



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

**Chapter 1956 Newsletter**

**May 2015**

**Notes from Federation Convention**

The 59th Annual Convention of the Tennessee Federation of NARFE Chapters has come to a close. Overall, I think this was a good convention. Attendance was about normal, there were 55 delegates, 9 officers and many other members present.

It all got underway on Monday, everyone was greeted by a group of therapy dogs as they registered. After registration, there were the committee meetings, a legislative training session that included a presentation via a video link with Jessica Klement from NARFE HQ Legislation Department. Monday ended with the banquet and the door prizes.

Tuesday was the official part of the convention and the business meeting. We were welcomed by various local and state elected officials and a guest speaker, Greg Stallworth who is the EEO Officer at Ft. Campbell.

The Keynote speaker was NARFE National President, Richard Thissen. He spoke on several topics which included; Advocacy Advisory issues, Service Officers, Membership, the NARFE magazine, the NARFE database and records, social media, the financial status of NARFE, and the continuing work on the Future of NARFE.

As we have been talking about over the course of the past year, there were several membership and recruiting awards given out at this convention. There are 2 chapter awards given out each year. One is the Weida White Tolley Memorial Alzheimer's Award, it was won by the Cleveland Chapter for making the most donations per capita to this fund. The other was the Leo Potts Memorial NARFE-PAC Award, it was won by the Cumberland County Chapter for the most per capita donations. Both of these chapters have won these awards many times over.

There was a Silent Auction again this year to raise funds for Alzheimer's research. This year, this brought in \$1342 and there were an additional \$491 in donations to this.

There was one resolution considered this year, it was the one that I and the Federation Board have worked on over the past year or more. The resolution called for the adoption of a revised Federation Constitution and Bylaws. With some opposition, this was approved by the delegates. —continued

And, of course, there was the election of officers held to lead the Federation over the next year. Like it is for some chapters, it is hard to get qualified members to agree to become an officer. There was no contested positions and elected by voice vote were this list of officers:

- President—Larry Minniear
- 1st Vice President—Rhonda Mooney
- 2nd Vice President—Ed Evans
- 3rd Vice President—Mike Gates
- Secretary—Marilyn Evans
- Treasurer—Michelle Griffin
- Legislative Chairman—Jim Glenn

All of these officers have served this past year or more with the exception of the 3rd VP. The president for the past 2 years was Larry Henderson. The Federation President position is limited to 2 years and normally the Vice Presidents step up in position and they find someone new for the 3rd VP. There is 1 officer position that remains vacant, that is the Membership Chairman. No one could be found who would agree to serve in that capacity. That is too bad as that is a critical and much needed position.

Next years Convention for 2016 was set for April 25-26 in Pigeon Forge TN. It is a week later than normal due to other events taking place in that location. There were some unusual events at this years convention, but you will have to come to the meeting this month to hear about those.

**Next meeting**

Our next chapter meeting will be on May 19th. This is the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Shoney's Restaurant in Cookeville. Start time is 6:00pm. Our speaker this month will be District Attorney, Bryant Dunaway. He will talk about his duties. Come out to hear this interesting speaker and enjoy the meeting.

**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

## Legislative news

Both branches of Congress have been working on the federal budget for the next fiscal year, FY16. House and Senate budget negotiators finalized a joint budget resolution for fiscal year 2016 this week. This highly anticipated conference report is the first time both chambers have agreed on a budget in several years.

While the impact of the joint budget resolution on federal employees and retirees is not as severe as the House budget that passed in March, it still assumes more than \$193 billion worth of cuts from the federal community. The joint resolution also fails to relieve agencies from the arbitrary budget constraints imposed by the across-the-board funding cuts known as sequestration.

There is lots more information on the NARFE national website and I would encourage each of you to go there and click on the Legislative section listed under the Departments tab (you will see this after you log in).

## Membership news

In looking at the latest information that I see on the membership reports, we have several chapter members who have recently been sent Second Dues Notices. I hope you value your NARFE membership and will respond to the notice that you were sent. I have asked that our chapter Membership Chairman to contact you and encourage your renewal.

Renewing is easy, just send in the renewal form that you get, or call 1-800-456-8410. While you can mail in a check, I would encourage you to pay by credit card. There have been times when checks were lost in the process.

And don't forget, when you run across potential members, tell them about NARFE and encourage them to become a member. Pick up some membership forms at any chapter meeting. Membership forms are in each magazine that you can use or ask the potential member to call 800-627-3394. They can also go online to NARFE's website to join. It helps if you remember to include your member ID and our chapter number when a new member joins. Your member ID is on the magazine that you receive and our chapter number is 1956.

## Sunshine report

I heard recently that Elisabeth Bryant who is recovering from a broken shoulder is being treated for breast cancer. She has had surgery for that and is undergoing chemo. Prayers are appreciated.

Please pass along any news about our members to us by phone, email or use the form on the website. We want to be of encouragement when we can.

**We Appreciate our Members**

## Mail delivery is becoming slower

Since January of this year, the Postal Service has stopped overnight delivery of local mail. Now it takes an extra day for a first class letter to be sent to local addresses. Used to be that local mail was processed overnight and delivered next day.

I wonder how this has affected these newsletters that I send out. For those of you who get this by postal mail, I place them in the mail on a Saturday hoping that you get them on the Monday, one week before our monthly meeting. But it may be Tuesday when they come. Could some of you let me know what day that are delivered to your house?

## NARFE recently recognized public servants

May 3-9 was a week set aside to honor military, federal, state, county and local government employees. It was the 30th anniversary of this event. NARFE encouraged its members to write letters to local newspapers in support of these workers.

Too many times it seems that all the public sees or hears about are the government workers who abuse their positions or make headlines in some negative way. This is disturbing and I believe it hurts our relationship with defending our benefits with Congress. It just makes our work harder to get our points across with those who make the decisions that affect us and all the federal workforce.

## On the light side—The case of the wise judge

*A case was brought to court complaining about the holidays that Christians and Jews celebrate at times during the year. It was heard before a wise judge who after listening to the long, passionate presentation of the plaintiff side, promptly banged his gavel and declared, "Case dismissed!"*

*The lead plaintiff lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling and said, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? Surely the Christians have Christmas, Easter and many other observances. And the Jews--why in addition to Passover they have Yom Kippur and Hanukkah ...and yet my client and all other atheists have no such holiday!"*

*The judge leaned forward in his chair and simply said "Obviously your client is too confused to know about, or for that matter, even celebrate the atheists' holiday!"*

*The ACLU lawyer pompously said "We are aware of no such holiday for atheists, just when might that be, your honor?"*

*The judge said "Well it comes every year on exactly the same date---April 1st!"*

## 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)