



# Kansas NARFE News From Your Federation Officers

March 2011 – May 2011

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## Convention 2011 April 10 - 12



**Hotel Reservations:** Courtyard by Marriott  
You must make your own reservation by e-mailing [www.junctioncitycourtyard.com](http://www.junctioncitycourtyard.com) or telephoning (785) 210-1500 by March 11, 2011. Be certain you tell them this is for the NARFE convention for the guaranteed rate of \$84 plus tax.

**Convention Registration Form:** Each member and/or visitor attending any of the convention functions (except meals only) needs to send a registration form with \$11.00 registration fee and the cost of any meals. Visitors attending *meals only* do not have to pay the registration fee. You may attend all or any portion of the convention you wish with the payment of the \$11 registration fee. The registration form must be mailed to Nancy Wiehl, 2522 Meadowlark Drive, Milford, KS 66514 by March 25, 2011. You may request a registration form from your chapter Secretary or any member of the Federation Executive Board. An e-mail address of the Federation Board members is included with their article in this newsletter.

**Convention Program:** The program for the convention is included in this newsletter. Members who have attended the convention for years will note that there is quite a change in the program this year. All of the changes were voted on by the Federation Board before being implemented. We hope to include all members in the portions of the convention that they wish to hear and participate in. Plus, we hope the change of format will make some phases flow more smoothly.

***Richard Thissen, Region V Vice President,*** will be in attendance during the entire convention to talk with you either privately or in group session. He will be speaking during the 2:00 p.m. Round Table Session and at the 12:00 Noon Monday Luncheon.

**Chuck Timanus, Public Relations Director, National Headquarters, will be speaking at the Monday morning Convention Session. Due to other obligations, Chuck will not be in attendance until late Sunday evening, however, he will be in attendance during the rest of the convention to visit with you personally or in session.**

**Barb Pretzer, National and Region V Alzheimer’s Chair, will speak during the Sunday evening “Opening Session” of the convention and will be available during the rest of the convention to visit with you personally or in session.**

**Any questions about the convention program need to be directed to Federation President, Carol R. Ek. Any questions regarding the facilities (hotel or convention center) should be directed to Jim Mitchell, e-mail: [Wildman1@FHRD.net](mailto:Wildman1@FHRD.net) telephone: (785) 238-3423; or, Dixie Thomas, e-mail: [Bthomas56@cox.net](mailto:Bthomas56@cox.net) telephone: 238-1455**



**Old Trooper, Chapter 0383, Junction City wishes to “Welcome” to their city and is planning a great convention with the help of all of you in attendance. Without the members attending, there is no convention. Junction City has many sites of historical interest for those who wish to see the scenic city. Brochures will be available during registration. Letters were mailed to all Chapter Presidents telling about advertisements in the Convention Program Book with costs and details for placing your advertisement. This year a new feature has been added where you can have your name listed in a “Congratulations Page” for \$1.50. Your request needs to be mailed with your check to Nancy Wiehl, 2522 Meadowlark Drive, Milford, KS 66514.**



**Sunday - April 10, 2011**

**12:30-5:00 PM    Registration/Credentials... Convention Center Hall  
 Alzheimer’s Gifts .....Convention Center Hall  
 Door Prize Gifts .....Convention Center Hall  
 Hospitality Room Open..... Riley Room – Hotel  
 (Open 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.)**

**Committee Meetings**

**1:00 PM Alzheimer’s..... Convention Center Cottonwood B  
 \*\*\*Silent Auction Begins at 2:00 PM / Cottonwood B\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*Live Auction Begins at 7:30 PM /Cottonwood C\*\*\***

**Audit.....Convention Center Wheat Boardroom  
 2011-2012 Officer Candidate Meeting.....Convention Center  
 Sunflower Room**

**Bylaws& Resolutions..... Convention Center Cottonwood F  
 Convention Rules..... Convention Center Prairie Room  
 Time & Place..... Convention Center Cedar Room**

**2:00 PM Round Table..... Convention Center Cottonwood C**

**Presentations by:        Richard Thissen, Region V Vice President  
                                  Gary E Townson, Federal Legislative Chair  
                                  James F Miller, State Legislative Chair  
                                  Donald L. Cooper, PAC Chair  
                                  Dixie Thomas, Publicity Chair  
                                  Cindy Renee` Blythe, Membership Chair  
                                  Walter Germann, Service Officer  
                                  Janice Neuschafer, Alzheimer’s Chair**

**4:15 PM Federation Executive Board Meeting.....Convention Center  
 Sunflower Room**

**SUNDAY EVENING & MONDAY MORNING**

5:15 PM Sunday Evening Buffet Dinner. Convention Center Cottonwood A  
*(Green Ticket Required)*

Sunday Evening – April 10, 2011

6:45 PM.....Opening Session.....Cottonwood C  
 Call to Order .....Federation President Carol Ek  
 Call for Posting of Colors..... Jim Mitchell  
 Presentation of Colors.....  
 Pledge of Allegiance .....1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dixie Thomas  
 Invocation .....Chaplain Otis Scroggins  
 Introduction of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Welcome to Junction City..... Convention Chair Jim Mitchell

Welcome to Junction City.....  
 Response ..... Convention Chair Jim Mitchell  
 Introduction of Federation Board & Dignitaries.. President Carol Ek  
 National Alzheimer’s Report..... National Chair Barb Pretzer  
 Instructions Alzheimer’s Live and Silent Auctions.....  
 Federation Chair Janice Neuschafer  
 “Drawing for Door Prizes”  
 Announcements..... Jim Mitchell

