



Kansas NARFE News From Your Federation Officers

June – August, 2010



Kansas Federation Officers - 2010/2011

Back Row: Area V Vice President, Ronald Katt; Immediate Past President, Robert Cranmer; Treasurer, Jerry Ketter; Area 3 Vice President, Donald Cooper; Area 6 Vice President, Brenda Myers; Area 2 Vice President, Gale Beck; Area 4 Vice President, Gary Townson; Region V Vice President, Richard Thissen **Front Row:** Area 2A Vice President, Gary Kilgore; Area 1A Vice President, Judy Etter; 2nd Vice President, Cindy Rene` Blythe; President, Carol Ek; 1st Vice President, Dixie Thomas; Secretary, Louise Lloyd; and Area 1 Vice President, Flo Biehl



*President Cranmer
"Calls to Convention to Order"*



President

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With pride and humbleness “Thank You” to all the members of the Kansas Federation who felt they could entrust the position of Federation President to my hands for the 2010-2011 year. With the dedicated members of your elected and appointed Executive Board, I promise to represent your special interests and be an active advocate for all active and retired employees.

The 2010 convention held in Topeka was truly a great success! Jim Miller and Maynard Cox, co-chairs, put their talents to use in gaining a beautiful setting and “great food” for the entire convention. I know if anyone went away hungry it was their fault. The menus for every meal, including the hot breakfast, were top of the line. A big “Thank You and Job Well Done” to everyone from Chapter 0002, Topeka.

On June 2nd and 3rd the Executive Board met in McPherson for training and to make plans for the 2010-2011 year. We have five (5) new members on the board: Dixie Thomas, Chapter 0383, Junction City, 1st Vice President; Louise Lloyd, Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission, Secretary; Judy Etter, Chapter 0621, Atchison, Area 1A Vice President; Gary Kilgore, Chapter 0799, Chanute, Area 2 Vice President; and, Gary Townson, Chapter 0138, Wichita, Area 4 Vice President. It’s difficult to see the past members go on to new endeavors; but these new members bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the programs we hope to carry out this year. Minutes of this meeting are posted on the Kansas website www.ksnarfe.org.

We do have eighteen (18) members from Kansas who are planning to attend the National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, at the end of August. Hopefully, with all of your help we will be carrying voting proxies for 100% of the chapters in Kansas. That can happen only if every Chapter President gets the C/10-2 signed and submitted to Secretary Louise Lloyd. We only have a few who are still outstanding so if you haven’t sent yours to Louise, now is the time! Those assigned as voting proxies will be contacting those chapters assigned to them for that chapter’s wishes on how that vote should be cast. Because of changes that occur at Convention before votes are taken, many chapters ask the proxy to listen carefully and use their best judgment when casting their vote. If you have something that your chapter members wish to have their vote cast “yes” or “no” on, make certain you tell whoever will be carrying your proxy. Your vote is important to you and all other members of NARFE.

Attend town hall meetings and listen to the representatives running for all State and National congressional offices and be certain to cast your “Vote” on August 3rd.

I apologize for the lateness of this newsletter issue. Several things have happened since the June EB meeting which have delayed getting it completed. I did take a three (3) week driving vacation to California with my cousin and sister-in-law to visit our kids and do some business that needed to be

done. Saw a lot of beautiful country, ate a lot of wonderful food, and had a wonderful time. Now it's time to get back to lend my hand in securing all of our futures.

This newsletter will now be issued only in March, June, September and December. This change was made at the June Executive Board Meeting.



1st

Vice President / Public Relations



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I hope all of you attended the State Convention. If not, by now you know what all was presented and what happened. Thanks to members of Chapter 0002, Topeka, for a job well done!

As your new State Public Relations Chair, I would like to get NARFE out to our current members and to prospective new members. One of the things I would like to do is to get our organization into the local newspapers. With the current economy, an ad in a newspaper is expensive even if you get matching funds from National Headquarters. But, there are a lot of "specialty" newspapers in our areas and I would like to contact them to see if we can put information about our chapters' meetings and current chapter events in their paper. Usually there are no costs associated with a news item.

As your new 1st Vice President and Public Relations Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about Chapter 0383, Old Trooper in Junction City. We have 264 members with approximately 100 attending our monthly meeting / luncheon. You would think we have enough members that we don't have to worry about running for office or volunteering. I just wish I could say that is true. But like other chapters, as well as the Federation, we have had the same people running for offices for several years. For example, our President for five (?) years; the same newsletter editor for eight (?) years, the same Alzheimer's worker for – I have no clue how long. And I must admit that sometimes we look forward to the end of our "reign". I'm sure you have the same in your chapter. Don't get me wrong, we LOVE these members. However, we would LOVE to get new members into the chapters and have new officers every few years or so to have different ideas and make new plans.

