

ISSUE

63

February
2021

Tennessee Federation News

NEWS OF
INTEREST TO
ACTIVE AND
RETIRED FEDERAL



In this Issue:

President.....Page 1 & 2

How to Zoom.....Page 3

Vice President....Page 4

Treasurer.....Page 5

Membership.....Page 6

Network
Coordinator.....Page 7

Newsletter
Editor.....Page 7

Picture.....Page 4

NARFE Members:

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

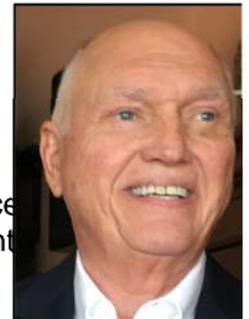
Linda Heaton at
Lmheaton83@gmail.com

Deadline for the July 2021
issue is June 1, 2021

ZOOM...

Greetings, here we are in 2021!

Best wishes to you all in this New Year. I think we can agree that 2020 was a unique year for our life thus far and maybe forever. I never imagined our nation would or could experience the total disrespect for our Constitution, system of government and way of life in our great country. The lawlessness and destruction, encouraged and permitted in some quarter was and is not something we should accept.



A. Wayne Baker

Then COVID-19 came along and here we are. Unbelievable! It was personal for me. September 19 is my birthday. My family planned a get together at my house in the afternoon. My son was on a church mission in Kentucky along with nine other church men. On my birthday he called to say he was on his way home and would be at the party. I was pleased. We had a great time together. We all hugged each other before they left my house. Two days later my son called to say he had COVID-19. So did the other nine men that accompanied him to Kentucky. One man's Dad contracted COVID-19 and died. My lady friend and I dodged a bullet on that one. My grandson and his family did not contract it either. My daughter-in-law also got it from taking care of my son. They are both fine now. Lingering effects are the continuing loss of taste and smell. I could tell you more stories of "my" 2020 year that cost me considerable expense and stress. But, those stories are for another time and maybe another forum.

2020 "Zoomed" by. It seems that each year is in a hurry and zooms by leaving me wondering what day and month it is. You noted by now I am using the word "zoom" a lot. Well, our **ANNUAL MEETING** is scheduled for **April 21, 2021** via **Zoom**. I am including instructions on how to download and join a ZOOM meeting. You can disregard the part about setting up a meeting. Bill Shackelford, our Region X VP has graciously agreed to host our meeting. Bill and I will moderate the meeting. This is the time when we elect our Federation Officers for the coming year. Last summer I appointed a Nominating Committee to seek out members who would be willing to serve as one of our three VPs, or as a Legislative Chair. This committee was chaired by Larry Cunningham, #0204, assisted by Danny

(Continued on Page 2)

Tennessee Federation Officers

President

A. Wayne Baker
4321 Beechwood Road
Knoxville, TN 37920-6013
865-406-7868
big97@comcast.net

Vice-President

Billy J. (BJ) Godwin
111 Cherokee Drive
Jackson, TN 38301-3558
731-425-9348
bjgodwin2001@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Norris Alderson
1444 Bernard Way
Franklin, TN 37067
615-435-3202
nalderson@narfetn.org

Secretary

Timothy J. Powers
619 Idlewood Drive
Clarksville, TN 37043-6024
931-449-0981
tim.j.powers@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Rhonda Mooney
351 US Hwy 45 W
Humboldt, TN 38343-8506
731-267-2336 cell
rmooney@narfetn.org

Network Coordinator

Ronnie Collins
118 Ballenger Road
Carthage, TN 37030-2981
615-735-2486 home
615-489-7796 cell
rcollins@narfetn.org

Newsletter Editor

Linda Heaton
11526 Fincastle Ln
Knoxville, TN 37934-3961
Lmheaton83@gmail.com
859-221-8057

The Prez Says ... (Continued from Page 1)

Britt, #1860, Carey Frazier, #0227, Jerry McDuffie, #0519, and B. J. Godwin, #0519. Larry informed me on 12/28/2020 that his committee was unable to recruit any candidates for vacancies on our Federation Board. Therefore, barring any members volunteering to accept one of these vacant positions, we will operate with a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chairperson. Fortunately, Tim Powers, our Secretary; Norris Alderson, our Treasurer; and Rhonda Mooney, Membership Chairperson, have agreed to serve another year.

