



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED  
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
PUTNAM COUNTY—COOKEVILLE TENNESSEE**  
\*\*Protecting Our Future\*\*

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**August 2015**

**Notes from last meeting**

Attendance was greatly improved for the July meeting compared with the previous month. I think we had like 22 members and guests out. The difference could have been the speaker was more popular or any number of other reasons. But I was happy to see the improvement. Keep it up!

Our speaker was Calvin Dickinson who has authored several books. He talked briefly about one book that he wrote along with Jenny Ivey titled *Tennessee Tales the Textbooks Don't Tell*. But he spent most of the time about another book that he and Jenny Ivey researched and wrote together. It is called *Solders, Spies and Spartans*. This book is a collection of stories of the US Civil War and tells the stories of the very young boys who served on both sides. There was a minimum age that a man had to be to join the Union Army or the Confederate Army, the age of 18. The only exception to that was, they would accept younger boys if they were part of the Drummer boys or musicians. They were needed on both sides of the war because much of the orders were relayed from the officers to the soldiers by way of drum beats or bugle calls.

But Mr. Dickinson said that they found stories of young boys who joined up to fight as young as eleven years old. The recruiters in that day did not check very closely or ask a lot of questions. He also mentioned that horses were very important in the war and that was discussed in this book.

This latest book contains 10 chapters and Mr. Dickinson described briefly the story that each chapter was based on. Each chapter is about one of these underage boys and in one chapter girls who had a part in the war.

After his talk, he stayed for a few minutes and offered the books for those interested in buying a copy.

We covered the normal reports from myself and other chapter officers and leaders. Of special note, was a appeal relayed by Dan Hilton to call our 2 Senators about a bill that NARFE opposes which would permit the use of Thrift Savings Plan funds to be used to fund the Highway Trust Fund.

I had some copies of a sheet that contained a list of many discounts available to those of us of senior age. I still have those copies available if you want.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

**Next meeting**

Our next chapter meeting will be on the 18th of this month. Keep in mind that our meetings fall on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and the location is Shoney's Restaurant in Cookeville. Start time is 6:00pm. Our scheduled speaker this month, Dr. Donald Grisham who is part of the Upper Cumberland Regional Health Department. I think that he will be a welcomed speaker and I ask that you come out and hear from him.

It is always encouraging to have good attendance for our speakers. I would ask that you make plans to come. Take advantage of the longer days and daylight while we have it.

**Membership news**

At the last meeting, several more of you took some of the cards that can be filled out with names and addresses of potential members. If you have these cards from either of the last 2 meetings, then fill them out and bring them back to the meeting this month so that I can relay the information to our national office. It could result in some new members. Your help in this is greatly appreciated. And if you have not taken any of these potential member cards yet, then consider doing so and help us contact those who might be interested in joining.

**Legislative news**

NARFE members were successful in stopping the funding of the Highway Trust Fund using funds from the Thrift Savings Plan. Calls and emails worked to convince lawmakers not to include that provision in the final bill that was voted on.

August is NARFE 'Grass-Roots Advocacy Month' Congress takes a long recess during this month and many of the lawmakers... —continued next page

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hold meetings in their districts. So be on the lookout for those by Senators Alexander and Corker, and Representative Black which represent most of us. If you live in other areas, then watch for your members of Congress. Go to their meetings and mention your concerns about bills which NARFE supports and opposes and other concerns that you may have. Remember they want to hear from you.

Here is some of the latest action in Congress before taking their August break.

- The House voted on a bill to make it easier to fire Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employees who are not doing a good job. This applies to the entire department.
- H. R. Bill 3351 was introduced called the CPI-E Act of 2015. This would adopt the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) rather than the current Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for Social Security beneficiaries, federal and military annuities. NARFE supports this bill.
- There is a Senate bill S 1742, the Rural Postal Act which is aimed to preserve and improve U S Postal Service mail delivery in rural areas. The bill restores overnight service standards, places a two-year moratorium on the closure of additional mail processing plants, makes six-day mail delivery permanent, and protects rural post offices from unnecessary closures or reduction in hours. NARFE support this bill.

### Sunshine report

For those who did not know, this is an update on my recent health problems. For about 2 weeks I had a problem with difficulty breathing and had buildup of fluid in my lungs and body. I spent a few days in the hospital getting that taken care of along with several tests. I am much better now.

We always like to hear of any of our members with health issues or deaths to them or in the family, so keep us posted if you know of someone.

### Meeting reminder calls

I have received some positive comments about the automated calls to remind you of our upcoming meetings. I try to remember to set up those calls each month. They come on the weekend prior to the next monthly meeting. If you want to be included (or excluded) from those calls, let me know. Currently, I use the members home phone, but I can use a cell number if you would prefer. I think these calls are a good thing and they are fairly inexpensive.

Just contact me by phone, text, email or tell me at any meeting and I can make any adjustments.

**Have you received a Renewal Notice?**  
**Thanks for renewing your membership.**

### Thinking ahead

We are now in the month of August and before you know it, this year will be history. Thinking ahead, I need some input from you, our chapter membership on a couple of items.

1. Do you want to have our usual Christmas social meeting in the month of December? And where do you want to have it? Bring your ideas and suggestions to this month's meeting so that we can discuss it. Or otherwise let me know.

2. Is there anyone who is interested in serving as an officer for next year? We need those who are willing to take an active role in the chapter. Maybe you know someone who you think would be willing and able to serve and could suggest that. Let me know soon.

### Update on OPM data breaches

At the July chapter meeting, some told me that they had been notified by OPM about this, so I am sure there are others of you who have also been affected. I take that this is part of the first security breach as OPM has indicated that it will be August or September before those affected by the second breach will be receive notices from the government with offers of credit monitoring protection.

OPM is saying that it has reviewed the security of its IT systems and taken steps to make improvements.

It is always a good idea to monitor your bank and credit card records.

### On the light side—Were your jobs like this?

*My first job was working in an orange juice factory, but I got canned because I couldn't concentrate. Then I worked in the woods as a lumberjack, but I just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the axe.*

*Next I tried working in a muffler factory, but that was exhausting. I wanted to be a barber, but I just couldn't cut it. Then I attempted to be a deli worker. But any way I sliced it, I couldn't cut the mustard.*

*My best job was being a musician, but eventually I found I wasn't note worthy. Next was a job in a shoe factory; I tried, but I just didn't fit in.*

*I became a professional fisherman, but discovered that I couldn't live on my net income. I managed to get a good job working for a pool maintenance company, but the work was just too draining.*

*I finally got a job as a historian, until I realized there was no future in it. My latest job is working at a coffee shop. It's kind of boring; every day is the same old grind.*

### NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: [www.narfecookevilletn.org](http://www.narfecookevilletn.org)

Tennessee Federation: [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)

NARFE Headquarters: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)