Hopefully, we can get our organization into some of these newspapers and maybe get new members. That would be GREAT!



2nd Vice President / Membership Chair

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Congratulations to Topeka Chapter 0002 for hosting a successful State Convention. There was a lot of hard work that went into planning the three (3) day event. One

measurement of a successful convention has to be the coordination of meetings and tasteful meals. From the size of the steaks served for the evening banquet, no one left hungry! Jim Miller and all the committee members deserve a pat on the back for a job “well done”.

Once again, the Alzheimer’s auction was a huge success. Although it looked like it ran like a well-oiled machine, I know Janice and her team of dedicated member/volunteers worked effortlessly to pull it all together. Of course this worthwhile endeavor could not be possible without the generosity of NARFE members throughout Kansas. We should all have a little spring to our step knowing that we have a small part in helping discover a cure or treatment for this horrible disease.

I want to thank the members of Kansas NARFE for reposing their trust in me for another year and reelecting me as 2nd Vice President. I hope to be able to attend more Chapter meetings/celebrations throughout the State this year. I have accepted the duties of Membership Chair for the upcoming year. As we all know and realize, sustaining members in our organization takes a concerted effort from each and every individual. Bringing new members into our Chapter is difficult. It takes planning, enthusiasm, and the belief that NARFE has something of value to offer our members. We all know that times are getting tough and families are looking at their budgets for ways to trim the fat. The first items cut fall under Discretionary Spending and magazine subscriptions, contributions and memberships usually get looked at first. Typically, people don’t consider giving up the daily Diet Coke or the 2 pack a day cigarette habit; instead they evaluate the value received vs the cost.

I have been doing some research on successful organizations like Toastmaster and Rotary Clubs to gather ideas that we can utilize to help with our membership situation. I would also like to hear from our members how we might continue to keep our members interested in continuing their association with NARFE. I’ll have more thought on that subject later, once I’ve gotten my feet wet!

The National Convention is scheduled to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 29 through September 2. I have tentative plans to attend this worthwhile conference. I’ll be looking to gather more ideas regarding member issues.

I’m looking forward to working with the new President, Carol Ek. Our organization has had the privilege of Carol’s expertise as Secretary for the last several years. We can all be certain that Carol will address the duties of presidency with the same professionalism and efficiency. As much as I look forward to working with Carol, I will miss working with Bob Cranmer and John Surritte. Since this was my first trek into the workings of the Executive Board, I couldn’t have asked for better guides than Bob and John. Each has a belief in the importance of the ideals of NARFE that comes across every time they speak to you.

I look forward to serving NARFE again this year and hope that you will call on me to assist with your Chapter needs.



Secretary

Louise Lloyd
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My name is Louise Lloyd, and I was elected as the Federation Secretary. As to my background, I am a member of the Shawnee Mission Chapter 1162 and serve as the Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Program Chair for our chapter. I have been retired since 2004 from the Federal Transit Administration and have been married for almost 34 years to my husband, Jerry, who is also retired. In my spare time I enjoy playing Bridge and Pickleball, but I am also active in several other organizations.

June has been a busy month for me having just begun to learn my duties as Federation Secretary. I attended a two day (June 2 and 3) Executive Board training seminar and the first Executive Board meeting for the year in McPherson along with all other Federation Board members. It was a very productive training session and meetings, lots of great information was shared.

I have just completed the process of writing, copying and mailing the minutes from the meeting to approximately 110 chapter presidents, secretaries, and executive board members detailing a number of decisions made during that meeting.

There are still a few forms C/10-2, "National Convention Registrations, to be sent to me for processing. Make certain that form is signed properly by either the President or the Secretary of your chapter. Other signatures **will not** be accepted. After all forms have been received, I will be working with the Federation President to assign the members who will be carrying your proxy. If you do not have a member attending the convention, the proxy holder should contact your chapter to discuss how your chapter wishes them to cast your vote.

All correspondence should be mailed to me as follows: Louise Lloyd, Kansas Federation Secretary, 11433 Rene, Lenexa, KS 66215-4843. To contact me with questions or update me on changes in your Chapter, you can e-mail me at llnarfe@yahoo.com or call me at 913-661-1720.



Treasurer

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I want to thank all the delegates of the 2010 Federation Convention that allowed me to serve as the Federation Treasurer for another year.

