



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

March 2016

Notes from last meeting

The February meeting occurred on a rainy night which probably affected our attendance. We had just a small number who were able to get there, there were some who had recent falls and injuries who could not be there including Secretary Reba Collins and Sunshine Chair Connie Banker. We wish them a speedy recovery. And as always we are grateful for those who make a special effort to attend the monthly meetings.

The program and speaker for this meeting was the owner of the Affordable Travel Company—Donna Mason. She is known by some in our group and has been in the travel business for 20 years. After had traveled to several states and counties years ago, she decided to open her own travel company in Cookeville. She continues to travel very much since we likes to personally visit destinations prior to recommending them to customers.

Donna mentioned that using a travel company like hers does not cost anything, it is the travel companies that pay her costs. She has the advantage of being a local company and has affiliations with many travel other sources. She is a cruise specialist but does all sorts of travel plans to anywhere you may be interested in. She makes arrangements for individuals as well as groups.

If you have never used the services of a travel company, she says that she can make many suggestions and recommendations to make your trip more enjoyable and trouble free. One such recommendation is to have travel insurance. This is relatively low cost and it could save you hundreds of dollars in the case of medical problems, lost luggage, unexpected travel plans, etc. that many times happen on a trip. She cited examples that has happened to her on various trips. I would suggest that you contact Affordable Travel by phone: 931-432-2772 for all your travel needs.

In other news from the last meeting, we covered the normal officer reports, and the latest in news from the legislative front. Also included was the annual audit report competed by Roy Byrd on the past year financial records.. Everything was found to be in order. You can see this audit report which is included with the February Minutes on the chapter website.

Please share these newsletters with your spouse

Next meeting

Our **March meeting** will be on the **15th.** of this month at our normal location which is Shoney's Restaurant on Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Remember to get there early enough to order and eat prior to the business session which starts promptly at 6:45pm. I would suggest you get there by 6:00pm or earlier.

Our scheduled speaker is Houston Bynum, Administrator of the Happy Haven Home for Children. This is Christian ministry located in Cookeville. Come and learn more about it.

NARFE-PAC Month

Every year in March, we are all encouraged to take part in NARFE-PAC. Of course you can do this any month, but March is set aside for this. Donations to NARFE-PAC are used to support those Congressional candidates that have or will support NARFE goals and legislative bills.

Here are five reasons to give to NARFE-PAC. 1) NARFE-PAC helps elect members of Congress who understand and support the federal community. 2) NARFE-PAC builds strong relationships with members of Congress. 3) NARFE-PAC is funded solely through your voluntary contributions. 4) NARFE-PAC pools individual contributions to maximize their impact nationwide. 5) NARFE-PAC helps our strongest supporters become congressional leaders with the power to set a fed-friendly agenda.

With the March issue of the NARFE magazine, you will see a special cover wrap with includes a donation form and return envelope. There are details of suggested amounts and Special Pens, etc. I would encourage you to make use of that information and mail in your donation. We will also give you the opportunity to make a donation at this month's chapter meeting. So come with that in mind.

Chapter Officers

President	Ronnie Collins
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Myrna Estes

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**Please support NARFE-PAC
with your donations**

Legislative news

While thinking about the NARFE-PAC, we need to think about the actions being considered in Congress on legislative news. NARFE headquarters has an outstanding Legislative Department that closely monitors the various bills and proposals before the US House and Senate as well as the US President. They keep us informed and urge us to take action by using its website and phone system to voice our opinions. Here is the latest news that I have on some of the bills being considered.

- ♦ **WEP Reform**—NARFE members are asked to contact their Representative on H.R. 711 to urge them to support this bill. I contacted Rep. Black and she indicated her support for it. This bill will help somewhat for those starting Social Security benefits going forward (2017 and after), by reducing the current penalty. This will provide some relief for SS beneficiaries. NARFE continues to support the full repeal of WEP but that seems unlikely to succeed.
- ♦ **FY 2017 Budget**—Both the President and the Congress are working on the next fiscal year's budget proposals. We have details of the President's plan which calls for a 1.6 percent pay raise for federal employees, does not include an increase in retirement contribution, it also does not call for cuts to the Federal Employees Compensation Act which affects those work related injuries or sicknesses.
- ♦ **Federal Adjustment Income Rates Act**—H.R. 4585 would provide for across the board 3.9 percent federal pay raise, with an additional 1.4 percent for locality pay adjustments. NARFE supports this bill.
- ♦ **Federal Employee Rights Act**—H.R. 4461 as introduced would undermine the rights of federal employee unions and could lead to negatively impact organizations like NARFE in the future. NARFE is saying it opposes this bill because the measures are unnecessary and present a misleading image of how federal employee unions conduct their business.
- ♦ **OPM Director**—Beth Cobert who has been nominated to become the new OPM Director after the resignation of Katherine Archuleta is one step closer to being confirmed. The Senate Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has approved her nomination. She awaits consideration by the entire Senate.

So for these bills and others is why NARFE desires a strong voice in Washington. Also noteworthy is the emphasis on legislation which affects federal employees, NARFE is working hard for this group.

2016 NARFE Conventions

We are just one month away from the Tennessee Federation Convention, there is still time to get registered to attend. I would encourage you to do so. The state conventions are enjoyable, you get to meet and mingle with other NARFE members from across the state. And the location this year makes for a good place to visit. You can get the Registration Form from me at the next meeting, or in the Tennessee Federation Newsletter, or online at the Federation website which is listed below. Let me know if you are interested in going or you need any details.

We have received 1 Resolution to be considered at the Federation Convention. This Resolution would make changes to the Federation Constitution and Bylaws in regards to the Federation District Officers. It would change the title of this position from District Officer to Congressional District Liaison and change that instead of being appointed by the Legislative Chairman, the Federation President would appoint these officers.

This resolution is being submitted by the Federation Board and the purpose of the name change is to agree with the implementation of the new Strategic Planning Process being done on the national level. The stated purpose for being appointed by the Federation President is to make it somewhat easier to find and fill these positions with qualified individuals.

We will discuss this at the meeting this month and decide whether to support or not support this change. This is a minor change and my main concern is: The current Constitution and Bylaws went through a big revision last year and it might be best to hold off on this change until there are more items of change to be considered.

Member Death

I just learned that we lost another member of our chapter. Dixie Bilyeu passed away at age 76 on February 29th. Dixie lived in Hilham TN and attended our meetings several times and our picnics when she was able.

She was a retired federal employee and worked as a computer programmer. I am not sure which agency. Dixie is survived by a sister, a brother, 2 step-daughters and several step-grandchildren. Her husband, Richard Bilyeu preceded her in death. Our sympathy goes out to the family.



NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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