



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**June 2011**

**Notes From Last Meeting**

Thanks to the good turnout for the last meeting, we had a total of 24 members and guests. Glad to have 2 guests from Celina who saw the newspaper notice of our meeting and had never heard of NARFE before. Our Public Relations chair, Roy Byrd sends out our meeting announcements to area news outlets but we don't always know if they get in the papers, radio and tv or not. So if you see or hear our announcements, I would like to know about it.

Our speaker was Meghian Moore of the State Health Insurance Program. This is a service of the State of Tennessee and the Upper Cumberland Development District that helps seniors understand the Medicare and TennCare programs including all the various insurance supplements. She updated us on the recent changes in the Medicare program and how those changes would affect us and our family members and friends. She and others in their office are available to answer your questions and the Cookeville office serves all the 14 counties of the Upper Cumberland. The office is located on S Willow Ave. and can be reached by calling 432-4111 or 877-801-0044

Meghian said that they are in need of volunteers to assist in counseling on Medicare and educating seniors in our area. She said that the greatest need exists in the counties surrounding Putnam County. They provide all the training that is needed and this just takes a small amount of time. So I would encourage you to contact that office and offer to help in this very worthwhile need. To learn more about that call the same numbers that I listed and as about the Volunteer Program or you can contact me as she left some flyers about the program. You will be glad that you did.

**The Threat Continues**

Every day it seems there are new proposals that come from Congress or the President that attacks federal employees and/or retirees. Our headquarters staff are staying on top of these developments and they ask that make use of the means they provide to voice our opinions to the Whitehouse and our members of Congress. **The numbers to call are: Congress - 866-220-0044, Whitehouse - 888-225-8418.**

**Important Dates Coming Up**

June 19 Father's Day  
June 21 Summer begins  
June 25 Chapter picnic

**It Is Picnic Time**

The date of our chapter picnic is June 25th. That is the last Saturday of the month. Please make plans to join us and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship with fellow chapter members and friends. You can bring others with you. We have reserved a shelter at Cane Creek Park in Cookeville for 11:30 to 1:30. They have renamed the shelters this year, the one we will be using is now called the Courtside Shelter, this is 3rd. shelter you get to as you drive around the loop. The park is located on CC Camp Rd., if anyone needs directions, call me.

We will have a catered menu of BBQ pork, baked beans, slaw, potato salad and tea. **Members are asked to bring a dessert or any other side dish that you desire.** At this time, I do not know what the cost will be, but we will keep the costs down as low as possible to cover the price of the food and the shelter fee.

In order to know how much food to purchase, I need your help. We need a head count of all those planning on coming. I request that those on the telephone committee make phone calls and any others of you who know of others that may be interested, please call them and ask them to come and then call me the let me know who is signed up to come. If for some reason you do not get a call and would like to come, please call me at 931-284-4835. We would like to have as many as possible. This is a good opportunity for those who for one reason or another cannot make it to our regular chapter meetings.

**Chapter Officers**

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

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

## Membership News

The regular monthly membership activity report for June shows that 3 members were sent a Second Dues Notice, if that is you please take care of that as soon as possible. Sadly we did have 1 member dropped this month due to non-renewal.

I can't express enough the importance of every member renewing your dues as soon as you get the renewal notice. Our chapter has done an excellent job in retaining members, please keep it up.

Thanks to all of you who recently signed up for the email delivery of the Chapter Newsletter. This saves me lots of time when it comes to printing, and preparing the envelopes. Please notify me if you recently signed up and you don't get the email version.

## Member Loss

We lost a faithful member this past month. Dick Armstrong lost his fight with heart failure. Dick attended our meetings at every opportunity that he could. We will greatly miss him. Our condolences to his wife Mary and other family members.

## The Following Are Reprints From HQ Recruiting & Retention Journal

"Several myths have been perpetuated. Among them: Federal workers are overpaid compared to private sector workers; most federal workers are paper-pushing clerks who do very little work and reap overly generous government benefits.; the workers eventually retire and receive a lavish pension; hiring and pay freezes and outright reductions of worker and retiree benefits would make a significant contribution to balancing the budget and reducing the national debt (not to mention reducing government waste and making it run more efficiently).

"These myths are accepted by a significant number of voters. Further reinforcing the misperceptions in voters' minds has been the December release of the Fiscal Reform Commission's proposals that would adversely affect federal workers and annuitants. "Like other American citizens. NARFE members are concerned about government spending and the national debt. However, every NARFE member I encounter knows the myths about federal employment inflated benefits are not true. While NARFE and its partner organizations are working hard to set the record straight, too many influential political leaders and media voices are repeating these myths as though they are facts. These voices seem determined to perpetuate this misinformation upon an unsuspecting public."

The following is from *The Washington Post*, December 5, 2010. "As you can see, the assault on our pay, retirement and integrity is still going strong. 'Federal employees are overpaid compared with private sector workers. The federal work force is bigger

than ever. You can't fire a federal worker. Most federal workers are paper-pushing clerks. Pay or hiring freezes would help slash the federal budget.' These are topics discussed in the article. Needless to say the content of each topic was not in our favor. We need to be vigilant when asked to share our voices. Thanks to HQ, which lobbies and fights for our rights, and does it so effectively"

"We knew it was coming. The state of the economy nationwide and throughout the world has put a burden on all of us. We are tightening our belts — or should be.

Those of us who have been NARFE members for several years have seen how our organization has diligently been at the forefront, working on our behalf to protect our rights.

So, are we going to sit back and not help NARFE defend federal employees' and retirees' earned retirement, pay and health benefits? This is a time when *all* NARFE members and *all* federal workers, retirees and their survivors should join in this struggle. This is not just a NARFE issue. It is a federal employee and retiree issue. So, talk to your co-workers or anyone you know who is or was a federal employee and let them know how important and timely this is. NARFE HQ should not be expected to fight this battle alone!

Get on board with a letter-writing campaign or e-mail your representatives (sample letters are available on the NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), or GEMS). Get to know your representatives. Do it now! We cannot be complacent or it will be too late.

As our NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin commented on reviewing the Fiscal Commission's report: "Federal civil service employees and retirees are targeted for wholesale reductions in pay and benefits when, in fact, their dedicated work is not part of the deficit problem, but rather part of the solution."

**My comments**—You can see from reading these articles how crucial it is that we remain aware of what is at stake for us all and how important it is that we keep our membership strong. Stay with us and find new members. Remember the benefits you save may be your own!

**Don't forget, I need you to RSVP for the Picnic this month. Be sure to let me know if you and others are coming.**

### **NARFE IS ON THE WEB**

Chapter 1956: [www.narfecookevilletn.org](http://www.narfecookevilletn.org)  
Tennessee Federation: [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)  
NARFE Headquarters: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)