I'm embarrassed to tell you that I fell down on the job in one area at least. The Federation drawing did not do nearly as well this year as it did the year before. This year, we only cleared \$412 and last year cleared over \$600. I checked back in the Kansas NARFE news and noticed that Madelyn Brown was advertising the drawing in December. Clearly we need to start early and I plan to do that next year. At the recent meeting of the Federation Executive Board we decided to continue to have the drawing. I ask each board member to help make next year's drawing a success.

I continue to get reports from chapters where the offices of Secretary and Treasurer are not combined that the Treasurer does not get to see the Kansas NARFE News. I hope that each President and Secretary will share each issue with the Chapter membership.





Immediate Past President

Robert E. Cranmer

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This is my first letter as Immediate Past President. I wish to thank all of the Federation Board members who helped me these past two years. Also, I would like to thank all the members of the Kansas Federation for allowing me to serve as their President.

The Topeka Chapter 0002 hosted a great 56th Federation Convention at the Ramada Inn in Topeka, April 25th – 27th. Convention Chair James Miller and Co-Chair Maynard Cox did an outstanding job in putting the convention together.

Congratulations to all of the new Federation Officers for the 2010-2011 year.

On a serious note: National HQ says that to save NARFE, a national dues increase is needed. A change of National NARFE dues from the current \$29.00 to \$40.00 is needed to keep NARFE in business. Certified Public Accountants who audit NARFE financial statements advised in their letter on March 25, 2010 that: “NARFE has experienced significant operation losses over the past three years. One of the primary reasons for this result is an 8% downward trend in membership since 2006, which translates into over \$635,000 less annually in monies derived from this primary revenue source. In addition, NARFE’s largest expense (salaries and benefits) has gone up over 14% during that same period. The opposite trend of those two key financial barometers is troubling and has resulted in NARFE using in excess of \$400,000 of its reserves to partially fund the operating losses.” NARFE management in 2010 reduced HQ’s employment by 5.5 employees for an annual savings of \$323,000. The National Treasurer further reports other changes which resulted in annual savings, for instance: \$384,000 through negotiating a new contract with the data base contractor “Interactive Systems, Inc.”; plus \$245,000 through a new contract with NARFE magazine’s printer and reduced number of pages; plus \$23,000 for changing one NEB meeting to a teleconference.

The National Treasurer has calculated that with continuing the present dues, NARFE will generate \$43,125,651 in unfunded expenses over the next five years. One can project that this continuing trend will eventually exhaust NARFE reserves and terminate NARFE as an organization fighting for maintenance of our hard earned benefits. Congress has authority to reduce employee/annuitant benefits by up to 2% in any budget year. The currently appointed Commission to reduce the federal deficit is clearly looking at “entitlements” and has already hinted that entitlements will not be left untouched. NARFE has projected that national dues of \$40 per year will just keep us in the black given a continued 8% decrease in membership per year. This is an increase of only \$11 per year. About the cost of one cup of coffee per month.

Furthermore, I propose that all Chapters consider raising their chapter dues to \$10.00 per year. This will allow chapters to help fund their delegates to Federation and National Conventions along with CONK (College of NARFE Knowledge) and the Bi-Annual Legislative National Conference.

It's a good idea for all Chapters who are celebrating anniversaries to send invitations to their whole membership, not just the ones who regularly attend the Chapter meetings. Maybe they can't come, but invite them anyway. *It's the thing to do!*

Area 1 Vice President

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What's good about now? Well, it is summer, the grass is green and all other things are growing. What a time of renewal!

We just had a marvelous Federation Convention. It was also a time of renewal. We met with old friends that were dedicated to preserving our earned benefits that we were promised when we joined in our federal service. We also had a chance to buy tomato plants supplied by Chuck Marr, Chapter 366, Manhattan, that helped the Alzheimer's fund. By the way, my plants are doing well even though we have had some hot weather. It was great to be there.

Now is the time to also think about you. Are you doing all that you can for yourself? We often spend time helping others but forget number one. Have you had your yearly physical? Are you making time to exercise? What about what you eat, are you just feeding your face or are you trying to eat healthy? Take time for yourself.

Are you planning to go to the National Convention? It comes every two years. It will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan this year. Think about it!

Let me hear from you as to a time to visit your chapter. Some already have me on their calendar. I can schedule during 2010 but then I need to buy a new calendar. Our area is exploring an Area 1 meeting this summer. It would be a chance to meet each other but also a chance to meet the candidates for representatives and senator. This is in the works. Stay tuned.

Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission, celebrated their 40th Anniversary with a luncheon at the Old Shawnee Town Hall. The committee did a great job in planning the celebration. I know you all join us in say "Congratulations".



