



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**December 2011**

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
NARFE  
FAMILY**



**Notes From Our Last Meeting**

Thanks to those who were able to attend the November meeting. Some of our regulars could not be there because of a conflict with another meeting, but others were there that we don't often see.

We continued to discuss the current status of all that is going on in the news which could possibly adversely affect federal employees and federal retirees. Our headquarters staff are doing a **great** job representing us in Washington and you should be glad for all that NARFE does on our behalf.

The chapter elected officers for the coming year. This is always a very important item to do as a chapter cannot exist without officers to take care of the day to day affairs. Those agreeing to serve and elected include:

- President—Ronnie Collins
- 1st. Vice President—Betty Robinson
- 2nd. Vice President—Rebecca Stefanescu
- Secretary—Reba Collins
- Treasurer—Myrna Estes

I am thankful for these who are willing to serve as your officers and ask that you help us in every way possible. This is the first time in a long that we will have 2 VP positions in our chapter. Betty will continue the duties of finding speakers for our meetings and Becky will take over the membership duties. If you have suggestions for speakers, I am sure that would be welcomed. If you know of potential new members, that information would also be welcomed, just contact the officers with that information.

**Important Dates Coming Up**

- December 22 Winter begins
- December 25 Christmas Day
- December 26 Christmas Holiday
- January 1 New Years Day
- January 2 New Years Holiday

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

**Upcoming Meetings**

By the time that this newsletter gets to you, we will have had our Christmas Luncheon meeting for this month. There will **not** be a regular chapter meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 17, 2012. Let's look forward to another great year.

**Update On Officers**

After our November meeting and the election of the chapter officers for next year, I received a note from Rebecca Stefanescu that because of a change in her family situation and lack of available time, she would have to decline from serving as Vice President of our chapter. She expressed her sorrow in this. I too regret that she will be unable to serve, Becky would have been a great addition to our chapter officers for the coming year. Perhaps that at some future time, she will be able to serve. I hope that she can still be active somewhat in the chapter.

**2012 Medicare Rates**

The Part B Medicare rates will adjust beginning in 2012. Currently there is basically 2 different rate categories, those who are eligible for Social Security and those not eligible. If you remember in the past 2 years when there was not a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retirees, Medicare Part B rates did not increase for those drawing Social Security but they did increase for those not drawing Social Security. Based on my understanding, this will change for 2012, everyone on Medicare who is enrolled in Part B will pay the same rate (unless you are in an higher income level). The new Medicare Part B premium will be \$99.90. So this means that if for year 2011 you paid more than \$99.90 per month for Part B premiums, you will see a decrease in 2012. If my research is correct that should be good news.

**Chapter Officers**

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

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## Member Spotlight

This month's column is about **Jacqueline Pine**.

Jacque began her federal career in 1942 with the Defense Plant Corporation which was a subsidiary of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, an independent agency of the U S Government. This agency was tasked with auditing the books for the Vultee Aircraft Corp. to monitor their government loans.

In 1944 Jacque interrupted her career to marry and did not return to work until her children were both in school. During this time she lived in Montreal, then in Buenos Aires Canada and later moved to Long Island, New York.

From 1955-1960, Jacque worked for 3rd Army at the Armed Forces Examining Station at the V A Hospital in Nashville TN. She was the secretary to the Commanding Officer, doing his correspondence and typed his Special Orders, also compiled the examining doctor's diagnostic sheets of the troops.

Later she would end her federal service working for the Social Security Administration in Nashville, Birmingham Alabama and lastly in Cookeville. With the SSA, Jacque worked as a Claims Development Clerk processing claims and later as the Claims Representative and Acting Field Rep. She ended her career in 1983 with 30 years of service.

Jacque was invited to a NARFE meeting by her District Manager, Bishop Holliman and has been a NARFE member since 1971 (40 years). She has served as 2nd Vice President of our chapter, then as 1st Vice President for 2 years; and has served as Historian for many years. She added "NARFE is a helpful, supportive and rewarding organization".

Besides all of this, Jacque was a member and V.P. of the Ladies' Business Club, the Pilot Club. This was a very impressive and influential group of women from many branches of business which sponsored foreign members, students, and worked with local groups.

We have missed Jacque for several years as health issues have prevented her from attending our meetings. She says that she misses us too.

This is the last of this series unless I receive information from other members, so tell me about your federal service, how you became a NARFE member and other interests you have.

## Legislative News

The so called Super Committee failed to reach any sort of action on a bill to cut federal spending. I guess this is a good thing for current federal workers as they would have taken a big hit in any proposal. Other cuts and pay freezes are already in effect.

The Federal Workers' Compensation Modernization and Improvement Act just passed the U S House. This bill was supported by NARFE and will help current federal workers if it becomes law.

## Give The Gift of NARFE

Now would be a great time to consider giving a gift membership to some federal employee or federal retiree. NARFE provides a form for such a purpose. For new members the first year membership amount is only \$45. Why not gift a membership to someone you know, such as your mail carrier or the clerk in the Post Office, or someone from the agency that you worked for? Also this is the time of year that many of your former co-workers will be retiring, this would make a great retirement gift. Why not give that person that you know who is retiring this for a gift?

This would help that person, you and our entire organization. If this sounds like something you can do, you have several options. You can call NARFE headquarters 800-456-8410 and tell them you want to give a gift membership (they may be able to take the information on the phone or send you the form), or you can call me and I will mail you the form, or have internet access, you can [click here](#) for the form. Just fill in all the information that you know and mail in to the address listed with the payment (it asks for the date of birth, but that is not necessary).

## Membership News

Membership wise, this is not a good month for our chapter and NARFE. The latest Membership Report that we got shows some members that were dropped for Non-renewal and 4 who were sent Second Dues Notices. This is very hurtful for us. If you are one of these, please for you sake and our whole organization, renew today. If you need any help in doing do, please contact us, or better yet call NARFE and renew over the phone with a credit or debit card. That number is 800-456-8410

In these times of the federal budget problems, it seems that the first place Congress and the President look to cut is with federal employees and retirement benefits. We need every member to stay with us to keep us a strong and viable voice in Washington DC.

Speaking for the officers of our chapter, we work hard to serve and help you. Will you help us by renewing your membership as soon as you get the notices? Thank you.

# WE APPRECIATE ALL OUR MEMBERS

### 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>