

ISSUE

66

November 2021

Tennessee Federation News

NEWS OF INTEREST
TO ACTIVE AND
RETIRED FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES



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NARFE Members:

Email pictures in jpeg form (with a short description and/or names) of your NARFE-related events or activities to the newsletter editor:

Linda Heaton at Lmheaton83@gmail.com

Deadline for the February 2022 issue is January 3, 2022.

Words and Thoughts to Ponder

As you probably know, NARFE-PAC is the political Action arm of our association that helps defend, protect, and advance the earned pay and benefits of our federal community (retirees, currently employed, and annuitants). This is done by giving to/helping to fund campaigns of "Fed-friendly" congressional (Senate and Representative) candidates. Source: www.narfe.org website. NARFE-PAC Defend Your Benefits Protect Public Service brochure.



B. J. Godwin

We are approaching the last quarter of 2021, which means that we are only a few months away from an election year. NARFE-PAC wants to head into 2022 with momentum so we can make a difference next November. Thank you to everyone who has raised funds for NARFE-PAC this year. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Please use every opportunity available to continue promoting NARFE-PAC so the PAC can finish the year off strong.

To bolster Fed-friendly candidates' chances of reelection, NARFE-PAC is supporting them early this cycle. While November 2022 may seem far away, strong fundraising by NARFE allies at this point in the campaign cycle can provide them with a head start and ward off significant challengers.

After the close of the third quarter, a flurry of information will come from incumbents and challengers, including fundraising totals, candidacy announcements and congressional retirements. It's around this time of the

Continued on page 5.

NARFE-PAC
Your donations are needed!

Send to: NARFE-PAC
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ATT: Budget & Finance
606 Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

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A Farewell to TN Membership



Timothy J. Powers

My wife Jane and I have decided to move closer to our daughter's family. They live in Okemah, Oklahoma. They settled there after our son-in-law Brett graduated from chiropractor school 20 years ago. My daughter grew up with horses and Brett has been a cowboy since he was 11 years old. He was a high school rodeo champ in Illinois and attended UT-Martin on a rodeo scholarship. They wanted to be near the horse culture and Oklahoma was their choice. They have an established chiropractic practice on people and horses and are not able to move to Tennessee to be near us. Therefore, we are moving close to them and our six-year-old granddaughter.

I have served as Federation secretary since the last in-person annual meeting which was held in Chattanooga. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve the TN Federation membership and we will miss our NARFE friends.

I am resigning effective October 1. However, I am not leaving the Federation shorthanded. I have asked a fellow member of the Clarksville Chapter to consider being the new secretary and she has agreed. Her name is Karen

Kopp-Voshel. Karen lives just north of Clarksville in Herndon, Kentucky. I worked with Karen for many years at Fort Campbell. She is a talented and motivated person who has served in many civic and professional organizations through the years.

- Timothy J. Powers
Former Federation Secretary
tim.j.powers@gmail.com

Editorial Comment:

Join me in wishing Tim and his wife Jane, a safe and easy move to their new home in Oklahoma. May you welcome and embrace this new chapter in your lives knowing you will be fondly remembered in Tennessee. Thank you for the many contributions to NARFE and the Tennessee Federation. . . you will be missed! LMH

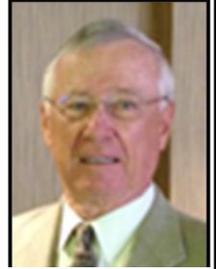
**Mark your calendar:
April 18 – 19, 2022**

**Tennessee Federation Annual
Meeting**

Location: TBA

Tennessee Federation NARFE 2021 Financial Report

– Norris Alderson
Treasurer
1444 Bernard Way
Franklin, TN 37067
615-435-3202
nalderson@comcast.net



January 3, 2021 - September 30, 2021

Beginning Balance -	Checking account 1/1/2021		\$ 16, 826.99
REVENUES	National Dues Rebate (10% fund)	\$ 6,040.35	
	Total Revenue:	\$ 6,040.35	
LESS EXPENSES:	Vouchers – Officers Expenses	\$ 1,850.00	
	Newsletter	\$ 2,019.20	
	Liability Insurance	\$ 100.00	
	Total Disbursed:	\$ 3,969.20	
9/30/2021	Balance:		\$ 18,898.14
	Suntrust Balance 9/30/2021		\$ 19,048.14
	Check No. 1256 (\$150) outstanding		
	Suntrust Bank Money Market		\$ 10,040.88
	Suntrust Bank CDs		\$ 15,341.35
	Total Assets:		\$ 44,280.37

Membership Chair Report



Rhonda Mooney

There are some encouraging trends in our membership numbers. Even though our membership is still declining, the decline seems to be slowing for the first time in a long time!

