



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

September 2017

August Meeting Report

We had a somewhat higher turnout for the last meeting in August. Glad to see some who were on the injured list back for this meeting. Summer came to end last month and now we have entered the Fall season. Continue to attend as much as you can.

In my report, I gave a rundown of the Tennessee Federation Board meeting which I attended just before our chapter meeting. In that meeting, there was much discussed on what federations and chapters have been instructed to do update their Bylaws if needed so that they do not conflict with the National Bylaws. This is all due to the One Member One Vote issue now in effect.

A committee was formed to address this for the Tennessee Federation. I looked at our chapter Bylaws and found 1 paragraph that is in conflict, but taking in the future of chapters, it is hardly worth the effort to redo those and get approval.

Also discussed was the Optional Chapter Membership and what that will mean going forward for both the national organization and for chapters. It is apparent that more and more members especially new members will choose to become national only members and not join up with a chapter.

The Federation President, Rhonda Mooney shared correspondence she had with the NARFE National Director, Barbara Sido who has indicated that she will have to Membership Forms and Renewal Letters updated to make it clearer to members who must now make the choice to join or continue with a chapter. Of course, we hope our members will continue.

We continued to discuss changing from monthly to quarterly chapter meetings. A few more thoughts were offered up at the this latest meeting. It seems so far that most think this is a good change to make.

We went over the usual reports, and reminded everyone that August is Advocacy Month, meaning that that NARFE urges its members to contact their elected officials while they are at home in their districts and states while on recess. In doing so, we have the opportunity to speak about NARFE issues. The 3 special Legislative topics for discussion included: Prevent Harmful Budget Proposals, Postal Reform, and the TSP Moderation Act.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be September 19th. I hope to see you this month, so don't forget. Place a reminder on your calendar. Thanks for your support our chapter. Anyone who wants to receive an automated phone reminder can request it.

Keep in mind the meeting place and time will still the same; Shoney's Restaurant on S Jefferson Ave. in Cookeville. Try to be there by 6:00pm if you plan to eat. We will start the business session at 6:45pm.

If possible, I would like us to consider a vote on the issue of chapter meetings at this month's meeting. Your input will be appreciated.

NARFE—FEEA

As you are aware, the recent hurricane in Texas has caused many people to suffer loss. And there is another hurricane on its way (as I write this) towards Florida which will do much more damage.

NARFE has been a partner for many years with Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund which helps NARFE members during times of natural disaster

If you are so inclined to donate to this cause, you can do so by using the form that is included in each NARFE magazine. It is near the back on the page that says on the top; Donate to NARFE Programs. It may be a small part, but it will be of help.

COLA News

In July there was a slight decrease of the Consumer Price Index of -0.08% bringing the net increase so far of 1.52% towards any possible Cost of Living Adjustment for next January. Even though it was slight, this is the first decrease in many months. With just 3 monthly reports to go, there it is likely that we will see a COLA in January.

Chapter Officers

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

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Please share these newsletters with your spouse

When you get your renewal notice, be sure to renew both your National and Chapter Dues.

Member Death

I mentioned this at our chapter meeting, but I failed to place this in the last newsletter that I learned recently that Mary England had passed away. I learned this by looking at the Member Records online. She was living in Lebanon and died on May 29th. She retired from the USPS and is survived by 1 nephew and 2 nieces. Sorry to be late in making mention of this here.

Webinar Series

Those still working may be interested in the next NARFE webinar. It will be **Retirement Forms: Step-by-Step for Guaranteed Success**. It will be presented online and available through the NARFE website on Thursday, September 21 at 1 p.m. CT. It is free to view for members, non-members pay \$39.95 but it comes with a free NARFE membership.

It will be recorded and made available to watch within a day or so after the live presentation.

Upcoming webinars will be on health insurance plans, etc.

Legislative News

Congress has gone back to Washington after being on break for a few weeks in August. There is much for them to get done and not much time for them to do it. Our Legislative Department does a very good job lobbying members of Congress on behalf of NARFE members and they will continue to do so in the days ahead.

I hope that some of you had the opportunity to attend any meetings with your member of Congress during the time they were back in their state and district. Sadly, I was not aware of any visits to my small community.

Retired Members—Save Money With Dues Withholding

If you pay your dues by the year, 2 years, etc. you can save up to \$6 per year, simply by taking advantage of Dues Withholding. If your spouse is also a member, that is \$12 per year. Other benefits of this method of payment is: You'll never get dues reminders, you won't have to write checks for dues, it is convenient and you can cancel at any time.

There is a special form used to enroll in Dues Withholding, once it is filled out and mailed in, it takes 60-90 days to process, then you will have One-twelfth of your total dues deducted automatically from your monthly annuity. For our chapter, that calculates out to \$3.67 per month, per member..

I will have forms available at chapter meetings, I can mail you a form upon request or you can download the form by [clicking here](#). Also in the magazine.

Some Benefits to Chapter Membership

Service Officer: The chapter service officer is available to assist you in understanding your retirement benefits, give directions on how to contact OPM and assist during times of member deaths.

Chapter Newsletter: This goes to each chapter member each month (as long as we have a correct mailing address or email address) to keep member informed of chapter news, further explain news and changes from the national headquarters and from our federation. Also members find other interesting facts and information. We try to keep everyone informed of member illnesses and deaths.

Chapter Meetings: Meetings are used to discuss the current legislation, learn about NARFE officers, resolutions and any other proposals. It is a time to get to know other members and interact with one another. Attendees have an opportunity to donate to support Alzheimer's research.

I hope that what we do as a chapter is a valuable resource for you and the small cost is worth it. We ask that you renew your chapter membership along with your national membership.

Federation Vice President Letter

The Vice President for the middle Tennessee chapters, Ed Evans has informed me that he mailed a letter this month to all members of our chapter and the other chapters in this area. I invite you to read his letter take heed to the points that he makes. Comments are welcomed.

On The Light Side

Winter is coming—*The Indians asked their Chief in autumn, if the winter was going to be cold or not. Not really knowing the answer, the chief replies that the winter was going to be cold and that they should collect wood to be prepared.*

Being a good leader, he then called the National Weather Service and asked them if the winter was going to be cold. To which he was told, this winter is indeed going to be cold. So the chief went back to his people and told them to collect more wood

A week later, the chief called back the National Weather Service to inquire again about the coming winter. Again he was told that it was going to be very cold. So the chief told his people to gather all the wood they could find..

One more time the chief called the Weather Service and asked them if they were sure that the winter would be cold?. Yes they said, the Indians are collecting wood like crazy!!

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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