Area 1A Vice President

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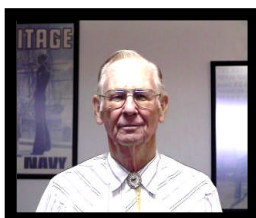
I feel very honored to have been elected Area 1A Vice President and hope I can live up to expectations. Eugene Harter was a very good VP and will be a hard act to follow.

I have belonged to Atchison Chapter 0621 for four (4) years. I was raised in Kansas City, Kansas; graduated Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia (now Emporia State University) with a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1966 and a Master of Music with emphasis in education in 1967. After teaching for several years in Inman and Macksville, I moved back to Kansas City where I worked in private industry for several years. In 1972, my husband and I moved to Leavenworth where he grew up and I began working in military personnel at Fort Leavenworth. I then worked in training and spent my last twenty (20) years as an editor in the Center of Army Tactics, where I edited the tactics instructional material for the students attending the Command and General Staff College in person, at satellite centers, or by correspondence. I retired in December 2004. I play bassoon in the Benedictine College – Atchison Community Orchestra, give private bassoon lessons, and am my church organist. My husband (also a NARFE member) works in G4 at the new Lewis and Clark Center at Fort Leavenworth. We live in the country, halfway between Atchison and Leavenworth, and have one grown son.

I believe that NARFE could increase its membership if we could get the word out to potential members about how NARFE benefits them and how NARFE has protected their benefits and annuities. However, I think we get no cooperation from local news media. It has been very difficult for me to get anything in a local newspaper aside from when and where our next meeting will be. Also, many people do not read papers anymore nor do they listen to the radio – computers and I-pods have replaced how they receive their information. Face-to-face contact could be effective, but you must know who is eligible for membership. If we could set up information booths at community events – county fairs, street fairs, etc. – we might be able to make our presence known and could tell potential members why they need NARFE. Appearing in local parades would also present us to the public and make us more visible. NARFE has a display case and banner that chapters could use to draw attention to themselves. I am currently trying to get a booth at Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort Leavenworth because there are many retired military and their spouses who are now Civil Service employees. If other Government installations have the same type of activity, make plans to attend and draw attention to NARFE. If you would like to come, let me know.

I also feel that we need to increase dues nationally so that NARFE will still be a viable force in 2015. The increase would amount to \$1.00 or less a month. As the national debt grows larger, we will have a harder time retaining our annuities, even though they are fully funded. NARFE is the only body representing us and working for us. We get a lot of benefits for about \$3.00 a month.

I look forward to visiting the area chapters and getting to know everyone. Please let me know if I can be of any help.



Area 2 Vice President / Kansas Federation Training Officer

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The Kansas NARFE Federation Convention has come and gone. Area 2 had four (4) of the five (5) chapters physically represented by NARFE Members. Chapter 384, Emporia; 2077, Iola; 2098, Tri-River; and 2099, Osage County members were in attendance. Chapter 0785, we missed you!

I was disappointed that a larger number of NARFE members were not present at the convention. **WHY?** Because, a convention is where you learn more about NARFE – its workings, what is taking place in Alzheimer’s, Legislation, Membership, PAC, and the Service Officer position. *Every* Federal employee (active and retired) and spouse needs to support financially and physically by being active in the organization. Only 160 plus members were present, working for the benefit of some 5,000 NARFE members in Kansas plus the balance of some 19,000 retirees who are not members. These numbers do not include the working Federal employees who need to support NARFE and the benefits they someday hope to enjoy.

Membership: I read recently of the 45 chapters in Kansas, some 32 chapter have only a chapter membership chairman. Not a committee that should be working as a team to recruit members. Membership recruitment should not be a single effort, but a team effort, a committee, plus all of the members in a chapter.

PS: Speaking of Kansas NARFE conventions, one piece of cake is the opportunity to meet with other Federal employees you may have worked with over the years, so it can and is like a “Homecoming” if you will just come and make it that way.

The Kansas Federation Executive Board held their first Executive Board meeting with the newly elected officers and the carry over officers on June 2nd and 3rd. How many of the fourteen (14) officers are carry over officers? If you were at the convention you already know? 36% are new officers.

One last request: Please share the highlights of the Kansas newsletter; and, the Recruiting and Retention Journal which is printed quarterly by NARFE showing your Chapter membership. Only designated officers receive this publication



Area 2A Vice President

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I am one of the “new” Area Vice Presidents. Area 2A is where I will work. I do look forward to the responsibility and to help NARFE to gain members and position in Washington.

