



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

July 2011

Independence Day

I hope everyone had a great Fourth of July as our Nation celebrated its 235th birthday which began with the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Along with the hotdogs and fireworks, it is a good time to remember those who have provided our freedoms. Thanks to all those who have served our country, especially in times of war. Let us also think of all the federal employees and retirees who worked to serve the people of this land.

Notes From Our Picnic

We had near perfect weather on the Saturday of our picnic, the temps were not hot, no rain and a nice breeze blowing. The shelter at Cane Creek Park is a great location. The food was good and plentiful. I think everyone there had a good time. The only thing that would have made it better would be to have had more of our members in attendance. Glad for those who could make, but we missed those of you who could not come.

Thanks to all who came and thanks for all of the delicious desserts.

Important Dates Coming Up

July 19 Chapter Meeting
July 27 National Call Congress Day
Sept 5 Labor Day

National Call Congress & President Day

On July 27th, NARFE Headquarters is asking all of us to make phone calls to our 2 US Senators, our US Representative and President Obama. That is 4 phone calls. The numbers to call are: the Capitol switchboard is **866-220-0044** and the White House is **888-225-8418**.

The message needs to be: *"My name is (fill in), and I live in (city, state). I am a federal retiree (or worker). Don't single us out by making more cuts to the retirement and health benefits we earned through years of serving the public. Federal workers and retirees have already sacrificed pay and benefits."*

Be sure to ask for a response in writing, so leave your mailing address. Don't forget the date, circle it on the calendar—**July 27th**. Remember if this is important to you, make your views known.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Membership News

The regular monthly membership activity report for July is just in. It shows no change in our membership totals, but it does list 5 chapter members who were sent a Second Dues Notice.

Just let me remind you that your membership is important to us all. When you get the renewal notice, please take care of it as soon as possible. Normally NARFE sends out a renewal notice 2 months prior to your expiration date and if needed they send out a Second Dues Notice on the month your dues are set to expire. Renewing on time helps us maintain a strong membership base and saves the sending of more renewal notices. You can renew by mail or by calling 800-456-8410 and pay by a credit or debit card. **Renew today—NARFE needs you and you need NARFE.**

OPM Changing Open Season Mailing Policy

Take note of the article in the July NARFE magazine on page 34. Starting this open season for the health insurance plans (FEHBP) OPM is asking the various health insurance plans to not automatically send our paper copies of the plan's brochures. You should be receiving a card or letter from your health insurance company explaining this and asking you to choose whether you still want to receive paper copies or just view the brochure on the plan's website.

This is being done, they say to reduce the amount of paper used and to save costs. Just be sure that you read the information that you get and understand the two options. Make the choice that is best for you and your situation. Remember, you will still be able to get paper copies of your health benefits brochure, but you have to be sure to request it by whatever means your particular insurance company sets forth.

Chapter Officers

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

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Glen Turner Receives Award

A fellow NARFE member from the Nashville Tennessee Chapter 227 recently won the GEICO Retiree Award for Public Service in the Physical Rehabilitation category. He won this award for his volunteer work with wounded returning combat veterans at the VA hospital in Nashville.

Turner, himself a Korean War veteran received the award on May 2 in Washington DC. The GEICO Insurance Company is a partner with our NARFE association.

Legislative News

For years now, we have been reporting about NARFE's efforts to gain support for passage of bills to repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WPO). In light of the current fiscal situation of the federal government, these 2 Social Security issues are not likely to be acted upon. Both of these bills if passed would add to the federal deficit. There are some members of Congress pushing for a total overhaul of the Social Security System, If that or something similar is done, then maybe we will see some help in these areas.

Another bill that was on the list to push for is the Premium Conversion bill. This bill if passed would have allowed us who are retired to pay our health insurance premiums with "before tax dollars". Again with the current fiscal climate, this legislation also seems unlikely to go anywhere.

Congress and the President are currently trying to reach some sort of resolution with the national debt limit. Currently the federal government is fast approaching the maximum borrowing limit which had previously been set by Congress. In reaching an agreement on what changes to do, it is likely this will mean some changes to both Social Security Benefits and the income tax structure. Be sure to watch the news and reports that come from NARFE.

Next Meeting

This month we will resume our regular chapter meetings (after taking the month of June for the picnic), the date will be July 19th. We meet at Shoney's Restaurant beginning at 6pm (or before) with a meal and fellowship. The business part of the meeting begins at 6:45pm.

Our program and speaker this month will be John Allen, he heads up the Upper Cumberland Quilt Festival. I am informed that he is a very interesting speaker on this and other subjects.

I encourage everyone of you to attend and take part in our chapter meetings. Put it on you calendar each month.

Thanks to everyone who has recently renewed your dues.

Benefits Of Membership

From time to time, I remind you of the many benefits that we receive as part of NARFE in addition to all they do for us in Washington DC.

The magazine that we receive each month is full of information and articles that are so very helpful to all of us. Also in the back of each magazine there are many discounts available for such things as; moving services, vacation, travel, hotels, insurance and more. If you check around, I think you will find that these discounts are as good as you find from any other member organization. If you are travelling any this summer be sure to check out these discounts.

Member Loss

We are saddened by the loss of another one of our members. Thelma Robbins passed on June 13th. She was preceded in death by her husband and member, J B Robbins just a few months ago.

Updated Membership List

The current chapter membership list available on our chapter website, www.narfecookevilletn.org. On the first page that shows up on the right hand side, you will see the link to the Membership List. You will need to input your last name and member ID number to gain access.

Names, addresses and phone numbers are to be kept private and not shared with any outside person.

On The Light Side—Idiots At Work

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" To which I replied, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" He smiled knowingly and nodded, "That's why we ask."

A lady went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for minimal lettuce." He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg.

When a couple arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, they were told the keys had been locked in it. They went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As they watched from the passenger side, one of them instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. "Hey," he announced to the technician, "It's open!" To which he replied, "I know - I already got that side."

Now Don't You Feel Better?

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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