At the time I prepared this article the most recent information I had regarding our membership gains and losses was for the 2nd quarter of 2021. We had a larger number of membership gains (which includes new members and reinstatements) in the 2nd quarter than we did in the first quarter. Also good news is that we had fewer losses in the 2nd quarter than in the 1st quarter. Total NARFE membership at the end of August was 160,477.

As a reminder, the **NARFE Annual Fall Membership Drive** continues through December 31. Current members will receive \$10 for each new member they recruit who joins between September 1 and December 31. (Applications must be postmarked, and/or telephone calls or website joins must be received no later than December 31.)

Also, recruiters will be entered into a drawing, one time for each new member they have recruited. The grand prize is a Kindle Fire. In addition, each month a name will be selected from the pool of recruiters for a \$25 Amazon.com gift card. **Don't Forget Your Recruiter ID (NARFE Membership ID #, which can be found on the label of your NARFE Magazine).** Credit for recruitment can be given only if the ID number of the recruiting member is provided upon joining. Please refer to the NARFE website (www.narfe.org) for additional information on the membership drive.

I hope everyone is enjoying the fall weather and staying healthy and safe!

-- Rhonda Mooney
Federation Membership Chair
351 US Hwy 45 W
Humboldt, TN 38345-8506

Tennessee Federation Stats

At this writing the following statistics were found on the NARFE Headquarters' website:

National only members:	1,039
Chapter members:	871
Total:	1,910 (as of 10/12/2021)

Number of active Chapters 18

(Chapter 0204 Knoxville is in the process of closing)

A Warm Welcome to New Federation Secretary

I volunteered to take over the TN Federation Secretary position from Tim Powers in September. Tim and his wife Jane have moved to Oklahoma to spend more time with family. I had already agreed to take on the Chapter Secretary position so didn't think it would be much more work. After spending several hours on the national and state websites, I feel like I have a much better understanding of both positions. This will certainly keep me busy!



Karen Kopp-Voshel

My federal career was spent with the Public Works at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, home of the 101st Airborne Division. I started as a mechanical design engineer, then went into other areas of facility maintenance such as utilities, environmental, sustainability, energy conservation, and management. Since I started as a co-op in college, I had over 36 years when I retired at the fairly young age of 55.

On a personal level, I have lived in western Kentucky all my adult life. Since my dad was in the Air Force, I did my traveling as a kid. I joined the Jaycees and am a life-time member (i.e. Senator) still helping my local chapter. I married later in life to a fellow Senator from Michigan (beautiful state which I have grown to love). We traveled through our marriage with the Senate organization, so I enjoyed seeing much of the USA. Alas, we only had three years to travel after I retired when I lost him to cancer. I still stay busy with my home, yard, Jaycees/Senate, family/friends, and my 82 year-old mother.

I look forward to helping NARFE support retirees, federal employees, and family members.

**Welcome Karen!
And thank you for volunteering
to serve as Federation Secretary. We
look forward to working with you in
this capacity. LMH**

-- Karen Kopp-Voshel
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Words and Thoughts. . . . continued from page 1.

campaign cycle that serious challengers decide whether to enter race. A large war chest is a significant obstacle for would-be challengers to consider. NARFE-PAC *needs the support of NARFE members to make this effort a success.* Please continue to contribute and to encourage your fellow members to contribute so that the PAC has the funds to support our allies early on in their races."

Source: NARFE Advocacy NARFE-PAC Newsletter, September 23, 2021; p. 1 and 2.