First, I must thank Jim Gaskell for being a dedicated NARFE member and serving as Area 2A Vice President for six or more years. Jim is known as Mr. NARFE in the Area and has worked long and hard to see that our chapters were informed. But especially worked with chapters to select officers and in many instances continue on with the chapter.

Jim, I “Thank You” for all you have done and now for being my mentor and helping me as President of the Chanute Chapter. Jim and I go a long way back knowing and working together in different Agencies.

A little about myself, I spent 40 years as a faculty member of K-State. First five years at the Southeast Kansas Ag. Research Center. The remainder was as the Southeast Area Crops and Soils Specialist based in Chanute. I worked in 26 counties, and know many “government” folks.

My plans? To continue the work that Jim started and encourage new membership and strong Chapters. These are difficult times. We must pay attention to what the new National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, created by President Obama, recommends. I am proud of the fact that our NARFE folks in Washington will keep us informed and tell us when we need to contact our Congressmen.

I look forward to working in Area 2A.

Area 3 Vice President / PAC (Political Action Committee)



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Area 3 had a very good representation at the 56th Annual Convention in Topeka. All of the eight chapters had representation. In visiting with some of those members who attended, they felt that it was a good convention.

I am looking forward to providing assistance to Chapter 0383, Old Trooper, Junction City, with the preparation for the 2011 Convention. Everyone make plans to attend!

During convention NARFE-PAC contributions were taken amounting to \$1,245. Contributions were given from:

Chapter 002	Topeka	\$	130
Chapter 0027	Buffalo Bill		45
Chapter 0280	Salina		60
Chapter 0366	Kaw-Blue		85
Chapter 0378	Freestate		90
Chapter 0383	Old Trooper		65
Chapter 0537	Salt City		125
Chapter 0621	Atchison		20
Chapter 0739	Crossroads, Beloit		10
Chapter 0792	Bourbon County		50
Chapter 1162	Shawnee Mission		110
Chapter 1794	Heart of America		165
Chapter 1933	Tri-County		40
Chapter 1948	Pony Express		20
Chapter 1995	Garden City		20
Chapter 2053	Oberlin		20
Chapter 2077	Iola		40
Chapter 2098	Tri River		20
Chapter 2136	Doniphan County		20
Chapter 2137	Chisholm Trail		50
Chapter 2164	Brown County		20
Chapter 2231	Jefferson County		20



*Setting up the PAC Table – Don Cooper, Chair
 Ann Murphy and Judy Grossnickle, Chapter 0366*



Still at it! Trying to sell at Alzheimer's Auction – the scooter that is!



Area 4 Vice President

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It is good to be back on the Federation board. At the 2010 Federation Convention the delegates from Area IV elected me to serve as Area Vice President. A brief recap of my history follows. In 2000, I retired from the U. S. Postal Service. I was an officer with the National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS) for many years.

I have been a member of NARFE since 2002. During that time I have served as Chapter 138, Wichita PAC Chair; Chapter Legislative Chair; Trustee; and, Chapter President. I have served as Federation PAC Coordinator, Second Vice President, and First Vice President. Two years ago, I was elected Federation President. Immediately following the election, I encountered health problems that required me to resign as President.

I was legislatively active with both the Postal Service and NAPS. I have been in Washington, D.C., as a grassroots lobbyist every year but one since 1991. On two separate years, I visited with our national legislators two times (once for NARFE and again for NAPS). I have been successful in arranging for both Congressman Tiahrt and Congressman Moran to meet with members of the Wichita chapter. At our next meeting, I have invited all the candidates running for the job Congressman Tiahrt is vacating to attend our chapter meeting and tell the members why we should support that particular candidate.

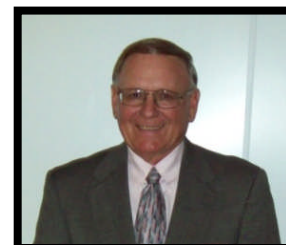
My vision for the upcoming year is to assist all Chapters in Area IV to become well informed as to whom they should vote for in the November elections. We will have a new Governor, Senator and members of the House of Representatives. After the elections, I will encourage members to establish a rapport with the newly elected as well as the Senator not due for re-election. If that is done they (we) will have better access when communicating NARFE's needs to Washington. Obviously, NARFE/PAC, goes hand in glove with building a relationship. I will therefore encourage all the Chapters to place a solid emphasis on this, at **EVERY** chapter meeting. I will hold myself available to assist, if requested, in working through any problems that arise in the Chapters.

I have been married to my High School sweetheart for 51 years. We have four adult married children and nine (9) grandchildren ranging in ages from 27 to 6 years of age.



