



# Kansas NARFE News From Your Federation Officers

December 2010 – February 2011



## Merry Christmas

*Area 5 and 6 Meet at Scott City*



Area 5 and 6 celebrate with Stockton for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Federation Officers Visit Shawnee Mission*



*The Christmas Season  
is the perfect time to  
renew ties with cherished family and friends.*

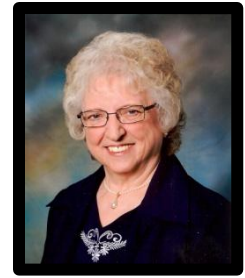
*We wish you a  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
overflowing with an abundance  
of Hope, Joy, Love,  
Peace and Prosperity!*



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## **President**

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Over the last couple of months I know many of you have felt the barrage of items that have been sent by e-mail trying to make certain you are aware, and asking you to forward those e-mails to your friends and chapter members, relating to the unprecedented assaults on all of our earned benefits.

We must remain vigilant to what is happening in Washington. Knowing what bills are being presented to Congress and knowing when to immediately send e-mails and to make telephone calls to our elected representatives. The Executive Board officers will attempt to keep abreast of all of these changes and notify you to get your responses off but don't depend on us. Watch the news as it comes out and immediately notify your members to go into action! If all of our members don't act on these challenges, we will not win!

Even though the Fiscal Commission Report did not gain the 14 votes needed to pass, that report will remain on every desk of our elected representatives and believe me, many of the carry-over Congressmen and Senators are just as ready to attack our benefits as the newly elected members. It's very troublesome that recommendation was made to Congress to cut federal civilian and military retirement benefits by \$70 billion dollars over the next 10 years. I have listened to several of the current Congressmen on the news state "it's too bad we have made promises we cannot keep – but that's how it is".

NARFE 2010 Scholarship Winners have been announced and I hope you all noticed in the December issue of the NARFE magazine that Kansas has two winners this year: **Ms. Jodie Skidmore**, Brigham Young University, granddaughter of Edward Skidmore, Chapter 366, Kaw Blue, Manhattan; and, **Ms. Ashley Leckliter**, Kansas State University, granddaughter of Thomas Leckliter, Chapter 1933, Tri-County, Herington, Kansas. Congratulations to both of these young women and to the proud grandparents. Each student was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Preparations are well underway for the 2011 Kansas Federation State Convention to be held in Junction City, at the Courtyard by Marriott, April 10-12, 2011. Convention material will be put in the mail soon to all Chapter Presidents and Chapter Secretaries. Please complete all of the forms as quickly as possible and make plans to attend the convention. We are promised to have a representative from Headquarters with us this year. That representative has not been chosen yet but again we will advise you as soon as the attendant is known. Richard Thissen, our Region V Vice President, will be in attendance and I know you always enjoy visiting with Richard. Be sure you ask persons you know, whether NARFE members or may be eligible members, to attend the convention with you. Ask them to register as guests and learn more about NARFE and what we do. This can be one of the greatest recruitment tools we have. Guests would pay all of the same costs as a regular member. They would not be able to vote but would be welcome to participate and attend all functions. Our convention does not have separate seating.

During the past few months, I have heard members (old and new) say too many times that they have tried to attend their chapter meeting and just didn't think the meeting was worth their time or they

were not made to feel welcome – all the members wanted to do was eat and visit with their group about family and what was happening in town. This type of meeting will not bring and keep the members who want to work for NARFE and who want to keep abreast of what NARFE is doing for them and what they need to do for NARFE! We have a lot of talent on the NARFE Executive Board that can assist you by being a program for your Chapter meeting. All you have to do is ask any of those board members to plan a date to attend your meeting! Send a newsletter to your chapter members telling them how they can get information from our Kansas NARFE website [www.ksnarfe.org](http://www.ksnarfe.org) and from the National website [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) Give them access to the Kansas Executive Board members e-mail and telephone numbers. We were elected to serve the members of the State of Kansas and wish to do so to the best of our ability. We do not have access and time where we can contact every member, however, any member with a question may contact us. We will do our very best to answer any questions.



