and Truths

This is a continuation of the articles that I have been running which were written by a NARFE member, Bill Price of Chapter 1894.

MYTH: I am totally frustrated with the economic and political conditions. There is nothing that I can do about it.

TRUTH: There are six specific actions that you can take to help NARFE fight back unfair proposed reductions in federal pay, health, retirement and other benefits before they become law. NARFE is set up, running and has the mechanisms in place for you to take actions. All you have to do is support NARFE via dues and NARFE-PAC contributions and use its legislative response system. It simply makes no sense to throw your hands up and do nothing when your federal pay and benefits are at a very real risk of being reduced and you can help NARFE stop the reductions.

Six Actions You Need To Take To Help Prevent Reductions In Your Pay And Benefits: Current members and eligible members need to take actions now, not when negative legislation is passed and it's too late to act. Every single person's actions are critical to ensure future success in preventing reductions in pay and benefits:

1) If you are a NARFE member: sign up your spouse as a member: call 800-627-3394 or go to NARFE's internet website, www.narfe.org, recruit others to join, and make it your goal to continually recruit others.

2) If you are not a member: call 800-627-3394 and join with a credit card, or join online at www.NARFE.org, and sign up your spouse.

3) For both members and not-yet members, provide this information to those you know who are not members, including active and retired federal employees, their spouses and survivors. Ask them to join NARFE.

4) Go to www.NARFE.org, go to home page, click on Membership, then click on "Join GEMS" to provide your e-mail address so that you receive "Hotline legislative alerts" (GEMS = Global Electronic Messaging System). If you do not have or use a computer, call 1-877-217-8234 to hear the alerts; respond to your senators and representative on legislative issues raised by NARFE.

5) Use the NARFE Legislative Action Center at www.capwiz.com/narfe to respond to your senators and representatives. Once you start receiving "Hotline legislative alerts" you can also use the links to get to the responses. NARFE prepares a suggested response, identifies your senators and representative, and will either send a letter or an e-mail to

them under your name. All you have to do is take a few minutes to push a few computer buttons. If you do not have or use a computer, call 1-877-217-8234 to hear the alerts; respond to your senators and representative on legislative issues raised by NARFE.

6) Make a direct contribution to NARFE-PAC via coupons in NARFE magazine to help elect senators and representatives who (1) support the concerns of federal employees and retirees and (2) oppose reductions in federal retirement, health and other benefits.

Member Recommends The Hearing Center

Fellow member Waymon Roberts sent me the following information about his experiences with 2 companies that sell hearing aids.

He writes: *"The Hearing Centers" are located in Cookeville, Crossville, McMinnville. These folks are Preferred Providers and Blue Cross will pay \$1000 per ear every 36 months, plus several other charges. They also furnish free batteries for 3 years, replace for free one device if lost, one time. Their best unit is truly worth the cost (Blue Cross is paying \$2249. on the bill). Also have a 75 day trial period, only charge \$300 restocking fee if dissatisfied."*

Of another company he tried which he did not want to name, he writes: *"I was gouged by a highly advertised organization. They charged me the price of the top of the line aids, and furnished me with the lowest grade available. I could hear lots of things, but understanding was very poor."*

Officers Needed

It is that time of year again when we need to select chapter officers for the coming year. It is so very much important that we do so. I am asking that **anyone with any interest at all** to step up and be willing to serve in one of the officer positions.

Have you received a Dues Notice and have not renewed yet? These are critical times for federal retirees and survivors, many in DC are looking for ways to cut government spending which must be done, but we need cuts from all sectors of government spending are not unfairly on the backs of current and future federal retirees. If you do not renew, you place your future benefits at risk!!



RENEW TODAY

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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