



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

Chapter 1956 Newsletter

March 2019

Monthly Notes

We have made it through the main part of winter and spring is right around the corner. All in all, we had a fairly mild winter with very little in the way of cold temps and snow.

I want to thank Roy Byrd for doing our financial audit again this year to affirm that our financial records are in order. Roy's comments in part are; "I have personally audited the financial instruments of NARFE, Chapter 1956, Putnam County., TN for the year 2018 & find everything in perfect order." He ended with "Myrna Estes, Treasurer, has done an outstanding job as Treasurer for several years, & should be commended for her work." We are thankful for the her consistent diligence to taking care of our finances.

I have been monitoring Shoney's each time that I drive by to see if any work in going on there to remodel and reopen and I do not see any activity there. I am afraid that we have lost our meeting location. That is sad because that has been our meeting place for many years now. I contacted 2 other restaurants in Cookeville to inquire about us meeting there and neither of those places could accommodate us. We have a small group of attendees and we have to compete with larger groups. If anyone has any suggestions for a location to have our meeting, please let me know. If Shoney's does not reopen, I am not sure what we can do. Our next scheduled meeting is in May so any suggestions are welcomed.

Federation Annual Meeting

I encourage all of you to consider attending the NARFE meeting in Chattanooga on April 15-16. You will be able to meet other members from across the state and learn some important information.

Featured speakers this year is the new NARFE National President, Ken Thomas who took office in November and the reigning Miss. Tennessee, Christine Williamson who is from the Chattanooga area.

Registration is required to attend and I think the chapter can assist with the cost of registration for those who have an interest in the future of NARFE and our chapter.

Part of the meeting will include a Town Hall meeting with Ken Thomas, this is a great opportunity to hear what is coming in regards to NARFE and to ask questions directly to him. Contact me with questions.

2020 COLA Watch

Here is the latest monthly data that I have relating to the 2020 COLA. There was an increase reported on the last report. Next report is due March. 12.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2020
October 2018	0.19	0.28
November 2018	-0.45	-0.17
December 2018	-0.47	-0.64
January 2019	0.14	-0.49

NARFE Webinars

Latest and upcoming webinars:

Federal and Military Service? How to Maximize Your Benefits. *recorded*

Taxes and Federal Benefits. *recorded*

Four Simple Steps to a Smooth Retirement. *recorded*

TSP and You: Sound Savings Strategies. *recorded*

Social Security: A Key Ingredient in Your Retirement. **March 21st.**

Federal Benefits and Divorce. **April 11th.**

These are presented live with a question and answer session afterwards at 1 PM central time on the date listed. If you missed the live presentation, you can always watch the recorded version on the NARFE website. And they are free to NARFE members.

Sunshine Report

I hope all who have had surgery recently are recovering and feeling well. Let me know if you are aware of those dealing with medical issues or deaths in the family. I am sorry if we have failed to mention anyone, I don't always know.

Chapter Officers

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

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

Legislative News

There is a bill presented to make the COLA for those retired under FERS more inline with those retired under CSRS. Rep. Gerry Connolly of VA is the one who introduced the legislation. Under current law, the FERS COLA is limited to 2 percent when consumer prices increase between 2 and 3 percent. In 2019, the FERS COLA is 2 percent, yet the CSRS and Social Security COLA is 2.8 percent.

Let your members of Congress hear from you. Call 1-866-220-0044. and just follow the prompts to get to the office you want. Use the NARFE website to send an email message.

March Is NARFE-PAC Month

Of course you can contribute to NARFE-PAC any month, but March has been for many years a time to promote this. The March issue of the magazine has lots of information about the importance of NARFE-PAC and incentives to make a donation. A donation form is included on page 12 along with some suggested donation amounts. Send in your donations directly to NARFE using the pre-addressed and post-age paid envelope as part of the magazine cover wrap.

The top 5 reasons to give to NARFE-PAC are:

- 1-Helping elect members of Congress who support the federal community**
- 2-Building strong relationships with lawmakers, a key component of winning legislative fights**
- 3-Ensuring the federal community is a powerful force across the county**
- 4-Pooling individual contributions to maximize impact nationwide**
- 5- Empowering our strongest supporters to become leaders in our fight**

New Branding For NARFE

I am seeing news that NARFE national headquarters is working on a new branding initiative. The reasons behind this is said to underscore NARFE's value and to reach new members. They are working with a outside company to advance this plan. It seems to be somewhat like an advertising plan to come up with new messaging for NARFE going forward and to market NARFE to the new generation of federal employees.

According to their research, current federal employees perceive that NARFE is just a retirement organization. The plan is to update the messaging and graphics of NARFE including a new logo replacing the familiar round seal currently being used with a more contemporary image. Also to add a tagline and new mission statement.

We will need to watch this to see where it leads.

Follow NARFE on Social Media and More

I am not a huge fan of Facebook, Twitter and other forms of social media. But if you use any of that, then consider following NARFE. You can find the NARFE National Headquarters on Facebook and on Twitter.

In addition the NARFE Tennessee Federation has a Facebook page too that you can find with a simple search.

There is another interesting news source that has a lot of useful news articles about NARFE and seniors in general. I am referring to **NARFE News-Watch**. It is a weekly news article sent out by NARFE to your email address. Some of you may already be receiving it, if not, try adding an email address to your member records or calling NARFE at its phone number of 800-456-8410 and speak to a member service representative

On The Light Side—A Joke Backfires

A preacher, who shall we say was "humor impaired," attended a conference to help encourage and better equip pastors for their ministry. Among the speakers were many well known and dynamic speakers.

One such boldly approached the pulpit and, gathering the entire crowd's attention, said, "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn't my wife!" The crowd was shocked! He followed up by saying, "And that woman was my mother!" - The crowd burst into laughter and delivered the rest of his talk, which went over quite well.

The next week, the pastor decided he'd give this humor thing a try, and use that joke in his sermon. As he surely approached the pulpit that sunny Sunday, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. It suddenly seemed a bit foggy to him.

Getting to the microphone he said loudly, "The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman that was not my wife!" The congregation inhaled half the air in the room. After standing there for almost 10 seconds in the stunned silence, trying to recall the second half of the joke, the pastor finally blurted out, "...and I can't remember who she was!"

Thanks To All Of You, Our Loyal Members. We Appreciate Your Continued Support Over The Years

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

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