



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**April 2011**

**Notes From The Last Meeting**

We had another good crowd at the March meeting, a total of 26 members and guests. That is very good news. It is always good to see and talk to our members and to hear what is going on in our lives and to encourage each one to be responsive to current happenings that can have an affect on our benefits. That is the best part of having a local chapter. Again this month, we saw some of you who have been absent for awhile. Good to see Mildred Milligan and Liz Bryant again. We had 1 member there for the very first time, that was Rebecca Stefanescu. I hope that I have not overlooked anyone. If you have never been or if it has been a long time since you were able to be at our meetings, we give you a hardy invitation to come.

We actually had 2 speakers for this meeting, they were Dr. Calvin Dickinson and Jennie Ivey. They have co-authored a brand new book *Soldiers, Spies & Spartans*. This book is about Civil War Stories from Tennessee. They made copies of this book available to purchase and they signed those for us at the meeting. This book tells stories from the prospective of both sides, the North and the South or as Dr. Dickinson put it, the Federals and the Confederates.

Dr. Dickenson said that this year marks the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Civil War, which means it began 150 years ago. There have been many books written over the years on the Civil War which lasted from 1861 to 1865 and cost many thousands of lives.

Jennie Ivey, some may remember she was our speaker a couple of years ago when she was a local librarian. She is also a journalist and writes for the local newspaper. She told us one of the stories in this new book about the Battle of Franklin. This battle took place on November 30, 1864 and she told us that it was the bloodiest 5 hours of the entire war because it took place at night during the dark hours. Here is a excerpt from that chapter; *"For five horrible hours, cannons boomed, rifles cracked, and bayonets flashed. At times, the air was so thick with smoke that those who were fighting couldn't distinguish friend from foe. By nine o'clock that evening, when the fighting finally ceased, 7,000 Confederates--including thirteen generals--had been killed,*

*wounded, or captured. The Federal losses numbered 2,500 men".*

In other news from the last meeting, we covered the financial report, the membership report and other normal business. Roy Byrd is taking orders for the special NARFE Pin commemorating NARFE's 90 Year Anniversary. The Pins are \$3 each and you can see him if you want to order or look in the Magazine for information. The chapter approved sending a Door Prize to the Federation Convention and agreed to have a picnic in June. More on that in another article.

**Important Dates Coming Up**

April 18, 19 Tennessee Federation Convention  
April 24 Easter Sunday  
May 8 Mother's Day

**No Meeting This Month**

Because of the Federation Convention and the fact that it takes place during the same time as our meeting date, there will not be a chapter meeting for April. The next meeting will be May 17th.

**NARFE-PAC**

At our March meeting we gave those who were there an opportunity to contribute to NARFE-PAC. If you were not able to be there and you want to help NARFE as they work to get NARFE friendly members of Congress elected during this election cycle (2011-2012), then look in the NARFE magazine (April page 12) for the NARFE-PAC coupon that you can mail in with your contribution. If you have questions about NARFE-PAC, you can contact our State Coordinator, Larry Minniear at 423-875-5612 [larryminniear@narfetn.org](mailto:larryminniear@narfetn.org). Thanks for supporting this very worthwhile cause.

**Chapter Officers**

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Betty Robinson
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myra Estes

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

## Membership News

I can report the newest additions to our chapter. Two people who had previously been to our chapter meetings. They are Anita Lockhart of Sparta (and also of upstate New York) who just joined and Jim Clay, who was a NARFE member in the Dalton GA area whose membership was transferred to here. We are glad to have both as part of our group.

Please remember to renew if you have received a renewal notice. That is a BIG encouragement.

## Picnic Time Is Soon

I asked those at the March meeting if they would like to schedule a picnic in June or July. Most were enthusiastic about it and wanted to do this. So we are looking at the date of June 25th which will be the last Saturday that month. We discussed having it again this year at Cane Creek Park which is a very nice facility. But after the meeting, fellow member Dick Armstrong offered to make available his home for our picnic this year. He lives in the Algood area and has a roomy basement which might be a good alternative. He tells me that it is air conditioned which might be more comfortable for some. I would like your comments on this, so come to the May meeting or let me know some other time as whether you prefer outside at the park or inside.

We will also need to plan the menu at the next meeting. Hope that you will make plans to be there. Stay tuned for more information.

## Member Contacts

We need to re-establish contacting our chapter members. We have added several new members lately and we have lost some of our telephone callers. This is a very important chapter function and I need some of you to help with this and I also would like some input from you.

I am sure that some would rather not be contacted monthly about meetings, special events and your well-being and some of you would like to be contacted very much. We have traditionally had a Telephone Committee that would make these phone calls each month to various lists of members. If you have a few minutes that you can use and the ability of making phone calls outside your area which does not incur toll charges, then let me know that you are willing to help.

With the new technology available these days, some may prefer a simple text message to be sent to their cell phone. So I am asking that you respond with your comments. Tell me if you would like a phone call, a text message or neither and we will try to accommodate you in this.

To recap, let me know if you can help with making calls and how or if you would like to be contacted. To respond call me at 931-284-4835 or [wcollins@hydroguy.com](mailto:wcollins@hydroguy.com).

## Member Participation

For any group or organization to exist, it takes many people working together. If you are one of our newest members or even an long time member and have talents and abilities that you could offer to our chapter, we would be very appreciative. I have already mentioned the Telephone Committee, but there are other areas as well that you may be interested in. To name a few; legislative, membership, special event coordinator, newsletter, mailing and much more. It would be great if some of our newer members would like to help out with any of these chapter functions. If you have computer skills, people skills or organizing skills, that would be tremendous. Just let me know of any interest you may have.

On the same subject, a member suggested that it would be good to have someone take pictures at our meetings and social gatherings. Pictures of our members, guests and speakers. If that is something you could do, let me know.

## Legislative Report

NARFE headquarters is opposing a bill in the U S Senate, S-644 which would eliminate the FERS annuity of federal workers hired after 2012. Not only that, but this would also eliminate any survival benefit and those affected would not be able to participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (our medical insurance plans). While I do not understand the reasoning of this bill, it does not sound like it would be the best direction to go. Neither of our Tennessee Senators have gone on record as supporting this bill.

Those of you who have access to a computer are reminded of a special website that NARFE has set up to respond to members of Congress about the many proposed cuts to federal employees and retirees. That website is [www.narfe.org/heartbeat](http://www.narfe.org/heartbeat), click there and send a message to your members of Congress.

## Government Shutdown

As I prepare this newsletter (4/8/11), there is a possibility of a government shutdown due to Congress not able to pass a bill to fund the federal government. Some may want to know how it would affect federal workers and retirees. NARFE has put together a information sheet on the subject. This may be old news by the time you get this article. But to read on how it would affect you, click the link: [www.narfecookevilletn.org/GovernmentShutdown.pdf](http://www.narfecookevilletn.org/GovernmentShutdown.pdf)

### 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>