Area 5 Vice President

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The 56th annual state convention was held April 25-27 at the Ramada Inn, Topeka, Kansas. All Area V chapters were represented - two (2) by delegates and four (4) by proxy. Attending from Chapter 2032, Logan County, Oakley, were Deloris and Herb Steinike and Karol and Ron Katt. Attending from Chapter 2053, Oberlin, were Annette and Gary Miller.

Congratulations are extended to Chapter 2032, Logan County; and, Chapter 2053, Oberlin, who received a citation for distinguished awards. Chapter 2032 for contributing \$19.33 per member to the NARFE Alzheimer's Program; and, Chapter 2053, Oberlin, for having a 65% increase in membership during the 2009 year.

I was re-elected Area V Vice-President for 2010-2011. I look forward to working with the six chapters in the Area and with all NARFE members in protecting our earned benefits.



Area 6 Vice President

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Congratulations to Topeka Chapter 0002 for their hard work in making the Kansas Federation Convention enjoyable. As Jim Miller promised, good food was at each sitting. Congratulations to Carol Ek, Federation President; Dixie Thomas, Federation 1st Vice President; Louise Lloyd, Federation Secretary; and the new area Vice Presidents. Junction City will host the 2011 convention and Salina the 2012 convention.

Since the Federation Convention, I have visited with Chapter 1995, Garden City; Chapter 1996, Scott City; and Chapter 1873, Dodge City. Phone calls to two chapter Presidents have been made with updates and deadlines given. Scott City has invited Walter Germann, Federation Service Officer, for a program on Service Officer duties and would like it to be an area wide meeting in the fall. October 12th is the date starting a seven (7:00 p.m.) in the at the library in Scott City. Three chapters completed an audit and two chapters have the information and will complete them in July.

Dodge City President, Richard Goodnough, has indicated that he is ready to retire as President. I attended their meeting June 8th. They have changed their meeting day from Wednesday to Tuesday so their treasurer, Art Brown, can attend starting at one (1:00 p.m.) p.m. and in the downstairs meeting room. Calls were made to members to encourage them to attend with no results.

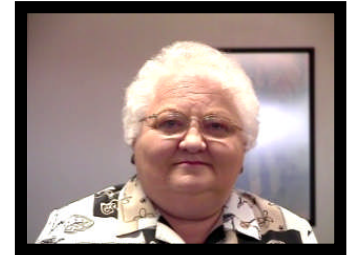
Contact was made with Kathy Thigpen, National HQs, for three chapters. Copies have been made and will be given to each chapter on the next visit. Next step is to revise our Constitution & Bylaws to reflect their current meeting date and time. The Area VI notebook has been updated with new officers and new chapter information. The Executive Board notebook has been updated with information sent by Louise Lloyd.

After sending out letters on May 10th to those on the Area 6 M-112's with second notices, those dropped or new members; I received a phone call from the daughter saying her Dad had died in 2007. Perhaps some record merging has occurred at the National level to determine how many members in each chapter. Several forms are now available on-line at www.narfe.org. The death notice is one of these and can be printed, postage included. Some forms can be filled out on-line and then printed.

Additionally, I have found that e-mail works in reporting deaths and perhaps is a swifter way to get the information recorded. Member records has a new e-mail address: memberrcords@narfe.org My suggestion is to check with chapter members and find out who is computer savvy and assign them this task, otherwise the membership chair should be reporting.

Alzheimer's Chairperson

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The live and silent auctions at the 2010 convention in Topeka were very successful. The live auction brought in \$1,265.00 and the silent auction \$2,204.00. This makes a total of \$3,469.00 for Alzheimer's Research. Chapters who donate items for the auctions are credited for the items they contribute and sold at the auctions. Thank you to all chapter members who contributed items, and to those who bid on and purchased items.



Wendy Hambly of Chapter 378, Lawrence, made a beautiful rust with green quilt selling raffle tickets totaling \$1,154 for contribution to Alzheimer's research. The winning ticket was pulled at the Monday night banquet. Betty Warne, Chapter 138, Wichita, was the lucky winner. Many of the Lawrence chapter made quite an effort in making people aware of this fundraiser.

The goal set at the 2009 convention for 2010 contributions had been set at \$5.25 per member. Total contributions for 2009 in Kansas (January 1 – December 31) was \$30,604.93 averaging \$6.46 per member. The Alzheimer's committee established the 2010 goal at \$5.50 per member.