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***1st Vice President / Public Relations***

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The last two months have been busy, busy, busy. I started by attending the Military Appreciation Day at Fort Riley on 15 October. We had a lot of interest and signed up one new member and the possibility of four others.

I, along with members of the Old Trooper Chapter 0383, presented information on the upcoming State convention to be held in Junction City on April 10-12, 2011. This is currently ongoing as decorations and plans have to be finalized.

I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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***2nd Vice President / Membership Chair***

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It's that time when the weather changes and there is a decidedly chilly nip in the air. During this time of the year the weather is not the only thing that changes; people begin to change their attitude about driving in bad weather and this directly affects the attendance at chapter meetings. Although the weather may be a little nasty, look at this as an excellent opportunity to bring new members to your chapter. Take the opportunity to call a prospective member and offer them a ride to the meeting.

This last quarter has been a busy one for me. I had the opportunity to travel to Kingman, and the surrounding areas that make up the Kingman 1939 chapter, to offer assistance with the troubled chapter. It was a very interesting undertaking to say the least. Although a little disappointing, since out of the hundreds of potential members we were only able to meet with a few. However, the outcome looks

good because we were able to recruit a couple of members that will make excellent chapter officers if they accept the challenge.

Richard Thissen, Region V Area Vice President, reports that membership continues to drop off in our region. For the period December 31, 2009, thru October 31, 2010, Kansas has lost 189 members. Of those lost, 102 have been dropped for non-renewal after their 2<sup>nd</sup> dues notification. This is where the chapter needs to be sure they are doing all that they can do to contact those members that are listed on the monthly Chapter Activity Report (M-112). I know we are all very busy but we need to be vigilant in maintaining our membership especially now during this period of political unrest.

As you all know, the dues increase will soon be effective. I'm sure there will be a number of members that will be reluctant to renew their membership. As I talk to active federal employees, I always point out that NARFE is the only organization that fights exclusively for Federal workers and retirees. Our country, especially the Federal Government, is under continued pressure to reform our spending. History shows us that when Congress is looking to "save" money (and face) the first place they look is in the direction of the Federal workers, both active and retired. We may have "earned" our benefits but we are not safe from being taken to the cleaners.

As you are aware, several changes are coming with the new Nation Board Members taking office in January. One of those changes will directly affect how members receive their dues renewal notification. Effective March 2011, any member having an e-mail address listed will no longer receive their dues notice renewal notification via United Postal Service (Mail). The National Secretary has established the following procedures:

- The first e-mail will go out in March 2011.
- If no response is received from the first notification, a second will be sent April 2011.
- If no response is received, then a third email will be sent May 2011.
- NO PAPER RENEWAL NOTICES WILL BE SENT TO ANYONE HAVING AN EMAIL LISTING.
- A NARFE magazine, with a special wrapper, this one paper (mailed) will be sent October 2011.

*I believe your first course of action*, in the chapters, is to get the latest printout of your M-114 report which can be obtained from [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) website. Check every e-mail address with your members to make certain it is accurate. If it is not, have them go into the website – place their cursor on “**membership**” on the left hand side of the home page – on the drop down menu, click on “**correct my own record**”. Get all e-mail corrections and any other corrections that should be made on file.

Happy Holidays and stay safe out there!!!



*Christmas, in its final essence, is for grown people who have forgotten what children know.*

*Christmas is for whoever is old enough to have denied the unquenchable spirit of man.*



**Secretary**

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During the past quarter, as part of my duties as Secretary, a letter was transmitted to all Chapter Secretaries, Chapter Presidents, and Executive Board Members that included copies of the F-7, "Chapter Officer Roster", that needs to be completed for new officers elected to serve for 2011. If at all possible, please mail a copy of the completed F-7 form to our President Carol Ek; your Area Vice-President; and myself by December 15<sup>th</sup>. A copy should also be sent to Headquarters or completed via the NARFE website.

This mailing also transmitted forms that chapters can utilize to submit requests for amendments to Kansas Federation bylaws (Forms 3A), or Convention Resolutions (Form 3C). Any proposed amendments must be received by me by January 1, 2011.

