



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

January 2019

Happy New Year

Monthly Notes

We have a brand new year before us to enjoy. I hope that last year was a good one for you and that this year will be even better.

We plan to have quarterly meetings again this year with meetings on the months of February, May, August and November.

The January annuity payments reflect the adjusted amounts for the COLA and tax withholdings. The 2019 health insurance rates will not be reflected until the February payment.

Next Meeting

On our new meeting calendar, we will meet next on February 19th of next year. If you have your calendars for 2019, mark that down and plan to be there. As you talk to other members, encourage them to attend as well. Whatever news we have, it will be part of our discussion. Hopefully our meeting place will continue to operate. See you then.

Legislative News

This year began with a partial government shut-down and some new changes in Congress. While most departments have been funded, there are some which have not received their year 2019 funding at the time of new calendar year.

NARFE is gearing up for the new legislative session. There is a Legislative Conference planned during March 10-13, 2019. Many members will attend.

If you don't already receive the NARFE Legislative Hotline email messages, you can sign up to get them, or you can call 1-800-456-8410 option 4 to hear them. To send an email to your member of Congress, use the Legislative Action Center section of the NARFE website to do that. To call either of your U S Senators or your U S Representative, call 1-866-220-0044. and just follow the prompts to get to the office you want. Keep in mind that in order to speak to all 3, you will need to make 3 calls.

Meeting Location: Shoney's Restaurant
880 S Jefferson Ave., Cookeville TN
6:00pm to eat, 6:45pm for the business meeting

2020 COLA Watch

Here is the latest monthly data that I have relating to the 2020 COLA. The last report shows a decline.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2020
October 2018	0.19	0.28
November 2018	-0.45	-0.17

Updated Membership List

There is an updated list of our chapter members available on our chapter website. You must be a member in order to access the list. Members can also request a copy sent to them by email or postal mail. This is for our members only and not to be shared outside of our group.

New Chapter Dues

The new chapter dues of \$6.00 per year are effective this month. The information has been sent to NARFE but it may take them a month or so before the lower rate is reflected in the renewal notices. If you receive a renewal notice that does not reflect the lower rate, just submit \$46 if renewing for 1 year, \$84 if renewing for 2 years, and \$120 if renewing for 3 years. Put a note in the envelope to inform them the chapter dues were lowered. The new monthly rate for those on Dues Withholding should be \$3.33.

Anyone who has already renewed for the year 2019 and beyond at the higher rate can request a refund and we will get that to you. This may be somewhat confusing at first, and if you have questions, just let me know.

We appreciate your loyal support of the national association as well as our local chapter. Please continue to support both in the years to come and join us at our meetings this year. Let us know if you know of someone who is a potential member.

Chapter Officers

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

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NARFE Chapter 1956
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When you get your renewal notice, be sure to renew both your National and Chapter Dues.

NARFE Webinars

Latest and upcoming webinars:

Federal and Military Service? How to Maximize Your Benefits. January 10th.

Taxes and Federal Benefits. January 24th.

Step by Step Retirement. February 7th.

The TSP and You. March 7th.

Optimizing your Social Security Benefits. March 21st.

Federal Benefits and Divorce. April 11th.

If you missed the live presentation, you can always watch the recorded version on the NARFE website.

2019 Federal Employee Pay Raise

For 2019 the President has recommended no pay raise for federal workers this year, so unless Congress includes one in the appropriations bills, that will stand as I understand it. However the President does support a pay raise for military workers.

It is worth noting that many on social media report that members of Congress voted themselves a big pay raise for 2019. That is not the case, in fact members of Congress has voted to freeze its pay every year since 2010.

Sunshine Report

There are several members undergoing surgeries in recent weeks. Kathy Hilton is recovering from heart surgery and Laverne Evans had hip replacement surgery on December 13th.

Please inform me if you or someone in your family has health related issues to report.

Magazine Article

There is a good article in the January 2019 issue of the NARFE magazine from the new National President, Ken Thomas which appears on page 4. Included in his article is a list of the priorities for the 116th Congress that begins this month. While all these items will not be accomplished, it does help us to know what our legislative department will be working towards as goal for the next 2 years.

There is lots of other information each month in the NARFE magazines, take time to look through them and take note of things of interest. And when you are done with an issue, you can always leave it in some waiting area somewhere as a recruiting tool. In each magazine there is a membership form that some could use to join NARFE.

And if you were to dispose of your magazine and later have a need to refer back to an article, remember that they are archived and available on the NARFE website. They are listed each month by year going back for many years.

2019 NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Awards

It is time to remind high school seniors which are part of the NARFE family of this scholarship program. It is open to the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of NARFE members who are high school seniors looking to attend college.

There will be 10 winners selected based on an application and essay. The amount of the award will be \$700 and the deadline to enter is March 25, 2019. Go to the FEEA website feea.org for details, and the application.

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund which sponsors this scholarship program is also involved in helping federal employees during times of disasters. Donations are encouraged to this fund which can be made using the form from any NARFE magazine.

Dues Withholding

This my recurring plea for those of you who are not taking advantage of Dues Withholding to switch to that means of paying your NARFE dues, it helps you, the national association and the chapter for you to do it. Dues Withholding is the easiest and lowest cost way of paying your dues and a lot of us do that, but I would like to see more take part in it. It is automatic and painless.

The dues are paid out of your monthly annuity without you having to write a check or whatever each year. To switch over to it, you can use the form which is in some magazines or I will be happy to send you the form.

On The Light Side—Our Military

Airman Jones was assigned to the induction center, where he advised new recruits about their government benefits, especially their GI insurance.

It wasn't long before Captain Smith noticed that Airman Jones had almost a 100% record for insurance sales, which had never happened before.

Rather than ask about this, the Captain stood in the back of the room and listened to Jones's sales pitch.

Jones explained the basics of the GI Insurance to the new recruits, and then said: "If you have GI Insurance and go into battle and are killed, the government has to pay \$200,000 to your beneficiaries. If you don't have GI insurance, and you go into battle and get killed, the government only has to pay a maximum of \$6000."

Now," he concluded, "which bunch do you think they are going to send into battle first?"

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org