



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

September 2013

Notes From The Chapter President

We had a good number of members and guests at our last meeting. It was very good to see some who had not been there in a far too long a time. We hope that this trend continues. Summer is winding down and Fall will soon be here, but don't forget to support your local NARFE chapter.

We had a very interesting speaker which was Barbie Neely of Gentiva Hospice. That business has gone through more than one name changes over the years, most will remember the name Geneses House as it was called. The subject of hospice is one of those which we do not like to think about, but is very much needed as we grow older.

Barbie mentioned that since the Gentiva Company purchased the location here, it has resulted in many improvements in what they can offer in the way of services. The materials that were distributed to us show that hospice is a service and a help to the caregivers in our lives as well as to the patient.

Some of the areas that they help with is: medical equipment, prescriptions related to the illness, supplies, home health aides, on-call nurses and more. Medicare Part A covers 100% of the cost of the medical supplies, needed for the hospice care and they take care of filling the forms.

Normally hospice services begin when a medical condition is thought to result in the end of life within 6 months, but that time frame can be more or less. Barbie mentioned that many families make the mistake of waiting too long to request hospice care.

Like most other organizations, they can always use volunteers to assist with the patients, such as reading to them and running errands. The Gentiva Hospice is located at 851 S Willow Ave. in Cookeville and they serve all the Upper Cumberland counties. Contact them by calling 931-528-5133.

In other news from the last meeting, I gave a report on the joint meeting with other NARFE chapters with the District Director for Rep. Diane Black. The meeting was hosted by the Wilson Co. chapter. I think it was a positive meeting by letting the Congressman known thought her staff person that we had real concerns. We covered the usual reports and NARFE news, some of which, I will touch on in other articles within this newsletter.

Coming Up At The Next Meeting

For September, our speaker will be Lt. Jimmy Neal of the Tennessee Highway Patrol. He will be with us to share very important information on driving and safety. This should be very interesting. 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. Please note that you really need to arrive plenty early to get your meal prior to the meeting.

Legislative News

As already mentioned, I along with Reba and another of our chapter members attended a special meeting with a staff person with Congressman Diane Black held in conjunction with the Wilson County NARFE Chapter. Other chapters were invited, I am not sure if any others were represented or not.

The meeting was with Teresa Koeberlein, District Director for Rep. Black. She began with some brief remarks about 3 bills currently in the news that could affect federal employees and retirees. They were the Affordable Care Act, the Chained CPI, and the Postal Reform Act. On the first item, she said that Congress is really not sure just how this is going to rolled out as it is being challenged and changed as it goes along. Rep. Black is setting on the committee that is debating the Chained CPI and will not take a stand until after the hearings. Lastly. Teresa commented that the Postal Service is being affected by loss of revenue from the changes in the way people are mailing or not mailing these days.

Several had the opportunity to ask some very good questions.

Chapter Officers

President	Ronnie Collins
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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

More Legislative News

Congress returned to Washington DC from their August break on September 9th. As always they have much to consider, let keep them reminded of the issues related to our interests.

NARFE national headquarters is asking all our members to take part in the next NARFE's Call Congress Week—September 16 thru 20. National is urging Congress to oppose any changes to the Chained CPI way of calculating our Cost of Living Adjustments. NARFE estimates that it will result of the lost of \$48,000 for the average federal retiree. For you, it could be more or less. For those with internet access, go to [NARFE's website](#) to learn more or watch this [YouTube video](#) of our national president and our legislative director discussing this. You can also call NARFE's legislative department at 1-703-838-7760 ext. 201.

Sometime during the week of September 16-20, call this toll free number, 1-866-220-0044 and ask to be connected to your Representative and your 2 Senators. You will need to make 3 separate calls.

Be polite, and say something like this;

- I am a retired (or active) federal employee and member of NARFE.
- [Senator or Representative (insert name)] represents thousands of federal workers and retirees. As Congress debates the budget, I urge him/her to oppose a switch to the Chained CPI to determine annual COLAs to Social Security benefits, federal civilian and military retirement annuities, veterans' benefits, and disability insurance benefits.
- The Chained CPI does not account for how much seniors spend on medical care and is therefore not a better measure of inflation. Over the next 25 years, I could lose \$(thousands) in reduced COLAs. The budget should not be balanced on the backs of seniors.
- Please oppose any effort to move to the Chained CPI. Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoints.

It is also a good idea to write letters to the editor of your local newspaper and send email messages to your members of Congress.

Late Newsletter

Sorry to be late with this issue of the newsletter, seems like I have too many irons in the fire. I am completing this while I am away for a week attending a special Federation Board meeting and a Region X Training Conference. This is the first time in many years, this has been held in Tennessee. It is a 3 day meeting and we will be discussing several very important topics relating to our chapters and members.

Hopefully, this will get to you just prior to our meeting this month.

Membership News

We are holding our own with members. As of this writing, I have seen no losses or gains. We currently have 113 chapter members, if anyone would like to have a list, just send me a note about that.

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. Renewing promptly, saves us from having to contact you to ask you to renew.

Looking Forward

I know that I have asked several times before, but we are in need of members to serve in many positions in our chapter. As we think of next year, it would be good to have some all the various appointed positions filled as well as officer positions. We have some current vacancies in the appointed positions and some who are serving now as officers and chairpersons have asked to step down. Some jobs require more time than others.

Would you consider one of these officer positions; President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer? Or one of these appointed areas; legislative, membership, sunshine, newsletter, historian, chaplain, member calling, socials planning? Some of these are filled, but there is room for more.

It would be a great help for me to have more involvement from you in the work of our chapter. Some things are not getting done simply because we don't have the people in place to do it. Any help is appreciated.

Alternative To AARP

Many of you may be looking for a group like AARP that speaks out and works for senior groups. I have mentioned before, but it deserves repeating. There is a more conservative group called Generation America that I think is worth checking out and becoming a member. They, I think would more closely represent your views on national issues than some other groups. Generation America has many of the same member perks and benefits that AARP does. There membership dues are very low. You may have seen some of their ads on TV.

They serve people over age 50 and are based in Austin TX. It costs as little as \$14.40 per year to be a member, which includes your spouse. The website is generationamerica.org and their telephone number is 1-877-687-4362. Check it out.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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