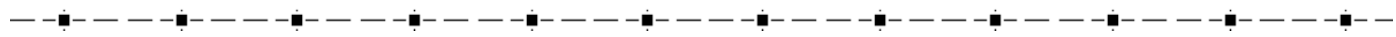
On November 17<sup>th</sup>, the minutes of the October 19<sup>th</sup> Federation Executive Board meeting were transmitted to all chapter Presidents and Secretaries with copies of the reports from all the Federation Officers and board members. Hopefully, you will read the information and share some of the valuable information with your chapter members.

I am now working on the "Federation Convention" packet that will be sent to all chapter Secretaries with a target date for mailing by December 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the convention registration information, the packet will include the Credential forms, as well as the following forms: Delegate Listing; Committee Assignment Form; Members Qualifying for Awards; and, Memorial Listing.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, I enjoyed attending the "Fall Festival" of the Buffalo Bill Chapter in Leavenworth. I enjoyed meeting members from this chapter, along with the delicious food, and was so impressed with the large number of people who attended this wonderful occasion. It was a great opportunity to observe the meeting of another chapter and see what makes this chapter so successful in drawing a larger number of people to their activities.

On Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Chapter Luncheon Meeting of the Sunflower Chapter 1160 in Kansas City, Kansas, along with President Carol Ek and Area Vice-President Judy Etter. I enjoyed having the opportunity to meet some of the members of this Chapter and the chance to hear the suggestions and ideas that were being discussed.

I also remain quite active in my own Chapter, Shawnee Mission 1162, and hope to share with my own chapter many of the good ideas that I have been able to see or hear during my term as Federation Secretary.



*I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year!*





**Treasurer**

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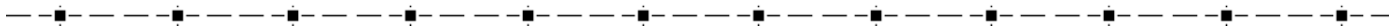
Edith and I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are looking forward to a great Happy Holiday season and a new year of hopes and dreams of accomplishments for our family of NARFE and our nation.

After Christmas I will be mailing out the Per Capita Statement to each chapter. If your Chapter President, Secretary and Treasurer has reviewed your chapter's semi-annual M-114 report and it is current; the November 30 M-110 report we get from National Headquarters should be accurate. I will be billing from that report. Prompt attention to this billing will be appreciated by all the Federation Officers dealing with this in preparation for the Federation Annual Convention.

At present our Federation finances are staying close to plan but with expenses of the National Convention and visiting troubled chapters we are a little on the short side.

Because the Executive Board voted to go to a quarterly newsletter, I need to start now to remind everyone of the Federation drawing held at the Annual Convention. Use the tickets enclosed with this newsletter for all the good sales people to make copies and sell-sell-sell (1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$250; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$100; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$50). Tickets must be sold to NARFE members only. We are committed to help two members of the Federation Executive Board with expenses to the Legislative Conference next spring and any profits from the drawing will certainly be a big help.

Hope many of you are planning to go to the Federation Convention next spring and Edith and I will see you in Junction City.



**Immediate Past President**

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This fall has been busy.

I attended the October 12 meeting of the Scott City Chapter 1996. Walt Germann, Federation Service Officer, presented a very good program.

I have attended the last two meetings of Great Bend Chapter 1709, my home chapter. Our program chair does a great job of obtaining very interesting programs every month. This is one of the strong points of the Great Bend Chapter.

October 15, I attended the Kingman Chapter 1939 recruiting meetings in Kingman, Anthony, Medicine Lodge, and Pratt.

October 19, I attended the Executive Board Meeting in Junction City. Hotel rooms are hard to find in Junction City because of the shortage of base housing on Ft. Riley. The Army houses the extra personnel in the area hotels.

October 20, I attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party of the Solomon Valley, Stockton Chapter 2085 which was focal point of the Area 5 training conference.

Then my wife, Carla, and I spent the rest of the week attending the wedding of our Granddaughter Melissa in Manhattan.

November 11, I attended the Great Bend Chapter program. The Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative gave us the new program for 2011. Our family rates for health insurance are only going up by \$30.00 per month next year. With no COLA again this year, this puts a hardship on many NARFE members. I thought that after the new Health Law was passed that we were going to have cheaper Health Care!