-- Billy J. (B.J.) Godwin
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A Word or Two from Your Editor

Glancing at the calendar, reminds me it was about this time last year when I was approached, by Past Federation President Wayne Baker, to serve as your Federation Newsletter Editor. This issue is the third I have prepared and sent. Little did I know at that time the many obstacles ahead!

Even though I have had experience in preparing newsletters (during my professional years and for Chapter 097 in KY for many years), each distinct newsletter has its individual challenges and “quirks”! Likewise, following a very experienced editor/newsletter preparer who did a fabulous job and had her own technique, also has its challenges. And as we all know, technology including machines, software and the like continues to evolve and change especially from person-to-person. *My thanks to you, the TN Federation membership, for your patience this past year as I have tried to “learn the ropes”!*

Linda Heaton

With the above being said, I also need your HELP!

My source of mailing addresses and email addresses for the sending of the newsletter is the data base provided by NARFE Headquarters. However, a sizable number of individuals are NOT receiving a newsletter because their address (email and/or postal) is incorrect or been discontinued! **In July, well over 65 “cannot be delivered” email notices were received** following the sending of the second quarter’s **TN Federation Newsletter**. Now, this is how you can help!

- 1) When you move/change residences, **PLEASE** change your postal mailing address with NARFE Headquarters—this will take only a few minutes of your time to give them a quick call (1-800-456-8410, press 1). You can also notify them by letter, but this takes much longer!
- 2) If you have an email address, **PLEASE** use it. AND, make sure you give it to and/or provide that address to NARFE Headquarters. This saves the Federation money in printing and postage. (AND this does not contribute to excess email propaganda!)
- 3) When your email address changes, **PLEASE** call and/or notify NARFE Headquarters (1-800-456-8410, press 1) of that change.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, please remind/ask your members to update their email addresses when and/or if they are changed. And, if you identify a member who IS NOT getting this newsletter, ask them to call NARFE Headquarters (1-800-456-8410, press 1) and check on their postal address and email address. **Thanks again for your help!**

-- Linda M. Heaton
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This and That

Did You Know . . .

- There is a new federal holiday...**Juneteenth!** President Joe Biden signed the official “Juneteenth National Independence Day Act” into law this past June 17th. Juneteenth (June 19) commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. Look for it on calendars in the near future—because the 2022 NARFE calendar had already been distributed, it will not appear as a federal holiday until 2023.
Source: **NARFE Insider** September/October 2021; p. 4.

- NARFE recently announced that the NARFE Alzheimer’s Research Fund has reached its donations goal of \$14 million. Having partnered with the Alzheimer’s Association for many years now, NARFE specifically supports research into the causes, preventions, detection, and effective treatment of Alzheimer’s as well as other types of dementia. An anonymous donation pushed the fund over the mark. ***Congratulations to all of you who contribute to this cause. [Just learned that donation came from a Region X donor!]***
Source: **NARFE NewsLine**, October 12, 2021, “NARFE Alzheimer’s Fund Tops \$14 Million”.

- “The average federal pension is quite modest.” According to the Office of Personnel Management’s data (June 2015), “the median pension for retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) was less than \$3,000 a month in fiscal year 2014. For employees hired after 1986 and in the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS), the median monthly pension was less than \$1,000.”
Source: **NARFE Issues Brief**, “The Federal Community Myth vs. Reality” p. 2.

- Your membership in NARFE has a LOT of personal perks for you and your family ... 28 and growing! They include products, moving services, pre-planning, insurance, travel and transportation. Learn more by visiting the website: www.narfe.org/memberperks and/or checking the back pages of your monthly NARFE Magazine.
Source: **NARFE Magazine**, October 2021; p. 58 – 59.

- “Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) annuities and Social Security benefits will increase 5.9 percent in 2022 as a result of the cost-of-living (COLA) adjustment. Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) annuities will receive a 4.9 percent COLA increase. Look for these increases in your January 2022 payments.”
Source: Website: www.narfe.org ; **NARFE Federal Benefits Institute**, “COLA Update”, p. 1.

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HEADS UP

Federal Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season is

November 8 – December 13, 2021

<h1 style="margin: 0;">Region X Update</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Fall 2021</h2>

I hope this Region X Update finds all our NARFE members doing well and preparing for the cooler weather that is on the way during the fall of the year. The October issue of the NARFE magazine contains some very important information on the Voting and Ballot season that will start upon receipt of the magazine. Please review the information in the publication especially since we will be doing a lot of things that will affect NARFE for the 2023 -2024 terms. I will highlight some of the things we should consider.

