



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

March 2011

Notes From The Last Meeting

We had near Spring like weather for the February meeting. Attendance was much improved but it was not due to the weather, rather I credit those who made phone calls to survey our members on their thoughts on chapter meetings. Please read the article elsewhere in this letter on the survey results.

We had 25 members and guests present at this meeting which included several we have not seen in awhile. Welcome back to Jim and Brenda Boyington, Dan and Kathy Hilton, Rural and Nancy Peace and Ellis McCowan. We also met for the first time a newer member, Phyllis Huff and husband David; guess Jim Clay who is a member of a NARFE chapter in Georgia who now lives in Cookeville and another guest; Anita Lockhart, a retired federal employee who just found out about us.

We discussed several items aimed at improving attendance and participation, the results of the surveys and speakers for upcoming meetings. We also discussed the importance of keeping abreast with the actions of Congress and the President as they go about making cuts in federal spending. The federal employees and federal retirees are much too often where they first look at ways to make cuts. We were reminded to use the tools that NARFE headquarters makes available to us on ways to phone and email our elected members of Congress.

Important Dates Coming Up

March 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
March 15 Next Chapter Meeting
March 20 Spring Begins
April 18, 19 Tennessee Federation Convention

Speaker For Next Month

At the last meeting, there were 2 speakers mentioned for this next meeting, but after the meeting Roy Byrd found out about another person who we have invited. He is Dr. Calvin Dickinson, Professor Emeritus of Tennessee Tech University and local historian. He has written several books and will be discussing his latest book about stories of the Civil War and what took place in Tennessee. I think you will enjoy this speaker.

The meeting begins with a meal at 6pm or before and the business session starts at 6:45pm.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Membership News

We would like to welcome our newest member which have been reported since last month, he is Carl Ray Duke of Silver Point. I know of 2 other new members for our chapter that are in the process, but did not appear on the latest Membership Report that I get from headquarters. As soon as I get the official word, I will report them here.

These are critical times for all of our members, please give close attention to the renewal information that you receive and don't forget to send in your dues. Each month almost there are some that are sent a second dues notice and that means we have to try to reach them to encourage them to renew. Remember that there is no other organization that works to protect the benefits of **all** of us in Washington DC and we need everyone's help.

NARFE-PAC

March every year is NARFE-PAC Month. This month in particular, we emphasize the importance of this arm of our organization. NARFE like many more groups helps to elect candidates to public office which we hope will support our issues and interests. Membership dues are never used to do this, but rather only those voluntary donations to NARFE-PAC will be used. Here in Tennessee, during the last election cycle we raised a total of \$20,896. We have about 4300 NARFE members in Tennessee, but only 817 made contributions to this fund during the last 2 year cycle. Can we do more during the 2011-2012 cycle?

Please read the article in the March magazine and use the form there to make a donation or bring it to the meeting this month. All donations are welcomed, whether large or small. Let's all do what we can.

Chapter Officers

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

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State Federation Convention

If anyone would like to attend this year's Tennessee Federation NARFE Convention in Nashville, let me know right away. All members are welcome to attend and our chapter is permitted to send up to 6 Voting Delegates. The host chapter for this year is the Donelson Area Chapter. The dates will be Monday April 18 and Tuesday April 19.

There has been one Resolution submitted for consideration. This resolution was submitted by me and what it proposed is to simplify the process of the paying of per capita dues by each chapter. Details will be discussed at our next meeting.

Also there is 2 Federation Officer positions that need to be filled, since the incumbents will not be seeking re-election. Those are the position of Federation Secretary and Membership Chairman. If anyone is interested in these or any other position, please contact me.

You can also find more information online at this address. http://narfetn.org/convention_news.html

Survey Results

Again I wish to thank Roy Byrd, Tom Pointer, Myrna Estes, Reba Collins, Tom Banker, Betty Robinson, Jim and LaVerne Evans who made phone calls to contact chapter members in regards to chapter meetings. They attempted to contact as many as possible. Some out of the area members were not contacted for obvious reasons, and for some we do not have working phone numbers. And for a few no one answered.

Generally the questions asked on the Survey were; Why they were not attending our meetings? Would a different date make any difference? Would a different location make any difference? Would a meeting at lunch instead of night make a difference?

On the first question, the main responses were, members continue to work or are busy with other groups and functions. Many were in poor health and not able to get out anymore.

On the second question, a different date other than the 3rd Tuesday, members responded that it would not make any difference.

On the third question, on the location. A few members responded that they did not like Shoney's and another location would make a difference.

On the fourth question, on a lunch time meeting rather than an evening meeting make a difference. Again there were some members who responded that this would be desirable to them.

If you did not get the opportunity to respond to these questions and you would like to weight in, send me a message, phone call or come to our meeting this month and comment.

Thanks to everyone who has renewed recently!

Government Employees and Retirees in the News

There continues to be lots of negative press in the news regarding government workers. While the main focus currently seems to be with state government workers and their advantages on pay and benefits, I feel like the public is likely to associate federal workers in the same mind set. From what I am hearing, state workers are getting much better benefits than those which are offered to federal workers. For instance, generally state workers do not have to pay into their retirement system and do not have to pay part of the health insurance premiums, quite to the contrary of the federal workers.

Also in the news, is the continuing saga in Washington DC in what Congress is likely to do to address the runaway federal spending. There will be cuts made and some will be directed towards federal employees and federal retirees.

I would encourage each of you, to speak out on your defense to disassociate the state workers from the federal workers and to take every advantage to let your members of Congress know how you feel with the federal spending cuts being offered. The NARFE national officers and staff are working hard to keep us informed and to provide us easy ways to contact our elected officials.

Let me remind you, if you have access to email to sign up for the legislative information that is sent out by GEMS (NARFE's Global Electronic Message System). If you are not getting these GEMS messages, send me an email and allow me to get you signed up. Everyone can call toll free 877-217-8234 to hear read the latest Legislative Alert message. Call at least each week since it is updated weekly.

Remember to use the NARFE provided toll free Washington Switchboard number 866-220-0044 and the email system on the NARFE website, Legislative Action Center to directly contact and respond to current legislative proposals (go to narfe.org and click on the **SPECIAL ALERT** banner).

It is extremely important that you maintain your NARFE membership in order that we have a strong voice on Capital Hill. **The benefits you save may be yours!!**

National Treasurer Passes

We are saddened by the sudden death of our newly elected National Treasurer, Charley Saylor. He was elected at last fall's Convention and took office in November. He became ill only recently.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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