Keep working on membership! It is all important!

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***Area 1 Vice President***

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November was a very special month. First we had the election, then Veterans Day, and last of all Thanksgiving. No, I didn't mention all the sales and especially Black Friday! I left out the football games too! They are all important to many of us; but the main thing is to honor our Veterans, enjoy being with our families and say thank you to God for our many blessings.

I have several chapter meetings scheduled and hope to schedule some more. It is special to be with everyone.

Another reminder is to plan on visiting with your elected officials. How do they know how to represent you if you haven't let them know about things that are important to you?



***Area 1A Vice President***

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After a beautiful autumn, the weather forecast sounds like winter may be around the corner. I think I'd rather see autumn last a little longer.

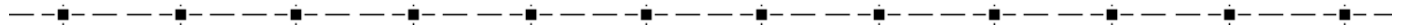
Since the September newsletter, I have been to the Doniphan County, Wathena, meeting for a second time and this week I installed to new officers of the Hiawatha chapter. On 12 November Carol Ek, Louise Lloyd, and I visited the Kansas City, Kansas, chapter and discussed the possibility of that chapter finding a new meeting place.

On 30 October, Cindy Renee` Blythe, Diane Hall (president of the Leavenworth chapter), and I manned a table at the Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort Leavenworth. We talked to many individuals who were active or retired Civil Service, in addition to being retired military. We explained NARFE's mission and told them the benefits of belonging to NARFE. We generated a lot of interest and hopefully we will get some positive feedback.

I also attended the Fall Festival, the Leavenworth chapter's November meeting. Others attending among the 100+ members enjoying the delicious meal and fun entertainment, included Carol Ek, Louise Lloyd, Flo Biehl, and Jim Miller. The Fall Festival replaces the Christmas party, which last year fell on a very snowy day that prevented many of us from attending.

Especially now, since we know what the report from the Fiscal Commission contains; it is so important to recruit new members and retain old members. For less than \$4.00 a month, we get an awesome magazine that keeps us informed on Federal issues and we get lobbyists in Congress. That's a very good return on our money. Tell others of the benefits. Invite nonmembers to accompany you to a meeting. Be active in recruiting.

I hope you all enjoyed a bountiful Thanksgiving and are blessed with a happy Hanukkah, joyous Christmas, merry Kwanzaa, and happy New Year.



**Area 2 Vice President / Kansas Federation Training Officer**

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Every month or so, each Federation Officer is asked to submit an article for the next Kansas NARFE Newsletter publication. "TIME" IS TAKEN BY THE Editor to organize all of the write ups and see that they are printed and submitted to every Chapter President, Secretary, and others not listed here. "My question is: "What Happens Next"? Is the publication D.O.A.? "DEAD ON ARRIVAL"? Are the articles of such poor quality that they go no further, or do we assume that every chapter member receives a copy? Every Chapter member **DOES NOT** receive a copy. Therefore, it is up to the Chapter Leadership which includes the Newsletter Editor to see that key information from the publication is made available to "Your Chapter Membership"; otherwise it is D.O.A (Dead-on-Arrival). **NOTE:** There are good articles in the Federation Newsletter so let's share them. If you have a chapter newsletter with adequate material, that is great.

Some Chapters say they do not have a newsletter editor, others say – there is nothing to write about. Both are excuses since there are good articles in each publication "PLUS" NARFE has

publications including the magazine “and” special publications that go to designated leadership in the chapter, articles, reports, etc., that can be selected, edited and designed to fit your chapter’s needs.

You have several options with the Federation Newsletter. The 1<sup>st</sup> is: have your chapter editor utilize articles that provide good information to your members, if you have the time discuss some of the major articles at chapter meeting; however again, the best place is to print it so that your members can take the time to read it at home. The chapter meeting can also be used to discuss some of the “major issues” that are or will be affecting the membership. Give your chapter members something for their buck and that is news! With all that is going on within NARFE, there are news items that need printing and reprinting.

