



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

August 2012

Great Time At Our Picnic

Thanks to all who came out to our picnic last month. As you know, we normally do this each year in place of a regular chapter meeting. It is good that some have the opportunity to attend the picnic that normally cannot attend our regular chapter meetings. And that was the case this time as well. The food was good, I think most people agreed. Thanks for the delicious desserts and the watermelon that you brought. I think many of us eat too much!

The weather could not have been better for a July day. We had extreme heat days before and again on days after; but on the day of our picnic, the temps were in the mid 80s. with some cloud cover. The shelter was again very good and comfortable and we had some who played a game of horseshoes.

The next social event on our schedule is the Christmas get together. I need your input on that in order to plan it. Come to our meetings or send me your suggestions. It seems like a long way off, but it will be here sooner than you think.

Calendar Of Events

- August 21 Next chapter meeting
- September 3 Labor Day
- September 22 Autumn begins

Coming Up At The Next Meeting

Our speaker for the August meeting will be Rob Riddle of the Southern Securities of America Company. He will be talking about the advantages of having home security systems. This should not be a sales pitch but an informational talk.

Our regular chapter meetings take place the 3rd Tuesday of the month beginning at 6pm (or before) if you plan to eat and fellowship. The business portion of our meetings begin at 6:45pm. Our meetings are at Shoney's Restaurant on South Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville.

So make plans to attend and meet your fellow members. I would especially encourage those who have never attended. I think you will find our meetings to be informative. We have had several first time attendees in recent months. Of course the old timers are encouraged to attend as well. Remember that is August 21st. this month. Mark your calendar and call someone to ask them to come as well.

Legislative Report

The month of August is NARFE's "Meet Your Candidates Month". With Congress in recess during this month, it is a good time to meet with your current Representative and Senator as well as those others who may be running for election.

The primaries now being over, we now know who we have to choose from in the November general election. State wide for the U S Senate, it will be the incumbent Bob Corker, Republican facing Mark Clayton, Democrat and several Independents this year. In Congressional District 6 it will be incumbent Diane Black, Republican facing Scott Beasley, Independent. And for Congressional District 4 it will be Incumbent Scott DesJarlais, Republican facing Eric Steward, Democrat.

In addition to all of these, there will be candidates running for State offices as well. But topping the list, will be of course the Presidential election. The party conventions have not been held as of yet, but it is apparent that the 2 major party candidates will be incumbent Barack Obama, Democrat and Mitt Romney, Republican. There likely be some independents on the ballot as well.

There are many issues to consider when voting for those running for political office, but NARFE would encourage you to consider those candidates who are supportive of the issues of interest to federal employees and federal retirees. You can find more information about the type of issues and questions to ask the candidates on the NARFE's Protect America's Heartbeat website. Just go to www.narfe.org to find out all you need to know. Remember that even if you do not have a computer, you can use those at the library or at a relative. Let me know if you need any help at all.

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

Understanding The Consumer Price Index (CPI)

At a recent meeting, I gave the report on the latest monthly CPI numbers which our Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) are based. As many are aware there are many so called indexes tracked and reported on by the U S Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). A question arose on just what sort of products and services are included in the index used for our COLA. So I have tried to do some research to come up with some answers. Leave it to the federal government to come up with such a complicated system as it has. The more I read, the more confused it gets.

First of all, to define the CPI. "It is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services".

The CPI reflects spending patterns for each of two population groups: all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers. The all urban consumer group represents about 87 percent of the total U.S. population. It is based on the expenditures of almost all residents of urban or metropolitan areas, including professionals, the self-employed, the poor, the unemployed, and retired people, as well as urban wage earners and clerical workers. Not included in the CPI are the spending patterns of people living in rural nonmetropolitan areas, farm families, people in the Armed Forces, and those in institutions, such as prisons and mental hospitals. Consumer inflation for all urban consumers is measured by two indexes, namely, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). This is the one reported in the media.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) is based on the expenditures of households included in the CPI-U definition that also meet two requirements: more than one-half of the household's income must come from clerical or wage occupations, and at least one of the household's earners must have been employed for at least 37 weeks during the previous 12 months. The CPI-W population represents about 32 percent of the total U.S. population and is a subset, or part, of the CPI-U population.

Under current law, COLAs for federal retirement annuities, as well as for military retiree annuities and social security payments, are determined in reference to the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which is calculated by economists and statisticians with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI-W is the current index used for measuring increases in the prices of consumer goods throughout the economy. It includes

prices on all consumer goods, including food and beverages, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, recreation, education and communication, and more.

Each month, BLS data collectors visit or call thousands of retail stores, service establishments, rental units, and doctors' offices, all over the United States, to obtain information on the prices of the thousands of items used to track and measure price changes in the CPI. These economic assistants record the prices of about 80,000 items each month, representing a scientifically selected sample of the prices paid by consumers for goods and services purchased.

Each month the BLS reports on the change in the CPI and I do not begin to understand how to interpret the charts. But it is a running index that uses the reporting year of October of one year to September of the next year. The data is reported about mid-month after the close of the previous month. On August 15th the data will reflect the index from July. The final numbers for this year will be reported mid-October.

This may be more information than you wanted, but I have tried to answer a few questions that you have. Whatever the CPI-W reports in October will be used to determine our COLA that we may or may not get in January. If you have been retired for the full calendar year, you get the full COLA. If you retired mid-year, you get a prorated amount.

Membership News

This month we welcome a new member to NARFE and our Chapter. Shirley Cherry from Moss TN is a new member.

Words Of Wisdom From An Old Farmer

- Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.
- Every path has a few puddles.
- When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
- Most of the stuff people worry about, ain't never gonna happen anyway.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'
 - Always drink upstream from the herd.
 - Don't judge folks by their relatives.
 - The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
- Live simply, love generously, care deeply.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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

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