



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

March 2015

Notes from last month

We had to cancel last month's meeting, there was ice and snow on the roads, temperatures were very cold and some of you had power outages. This has been a rare occurrence for us but we do have to do this sometimes. I hope that you were not too affected by the ice, snow and power outages that occurred.

As I prepare this, more snow and cold temps are in the forecast, but it is now it is the month of March and spring returns in a few days and warmer weather and longer days are here. Let's make the most of it and come out to our monthly meetings.

2015 Federation Convention

It is not too late to make plans to attend in the upcoming Tennessee Federation NARFE Convention. This year it will be on April 20 and 21 in Clarksville TN. It is a great time to network with other NARFE members and to learn what goes on statewide. Complete details are still being worked out, but the host chapters, Clarksville, Dickson and Jackson are working to make this a great convention. The special speaker from NARFE headquarters will be National President, Richard Thissen who will be the Keynote speaker during the Tuesday session, and Rudy Kalis a Nashville TV Station WSMV News Personality who will be the banquet speaker on Monday. I am told that he is an interesting speaker that you would want to hear. There will be legislative training given by the Federation Legislative Chairman, Jim Glenn who is attending the National Legislative Training in Washington DC this month. That will also be on Tuesday.

Registration is required and there is a cost to attend, \$50 for the full convention or \$25 for just the business session. Early registration runs till March 16th this year, but you can still register up to the date of the convention. We selected 3 delegates to represent our chapter at the last meeting, We can have 2 more if any of you would like to go as a delegate.

To find out more or to get Registration and Delegate forms go to the [Federation website](#). Or contact me with any questions that you may have.. If attending as a delegate, you can serve on any number of committees which meet on the first day of the convention. Delegates from our chapter can also get their registration fees reimbursed.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be on March 17th. Our special speaker for this month will be the Sheriff of Putnam County, Eddie Farris. I would think that what he would have to share with us would be of great importance and would encourage you to come and hear him this month.

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.

We lost another member

About the end of February, I learned that Andrew Keisling of Celina TN passed away. He has been a NARFE member for many years, first as part of the former Celina chapter and later was transferred to our chapter when the Celina chapter closed. Andrew worked for and retired from the US Army Corps of Engineers at Dale Hollow Lake.

He will be missed as a NARFE member, our sincere sorrows go out to his wife, Mary Jo and his 3 children and other family members.

Legislative news

A new bill that would help current federal employees has been filed. It is The Federal Employees Pension Fairness Act, H.R. 785. What this proposed to do is repeal the two recent increases in the federal employee retirement contribution which applied to those hired in 2013 and 2014.

The NARFE website section on the Legislative Action Center has been updated. Those with computers are urged to log in and take advantage of all the new helps that are available.

Chapter Officers

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

Contact Information:

NARFE Chapter 1956
118 Ballenger Rd., Carthage TN 37030
E-mail: rwcollins@hydroguy.com
Phone or Text: 931-284-4835

March is NARFE-PAC month

Remember that the month of March each year is designated as NARFE-PAC month. Even though this is not an election year for members of Congress, donations to NARFE-PAC are sought every month of every year. Keep in mind that there are hundreds if not thousands of political action committees (PACs) that raise money to elect members of congress to support their causes. NARFE is no different, legislation is our most important concern and it is important that members of Congress know that we support them.

I continue to remind you that the NARFE-PAC is separate from the main NARFE accounts. No membership dues or other funds raised to support NARFE and its operations goes to support political candidates. Only voluntary donations made to NARFE-PAC goes to help elect members of Congress.

I call your attention to the March issue of the NARFE magazine. On page 22 it begins coverage of this topic and explains all about it. Please take the time to read that information and consider making a donation this month. This month's magazine has a special cover wrap which includes a donation form and postage paid envelope for your use. It also explains the various levels of donations available. In return for your donation, NARFE will provide the newest NARFE-PAC pins.

If anyone wants to bring their donations to this month's chapter meeting, I will collect them and hand deliver them to the Federation Convention next month. So either way, do what you can to help with this important fund.

Membership news

I cannot stress enough the need that we have to recruit new members. Any member based organization depends on this and without a constant influx of new members to replace those who drop out and those who pass away, we cannot continue. I always have members forms with me at the chapter meetings for you to take with you to pass out to prospective members. We have had some recent incentives to help us with getting new members. That has helped some. I am asking for your help.

I am glad to report that as of this writing, every one of our chapter members dues are current. Some will receive dues renewal notices this month. Please renew as soon as you can.

A special thanks goes out to Ellis McCowan who has just recently recruited a new member. The new member happens to live in another state and becomes part of another chapter, but new members are new members no matter which chapter they belong to. **Who can you recruit?**

Send in those Sunshine Reports

COLA watch

With the January Consumer Price Index report, we are 4 months into the current cycle which determines if we see a cost of living increase for 2016. These past 4 reports have all shown a decrease towards a COLA and currently stands at a minus 2.54 percent. The February report will be out by the time of our next meeting, we will see what it shows.

For all the federal retirees, we received a 1.7 percent increase for this year beginning with our January payments.

Income tax season

It is that time of year again that many are filing federal tax returns. If you are having to pay additional taxes or getting a large refund, you may want to consider making a change in the amount of federal income tax withheld from your paycheck or annuity check. For those still working, your agency or human resource office can help you with that. For those who are retired and receiving an annuity check, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is the place to go to. You can call them at 888-767-6738, write them at OPM Retirement Operations Center, P.O. Box 45, Boyers PA 16017 or you can also take care of this online at www.opm.gov/retire.

There are many services available on that OPM website that you may want to take advantage of. In order to do that, you will need to have an online account. The website will explain all of that. Besides making changes to tax withholding, here are some of other things you can do online

- Change your mailing address
- Establish an allotment to an organization
- Set up a checking or savings allotment
- Change where your direct deposit is sent to
- View and print the 1099-R forms
- Request a copy of the Annuity Booklet

For those who need help in filing your income tax returns, you can find that generally in your community somewhere, like at a senior citizens center.

More funny thoughts to ponder

- *How can someone be dirt poor, and another be filthy rich?*
- *What was Captain Hook's name before he got the hook?*
- *Why do people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up every few hours?*
- *Who was Sadie Hawkins?*
- *Why do they put suits in a garment bag and put garments in a suitcase?*

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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