*Woodrow Wilson said – “I not only use all the brains I have, but all I can borrow.”*

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**Area 2A Vice President**

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I attended a state conference a few days ago and visited with a Kansas Representative to the Kansas Legislator. He had been in office 12 years. He did not know about NARFE and he was not aware that federal retirees did not pay Kansas Income Tax on their annuity (**YES**, that was a REAL shock to me too). After a thirty minute conversation, he was brought up to speed. NOW, how many other State and Federal Legislatures have little or no knowledge what we are about???? Shame on all of us. We must talk to our Congress persons frequently. We really take things for granted, and that will cost us!!!

Congratulations to Fort Scott and Chanute chapters. They will each celebrate fifty (50) years as a NARFE chapter in 2011 as we ALL celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> year for NARFE.

I have visited all chapters in the area except Coffeyville. New member recruitment is very slow. Retired folks are easier than those working. I remember, I was like that too. But finally saw the importance of membership even if I didn’t get to many meetings. So, we cannot give up!

I have had good response from our Federal Congress persons about the issues and look forward to the new Congress and the New Year.

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*Dance as if no one were watching,  
Sing as if no one were listening,  
And live every day as if it were your last.*





**Area 3 Vice President / PAC (Political Action Committee)**

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This cool weather brings on the realization that fall has visited and we are in for some winter weather. The flocks of geese flying over brings back memories of the days of my youth. The farm was situated north of the North Platte river in western Nebraska. In the evening, huge flocks of ducks and geese would get up from the river and fly out to feed in the corn fields.

The NARFE chapters of Area 3 all have had some chapter meetings leading up to the ending of the 2010 year. Of those I have had the privilege of attending, it has been a pleasure to see our combined efforts to maintain our place in the areas of being a part of the Federal workforce. It is commendable to note that two of the eight Chapters have Presidents who are part of the current workforce. We have a good number of current Federal employees who need to be contacted about protecting their employment and future by being a part of the active NARFE. We all need to become acquainted with our fellow federal workers and encourage them to join NARFE. We also need to take this job seriously. Time is running out on being able to offer the old dues rate of \$33.00 per year. But we need to make those prospective NARFE members aware that they can take immediate action to be able to join NARFE at a bargain rate. Then, keep in mind that even the new dues schedule is **still a bargain!** The protection that can be had by combined effort is well worth being an active NARFE member.

Barb Pretzer, National Alzheimer's Chair, presented an excellent program on Alzheimer's. Barb is a fantastic representative of the Alzheimer's effort being carried out by NARFE. Take advantage of Barb's enthusiasm and ask for her input in your chapter Programs. Our own Kansas Alzheimer's Chairperson, Janice Neuschafer, can also provide a great program for your members. Just ask her to help present a program or furnish news for your chapter.

Some of the Chapters have already elected their 2011 chapter officers. I have been asked, by some chapters, to install their 2011 chapter officers already. It is always a pleasure to attend the meetings.

We all have a great opportunity to expand our chapter member numbers. The first step is to **ask those people who you know** to become NARFE members. Then ask them again and again until they do become a member. Take the time to find out who is in your chapter area work force and ask them to join. A good number of currently employed persons do not realize that they have such a fine force to work for them. ASK and ASK!!

***Repeat the NARFE PAC Creed again and again: "of the donors, by the members, for the good of all members and survivors"!***

As Richard Thissen, Region V Vice President, pointed out – "the recent elections cost at least four (4) of our best NARFE supporters: Skelton (MO); Pomeroy (ND); Oberstar (MN); and Herseth-Sandin (SD)". We need to continue to build NARFE-PAC funds by continuing to make contributions to NARFE-PAC.

The most recent amount of NARFE-PAC contributions I mailed to National Headquarters is \$305 from eleven (11) Kansas NARFE members. Keep those contributions coming! We need to keep NARFE in the minds of those who can be of help to us.