The following positions, some elected and some appointed, are vacant now, and for the coming year unless we get some members to step up:

**First Vice President Second VP
Third Vice President**

Alzheimer's Chairperson – (Mike Gates will serve until we can get a permanent chair)

**NARFE-PAC Chairperson
State Legislative Chairperson
Legislative Chairperson
Public Relations Chairperson
Service Officer
Special Projects Officer**

***** I would really appreciate each of you letting me know if you plan to participate in our Virtual Annual Meeting on 4/21/2021.**

My email is big97@comcast.net.

It has been apparent to me for some time the Tennessee Federation needs to change to better serve our membership. Our chronic declining membership, aging members, and lack of new younger members makes change mandatory. Technology plays such a major role in our lives anymore! It seems Zoom meetings are the new norm. NARFE HQ is

restricting face-to-face gatherings. Federations are doing the same. I am not discounting the impact of COVID-19. I think once everything shakes out we will see this is the new norm. HQ, in view of declining revenue will see how much money is saved will stay with online meetings. We should do the same. Believe me that's not what I want, but what I see happening.

Some of you already know I advocate changing our Federation to a National Only Member Federation. This is the future.

We, as all other Federations, have rapidly declining memberships, limited number of new younger members, aging membership unable to fill vacant officer positions. I may point out another reason we are having a Virtual Annual Meeting is because we couldn't find a chapter willing to host the meeting.

Before I conclude I want to express a big thank you to Linda Heaton for stepping up to be our Newsletter Editor. She is already doing an outstanding job getting us set up to start our Newsletter again. We will publish a newsletter in February (which you are reading now), again in July and November. Also, my many thanks to Norris Alderson, our Treasurer; Tim Powers, our Secretary; and Rhonda Mooney, our Membership Chair; and last but not least, B. J. Godwin our Vice President. Stay Safe!

-- A. Wayne Baker
President
4321 Beechwood Road
Knoxville, TN 37920-6013
865-406-7868
big97@comcast.net

How to do a ZOOM Meeting !

To download the ZOOM app and join a meeting:

- Using a laptop or desktop will probably work better than a smart phone since the images will be small on these devices. An I-Pad or android tablet appears to work well too. When you start Zoom with one of these, you apparently have to tap the screen to get the menu to show.
- You will need a camera either built-in or attached to your computer (be sure to remove any tape you have over the lens).
- Go to the website “zoom.us” and click on the icon in the upper right titled “SIGN UP, IT’S FREE” or Facebook, but I just entered my personal e-mail where it asks for your work e-mail (Zoom was intended for business but it’s good for many uses).
- Follow the directions to download and install the app. You can apparently sign up with Google or Facebook but I entered my personal e-mail where it asks for work e-mail (Zoom was intended for business but it’s good for many uses).
- The writer of these instructions doesn’t remember all the steps after that since Zoom had already been downloaded, but you should get to steps that allow you to test the video and audio and put an icon on your desk top if you

want it. Zoom should at least be listed in your program’s menu.

- **To join a meeting**, start your Zoom app a few minutes before the meeting time, then click on JOIN MEETING and then copy and paste the meeting ID number given to you in the Invitation. You can join the meeting early (assuming whoever set up the meeting enabled that option). I’ve joined 10 minutes early with no problem. Alternately, you can go to the URL given in the meeting info message. (if you have not downloaded the Zoom app, this URL will require you to do so).
- If you join the meeting and you don’t see all the participants, move your cursor to the upper right and click on enabling seeing everybody (don’t remember the exact wording). Be sure to have your microphone and audio enabled (you will see symbols of these on your screen).

To set up a meeting:

- Start the Zoom app and sign in.
- Click on “Schedule” in lower left and just fill out the form that appears. Note that the free version only allows a meeting length of 40 minutes if there are more than two participants, but you can schedule back-to-back meetings.
- Click on “Advanced Options” at the bottom and click “Enable join before host”.
- At some point, you may get a screen giving you an option of using Outlook or other email apps. You may get an error message if you don’t choose one of those options. If so, just ignore the error message.
- Once the meeting is scheduled, click on the “Meetings” menu at top of Zoom app.
- Choose the meeting scheduled and click on “Show meeting invitation”.

