



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

August 2013

Notes From The Chapter President

Attendance was slightly down for our last meeting, but not by much. Some who normally come were not well and some may have been out of town or had guests at home. But anyway, we were glad for those who were there to support the chapter.

The speaker last month was Maxine Frazier who is the director for the Cookeville Senior Center. Maxine has been in that position for 10 months and has made lots of improvements in what is offered and done there. Serving the needs of seniors is growing with 10,000 people (nationally) becoming part of that age group everyday. I could not begin to list all that she talked about, but I will attempt to list some of what she spoke about and what is available for you at the various centers in the Upper Cumberland.

First of all, the Senior Center is operated under the Upper Cumberland Development District which has similar programs in all the counties of the Upper Cumberland so what I list about the Cookeville Senior Center also should apply to other areas as well. And if I understood Maxine correctly, if you are a member of any other local Senior Center, you can take part in the programs at the Cookeville site. The Cookeville Center is located at 186 South Walnut Ave. and is open Monday-Friday 8am to 4pm.

They have many activities and programs available for just about anything you might be interested in; various types of educational classes, sports, health services, music, meals, short and long range trips, and much more.

Hot meals are every weekday except Thursday and on holidays. The are free to everyone age 60 and above, but in order to receive them, you must pre-order the day before.

If you like to travel, you really should check into the many tours that they go on. Maxine said that she is always open to suggestions for future trips, other activities and programs that you may have an interest in. The can also use volunteers to help with all they do. Maxine can be reached at 931-526-9318.

We discussed our normal NARFE business, legislative news from our national office, talked about a proposed joint meeting with our U S Representative Diane Black, the recent picnic and our next social event in December.

August Meet Your Congressman Month

You are invited to a special meeting with the District Director for Representative Diane Black. The meeting is in conjunction with the Wilson County NARFE chapter. We and other chapters in the 6th District have been invited. We had hoped that Diane Black herself would come to this meeting, but due to other conflicts, she is sending her district director. This is an excellent opportunity for all who attend to ask questions and to relay to our Representative those concerns we have about what Congress is doing on issues relating to current and retired federal workers.

The meeting will take place in Lebanon TN on Wednesday, August 14th, beginning at 10:30am. The location is the Lebanon Senior Center, 370 Coles Ferry Pike in Lebanon TN .

We announced this meeting was in the planning stages at our last meeting, and those on the email list should have received an earlier notice, but you still have time to go. There is no need to sign up, all you need to do is go to the meeting. Some have told me that plan to attend, I hope you will as well.

Next Upcoming Meeting

For August, our speaker will be Barbie Neely of Gentiva Hospice in Cookeville. This was formally Lazarus House Hospice (I think it has had other names as well). Mrs. Neely has some very good information to share on this subject. Please plan on attending and invite others to come with you.

Remember that 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.

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

Legislative News

The House of Representatives unveiled and voted on a series of bills targeting the federal government and federal employees as part of "Stop Government Abuse" week. In total, the House had planned to vote on 10 bills denigrating, one way or another, civil service and, in one case, even usurping state law as it relates to taping phone conversations. Most of the bills were on the House calendar under "suspension," which means debate was limited and passage required two-thirds approval of the voting body. While some of the bills passed by voice vote, the House majority quickly learned it could not pass three of the bills by the required supermajority. It pulled the three bills from consideration and rolled them into one – Stop Government Abuse Act, H.R. 2879 – and voted on the bill yesterday, requiring only a simple majority. The bill passed by a vote of 239 to 176. Even though passed as a package, these bills were exposed as material for campaign ads and not legislation deserving enactment. The federal community expressed satisfaction in forcing the bills off the suspension calendar. NARFE sent two strongly worded letters to the Hill in advance of the bills, one when the bills were scheduled to be voted on individually and one when the packaged was revealed. NARFE also signed a Federal-Postal Coalition letter opposing the bills. All 3 letters can be read on the NARFE website.

As mentioned last month, our national office is collecting grocery and similar coupons for a media push on the Chained CPI in September. According to NARFE, the average retired federal worker would lose \$48,000 after 25 years, so they hoped to receive as many coupons to present to Congress. The latest word on this is; NARFE has reached its goal of \$48,000 in coupons, but they are still asking that we continue to send in what we collected. After the campaign ends on Labor Day, NARFE will be sending all of the coupons to organizations across the country that provide coupons to our military and their families. NARFE thanks you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE: September 16-20 is NARFE National Call Congress Week. That is a few weeks away, I will say more about that next month.

To see how the proposed move from the current way of determining our annual cost of living adjustments to the new Chained CPI, go online to use a [special calculator](#) that NARFE has set up. NARFE has estimated that the average CSRS annuitant would lose \$48,000. Yours may be more or less.

Send those coupons that you saved to:
NARFE Headquarters
Attn: Coupons
606 N. Washington St.
Alexandria VA 22314-1914

Membership News

This month, there are no changes in our chapter membership numbers. I guess that is good that we have not lost any members by death or by being dropped due to non-renewal. But neither have we been able to gain any new members which is very disturbing. We really need to work on recruiting some new and younger members to our chapter. If you have any suggestions on how we can do that, bring them to our next meeting.

Don't forget to renew your own membership as soon as you get the renewal notice from NARFE. If you have been renewing 1 year at a time, why not consider renewing for 2 or 3 years or switching to Dues Withholding. Both will save you a few dollars and help you and me. Everyone except for current federal employees and life members of NARFE and their spouses can take advantage of dues withholding. We now have 33 members in our chapter using dues withholding to save money, what about YOU?

More Response Needed

NARFE issued an ALERT for emails and phone calls to Congress regarding Stop Government Abuse Act which targets federal workers. Go online to NARFE and use the Legislative Action Center to send a message.

On the Light Side

Catching Fish

Jim had an awful day fishing on the lake, sitting in the blazing sun all day without catching a single one. On his way home, he stopped at the supermarket and ordered four catfish. He told the fish salesman, "Pick four large ones out and throw them at me, will you?"

"Why do you want me to throw them at you?"

"Because I want to tell my wife that I caught them."

"Okay, but I suggest that you take the salmon."

"But why?"

"Because your wife came in earlier today and said that if you came by, I should tell you to take salmon. She prefers that for supper tonight."

Home Alone

Our new neighbor asked Hannah, age 4 and who lived next door, if she had any brothers or sisters. To which she replied. "No, I'm the lonely child".

Taxes

A tax is a find for doing something right, A fine is a tax for doing something wrong.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org