



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

January 2015

**Welcome to 2015
You have made it to a brand new year,
make the most of it!**

Notes from the Christmas luncheon

We had 18 of you to attend our annual luncheon last month. Judging from those that commented, they enjoyed the time together and the food. There were a few others that had planned to be there, but were not able to make it, and as always some could be attend due to other events going on.

We took up a collection for a needy family in the area. Tom Pointer contacted the agency that we donate to and this year, the collection of \$225 was to go to a family consisting of a single mother who has MS and 3 children. The cash donated will be used to pay bills or purchase items for the family and I am sure it was very much appreciated. Thanks to all who had a part in that this year.

Let me know how many of you would like us to plan the same thing for this coming December. As we enter a brand new year, I hope that this is a very good year for our members and your families.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be on January 20th. Our special speaker will be Ronald Thurman, Chancellor with the Tennessee Thirteenth Judicial District. I would encourage you to come and hear from this speaker. Even though it is January and the weather is cold and days are short, make a special effort to attend if you can.

Our regular monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The location is Shoney's Restaurant on South Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Be there no later than 6pm to join in the meal. Our business session begins promptly at 6:45pm and we try to be out by 8.

Report sickness and deaths

Please help us to be aware of any of our members who are sick, are in the hospital, have deaths in the family or they themselves have passed. We would like to be of encouragement to them. Call me or Connie Banker or use the handy form that I have available for this purpose on our [chapter website](#).

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

2015 Federation Convention

I know it is only January, but the time of the annual NARFE Tennessee Federation Convention will be here soon. It will be held April 20-21 this year and in Clarksville TN. Hosting the convention this year are the Clarksville, Dickson and Jackson Chapters.

Early registration runs to March 16th but if you register by February 1st, you will be entered in a drawing for a free nights lodging at the Mainstay Suites in Pigeon Forge. I will bring Registration Forms to the upcoming chapter meetings. You can also find this form on the [Federation website](#). Or if you want, I can mail you a copy. I would encourage you to attend the state convention and meet NARFE members from across the state and learn what other chapters do. There is a cost to attend the convention, you can choose to attend only the business session which is \$25, or the banquet only which is \$25 or both for \$50. The Riverview Inn in Clarksville will be the location, we have used this before and it was a good location. The room rate for NARFE members to stay during the convention is \$84 plus taxes. For questions, refer to the form, website, or contact Federation President Larry Henderson or the Convention Chairman Sandra Simms.

Delegates are also needed for this convention. All delegates get to vote on any matters that come up during the business session. Our chapter, based on our total members can send up to 5 delegates this year. I have a separate Delegate Form which must be completed for that and it is also on the [Federation website](#). Delegates are asked to serve on at least 1 of the many committees that meet and report during the convention. See the form for the list of committees. It is our chapter policy to pay the full registration costs for delegates approved by our chapter.

Chapter Officers

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

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News about newsletters and membership list

I have just updated our Chapter Membership List which shows our current members: name contact information, etc. That list is solely for the use of our members and should not be shared with anyone outside our chapter. You can request a copy or go to a special page on our [chapter website](#) to access it using your last name as the Username and your membership ID # as the Password. If you find any missing or incorrect information, please let me know.

I send out these newsletters to you using either postal mail or email. If you have an email account that you use, that makes it easier and less expensive for me and the chapter. But even if you do not have email, I want you to get it by postal mail.

Currently, I have about 60 email addresses that I send to, but it seems that some of you on the email list are not receiving the newsletters. So this month I am sending the newsletter by postal mail to those on the email list that I believe are not getting it. There will be a note enclosed to let me know if you have changed your email address or if there are other problems. Past newsletters are on our website.

I know you get a lot of mail, but I hope you take the time to read our monthly newsletters. If you have suggestions from time to time of things you would like included, just let me know.

Legislative news

Congress has just begun a new 2 year session, this is the 114th Congress. For those of you who live in the area in and around Cookeville, we still have the same members of Congress. Below is some NARFE related legislative news pertaining to the last session of Congress:

There was no provisions in the latest budget bill (CROmnibus) that negatively impacts federal employees or retirees.

Congress passed a 5-year extension of the Re-employed Annuitants provisions. This allows agencies to hire retirees on a limited, part-time basis without a reduction in their salary.

Our NARFE Legislative Department with the help of you and other members were able to prevent some actions which would be harmful to federal workers or retirees. Highlights of these are listed:

Prevented the switch to the Chained CPI method of determining our COLA.

Opposed provisions of the Senate postal reform bill, including proposed changes to FEHBP, requirements that USPS retirees enroll in Medicare and changes to the FECA program.

NARFE will continue to work for us in the current session of Congress. Keep your membership active so that we have a GREATER voice in Congress.

Send in those Sunshine Reports

Membership news

In looking over the latest data that I can see in regards to our chapter membership on the NARFE website, I see no additions or dropped members. I do see some who were sent a Second Dues Notice who still have not renewed. If this is you, we would appreciate it so much if you would send in your dues renewal as soon as possible. Remember that if you pay for multiple years (2 or 3), you will save some money when compared to the 1 year rate.

This is a good time to remind you about the savings of going on Dues Withholding. Many of you already are having your NARFE membership dues withheld from your annuity checks. This not only saves you money, but it means you don't have to mail in payments or be bothered by those pesky renewal reminders from the national office or by our chapter. If you are not on Dues Withholding, you can switch at any time and it will take effect at the end of your current renewal period. To make the switch from annual renewals to Dues Withholding, call the national office, 800-456-8410 and tell them you want to sign up for Dues Withholding. Or [click here](#) for the brochure that explains the benefits and form you can fill out and mail in. **You could save up to \$18 over 3 years !!** Every little bit helps.

NARFE magazines

Each month, you as a NARFE member receive in the mail, the latest issue of the NARFE magazine. It is often referred to as one of our best benefits of membership. In looking through the January issue, I see several articles that are worth reading. I hope you take time to scan the magazine each month.

Monthly speakers

We plan to pass out cards at this month's meeting for you to write down interesting speakers or topics you would like to be covered in upcoming chapter meetings. I would ask that you only include speakers and topics which would be of wide interest to our membership. So put on your thinking cap and bring your thoughts with you to the January meeting.

Remember, we need as much details as you can give us in order to know how to contact a speaker, give us names, organizations, and/or phone numbers, etc. so that we can reach and invite them. We may not invite all of them, but your input is appreciated.

And don't worry, if you are unable to think of a speaker this month, you can give us the information at any time

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org