--- A. Wayne Baker

NARFE-PAC

**Your donations are
needed!**

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

Words from the VP

With the beginning of the New Year, I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to those who have been entrusted with providing the leadership for our organization. This year has been challenging in many ways, and I am grateful for each of you who has stepped forward at this time. I do not take your service for granted. B. J. Godwin



B. J. Godwin

We have experienced successes, losses, and a wide range of emotions, although 2020 has been difficult, it has also served to remind us of the things that are truly important. While this virus has kept us apart physically, the separation does not have control of our hearts and minds. Our love of our Federation and of one another has kept Chapters together for all these years and it continues still. Again, thank you to those who have a heart and mind to serve and contribute to our harmony, union, and growth.

IN MEMORIAM

We give thanks for those who made the transition, the contributions they made, and we are grateful that their legacy and lineage continues.

I challenge you to be leaders who will be able to be a positive force in the decisions made from the issues we will have to address, the voices we will have to lift, and the battles we will have to fight internally and externally.

As we go into the New Year let us remember the legacy of The National Active and Retired Employees Association (NARFE) is dedicated to protection and enhancing the earned pay, retirement and health care benefits of federal employees, retirees and their survivors. Founded in 1921, NARFE's legacy spans more than 90 years – working tirelessly in support of our members before...

As we go through these substantial and significant changes brought on by COVID-19 and other factors, we must keep in mind that there is nothing we can not accomplish if we work at it together. I wish for each of you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!!!



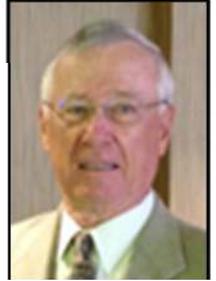
Annual Board Meeting. Left to right: Ed Evans, Larry Cunningham, Wayne Baker, Marilyn Evans, Norris Anderson, John Wells, Rhonda Mooney, Larry Minnear, James Glenn, Ronnie Collins, B.J. Godwin, William (Bill) Shackelford (Regional X VP).

-- Billy J. (B. J.) Godwin
Vice President
111 Cherokee Drive
Jackson, TN 38301-3558
725-425-9348
bjgodwin2001@yahoo.com

**Federation
Annual Meeting
via ZOOM
April 21, 2021**

Tennessee Federation NARFE 2020 Financial Report

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



January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020			
Beginning Balance -	Checking account 1/1/2020		\$22,125.47
REVENUES	National Dues Rebate (10% fund)	\$9,120.53	
	2019 Per Capita Dues (Chapter 156)	\$177.00	
	CD Maturing	\$8,105.06	
	Montgomery Bell Refund	\$261.80	
	Chapter 883 Closure	\$1,774.57	
	Total Revenue	\$19,438.96	
LESS EXPENSES:	Vouchers-Officers Expense	\$ 1,890.04	
	Newsletter	\$ 480.00	
	CD	\$ 8,000.00	
	ExecBoard Meeting Lodging	\$ 354.20	
	Membership	\$ 180.00	
	Web Page	\$ 90.00	
	Liability Insurance	\$ 100.00	
	Money Market	\$ 10,000.00	
	Closing Chap 78	\$ 442.84	
	Closing Chap 1382	\$ 3,200.36	
	Total Disbursed	\$ 24,737.44	
12/31/2020	Balance		\$16,826.99
	Suntrust Balance 12/31/2020		\$16,826.99
	Suntrust Bank Money Market		\$10,039.95
	Suntrust Bank CDs		\$15,321.29
	Total Assets		\$42,188.23



Rhonda Mooney

Membership Chair Report

I want to begin by saying a huge "Thank You" to Linda Heaton for stepping up to become our Federation Newsletter Editor. Communication is very important and we are

very fortunate that Linda has accepted this position --- and she has hit the ground running and is doing an excellent job.

Total NARFE membership as of December 31, 2020 was 171,434. Our membership numbers have been declining for the past several years but hopefully that will change soon.