In Tennessee, as of October 1, Chapter membership breaks down as follows:

- 6 Chapter Less Than 25 Members
- 5 Chapters With 25 - 50 Members
- 5 Chapters With 50 - 100 Members
- 2 Chapters With 100 150 Members
- 0 Chapters With 150-250 Members
- 0 Chapters Greater Than 250 Members

- Largest Chapter in Tennessee: Nashville Chapter 227
- Smallest Chapters (3) in Tennessee Eugene F. Roberts-Athens Chapter 152
 Sevier County Chapter 1678
 Giles County Chapter 2075

NARFE-PAC: While November 2022 may seem far away, strong fundraising by NARFE members help us to build strong relationships on Capitol Hill, which is a key component to winning legislative fights. Here is an update, with the latest information available, on the success in the Tennessee Federation, comparing efforts during the 116th Congress (2018-2020) to partial efforts during the 117th Congress (January – March 2021).

	Chapter Members	
	Ending 12/31/2020	Ending 3/31/2021
Contributors	187	66
Donations	\$12,408.00	\$2,369.00
Average Donation	\$66.35	\$35.89

	National-Only Members	
	Ending 12/31/2020	Ending 3/31/2021
Contributors	207	158
Donations	\$12,606.00	\$6,142.00
Average Donation	\$60.90	\$38.87

National Voting & Elections

VOTING: The actual voting will be conducted during the month of August 2022. The past voting totals have been poor. During the last two voting cycles, only 13,000 NARFE members exercised their right to vote out of a total of 180,000 ballots sent out via mail and email. We must take the time to vote and make sure that our voices are heard loud and clear. The low voting totals are about the same in the Chapter and National category.

BYLAWS: We will also be voting on changes to the National Bylaws through the amendment process. This is the ideal time to send in the changes that you want through your Chapter and Federation. This will ensure that the necessary changes are made to keep the Bylaws up to date. Keeping the Bylaws updated will enable the organization to remove outdated information from the Bylaws and insert updated information to increase efficiency in decision making at the national level. Information on the process of submitting amendments from the Tennessee Federation is elsewhere in this newsletter.

VOTING FOR NATIONAL OFFICERS: Voting will also take place in 2022 for National President, National Secretary Treasurer, and the ten (10) Regional Vice President positions. Please make sure to do your homework and familiarize yourself with the information submitted by the candidates. If you fail to vote or vote without any knowledge of the people who are running for office, please do not complain if you have not done your due diligence in voting for your preferred candidate.

I know I am preaching to the choir since most of our members who read the newsletters, bulletins, correspondence, and attend meetings are more likely to vote than the members who do not attend meetings. Please talk to and encourage the members who do not participate and stress the importance of voting. Mark the calendar and vote in the 2022 elections. It is very important and will chart the course of NARFE for the next two (2) years.

Until next time, please stay safe and if you have not received your COVID vaccine, please get it as soon as possible. There is no reason to die over such a simple matter.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Our duty to serve federal employees and retirees and be a resource for the broader federal community remains the same today as it was before the COVID-19 pandemic. Your patience in dealing with the office closure and understanding of headquarters limited remote abilities was greatly appreciated.

In the 18 months since NARFE Headquarters first closed, the staff has provided many valuable products and services to NARFE's members. The Headquarters staff dedication to NARFE has been inspirational. Remember, all that we do is made possible by you. Thank you for your membership, for your leadership, and for everything you do that helps NARFE be a better organization.

All NARFE members have the potential to make a difference and can contribute to the overall growth and success of NARFE. Your involvement and participation are an absolute necessity.

What's On Your Mind?? I welcome your ideas. After all, the future of NARFE is in our hands. Send me an e-mail with your thoughts or concerns to RVP10@narfe.org

*-- William (Bill) Shackelford
Regional X Vice President
606 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1914*

Tennessee Federation

Election Information

As you may recall, at our Federation Convention in April 2018 a resolution to revise our Federation Bylaws to implement **One Member One Vote** (OMOV) and **Optional Chapter Membership** (OCM) was approved. This necessitated changes in our Federation voting procedures.

