



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

May 2011

Notes From The Convention

Last month we did not have a chapter meeting, so in this space I will report on the recent NARFE State Convention which Reba and I attended.

We heard from one of our national officers, Elaine Hughes, National Secretary. She gave us an update on several areas in which NARFE is working to make improvements within the organization and also to insure that federal employees and retirees are not unfairly affected by the much talked about cuts in federal spending. Elaine commented that we are considered "Low Hanging Fruit" by members of Congress. Far too often we are the first place they look in making budget cuts. The overall feeling among the attendees at the Convention was that we as federal employees and retirees are willing to make a shared sacrifice during these times of budget problems but we should not be asked to make unfair cuts since we have already had to take cuts that others have not had to take. For example, those receiving Social Security benefits are paying much less in Medicare premiums than other retirees who are not eligible for Social Security.

We were informed of improvements coming in the member reports that chapters receive from headquarters. This is long overdue and will be much welcome by people like me who have to deal with these reports.

There were 2 changes in Federation officer positions made. A new Vice President for the East Tennessee area was elected, that being Larry Minniear who was the Federation NARFE-PAC Chairman. Rhonda Mooney was elected Membership Chairman. All other officers remain the same.

There were 2 proposed changes in the By-laws presented, one was to clarify the dues that chapters pay to the Federation and the other was to change the wording regarding the selection of a parliamentarian to sit in on the convention meetings. Both failed to pass.

Reba took a handmade quilt that had been donated by her sister to the Convention. She raffled this off to raise funds for Alzheimer's support. This was very popular with those there, raising a total of \$388. That will be credited to our chapter for the Alzheimer's fund.

Important Dates Coming Up

May 17	Next Chapter Meeting
May 30	Memorial Day

Next Meeting

Our program speaker for the May 17th. meeting will be Meghian Moore. She is the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Volunteer Coordinator and will speak about Medicare and their counseling program. I encourage all of you to attend. This program covers all the counties of our area.

I would encourage all our members who can to attend our meetings as we discuss much more than what can be placed in these newsletters. Attendance has been much improved in recent months, keep that up this month. If anyone needs transportation, let us know.

Picnic

At this month's meeting, we need to finalize the plans for our picnic for this year. We had set a possible date of June 25th. at Cane Creek Park. But we may want to make some changes in that. Dick Armstrong has invited us to use his basement room at his house this year. I checked on the availability of the Park and it is not available on the date chosen. The City of Cookeville has also raised its fees on the use of the shelters over what it has been. So those of you who would be inclined to attend our picnic, come to our May meeting and let's work out the details. Be thinking too of what you want for the menu. It can be the same as years past or whatever you want. Our picnic is a time of food and fellowship with one another. We do not schedule any business. We also have this during the daytime and on a Saturday to accommodate those who cannot make it normally.

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

Protect America's Heartbeat

This is to remind those of you who have access to the internet to go online to a special website that NARFE headquarters has set up to address the attacks on federal employees by Congress. NARFE is fighting back and working to get the truth out about federal workers compensation, retirement benefits and annuities. That website is: <http://www.narfe.org/heartbeat>. There is a form you can fill out with your name and address and send a message to Congress; not to cut your benefits. You will also read about stories from federal retirees and how they have contributed to this country. You can even submit your own story if you wish.

You may have received a solicitation from NARFE headquarters to help fund this campaign. If you did, help with whatever you can.

Don't forget you can always call your elected officials to express your concerns about cuts in our benefits using the NARFE toll free number, 877-220-0044

Congress has just gone back into session after the Easter break. I hope that you had the opportunity to meet and talk to your elected representative during the time they were home in their districts. Whenever you are able to speak to them in person, remind them of the importance of protecting our benefits.

Consumer Prices Rising

As everyone knows, the cost of food and gas are rising greatly. The latest Consumer Price Index for March shows a gain of 1.1 percent. That puts us so far for this year at 2.1 percent towards a possible cost of living adjustment for next year.

Membership News

The regular monthly membership activity report for May has not be made available yet, but I have received a quarterly report of our total membership that shows us with a new member. We welcome Mr. Louis Shambarger of Cookeville to our group.

Please remember to renew if you have received a renewal notice and help us find and sign up new members. We need all the members we can get.

Facebook

As many of you may know, this social networking website is becoming very popular for individuals and groups to connect with and share information. NARFE headquarters as well as many federations and chapters have a facebook page. While our chapter does not currently have one, I do recommend that those of you who are on facebook to check out the headquarters and the Tennessee Federation pages. The links are too long to include here, but you should be able to find the pages by searching from facebook or going to the respective websites and clicking on links from there. As always, I can help if needed.

Member Loss

Just after I sent out last month's newsletter, I learned of the sudden death of Mike Richardson. He served for many years as our Public Relations Chairman and we are saddened about his passing. Our condolences to his wife Linda and other family members.

Help Us Spread The Word.

We certainly could use lots more members during these times of budget cuts by Congress. Help us spread the word about the valuable service that NARFE does for federal workers and retirees. There are people you know from your work with the federal agencies that are potential members. I have membership forms and other information that I can send to them, or better yet, I can get it to you and you can hand deliver it to them. Give me their names and addresses.

Let's not overlook one source of new members, that is our spouses. We have very many husbands and wives where both are members. Remember the name of the game is total members when it comes to our influence in Washington DC. Why not sign up your spouse as a NARFE member and help us?

The first year membership is only \$45 that is just about 12 cents a day. And for that small amount you will be helping to not only protect your families federal benefits but countless other NARFE members as well.

On The Light Side

I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends. But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.

My memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory is not as sharp as it used to be.

Thanks to those of you who have recently renewed your membership. If you have not renewed, please do so today!

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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