**Area 4 Vice President**

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If we ever **NEEDED NARFE** that time is **NOW!** The elections are over and the ‘Lame Duck’ session of Congress is under way. The co-Chairs (Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson) of President Obama’s National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform have released a 50 page proposal that would reduce federal retiree health benefits and income security, freeze federal pay for three years, and reduce the federal workforce by 10%. This proposal was not approved with the 14 votes needed but it is still out there lying on every desk of the old and new administration. We have discussed these possibilities in the past but it always seemed like the ‘Big Bad Wolf’ tale, a bogeyman to scare us but not something that could really happen. Well friends, it may happen! I’m sure you have seen some of those reports about the **‘OVERPAID’** Federal Employees with their **‘OUTRAGEOUSLY GENEROUS BENEFITS’!!!** If you tell a lie often enough, people begin to believe it. All the years we served in Federal employment **EARNED** us those benefits. These are not handouts! Our income is fixed and even though the Government say the Cost of Living has not increased, our bills for food, gasoline, HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS, co-pays, etc. keep going up. NARFE needs to mobilize to tell **every Member of Congress** to oppose the Bowles-Simpson proposal. Go to your NARFE meetings. Talk to everyone you know that might be eligible to be a member of NARFE and invite them to join. We need as many members as is humanly possible to communicate with our legislators. One drop of water evaporates quickly but enough drops combined create a torrential flood. That is what we **NEED right now!** Write or call your Congressman and Senators and request they NOT support these recommendations. You can use NARFE’s toll free number **1-866-220-0044**, to reach the Capitol switchboard and ask for your Representative / Senators by name, or supply your ZIP Code. Once connected, the message is: **“I urge you to oppose recommendations of the Fiscal Commission Co-Chairs to cut my earned federal civilian retirement and health benefits, freeze federal pay and reduce the federal workforce by 10 percent.”** The person taking the calls does not interrogate or argue with constituent callers, they simply record the comments.

After the above negative report, I have something else to address. Every one of us is blessed beyond measure. We all have a warm dry place to live, food to eat, warm clothes to wear and friends that care about us. It is easy to fall into the trap of focusing on what we don’t have instead of being grateful for all we have. We just take so much of it for granted and overlook our countless blessings. We must take the time to cultivate a spirit of true Thanksgiving every day. I hope you had a very Happy Thanksgiving and have a Very Merry Christmas.

March 5-8, 2011, the NARFE Legislative Training Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. At least two of the Kansas Federation Board members are planning to attend. If you or anyone from your Chapter is planning to attend, please contact me. I will be coordinating our visits on Capitol Hill to meet with our legislators.

Thursday night (12/9/2010) it was announced that three Kansas lawmakers would be joining “A” committees in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

- Congressman elect Kevin Yoder (KS-03) was appointed to the House Appropriations Committee
- Congressman elect Mike Pompeo (KS-04) was appointed to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
- Congressman Lynn Jenkins (KS-02) was appointed to the House Ways and Means Committee

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### **Area 5 Vice President**

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Area V get-together hosted by Chapter 2085, Stockton, in celebration of the Chapter’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held October 20, 2010, in the City Hall, Stockton, Kansas. The celebration attendance included Region V Field Vice President Richard Thissen; Federation President Carol Ek; Past Federation President Robert Cranmer and his wife, Carla; Area Vice President Ron Katt and his wife, Karol; and fifteen (15) chapter members. This was an informative and fun fellowship celebration whereby members received a clearer understanding of why they need NARFE and NARFE needs them.

Federal employees and retirees appear to be the target of reduction. NARFE members need to use every opportunity available to remind legislative lawmakers that federal employees have earned their benefits.

With the holiday season upon us, let us give thanks for our blessings and look forward to the coming of a new year!

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### **Area 6 Vice President**



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***“If we are ever to enjoy life, now is the time, not tomorrow or next year. Today should always be our most wonderful day.”***

***Thomas Drier***

Thirty one degrees today; forecast for Sunday, seventy degrees. Winter trying to be here in Southwest Kansas.

Coming up:

- Form F-7, due to National Headquarters, Federation Secretary; Federation President; and Area Vice President with a copy for chapter records.

The F-7 form sent by Louise is to be mailed to her as the new form does not have the address or the e-mail address. It's easier for the Federation Secretary to have the old form for complete records. The new form, available at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), can be filled out on line, submitted to the National Headquarters and printed for your records. Be sure you fill out page 2 but do NOT check the box saying you want to receive paper printouts for your chapter if you do not wish to receive them. Effective January, 2011, chapters will be charged for paper printouts mailed. If there is any question about this, call me at 620-277-0027 or any Federation Officer.

