



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

PUTNAM COUNTY—COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE

NARFE Works For You

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

June 2012

Notes From Our Last Meeting

The month of May brought us back together after a short break in April due to the Federation Convention. Each month that we meet brings interesting events and news it seems. Many of you will remember Doreen, the long time server that took care of us at Shoney's. We learned that she left to take another job. We will miss her as she always did a great job of serving us at our meetings.

Our speaker for the last meeting was Brenda Davis-Bryant of Cookeville Regional Medical Center. She spoke to the group about heart attacks and the early warning signs and things that we need to be aware of and what we need to do when we or a family member is showing signs of a heart attack. Brenda was a very enthusiastic speaker who is very knowledgeable on this subject. She has been a nurse for 23 years, most of that time she has specialized in the area of heart attacks.

She mentioned that heart attacks are the leading cause of death in both men and women, but most could survive if they receive the proper help within the magic time period of 1 hour. People should seek help immediately by calling the EMTs which can arrive fast, they have life-saving equipment with them and can alert the hospital to be expecting you. You would do harm if you tried to take call your doctor or drive someone to the hospital rather than call the EMTs.

Brenda showed a slide presentation "Did You Know That Heart Attacks Have Beginnings" that outlined the early warning signs of a heart attack. She also mentioned the many improvements at the Cookeville hospital in the area of caring for the heart attack victim and that the response time to getting the life-saving care is much faster than the national average.

I shared a few more details about the Federation Convention that Reba and myself went to, and we covered the usual reports and NARFE news. We were pleased to have another member to attend our meetings for the very first time. He was L Madison Shambarger of Cookeville. He has been a member for just a year and this was his first time to attend one of our meeting. We hope he and many more will attend in the future.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Calendar Of Events

June 19	Our next meeting
June 20	First day of Summer
July 4	Independence Day

Coming Up This Month

I hope you will plan to attend our next scheduled chapter meeting on Tuesday, June 19th. Our speaker this month will be Mary Daniels from the Putnam County Family YMCA. She will speak on health issues and the Y. I am sure this will be of interest to you, make plans to attend.

Membership News

Welcome to our newest members to NARFE and our chapter. We learned that Evelyn Langenback of Sparta and Larry Harkleroad of Cookeville recently joined our group. I are glad to have these 2 among our numbers and hope to meet them soon..

Remember that I have membership materials for that you can use to pass out to potential members. Just let me know if you can use some.

Help us recruit more members. We especially encourage current federal employees to join.

NARFE National Convention

Our bi-annual national convention will be in Reno-Sparks Nevada this year on August 26-30th. Our chapter can send up to 3 delegates to represent us and cast votes. I need to know this month of anyone interested in going to this convention. I have forms that must be submitted soon. There are always many issues that come up to be considered and National Officers to be elected. I don't have any details yet on Resolutions and Bylaws changes. They will be forthcoming soon. I hope someone from our chapter will be interested in going out to Nevada.

Chapter Officers

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

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Legislative Report

We all have heard of the proposed changes to the Postal Service and to those who work there. Below is the latest that I have seen on what NARFE is doing to help those working for the Postal Service. Perhaps this report will persuade Postal Employees to join NARFE. This full report is available to download, print and pass out if you want. [Click here](#) or pick up at the next meeting.

NARFE and Postal Service Legislation

With a moratorium on the closure of mail processing facilities and post offices ending, and the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) facing financial problems, there have been numerous legislative proposals on the future of the USPS introduced and debated in the 112th Congress. NARFE has been following these proposals and working on specific issues contained in the bills. Below is a summary of our involvement.

Protection of Health Benefits—On April 25, the Senate passed a postal reform bill, S. 1789. As introduced, the bill contained a provision that would have required all Medicare-eligible postal employees and retirees to enroll in Medicare and separate Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) plan. NARFE expressed its concerns regarding how the proposal could affect FEHBP premiums and the choice of health plans for postal retirees. Enough senators shared our concerns, and the provision was stripped at the committee level. But a revised provision, allowing for voluntary enrollment in Medicare (waiving any late-enrollment penalties) and creation of a separate FEHBP plan for Medicare-enrolled postal employees and retirees, was put back into the bill as it was brought to the Senate floor. Although the new provision had the benefit of retaining choice between health care options for postal retirees, Office of Personnel Management staff provided analysis suggesting the provision could create instability for FEHBP plans, raising premiums by as much as 35 percent for one plan. NARFE supported an amendment introduced by Sens. Rockefeller, D-WV, and Cardin, D-MD, that removed the problematic provision from the bill. The amendment was approved by the full Senate by a voice vote.

Opposition to Reductions in Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal and Postal Employees—S. 1789 also includes reductions to the benefit levels provided to any federal worker disabled by a work-caused injury or illness. At retirement age, injured federal employees would face a 25 percent reduction in compensation, and injured federal employees with

dependents would no longer receive the 8.33 percent augmented compensation currently provided. NARFE took the lead for the Federal-Postal Coalition in sending a letter in opposition to the changes, and sent a letter individually from NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin to the Senate, urging support for an amendment offered by Sen. Akaka, D-HI, that would have prevented those reductions in benefit levels. Instead, the amendment would have replaced those provisions with a House-passed bill, H.R. 2465, that focuses on achieving cost savings through fraud prevention, recoupment of overpayments and lowering the cost of health care for the injured employees. The Senate rejected the amendment, with 46 senators voting in favor and 53 voting against. The amendment needed 60 votes to pass. NARFE also opposes House postal reform bill H.R. 2309 as it seeks to create a separate USPS workers' compensation program. [For more, get the full report!](#)

Picnic

It time to start thinking about our annual chapter picnic for this year. Last month a date was suggested for Saturday, July 21st for this year's picnic. We have reserved the same location as last year which is at Cane Creek Park in Cookeville. This has worked out to be very satisfactory in years past, it is a nice park that is easily accessible. There are 3 picnic shelters in this park, the one that we will be using is the Courtside Shelter which is the last one as you drive around the loop. It will be around noon-time.

We can discuss at this month's meeting details of what you would like for the menu, in years past most have preferred a BBQ type meal. You can be thinking of that and bring your thoughts to the meeting. The cost to cover the shelter fee and food will be based on how many sign up to come.

It is not too early to put your names down on the list. I will have a signup sheet at the next meeting and you can also call Sharon Martin at 931-284-9088 to signup. You are welcome to bring guests with you, we would especially like to see some potential members come. But in order to know how much food to order, we do need a list of all who plan on coming. Members can pay the cost at the picnic, any non-members that are unknown to us are asked to pre-pay. We purposely have our social events on a Saturday to make it possible for those to attend who cannot make it on our regular meeting night. Hope to see all of you there this year. Let's make this BIG!

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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

**Thanks to all of you who
have recently renewed.**