Under OMOV each member has a vote and we no longer have delegates and proxies. **Federation voting guidelines** are in our Policy Manual and additional information is in the Federation Bylaws; both of these documents are posted on the narfetn.org website under the "Library" tab.

The Federation elective offices of *President, East Tennessee Vice President, Middle Tennessee Vice President, West Tennessee Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Legislative Chair, and Membership Chair* are open for nomination.

If you are interested in running for one of these offices or would like to recommend someone (with their consent), please contact any member of the Federation Board. **Nominations must be received by December 21, 2021.**

Any member of the Tennessee Federation can submit a resolution. **All resolutions must be submitted to and received by Federation Secretary Karen Kopp by December 1, 2021.** Her address is listed on page 2 of this newsletter and again at the end of the article introducing her to the Federation (page 5).

Please start making plans now to attend our **2022 Annual Meeting on April 18 and 19.** It has not been determined at this time if the meeting will be in person or virtual, but please go ahead and save the dates!

Work Sheet

President: _____

East TN VP: _____

Middle TN VP: _____

West TN VP: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Legislative Chair: _____

Membership Chair: _____



Obituaries

In Memoriam: Carey Frazier

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Carey Frazier, a former TN Federation President, and a long-time member of NARFE Chapter 227 (Nashville). He passed away at his home in Franklin, TN on Friday, October 15, 2021, due to complications from pneumonia.

Carey, born in 1936, was a native Tennessean and grew up on a 100-acre farm approximately 15 miles southwest of downtown Nashville. Carey graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1963. After graduation he worked as a lawyer for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) until his retirement in October 1996. While he began his federal career at the IRS office in Nashville, he served the IRS in Tampa Bay and Memphis before re-locating back to Nashville in 1969. After retiring from federal service, Carey operated his own practice, providing estate planning and tax services to individual clients.

Carey was an incredibly dedicated member of Chapter 227, and his passing is a big loss for both his chapter and NARFE in general. Carey joined NARFE in 1993 and served in various Chapter leadership positions. He also served as Federation Vice President for Middle TN (2006-2008), Federation President (2008-2010), and as Immediate Past Federation President (2010-2012). He was honored as a Distinguished Member of NARFE in October 2017. He will be missed so very much. Michael Mellish, Chapter 0227
President

In Memoriam: Larry Minniear

NARFE suffered a tremendous loss with the death of Larry Minniear, a dedicated and active NARFE member who served as TN Federation President in 2015 - 2017. Larry passed away in Chattanooga TN on February 6, 2020. He had requested that upon his death his body be donated to science. His wife, Janet, saw that his wishes were carried out by donating his body to Genesis Legacy Whole Body Donation Foundation.

Larry was born in Illinois in 1951, and received a BS degree from Point Park University in Pittsburgh PA. He began his federal career with the VA Hospital and then worked over 30 years for the U S Postal Service retiring in 2002. After retirement, he held several part time jobs and was a member of various organizations and clubs. He enjoyed being around people and was usually working more than one part time job at any given time.

Larry joined NARFE in 2007 and was an active member of Chattanooga Chapter 108. He chaired the Annual Meeting Planning Committee when the Chattanooga Chapter hosted a successful 2019 Tennessee Federation Annual Meeting. In addition to serving as Federation President, Larry held several other Federation officer positions including East TN Vice President, Federation Legislative Chair, Federation State Legislative Chair, Federation NARFE-PAC Chair, and Federation Area Officer 5. While attending the 2019 NARFE Legislative Conference, he was able to schedule and meet with eight of our nine Tennessee Congressmen and both our U S Senators—an outstanding accomplishment since the Conference attendees were only on Capitol Hill one day. Larry was holding four Federation positions at the time of his death - Legislative Chair, State Legislative Chair, NARFE-PAC Chair and Area Officer 5.

Larry is greatly missed by all who knew him. He will be remembered for his knowledge of NARFE issues and his willingness to help when and where needed. Rhonda Mooney, Federation Membership Chairperson



Linda M. Heaton
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