- Per Capita: Federation Treasurer, Jerry Ketter, will be mailing chapter per capita bills in December or early January. Payment of these per-capita dues is to be made within 30 days. Per-capita is to be paid so your chapter can be represented with voting power at the Federation Convention.
- Distinguished Membership: Anyone in your Chapter who is 85 years old and who has been a member of NARFE for twenty years is eligible for the honor. Four members can be sent in on the form. Be sure and fill out the chapter information so that the certificates and pins can be mailed to the proper place.
- Remember, dues will be going up in 2011. New members signed up will pay \$45 with \$15 coming back to chapters. Current members will pay \$40 plus chapter dues. New forms will be made available for recruiting so be sure to go through your supply of flyers and pamphlets so your information will be up to date.
- The 2011 Federation Convention, in Junction City, is being planned now. The facility was toured by Executive Board members in October and some details were voted on. Mark April 20-12 on your calendars and plan to attend.
- In Area VI, Scott City Chapter 1996, voted to meet twice a year starting in 2011. New officers are desired for this chapter. Chapter 2086, Ulysses, meets quarterly. Dodge City, Chapter 1873, met during the summer this year and became a monthly chapter. Garden City, Chapter 1995, meeting September through May. Chapter 1709, Golden Plains, Great Bend meets September through May.

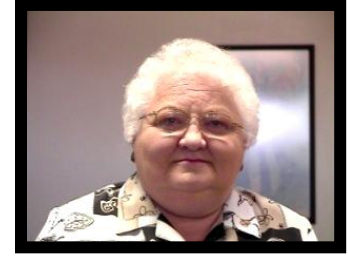
**Southwest Kansas** wishes you all Happy Holidays and forget the diet!



*Here's wishing you more happiness  
Than all words can tell,  
Not just alone for New Years Eve  
But for all the year as well!*

## **Alzheimer's Chairperson**

*Janice A. Neuschafer*  
908 Countryside Dr  
McPherson, KS 67460-2104  
Telephone: (620) 241-4232 E-mail: [janicen3@cox.net](mailto:janicen3@cox.net)



As of October 31, Kansas chapters have collected \$25,577.37 which averages \$5.49 per member. The 2010 goal is \$5.50 per member. Of this total, Memorial contributions amount to \$2,434.50.

Chapter 2098, Tri-River, Paola, held their annual Alzheimer's Auction in September which amounted to \$1,000. Chapter 366, Kaw-Blue, Manhattan, held a garage sale in October. Several members donated fifty-one (51) hours in preparation and working the garage sale with the proceeds of \$440.

For the third year, Linda and John Surritte, of Chapter 0378, Free State, Lawrence, have challenged their chapter members to matching funds for the months of August, September and October.

November 20, I received my first credit card contribution from a Kansas NARFE member with the coupon from the latest NARFE magazine.

It's not too early to begin thinking about the "Live" and "Silent" auctions at the Kansas Federation Convention being held April 10-12, 2011, in Junction City. Please start gathering your "new and Antique Quality" items. The convention committee has requested that all items contributed have an auction value of \$5.00 or more.

All personal and chapter checks submitted should be made out to "NARFE Alzheimer's Research". **Keep in Mind** – when you come to the auction, we **DO NOT** have capability to accept credit cards.

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### **State Legislative**



*James Miller*  
7220 SW Asbury Dr  
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Telephone: (785) 478-0651 E-mail: [snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net](mailto:snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net)

Ron Richey and I attended the entire final meeting of the Special Committee on Taxation on Friday, November 12.

