



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

April 2013

Notes From The Last Meeting

Thanks to all who attended our March meeting, we had a good number of members and several guests. This past meeting was on the eve of Spring with more daylight and warmer weather. I think everyone enjoyed our speaker this past month.

He was Clay Robertson, the Director for the Putnam County Library. I am sure many of us do not take the time to visit the libraries in our communities, but we were reminded just how much they have to offer. The Putnam County Libraries are located in Cookeville, Monterey, Baxter and Algood.

The first thing, I believe that we think about is books when we hear the term library. But they have much more than that. They have books for all ages and descriptions, for instance; regular print, large print, fiction, non-fiction, e-books, and audio books. They even have magazines and newspapers available.

Besides all of this, you will find they have computers for you to use and if you do not know how to use one, they have training available. You can take your own computer or wireless device and use their free Wi-Fi connection.

Other offerings include; audio and video items on cassettes, CDs and DVDs. You can join the Book Club, take your grandchildren to the Storytime or browse through their historical and genealogy section. The library has special services for the blind and hard of hearing, so there is something for everybody.

While the Putnam County Library or your local library, has much to offer, they can't offer every book, magazine or newspaper. But you can with a computer, access much more using what they call TEL, the Tennessee Electronic Library. There is so much more available there, that I do not have space to list it all. I know many of you live outside of Putnam Co, but I think you will find a library in your local area as well and they will offer much the same. Check it out!

And not to leave out, we always discuss the latest NARFE legislative news and concerns. Our national office is always working on our behalf to keep us informed of what is currently be discussed in Washington and to lobby Congress to protect our interests there. You can be proud of your NARFE association.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

No Meeting This Month

Because the NARFE Tennessee Federation Convention is this month on the same date as our normal meeting, we will not meet this month. Our next meeting will be May 21st, I do not have any information yet on the speaker but should have by next month. We will report on the convention next month.

Our normal meeting time is on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Shoney's Restaurant, 880 S Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Our business meeting begins promptly at 6:45pm, but you should arrive by 6:00pm to eat and fellowship with our fellow members.

Picnic Time Is 'Upcomin' - Save The Date

We have set the date for our annual summer chapter picnic for Saturday, June 22nd. and have reserved the shelter at Cane Creek Park in Cookeville. This is the same location as the last few years. Unless you tell me that you want something different, we will plan to have to have the same menu from the same location as last year. If anyone wants to help organize this, just speak up.

There are some who want to plan some activities in conjunction with the picnic besides just eating and visiting with one another. Let us hear your thoughts. This is 2 months away, more details to follow.

NARFE-PAC

Last month (March) has for many years been designated as NARFE-PAC month. But in reality, every month is NARFE-PAC month. We did pass around an envelope at the last meeting for anyone wishing to make a donation to this fund. If you missed that, just look in any issue of the NARFE magazine where you should find a form that you can use to mail in your donation. I would encourage you to do so and support those candidates that support NARFE.

Chapter Officers

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

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About NARFE

Some of you may know more about NARFE than others do. But it never hurts to be reminded of things we need to know. Did you know that NARFE was founded way back in 1921 as the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and later becoming the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association so to encourage more of the active federal employees to join.

Working in support of our members before the Office of Personnel Management, Congress and the White House its mission then is still the same:

- To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests.
- To promote the general welfare of current federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under the retirement laws and regulations.
- To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives.

NARFE's mission is both critical and timely as Congress and the administration consider unprecedented cuts to federal pay and benefits. Each new member strengthens our message to Congress, fortifies our national outreach, and demonstrates their dedication to maintaining a strong and effective federal workforce.

NARFE is the only association solely dedicated to safeguarding and improving the earned right and benefits of **all** active and retired federal employees. Some of what NARFE has accomplished include:

- Defeating a budget amendment to cut federal civilian retirement and/or health benefits by \$10 billion over 10 years.
- Continuing to fend off cuts to the Medicare and Social Security programs.
- Protecting annual costs-of-living adjustments.
- Allowing federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity.
- Permitting FERS workers initially to credit half, and in 2014 all, of their unused sick leave toward retirement.
- Adding a Roth option to the TSP
- Bringing about Federal Long Term Care Insurance for active and retired federal employees.

While this is just a sampling of what NARFE is and does, it cannot continue to accomplish these things in this day of federal cuts without your support and continued membership. Stay active in NARFE!

NARFE Is Only Strong If You Remain A Member.

Sad News

We received word that Janine (Jan) MacKenzie has passed. She and Chuck were long time active members in our chapter before moving to Virginia to be closer to their family a few years ago. Jan held many offices and performed several duties while part of our chapter. We will miss her and our greatest sympathy goes out to Chuck and the family.

Membership News

I don't have any news this month on membership changes, but continue to ask that you renew as soon as you get a notice from our national office.

Legislative News

For those with internet access, I would suggest that you tune in to [Federal News Radio](#). This is a station that broadcasts in the Washington DC area and online. They report on all that is going on in the area of federal news. One show in particular is *Your Turn With Mike Causey Show*. It is on each Wednesday at 10 a.m. Eastern Time. From time to time, our NARFE president and legislative staff are guests on the program. Causey focuses on pay, benefits and retirement issues affecting feds.

If you have your email address listed on your NARFE membership records, then you should receive the weekly Hotline. If you don't have email, call this number each week to get it: 877-217-8234.

On The Light Side—The Elephant Robbery

The town's bank manager called the police station to report a robbery.

'You'll never believe what happened, Sergeant. A truck backed up to my bank, the doors opened. Out comes these robbers and they lead an elephant out of the truck. The elephant then breaks through my plate glass window, sticks his trunk in, sucks up all the money. Then the gang lead the elephant back into the truck and it speeds away.'

The desk sergeant said, 'Could you tell me, for identification purposes, whether it was an African elephant or an Indian elephant?'

'How can you tell the difference?' asked the bank manager.

'Well,' said the sergeant, 'The African elephant has great big ears whereas the Indian elephant has little ears. So which kind of elephant was used in the robbery?'

'How should I know? I couldn't see his ears,' said the bank manager. 'He had a stocking over his head.'

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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