



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

May 2013

Notes From The Convention

We did not have a chapter meeting last month, so in this section I will report of some of the news from the NARFE Tennessee Federation Convention. I along with Reba and Larry Harkleroad attended the convention in Chattanooga.

It was fairly well attended, with 77 delegates from around the state and most of the chapters. The Chattanooga chapter with help from the Cleveland chapter did a good job with all the details and arrangements. I will post some pictures online when I get them.

Speakers and special guests at this convention included; our National president, Joe Beaudoin, Region X vice president, Bill Martin and Region X Alzheimer's chairman, Clara Weston. Also during a legislative training session, we heard from Sarah Holstein who is an assistant in our Legislative Dept. her talk was by way of video connection.

I will try to share some of what they talked about here and at our upcoming monthly meeting. Beaudoin talked about recent upgrades at the national office which will help them to work more efficiently, NARFE works very closely with OPM which now has a new director, he mentioned the new design of the magazine and talked about the financial status of NARFE. Membership numbers are always important, Beaudoin talked about the success of the new eNARFE chapter which is gaining many new members each day. But he also mentioned that the national office receives 31 member death reported per day. The current membership nationwide is around 260,000. They are doing much to increase membership numbers such as working to establish a way to connect with future retirees with a new structure of pre-retirement seminars. Federal agencies have dropped these programs and NARFE is working with a third party group in order to reach these potential members. You can read the full text of Beaudoin's remarks. I have posted them online. [Click Here.](#)

The video presentation with Sarah Holstein was very good. She talked about much of what the Legislative Department was involved in and she explained the chained CPI that many in Congress are wanting to switch to when calculating our annual cost of living

adjustments. NARFE is opposing this proposed change and is reporting that it will adversely affect federal retirees greatly, quite differently than what the news media is reporting.

There was not any resolutions or changes to the bi-laws brought before the convention. There was the usual election of state officers. The federation president from last year stepped down for health reasons so we have a new federation president, James L (Larry) Henderson. He was the vice president for the west Tennessee chapters and will do a good job. There are a few other changes in state officers, but most are returning from last year.

The 2 statewide awards that are presented each year; The Leo Potts Award which goes to the chapter in recondition of donations to NARFE-PAC went to the Cumberland County chapter and the Wieda White Tolley Award for recondition of donations to Alzheimer's fund went to the Dickson chapter. Much more donations to Alzheimer's was received by fundraisers at the convention. The handmade quilt that our chapter made available accounted for \$223 in donations.

The next convention will be in the Nashville area.

Meeting This Month

We return to our monthly meetings after the break last month. The speaker coming up this month will be Jane Byers who is a Career Counselor with the Goodwill organization. Hope you can come here her and take part all our 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.

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

Member Deaths

We have lost 2 members this past month due to death. We will sadly miss Clarence Richards and Mary Addine Dow. Both were longtime members of NARFE and our chapter.



Clarence retired from the USDA after a long career with the Soil Conservation District. He was a past president of our chapter, having served from 1988 to 1990 and was our connection to being able to use the Hyder-Burks Center for our Christmas banquets for several years. His wife Lou is also a faithful member of our chapter.

Addine was known for her music, she along with her small group played and sang at local nursing homes and retirement homes each month. Her group also performed at our meeting at least once I am told. She was one of our longest living members, living to age 101. Addine became a NARFE member when her husband died and his membership was transferred to her.

Our sorrows go out to those in each family.

Federation VP Death

We also just lost our Tennessee Federation Vice President Thomas Duncan. He was just re-elected as V P at the recent state convention and served as the Vice President of the middle Tennessee chapters. This was his second year. Tom had a rare lung disease and died after being sick with it for the past 2 years or so.

Legislative News

According to the information from our national office, active federal employees have already contributed \$114 billion towards the federal financial fiscal problems and are still under the gun as Congress and the President want more cuts on the backs of the federal employees. Of these cuts, \$99 billion have come from the past 3 years of the pay freeze and the remainder have come from the higher contributions new federal employees have to pay into the retirement system.

There are many bills and proposals which could threaten one of our greatest benefits, that being the health insurance plans we have. The reforms to the Postal System call for the setting up of separate health insurance plans for postal workers, taking them out of the FEHBP. Also there is a bill to place all federal employees, members of Congress and the

President under the health insurance exchange plans which are part of Obamacare. These would only weaken the Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans (FEHBP) by making the group smaller and leaving only a older group still in the plans. NARFE is opposed to all such proposals.

Be sure to stay in touch with your Representative and both Senators about those concerns you have on cuts to federal spending as it affects you and NARFE members. I know many of us have sent letters, emails and made phone calls to our elected officials and received a canned response back. While that is not always what we would like, please note that our Representatives and Senators receive thousands of calls and other messages each month and it is not possible to respond to each one directly. But the thing to keep in mind is the fact that they take note of each call and message they get and keep a tally of what their constituents are saying. This does have an impact on how they represent us. Keep it up. The NARFE provided toll free number for calling members of Congress is 866-220-0044. Also go online at the NARFE website to access the [Legislative Action Center](#) to send a message.

Picnic Time

I hope you are making plans to attend this years summer picnic. We have a shelter reserved at Cane Creek Park for **Saturday, June 22nd, for 11:00—2:00**. I know many of you cannot attend our month meetings on Tuesday nights, that is why we set this for a Saturday. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend. There are 3 shelters there at the park, we will be using the one called Courtside, it is the last one as you drive around the loop. If anyone needs better directions, let me know.

Plans are to have a catered meal just like the one last year, which was a BBQ pork meal with all that goes with it. If anyone wants something different, let me know at this month's meeting. I do not know what the cost this year will be, but it should be close to what it was last year, which was \$8 per person.

It is not too soon to let me know you are coming, you can bring others with you, but we need to know how many are coming by no later than June 19th. So call me or email me and let me know. My contact info is listed on the front of every newsletter.

Along with eating and talking to one another, we have had some games at our picnics. Let me hear from about ideas for games or activities. Thanks and hope to see you there.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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

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