I came away convinced of two facts:

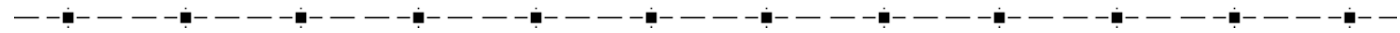
1. Before I plop these thin old "slats" on one of those extremely hard wooden chair seats, I'm gonna smuggle a cushion in to sit on!
2. Will Rogers or Mark Twain once made the comment "**IF ALL ECONOMISTS IN THE COUNTRY WERE LAID END TO END...IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING!**"

Ron Richey and I heard a multitude of figures based on assumptions followed by differing expressions of opinions. There were some positive thoughts expressed, and no one brought up the free ride “some” retirees have with their state income tax exemption. I have no idea what will be presented to the full Legislature when they convene on January 10, 2011, but the Chairman did ask the Post Audit Committee to conduct a study of states that **do not collect a state income tax.** Also mentioned in a handout was the request to enact a “Fair Tax” proposal such as that which is embodied in Missouri Senate Joint Resolution No. 29 (LCC Charge) (Are you reading this, Dick Thissen?)

There were some possible positives for NARFE members!

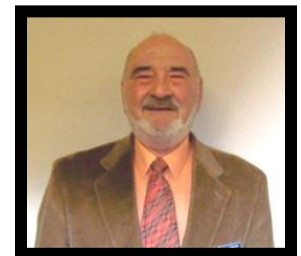
- (1) The sales tax increase narrowly voted in during the 2010 session resulted in increased revenues and the projections for 2012 are all improved.
- (2) That should lessen some of the pressures on, during the previous committee meetings, a organization, KPI, wants to phase out the individual income tax over a period of years and that is included for discussion. Back to the Chairman’s request, the states of Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas and Washington do not have personal income ax. The chairman wants a report on how do they do that? Kansas receives 43.8% of their operation revenue from Personal Income Tax, providing many questions. How would Kansas replace that massive amount of money? And with what?

On another bright side (some of us may need that after the election results?) two State organizations conducted studies on their own, on “overpaid and or over compensated retirees in government, city, state, federal. The studies were in response to the national editorials in the Wall Street Journal and USA Today, picked up by local newspapers including our own Topeka State Capitol Jayhawk Journal. (Whoops!) The new studies found that public employees were actually compensated **LOWER** than their public counterparts even after factoring in the fringe benefits. So, if you were feeling all those years of service were being flushed down the tube, take heart! We were appreciated! We knew the truth all along!



***Retirement Benefits (Service Officer)***

Walter (Walt) R. Germann  
409 W. Elm Street  
Junction City, KS 66441-3609  
Telephone: (785) 209-1938 E-mail: [jgermann1@cox.net](mailto:jgermann1@cox.net)



***Can I Sing For My Supper??????***

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my services to any Chapter who needs a program for their next chapter meeting! I am able to “sing for my breakfast, lunch or supper” and present a program on duties of the service officer.

This would also be a good time to invite all the federal retirees in your area to attend your meeting and discover some of the advantages of being NARFE members. Please give me a call at 785-209-1938 or send me an email at [jgermann1@cox.net](mailto:jgermann1@cox.net) and invite me to join you. I promise I will **NOT** sing!!!!



***NARFE Net / Historian***

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I have added several new links on the KSNARFE.org web site home page. For information on the latest medical open season click on item #12A for the OPM information and item #12B for the Medicare information.

At item #3A is the link to the home page of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility. At item #3B is a link to the commission's page of "You Tube" videos of the commission meetings. Most of the videos run a little over two hours in length.

Any Chapter or Federation information you wish to have posted on the web site to reduce cost of paper and postage can be put on the web site as long as it does not have any copyrighted information and is "non-partisan" in format.

**Please** check how your e-mail address is listed on the National NARFE website. If it is incorrect, please go to [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) on the home page left hand column – Membership. When you place your cursor on that, you will get a drop down listing where you can click on "change your records". Take that option and correct your listing in the NARFE website. That correction will come through to me where I will have an updated listing when I am ask to send a NARFE web message to Kansas members. If your e-mail address is **NOT** correct, I cannot get that message to you timely!

**And A Very Happy New Year To You!**



**We've Holidays and happy days,  
And memory days galore  
And when we've toasted every one,  
I offer just one more  
So let us lift our glasses high,  
And drink a silent toast  
To the day, deep buried in each heart  
And each one loves the most!**