



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

June 2013

Notes From The Last Meeting

It is good that the days are getting longer, I hope that helps some of you to attend who otherwise cannot. We will have a few more meetings to enjoy the extra daylight and warmer temps. Try to take advantage of it.

Sometimes it happens that our scheduled speaker does not show up, as it was the case for the last meeting. It was to be Jane Byers of the Goodwill organization, but she failed to come. None the less, we were treated with impromptu speaker Myrna Estes who talked about the Highlands Visitor Center. She is a volunteer coordinator and has been there ever since it opened several years ago.

The Highlands Visitor Center is located at 470-A Neal St, just across from the Cookeville Mall and Free Market. It is operated as part of the Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce and focuses on the Highland counties of Putnam, Overton and White, plus the surrounding 11 Upper Cumberland counties. Inside the facility, you will find a friendly staff who is there to point out the benefits of living and working in this area and to answer your questions. For those who might be interested in moving to this area, this should be the first place that they visit. The Visitor Center is open every day from 9am to 5pm. They utilize a volunteer staff that works 4 hour shifts. Myrna can always use more volunteers to help there. Why not go in, look around, learn more about the area and see if that is someway that you can help serve the community.

Our thanks to Myrna, who demonstrated her volunteer spirit by filling in as a speaker for this past meeting.

In other news, this past month, I presented a few more details of the recent NARFE state convention. Also Larry Harkleroad shared his observations and comments about what went on there. He gave a very good report.

We had the usual other reports on legislative items, treasurer's report, membership, etc. We also finalized the details of this years picnic which will be this month. See details of it in another article. Thanks for all the suggestions and for those who volunteered to help organize and publicize the picnic this year.

No Meeting This Month

Since our annual picnic is this month, there will not be a regular chapter meeting, Please join for the picnic and in July for our next meeting.

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.

Legislative News

It is so very important that you keep up to date on all the actions of Congress and how it may affect your current or future benefits. The best way to do that is to make certain that NARFE's national office has your email address on file. For those without email accounts, you can call every week, the Legislative Hotline number; 877-217-8234 and hear it by recording.

Once you know the what Congress is considering, use the NARFE's Legislative Action Center to send an email message to both your Senators and your Representative. Another way to express your concerns is by calling them. Use the NARFE Capitol telephone number 866-220-0044.

The NARFE chapter in Lebanon has asked if we would like to schedule a joint meeting with our Rep. Diane Black or someone on her staff during the month of August to express our concerns about proposed changes to the Cost of Living Adjustments and our health insurance program. This sounds like a good idea and one that we should consider. The exact time and location would need to be worked out. Consider taking part in this, We will discuss it at our next chapter meeting. Remember, the benefits you save could be yours own!

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

Picnic Time For Us

Saturday, June 22nd is the date for our annual picnic. We have the same picnic shelter reserved as last year from 11:00am—2:00pm. The shelter is at Cane Creek Park in Cookeville and is the last one as you drive around the loop. So mark your calendar and let us know that you are coming. We want everyone to come and you can bring guests with you, but the meal is to be catered and we have to know how many to purchase food for.

Some of you have already signed up, but if you have not, call me at 931-284-4835 and let me know. I would like to know by **Tuesday, June 18th**. Why not call now while thinking about! Let me know if you need directions on how to get there.

Come early and stay to the end and enjoy talking to your fellow chapter members. If you have an interesting game that others would enjoy, bring that along and we can have fun with that.

The food will be a traditional BBQ pork meal with sides, buns and tea to drink. Members are asked to bring a dessert, any other drinks and other dishes that you may want. Sometimes people have been known to bring a watermelon. At the time of this writing, I do not have the cost, but we will keep it as low as possible. I expect it to be somewhere around 8 to 9 dollars per person.

Here is Menu.

BBQ pork with sauce
Buns
Baked beans
Slaw
Potato salad
Sweet and un-sweet tea

Membership News

I just checked the membership records online and there is no new members to report. There are 2 members who were sent Second Dues Notices this month and still some from previous months that have not renewed. I cannot stress enough how important it is that everyone renew as soon as possible. So renew today by mailing a check using the renewal information that was sent you, or by calling NARFE at 800-456-8410 and renew with a credit card.

There have been some problems with our national office receiving the checks that were mailed in, if you have had any problems, be sure to tell me.

**We Have Great Members.
Help NARFE Remain Strong**

Federal Employees Education and Assistance

NARFE has partnered for many years with this private fund, the FEEA which has been around for 25 years. They are best known for 2 very special programs.

- Annual Scholarship Competition: The program sponsors an annual, merit-based contest open only to civilian federal and postal employees, their spouses and college-age children. Awards range from \$500—\$7,500 for one year; and FEEA also administers a number of special scholarships. Winners are chosen from written essays.
- Emergency Assistance Program: Emergency loans are available to help employees who fall behind on basic living expenses due to unforeseen emergencies such as leave without pay, government pay error, death or illness in the family. But beyond that, grants are given when natural disasters happen such as the recent tornados which has struck the plains states.

If you would like to help with the disaster assistance or any FEEA program, there is a form in each NARFE magazine for that purpose.

On A Side Note

This is not related to NARFE but is something that I wanted to make mention of. As some of you may know, I am part of several other organizations, one of which is the Smith County Right to Life chapter. I want to tell you about a fund-raising program that some non-profit groups qualify for that is run by the Kroger Co. Anyone who purchases a re-loadable Kroger Gift Card from us and uses it to make nearly any purchase at any Kroger store helps us raise funds. Kroger donates 4% of the amount of value added to the cards. The cards cost \$5 and come with \$5 of value loaded on the card. Any person would then go through the checkout lane or at the Customer Service Desk at a Kroger store, add more value to the card, then use the card to purchase things like; groceries, prescriptions, gas, other gift cards, etc. The cards can be re-loaded over and over and the value on the card never expires.

If you shop at Kroger, it would be great if you would get one of these cards from me and use it. Complete instructions come with the cards. Only the cards that come from me are linked to our account. If interested in helping another organization such as this, please see me at any meeting, send a check for \$5, or contact me for a card. Thanks!!

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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