As of June 30, 2010, donations have reached \$20,455.43 which averages \$4.39 per member. Highlights of 2010 are:

- * At the May meeting of Chapter 383, Junction City, a check was presented to Carol Ek, Federation President, in the amount of \$9,520 from the Eagles Bingo project worked every Friday night by June Buckles and Madelyn Brown.
- * Chapter 366, Kaw Blue, Manhattan, recently submitted memorials in the amount of \$1,450. Acknowledgements were sent to the donors and the family of the deceased.

The monthly contribution form is available on the KS NARFE website (www.ksnarfe.org) in Option 32. Let me know if you do not have computer access and I will mail copies of the form to be used for your submission. All checks should be made to "NARFE/Alzheimer's Research."





State Legislative

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The KS Legislature Coordinating Council met in Topeka, on July 15, 2010, to establish the FY 2011 Interim Meeting Days. Several committees and their studies could have major impact on KS NARFE members and non-members too!

(1) The assessment and Taxation Committee, comprised of either members from the House (five Republican; three Democrat); five from the Senate (four Republican, one Democrat) will meet for three days during The interim. Their task is to **REVIEW** THE KANSAS TAX STRUCTURE AND WAYS IT CAN BE IMPROVED AND SIMPLIED. **STUDY** THE OVERALL TAX STRUCTURE AND POLICY OF THE STATE AND LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT BY REVIEWING THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE VARIOUS TAXES IMPOSED TO EACH OTHER AND TO THE ECONOMY. **REVIEW** WAYS TO IDENTIFY A FAIR, SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE TAX STRUCTURE THAT OPERATES IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL KANSAS CITIZENS. **ALSO**, STUDY WAYS TO DECREASE TAX RATES BY BROADENING TAX BASES, AS WELL AS STUDYING THE POTENTIAL EFFECT OF A FAIR AND FLAT CONSUMPTIVE TAX AND A FLAT AND SIMPLIFIED INCOME TAX. **FINALLY**, REVIEW WHAT CURRENT TAXES COULD BE ELIMINATED IF NEW SUCH TAX WERE TO BE IMPOSED.

This topic was requested by Representative Richard Carlson @, St. Marys, KS, businessman. Sounds harmless enough, right? Improve, simplify, fair, effective – all admirable goals, right? I don't have the names of the other committee members yet, but I would suggest when those names become available, NARFE members in their Districts make contact, especially in this election year. Admirable goals sometimes become blurred, especially when the committees hold "Open Meetings", and those who appear have specific axes to grind.

A GUIDE TO KANSAS LEGISLATURE GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

- (1) The best advocates for NARFE are those who can, and will apply gentle, but firm pressure on Kansas lawmakers. ***NOT HIT AND MISS!*** Remember the poor widow in the Old Testament. She was such a nuisance, the judge finally relented.
- (2) Advocacy (lobbying) can be emotionally intensive. It can be a fickle union, as lawmakers meet with hundreds of well paid lobbyists. Compromise is Non-negotiable! Too many causes have bailed because the advocates adopted a "Take No Prisoners / the whole loaf or none position". Most of the time you'll end up with the none. It is a long time commitment and requires constant nurturing.
- (3) It IS WHAT you know ... and, WHO you know. Know your policy-makers. Name your State Senator name your State House of Representatives member. Have you contacted them? Are you comfortable contacting them? Have you established a relationship? Second, know your issue. NEVER quote facts and figures you can't document; can't prove.

