



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

November 2012

From Our Last Meeting

Our attendance was good at the last meeting even though some may have stayed home to watch the presidential debate. Thanks to the faithful who nearly always come. By the way, we tried to finish early so that those who wanted had time to get home to see the debate.

The speaker last month was Judy Duke who is the Museums Manager for the City of Cookeville Leisure Services. She talked to us about the many departments and services offered by this part of the local city government. They operate and make available 10 city parks, athletics and fitness programs, the Performing Arts Center, and 2 museums.

Judy told us that the department publishes a newsletter that you can sign up for and it will be mailed out to you. This lists the current activities available. You just need to call or go online to get the newsletter.

As most of you probably know, Cookeville has some very nice and popular parks. We have been using one for our yearly picnics. The 2 museums are the are the History Museum and the Depot Museum. If you live in this area, you should really take advantage of these services offered. She also mentioned that they can always use volunteers for the various programs and facilities. You can also become a member of the Friends of the Depot.

To learn more about all of this, go by City Hall, located at 45 East Broad Street, call them at 931-520-4386 or at www.cookeville-tn.org/ls. You will be glad that you did.

In other news from last month, we discussed our current meeting location. It was noted that the wait service was much improved from the month before. Some seem to be dissatisfied with Shoney's but others commented that they have tried another location in years past and it did not work out as good either. I would like to continue this discussion some more.

Those in attendance decided on the details of what we will plan for our December meeting and banquet. We will continue our tradition of collecting money for a needy family. We will not exchange gifts this year. Please take special note of the separate article on our Christmas Banquet in this issue of the newsletter. December is right around the corner.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Calendar Of Events

November 11 Veterans Day
November 12 Veterans Day Holiday
November 22 Thanksgiving Day
Nov 12-Dec 10 Open Season for Federal Health Ins.
December 8 Christmas Banquet

Speaker For Next Meeting

Just in time for the holidays, the speaker this month will be Lora Simpson, Dietitian from the Diabetic Center of Cookeville Regional Medical Center. You will want to be sure to hear what she has to say about foods for the holidays.

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 begins at 6:45pm. Our meetings are at Shoney's Restaurant on South Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville

Legislative News

Our national office has set the date of Thursday, November 15th. as the next National Call Congress Day. Many of you have called your Senators and Congressman before on these days and once again you are encouraged to do so. The message is: when making changes in the face of the 'fiscal cliff', Medicare reimbursements to providers, postal overhaul and sequestration; do not unfairly make cuts to federal employees or retirees.

You can use this number that NARFE provides. It rings the Capitol switchboard. 866-220-0044. Just call and ask for your Senators and Congressman, you will need to make 3 calls. Thanks very much for helping in this.

If you are not able to make your calls on that particular day, then call at a later time. It will still count.

Chapter Officers

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

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December Banquet!

The holiday season is upon us, like it or not. In usual fashion, we have scheduled a Christmas Banquet as our December meeting. This is a good time to socialize with other chapter members and you are encouraged to come and bring others with you.

This year, it will be on Saturday, December 8th. at Christy's Café in Cookeville. This will be a lunch time event. Christy's is located on Interstate Drive just across from the Chrysler car dealer. We would like to have a good attendance for this. See below for the complete details. You can begin signing up for it **now**. We need to know how many to prepare for and will need to call in the number to the café by **December 4th**. Please help me out here and call me to let me know if you are attending or not. The number to call is 931-284-4835 or you can email me at, rwcolins@hydroquy.com. Please let me know so that I will not need to call you! This will be the last notice as the next newsletter will come after the event.

At the October meeting, our members decided that we will take up a collection for a needy family but we will not exchange gifts. So bring some extra money (or mail it) to brighten the Christmas of some family in this area.

*****You Are Invited*****

Annual Christmas Banquet
at Christy's Café & Bakery
1555 Interstate Drive in Cookeville
Saturday, December 8th.
11:00am—2:00pm

Holiday Menu –Buffet style
Roast turkey w/ cornbread dressing
and gravy
Baked ham
Cranberry salad
Fruit salad
Green beans
Creamed potatoes
Corn
Candied yams
Baked rolls
Pumpkin pie
Pecan pie
Tea, coffee and water

*Cost \$13.25 per person

Note On Luncheon Cost

The price that I was able to negotiate is some higher than I first thought. But Christy's is giving us a big discount on what they normally charge and we have a menu with more choices than in years past. I hope this is acceptable with everyone.

Questions on Membership

A question came up at a recent meeting about NARFE membership. With that in mind, I want to make note of some of the details on this subject.

Who is eligible to join? Any person who is receiving, or will be eligible to receive a federal annuity from any civilian retirement program of any United States Government agency. This includes federal workers, retirees, spouses and former spouses.

Member Categories: The association has 2 categories, which are Voting Members and Non-Voting Members. Within the category of **Voting Members**, there are Regular Members which pay national and chapter dues yearly, or by 2 or 3 year rates. Life Members which have paid national dues in a lump sum and pays chapter dues yearly. Distinguished Members who have been recognized for having reached at least 20 years of NARFE membership and who pay dues. **Non-Voting Members** are those who generally pay national dues, but do not pay chapter dues. (In years past, that was an option).

Only members are permitted hold an elective office within the association. All members are entitled to vote at the National Conventions, but for chapter and state federation conventions and meetings, only the voting members are permitted to cast a vote on official matters.

While it is not required, I would certainly encourage spouses to join along with their federal employee/retiree members. This would greatly increase our total membership numbers and give us more clout in Washington DC when it comes to protecting our earned benefits.

Open Season

Don't forget that you want to make changes to your Federal Health Insurance Plans, Dental or Vision Plans, or Flexible Spending Accounts (for current employees), you must do so during the Open Season that starts November 12th. and runs to December 10th. There are lots of details in the NARFE magazines, issues October – December. Also you can contact the U.S. Office of Personal Management, your employing agency or the insurance plan.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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