Dave Bowman came on board at NARFE as Senior Director of Membership Development on March 23, 2020. He has an impressive background which includes being a missile crew commander and weapon system instructor in the Air Force, and after that managing the development and delivery of adult education programs for a couple of years. Since then, he has been in association management for almost 25 years, including 10 years as the Membership Director at the Society of American Florists. Most recently, he spent 11 years with a company that provides digital publishing and advertising sales services to more than 1,000 nonprofit trade associations and professional societies.

He and his staff are working hard to implement efforts in support of the Membership Strategy that was approved by the NARFE National Executive Board (NEB). I hope that we will see our numbers start to increase soon as a result of these efforts.

who joins NARFE as a new member. During NARFE's Annual Membership Drive - September 1 through December 31 - recruiters are paid \$10 for ANY new member (AFE, annuitant, spouse, or survivor annuitant) who joins NARFE. To receive the incentive, the recruiter's membership ID number must be included on the new member's application. Our Federation also sponsored a recruiting incentive from April 15, 2019 - December 31, 2019 and again from January 1 - December 31, 2020. During that time recruiters received \$20 for each member they recruited.

There are many advantages to being a NARFE member. For me personally, advocacy is A most important aspect of my membership. NARFE is the only organization that is solely dedicated to protecting and preserving the pay and benefits of all federal workers and retirees. There is strength in numbers and the more members we have, the more our voices will be heard on Capitol Hill as NARFE works to protect our benefits.

If you have any questions or if I can be of assistance in any way, please contact me. I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe.

-- Rhonda Mooney
Federation Membership Chair
rmooney@narfetn.org
731-267-2336

Federation Annual Meeting via Zoom: April 21, 2021

Advantages to Being A NARFE Member

- A lobby team dedicated to protecting and preserving pay and benefits.
- Service Officer to help spouse/family navigate member end-of-life formalities.
- Award-winning magazine with important info for federal workers/retirees.
- Multiple membership categories; low dues.

We Are on the Web

Nearly every business and organization these days have a website, this includes your NARFE Tennessee Federation. Our current website has been available since 2006 and it is a tool that you can use to stay informed about NARFE matters and news. Our web address is narfetn.org It would be good to set it as a favorite or bookmark it for quick reference. Note that with modern browsers, you do not need to type in the web address prefixes, http or www any longer.

There are several pages that you will find once you go there, the first page is the Home page. There you will find Federation information and recent news. Also, at the bottom is placed several links to other locations on the internet.

Among the other pages listed across the top are the Federation Officers which shows the names and contact information, TN Chapters which shows the list of chapters in Tennessee with contact information for the president of each chapter. Each Tennessee chapter has a separate page and I can add most any information that the chapter provides to their

page. On these pages, you will find some meeting details if I know them. Some of the chapter information may not be current. I ask the President to let me know what needs to be updated.

There is a page for Legislation and there you will find links to the US House and US Senate websites and details about our current legislative Members of Congress. Also, notice the Library page. There you will find years of archived *Tennessee Federation News* newsletters and a few helpful National and Federation documents. There is one more page of interest, that is the Annual Meeting News page.

Members can also find on our website direct lines to the NARFE national website as well as the NARFE Region X website. Each of these websites has its own information for each of us.

-- Ronnie Collins
Federation Network Coordinator
rcollins@narfetn.org
615-735-2486



Linda Heaton

Newsletter Editor Introduction

Greetings my fellow Tennessee NARFE members!

I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve NARFE and you in the role as TN Federation Newsletter Editor with your ongoing **help** and **support**. I have always considered myself a “native” Tennessean having lived most of my formative years in middle TN (Murfreesboro & Nashville); moved west after college to teach vocational Home Economics at Tiptonville. East TN came calling with a teaching assistantship opportunity at UT in Knoxville.

Upon completing a Master’s degree, the grass “appeared” greener on the other side of the fence as the saying goes, and I departed for a number of years. However, a piece of me always remained here.

My federal service career began in Lexington, KY, as a state Extension Specialist with the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. I, like many of you, joined our local NARFE chapter upon retirement and was quickly initiated and put to work. Join me in helping to keep NARFE strong.

-- Linda M. Heaton
Federation Newsletter Editor
859-221-8057 Lmheaton83