

Happy New Year

Monthly Notes

If you are reading this, then you made it past the year 2020 and are now in 2021. We wait to see what all this year brings us. I think we all want to see the COVID virus end and that life will return to normal. May each of you have a great year. Stay safe and healthy.

The work of NARFE still goes on. I know that we do not see a lot happening, but I am sure much is being done behind the scenes that is not being reported. The 117th Congress took office on January 3th. All the bills including those that are NARFE related will need to be re-introduced for consideration. I am sure they will be in the coming days. In our area of the state, we only have one change in our delegation. Senator Bill Hagerty takes the place of Senator Lamar Alexander in this Congress.

As far as NARFE officers. The national president and secretary/treasurer remain the same. The Tennessee Federation president remains the same. We currently do not have a vice-president for middle Tennessee. But there is a newsletter editor now.

I encourage each of you to continue to support NARFE and its goals throughout the coming year. We need each of us to be active and to call our elected leaders to support our causes.

The Latest Chapter Financial Report .

November 1 balance—\$2,208.88

Dues received—\$36.00

Disbursements—None

November 30 balance—2,244.88

Chapter Meetings

Remember that chapter meetings are suspended due to the current Covid-19 virus.

Updates on Annuity Payments

Remember that the most recent COLA change will be reflected on our January payment along with a change in federal tax withholdings. For those who have Medicare Part B premiums deducted from their payments, that change will be included as well

The health insurance coverage from the FEHBP changes in premiums will not be reflected until the February payments. At the first of each year, there are always changes that we see. Just verify everything appears to be correct on your part.

2021 COLA Watch

The latest report for November 2020 showed a decrease in the cost of goods. The index went down 0.1 percent. Stay tuned for the remainder of the year.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2021
October 2020	+0.03	+0.26
November 2020	-0.10	+0.16
December 2020		+0

NARFE Webinars

Another year brings more webinars for members and non-members. The next one will be on January 14, 2021 and the title will be: **Expecting the Unexpected: What We Learned from the Pandemic.**

It can be watched live if you pre-register on the NARFE website. It is easy, log in as a member and follow the instructions to register.

All previous webinars are available as they were recorded. All are free to members.

Suggestions for High Bank Balance

We have maintained a bank balance over several years not of about \$2000 or more. While this is good in many ways, I think it would be wise to put some of this to use.

One way is maybe doing some local advertising to get our name out there in hopes it would attract new members. I have heard that this was tried before and never had much in the way of results.

Some have suggested that we make a donation to the Alzheimer's fund with part of this balance. It may not be completely within the rules of NARFE, but this would be something to consider.

I am open to any and all suggestions you may think of. We do have chapter meetings to discuss this, but you could call, text, or email me about them.

Chapter Officers

President & Newsletter Editor	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.

Membership Report

Here is the most recent member reports that I seen reported to us. In December, it shows 3 renewing members plus 2 more on dues withholding. It also shows 4 members with changes to their contact information.

Contact Information for Members of Congress

If you need to contact either of your members of Congress, listed below are the direct contact information for those representing the sixth district of Tennessee.

- **Representative John Rose**

Washington Office phone number: 202-225-4231

Cookeville Office phone number: 931-854-9430

Website and email form: johnrose.house.gov

- **Senator Marsha Blackburn**

Washington Office phone number: 202-224-3344

Nashville Office phone number: 629-800-6600

Website and email form: blackburn.senate.gov

- **Senator Bill Hagerty**

Washington Office phone number: 202-224-4944

Nashville Office phone number: 615-736-5129

Website and email form: hagerty.senate.gov

They have other offices around the state and district and you can still call using the NARFE provided phone number: 866-220-0044.

What You Can Do at OPM Services Online

If you are currently retired from federal services, then you will want to make use of what you can do on the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website for retirees. I have found over the years that their security features are sometimes confusing and difficult to get through, but that is just the way it is. After you sign in here are some of the things you can do:

- Get your monthly annuity payment statement
- Get your annual summary of payment
- Verify life insurance enrollment (FEGLI)
- Get your 1099-R tax form
- Change your income tax withholdings
- View or print your retirement card
- Start or change direct deposit
- Start or change checking and savings account allotment
- Start or change allotment to an organization
- Request a copy of your annuity booklet
- Update your profile and contact information
- Change your mailing address

If you have a computer, I would urge you to log in to the OPM.gov website from time to time just to make sure your password is still active and review the information shown there for you. Things sometimes change.

Magazine, Combined Issue/100 Years of NARFE

I see that the January and February issues of the NARFE magazine will be combined into one this year. As you will see when you get this issue, 2021 marks 100 Years of NARFE. Much has changed since 1921 when NARFE began, but our mission has remained the same, to protect and preserve pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees.

It is said that the magazine is available two other ways; read over the phone and digital audio. I called the On The Telephone option, 866-504-7300 and got a recorded message instructing me to leave a message and someone would return my call. Not too sure about that.

The other option is for those who have set up an account with the National Library Service in their state. For Tennessee, we would need to call 615-741-3915 for that. As I understand it, they would mail out an audio copy of the magazine that a person could listen to, mail it back and then request the next issue. If anyone needs this service, it may be something to check out.

And Now for the Funnies-A Bible Quiz

Q: How can you make God laugh?

A: Tell Him your plans for the future

Q: Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A: Noah - he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Q: Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

A: Pharaoh's daughter - she went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q: What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?

A: Ruth-less

Q: Who was the first drug addict in the Bible?

A: Nebuchadnezzar - he was on grass for seven years

Q: What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?

A: Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury

A: David's Triumph was heard throughout the land.

A: Honda... because the apostles were all in one Accord

Q Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A: Samson - he brought the house down

Stay Safe and Well

NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: www.narfecookevilletn.org

Tennessee Federation: www.narfetn.org

NARFE Headquarters: www.narfe.org