- (4) **ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL!** Public perception is KEY. Legislators are part of the public. They listen to friends, colleagues ... and the media. They listen to “the public”. Advocacy efforts are most effective when applied by an organization that appears to be 1,000 people wide by 10,000 people deep. (***Membership!***) Is the legislator a friend ... or a foe? That depends on the issue, but it’s best to find out BEFORE any key votes are taken. NARFE has members in most of the districts in Kansas, and all members should know their Senator and Representative.
- (5) **DO YOUR HOMEWORK!** That is mandatory! Study the issues, know the official NARFE position and familiarize yourself with it. Become better acquainted with the process and the rules. **FOLLOW THE MONEY!** Most legislative debates center **around money**. Who need some? Who has it? What are we going to spend it on? **The budget is the state’s primary policy document. As the session draws to a close, and the amount of available funds are estimated, everything that has made it into a bill to be read will be considered .. usually lumped together in the Omnibus Spending Bill.**
- (6) Talk, if given the opportunity but use the KISS method. **KEEP IT SIMPLE AND STUPID.** Speak with a unified voice. You **MUST** have a clear, simple message. **THREE** major points are sufficient. Documentation is NOT an option, it is a necessity. Stay in control of your message. Include Key points, but define the problem in your terms, based on your knowledge and perspective. Be clear in your position. State the consequences to your membership if the contested bill passes (or is defeated). Tell the law-makers what you want them to do. Please support (or oppose) SB00000/HB 00000.
- (7) Stay connected! Phone calls? Few and far between. Timely letters and e-mails are effective. Postcards? Almost never. Write the message yourself. That is much easier if you have established a relationship. That gives credibility to you and your organization. Direct communication (face to face, heart to heart .. not toe to toe) is far more accurate.
- (8) Attend Committee meetings! You want to hear what opponents are saying and this is your opportunity to take notes and be prepared to refute those arguments. If you allow someone else to carry our message, be prepared to be misunderstood at best, or in worst case, die, politically speaking. Many committees have set schedules and will honor your request to speak, if your notice of intent is given at least 24 hours (some cases require 48 hours notice) BEFORE the next committee meeting.
- (9) CRUNCH TIME! Should not be the first time lawmakers have heard from us and from NARFE! Ask for time to visit, be on time, state the purpose of the meeting and how many will attend. This isn’t a card game but constituents trump members. If a bill is involved, know the bill and number. Rehearse with your group first! Know who will lead, who will make which points. Be courteous and stay on message. Some lawmakers are masters at switching topics and getting off your message. (Hey! What about those Jayhawks? How is that wheat crop?) As you close, pose THE question? Can we count on your support? Or your opposition? Remember your members. They need to know/hear the results of your visit. YOU need to know how THEY fared on their visits if they were able to schedule. Send “Thank You” notes! Lawmakers receive very few!
- (10) Find out when lawmakers will be in your district and schedule an opportunity to meet with them again. Attend their community legislative events. Coordinate with your members to be in attendance whenever and wherever possible. Promote the contributions NARFE members make to the state (the numerous taxes we do pay, sales, property, personal property) quality of life in

the community, service organizations supported; projects we help with; locally and nationally, ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH.

- (11) **WHY BOTHER?** What good will all this do? We have our answer every year when we calculate our state income tax! Recently, a new member, CSRS retiree told me until he read about Kansas being one of the few states who had the income tax benefit, he had been paying full state tax for five years! He, with NARFE's help, filed for the three years he could recover and received a check for almost \$8,000.

Our presence has one purpose, one objective! Influence the legislative process by representing our membership! Why bother? If not you, then who? If not now, then when? THE FOOL SAYS - I WILL PREPARE TOMORROW. THE WISE SAYS - I PREPARED YESTERDAY.

Resources! Kansas Legislature: www.kslegislature.org; local newspapers, public television to help answer telephones; and wear those NARFE shirts!



Retirement Benefits (Service Officer)

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Congratulations to our new NARFE State Officers for the coming year. May they have a very successful year in the leadership of NARFE.

As I continue as your State Service Officer, I have just recently reviewed our individual Chapter Officers and have found that there are still eleven (11) chapters who haven't appointed a Service Officer within their membership. It is very important that this position be filled because a major aspect of the Service Officer function is to assist the local chapter members when needed.

Members, families, and survivors frequently need help in correctly preparing and forwarding changes in their status or assistance in the claims they may have to submit for service. It is important that each Chapter have a Service Officer who can assist and support the members in their time of need. I have found that being a Chapter Service Officer is a challenge and a learning process to me personally.

I suggest that each Chapter President appoint their new Service Officer and assist them in their new position. If I can be of any assistance to any Chapter or Chapter Service Officer, please give me a call.



Doorprizes Galore – George Spotts and Gwen Ketter calling numbers for door prize drawing!



NARFE Net / Historian

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Thanks to everyone for the update information for the KSNARFE.org pages. The more people sending in corrections and changes to the web site pages, the more useful the web site will be.

I have received a few requests for information about setting up a Chapter web site. There are many varied ways to set up a web site, but the least expensive and easiest way to start a Chapter web site is to use the NARFE Headquarters web site as a web server. For a full step by step instructions for setting up a web site and a "sample web site", go to the web site instructions page on the NARFE HQ web site at www.narfe.org/guide The cost for the Chapter web site is only \$29.95 annually.



Region V VP Presenting 60 years Anniversary Award to Diane Hall, Chapter 0027, Buffalo Bill



Barb Pretzer, National Alzheimer's Chair, presenting Award to Linda & John Surritte; and, Chapter 0378 Tom Huntzinger



Jim Dodd taking member "Back to School" Computer Class at Convention



Barb Pretzer Presenting Award to Madelyn Brown and June Buckles for "Eagles" Contributing \$8,200 to Alzheimer's