



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

December 2015

Notes from last meeting

For this last meeting, there were some there that we have not seen in several months, that is always good to have. Attendance was still on the low side, we could use a few more of the regulars there that we have missed recently. Your presence at our meetings is always encouraging. Those that were not there missed an excellent program.

The speaker for this past month was Bruce Womack who is the Public Relations Officer for the Cookeville Fire Department. He had so many good points on fire safety that I do not have space here to mention all of them. He did provide us a booklet that contains a lot of the information that he had to share with us.

He said that we are entering the time of the year when most home fires and fire deaths occur. That is the time from Thanksgiving through Christmas. The main reason, he said was from unattended cooking. Many fires are started when cooks walk away from the stove to take care of other things in the home and something happens that causes that is cooking to catch fire. Be extra careful about that and do not walk away from the stove when cooking..

The way homes are constructed these days, makes them even more dangerous if a fire breaks out. Because of the materials in homes they burn quicker and the smoke from the chemicals means that we have less time to get out safely. Bruce said, it is best to leave the house and call 911 from a neighbor's phone or a cell phone rather than staying in the house and calling from your home phone.

You should have your heating systems checked to make sure they are in proper working condition, Always make plans to have 2 ways to escape from the rooms of your house. Have good working smoke detectors and replace them after 10 years.

He also mentioned items relating to preventing falls, and the need for firm footing especially in bath tubs. I wish everyone could have heard his talk.

In addition, we had my report of NARFE news and reports from other officers and committees. There will not be a regular meeting in December but we did make plans for a social gathering at another restaurant in Cookeville for our annual Christmas time meeting.

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

I wish all of you and your families a very joyous Christmas time. Be safe in you are out and about and remember the reason for the season.

I had to prepare this newsletter before our December get together at Golden Corral so I will report on that next month. I hope you were able to attend.

We will resume our regular meetings in January of the new year.

Legislative news

During the holiday period from Thanksgiving to New Years Day, Congress will be busy with year end bills, and will be in recess part of this time. You are reminded to keep informed of important legislation that you are interested in regarding federal pay and benefits and let your Members of Congress know how you want them to vote.

The NARFE Hotline emails, the magazine and the website are good ways to stay informed. To contact your Senators or Representative, use the email message system on the NARFE website or the NARFE telephone number, 866-220-0044.

Membership news

There are just a few days left to take advantage of the special membership incentive. Win valuable prizes by recruiting any new member, current or retired federal employee. You have till December 31st to get the membership forms to the national office or to have the member join by phone or online. Printed forms are in every NARFE magazine for your use. The phone number to call to join is 800-627-3394.

Why not give a gift membership to someone you know who is retiring in the next few weeks or to your mail carrier, friend, or former coworker?

Chapter Officers

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Larry Harkleroad
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myrna Estes

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

**Please Consider a Chapter Officer or
Committee Chair Position**

Open season

The Open Season on the insurance plans end on December 14th.. Make any needed changes by then. Changes that you made will be effective on January 1st in the new year. For retirees the new rates take effect on your February annuity check.

Officers and committee persons

During our last chapter meeting, we discussed chapter officers and committee chairs. I spoke to some about being willing to continue and/or to accept officer positions in our chapter, no one new was ready to take on the responsibility. Our Vice President of the past 2 years had asked not to continue that position or his duties of obtaining program speakers or Membership Chair. I want to thank Larry Harkleroad for his help and assistance during that time.

We did not have formal elections, but this is the status of officers, etc. for the coming year. I will continue as President, Reba will continue as Secretary and Myrna has agreed to continue as Treasurer. I thank those 2 for their many years of assistance. As of now the Vice President position is vacant which is concerning.

It takes a lot of people in order to run an effective NARFE chapter, Here is a list of some of those other positions and status:

- Legislative Chair—filled by Dan Hilton
- Membership Chair—vacant
- Public Relations—filled by Roy Byrd
- Service Officer—filled by Roy Byrd
- Newsletter Editor—filled by Ronnie Collins
- Alzheimer's Chair—filled by Reba Collins
- Sunshine Chair—filled by Connie Banker
- Network Coordinator—filled by Ronnie Collins
- Programs Coordinator—vacant

These are just some of the positions needed, and as you can see, some members are serving in more than one position. And some of these have been in their respective position for many years.

More help is really needed. I know how busy everyone is these days but would some of you consider helping out in some of the needed responsibilities in our chapter? I know you appreciate the fact that we have a local chapter in the Cookeville/Putnam County area. Keep in mind that chapters all across the state and nation have had to close because no one could be found to take the lead. Perhaps someone would be willing to work along side in one of these areas and learn the responsibility for some future time. Thanks to those who I have talked to who have expressed future interest, and as always, all help is greatly appreciated and welcomed.

Member death

I have learned of the passing of one of our members, Mrs. Gereva (Randolph) Knight. If I am correct, her husband, Lloyd Knight worked for the USDA, Soil Conservation Services. Gereva became a member of our NARFE chapter upon the passing of Lloyd. She did live in Cookeville, but moved several years ago to Akron OH to be with family. She died November 2nd.

She was born, Gereva Whitehead on February 28, 1927, making her 88 years old. Gereva is survived by a son and grandchildren. Our deepest sorrows to her family are extended.



Sunshine news

With our aging membership and winter time coming on, we are likely to have more member deaths. If you see or hear of any in your churches, newspapers, etc., we would appreciate hearing from you. Also, if any member is hospitalized, or have family deaths, we would like to know that as well. Call the contact number listed in these newsletters or email us to let us know.

The Association of Mature American Citizens

Most everyone has heard of AARP which is an organization for seniors. But their views and objectives may not be in line with yours. If you are looking for an alternative organization for people, age 50 and over, I would recommend **AMAC**.

They were formed in 2007 to offer an alternative perspective on how to best solve the problems of seniors today. With over a million members, they have gained considerable traction in our nation's Capital. Speaking with a conservative view on subjects from taxes, excessive government spending and more.

They offer lots of member benefits and discounts that are very enticing. They have a monthly magazine with lots of interesting articles, insurance programs, etc.

Membership costs only \$16 a year which includes a spouse. It costs even less with multi-year memberships. Again, I would recommend that you check out this group, called The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC). Call them at 888-262-2006 or go online for more information: www.amac.us.

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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