

**Monthly Notes**

The days of the year continue to fly by, this month we will see the end of summer and the beginning of fall. The weather has already changed with cooler temperatures lately. And I have seen some leaves falling from trees. Maybe the colors will change on the trees soon.

There is already talk of the upcoming FEHB open season that comes every year. For this year the start date is Monday, November 13 and the end date is Monday, December 11. I have not seen anything yet on any increase in premiums, but I am sure the premiums will increase for most plans.

**The Latest Chapter Financial Report .**

July beginning balance—\$1721.96

Dues received —\$48.00

Disbursements—none

July ending balance—\$1769.96

**Appointment of New Treasurer**

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Laura Cook as our new chapter treasurer.

Laura worked for and retired from the National Weather Service as a meteorologist in Washington DC. While there she was also the treasurer of the DC chapter of the American Meteorological Society. She moved to Cookeville about 5 years ago and transferred her NARFE membership to our chapter.



Reba and I met with her on August 24th where we went over the duties and financial records and I administered the oath of office to her..

She is well qualified to fulfill the duties of treasurer and we are glad to have her as a chapter officer. Now is there any takers for the position as chapter president??

**COLA Watch 2024**

There seems to be no let up of the monthly increases in the CPI reports. The reported increases are small but it seems that inflation is not going away. Fuel prices are a major part of the index and are going up again and with the threats of hurricanes disrupting affecting refineries if could get worst.

Now there are just 2 more reports until the end of this reporting year. Check here each month for the latest news.

Month	Month % Change	% Toward 2024
October 2022	+0.40	+0.38
November 2022	-0.17	+0.20
December 2022	-0.49	-0.29
January 2023	+0.90	+0.57
February 2023	+0.50	+1.10
March 2023	+0.33	+1.40
April 2023	+0.58	+2.00
May2023	+0.22	+2.20
June 2023	+0.34	+2.60
July 2023	+0.17	+2.70

**Latest NARFE Webinars**

- **Take Charge of Your Thrift Savings Plan Account.** Presented on September 20th.
- **Debunking Federal Retirement Myths**
- **Mid-Career Reality Check: Golden Handcuffs or a Move to the Private Sector?**
- **The Finale Countdown to Retirement: Smoothing the Transaction**

Presented on the NARFE website. Remember that there are many more that are archived that are still available.

.I expect there will be some upcoming webinars on the subject of health insurance plans.

**Chapter Officers**

President & Newsletter Editor	Ronnie Collins
Vice President	Vacant
Secretary	Reba Collins
Treasurer	Laura Cook

**Contact Information:**

NARFE Chapter 1956  
 118 Ballenger Rd., Carthage TN 37030

E-mail: [rwcollins49@gmail.com](mailto:rwcollins49@gmail.com)

Phone or Text: 931-284-4835

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

## Legislative Report

Congress will be back in session about the second week in September. They will need to pass the authorization bills for FY24 so that federal agencies will have their funds for the year. The new fiscal year begins October 1st so there is not much time to pass all 12 of those bills by both houses of Congress.

Most likely they will pass a continuing resolution as they have done in previous years to keep funding available.

Not sure how much time will be devoted to working on the various bills that NARFE is supporting for our membership. Or all the other bills that have been proposed for this legislative session.

For the list of bills that NARFE is watching, look in the magazine and on the NARFE website. And don't forget to either call your members of Congress or email them to urge them to support our legislation and any other concerns that you have.

Here are ways to contact your Representative: Go online at [narfe.org](http://narfe.org) to **Advocacy** and then **Take Action**. That will get you to the Legislative Action Center where you can see the list of bills, read about them and send an email. OR call them using this phone number 800-456-8410 and select option 5.

## Pay Raise Proposed

President Biden has submitted his plan for the 2024 pay raise for federal workers and the military. He has proposed a 5.2 percent increase in pay. If approved, that would be the largest pay raise since 1980. The pay increase would be split between a 4.7 percent across the board increase and a 0.5 percent locality pay increase.

## NARFE-FEEA Relief Available for Hawaii

The Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) offers disaster relief grants to eligible federal employees when these disasters strike. FEEA has given over 14,000 grants since 1986, for wildfires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters, as well as for groceries, fuel, and diapers during the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. Thanks to the generosity of our fellow NARFE members, this assistance is available through the NARFE -FEEA Disaster Fund which offers up to \$500 in assistance for those who have lost their homes and/or had to evacuate.

FEEA stands ready to assist active and retired NARFE members impacted by the devastating fires in Maui. If you or someone you know needs financial help, please use the links below for more information about FEEA's disaster relief grant program and to obtain a downloadable application guide and the online application from the FEEA website.

They can find the FEEA website by going to [narfe.org](http://narfe.org) and searching in News and Events section.

## AMAC

Once again I want to put in a plug for membership in the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC). They are the conservative alternate to AARP.

Their bi-monthly magazine reports on the news of the day regarding issues related to senior adults. They have advocacy groups similar to NARFE and like most organizations they have member benefits that can save you money on purchases. Some of those member benefits are very good.

The 1 year membership is just \$16.00 and less if you go for a multiyear membership. I highly recommend it. Check it out at [amac.us](http://amac.us) or call them at 888-262-2006.

## Monthly Reports

For the month of August, the reports that I have show that 1 annual member renewed and 1 dues withholding member renewed. There was 1 member dropped for non-renewal, so it that was you, please help us by taking care of that, we want you to continue. And I see that we have a new member in our chapter that was part of the closed Cumberland County chapter and re-instated to our chapter. Welcome to Carolyn Higgins of Crossville TN.

If anyone would like information on dues withholding, let me know.

## On The Light Side

*A man says, he likes to call in sick to work at places where he has never held a job. Then when the manager tells him He don't work there, He tells them I'd like to. But not today, as I'm sick..*

*Rodney Dangerfield: "I came from a real tough neighborhood. Once a guy pulled a knife on me. I knew he wasn't a professional, the knife had butter on it."*

*The teacher called Little Timmy to her desk. She said: "This essay you've written about your pet dog is exactly the same essay your brother has written." "Of course it is." said Timmy. "It's the same dog."*

*A woman gets on a bus with her baby. The bus driver says, "That's the ugliest baby that I've ever seen. Ugh!" The woman goes to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming. She says to a man next to her, "The driver just insulted me!" The man says, "You go right up there and tell him off – go ahead, I'll hold your monkey for you."*

*A bank robber pulls out gun points it at the teller, and says, "Give me all the money or you're geography!" The puzzled teller replies, "Did you mean to say 'or you're history?'" The robber says, "Don't change the subject!"*

## Don't laugh too hard

### NARFE IS ON THE WEB

Chapter 1956: [www.narfecookevilletn.org](http://www.narfecookevilletn.org)

Tennessee Federation: [www.narfetn.org](http://www.narfetn.org)

NARFE Headquarters: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)