\*\*\*\* Recess of Convention .....President Ek

Convention Recess until 8:30 AM - Monday

7:30 – 8:30 PM Alzheimer’s Live Auction .....Cottonwood C  
 Federation Alzheimer’s .....Chair Janice Neuschafer  
 Auctioneer..... Jay E. Brown  
 Brown Real Estate & Auction

\*\*\*Silent Auction\*\*\* – Bids close approximately 5 minutes following End-of-Business meeting on Monday. Please pick up and pay for items at that time. Cash or check ONLY! \*\*\*

\*\*\*Breakfast on Your Own\*\*\*

Monday – April 11, 2011

7:30 – 8:30 AM.....Registration..... Convention Center Hall

8:30 AM.....Business Session..... Cottonwood C  
 Call to Order..... President Ek  
 Invocation..... Chaplain Scroggins  
 Pledge of Allegiance..... 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Thomas  
 Introduction of Federation Board & Dignitaries.....President Ek  
 Preliminary Credentials Report..... Credentials Chair Pender  
 Rules Committee Report..... T. J. Robinson  
 Reading of Minutes and Correspondence .....Secretary Lloyd  
 Address by National Officer.....Chuck Timanus  
 Federation Officer Reports  
 President..... Carol R. Ek  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President..... Dixie Thomas  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President..... Cindy Renee` Blythe  
 Secretary..... Louise Lloyd  
 Treasurer..... Jerry Ketter

Committee Reports  
 Audit Committee..... Brenda Myers  
 Nomination Committee..... Robert Cranmer  
 Instructions for Voting / Distribution of Ballots

**MONDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING**

**\*\*\* Break for Casting Ballots for Officer Election and Coffee Break \*\*\*  
30 minutes / Sponsored by Kansas Blue Cross-Blue Shield**

**\*\*\*\* Business Session Back In Order .....President Ek  
Reports of Area Vice Presidents**

- Area 1 .....Florence Biehl
- Area 1A..... Judy Etter
- Area 2..... Gale D. Beck
- Area 2A..... Gary L. Kilgore
- Area 3..... Donald L. Cooper
- Area 4..... Gary E. Townson
- Area 5..... Ronald Katt
- Area 6..... Brenda Myers

**\*\*\*\*2011-2012 Officer Results of Election.....Nomination Chair Cranmer  
Announcement of Results of Alzheimer’s Live Auction Totals.....  
Chair Janice Neuschafer**

**\*\*\*\*Announcements.....Jim Mitchell**

**12:00 Noon Recess for Lunch.... (Blue Ticket Required).... Cottonwood A  
Address by Region V Vice President Richard Thissen**

**Monday Afternoon – April 11, 2011**

**1:10 PM Call to Order..... President Ek**

**Introduction of Memorial Service Chair..... President Ek  
Memorial Service Chair..... Dixie Thomas  
Chaplain..... Otis Scroggins  
Reading of Names .....Area Vice Presidents**

**\*\*\*\*Bylaws and General Resolutions Report.... Bylaws Chair Blythe  
(Voting – Proposed Amendments)**

**\*\*\*\*15 Minutes Break \*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\* ..... Area Delegate Caucuses.....**

- Area 1 .....Cottonwood F
- Area 1A .....Prairie Room
- Area 2.....Cottonwood E
- Area 2A.....Sunflower Room
- Area 3.....Cottonwood D
- Area 4.....Cottonwood C
- Area 5.....Wheat Board Room
- Area 6.....Cedar

**\*\*\*\*Introduction of 2011-2012 Area Vice Presidents... 1<sup>st</sup> VP Thomas**

**\*\*\*\*State Legislative Report..... Chair Jim Miller**

**\*\*\*\*National Legislative Report .....Chair Gary E. Townson**

**“Vendors and Door Prize Drawing”**

**\*\*\*\* Announcements..... Jim Mitchell**

**\*\*\*\*Recess Until 5:30 PM Social Hour\*\*\*\*\***

**5:15 PM All New Federation Board Members Gather For Pictures**

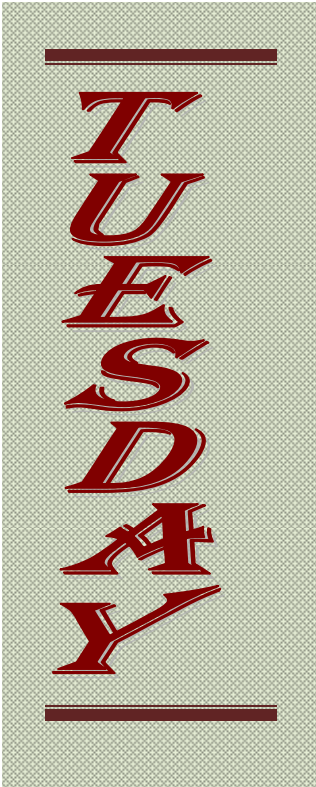
**5:30 PM Social Hour..... (Cash Bar)..... Convention Center Hall**

**6:30 PM Banquet..... (Red Ticket Required)..... Cottonwood A**

**Master of Ceremonies..... President Ek  
Invocation.....Chaplain Scroggins  
Entertainment.....Harold Williams, Herington, Kansas  
Federation Drawing..... Treasurer Ketter  
Installation of Federation Officers.....Region 5 VP Thissen  
Recognition of Convention Committees .Co-Chairs Mitchell  
and Thomas**

**\*\*\*\*Recess until 8:30 AM, Tuesday, April 12, 2011\*\*\*\***

Tuesday, April 12, 2011



8:30 AM Business Session Resumes.....Cottonwood C  
Call to Order .....President Ek  
Invocation..... Chaplain Scroggins  
Pledge of Allegiance.....1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Thomas  
Final Credentials Report..... Credentials Chair Pender  
"Door Prize Drawing"  
**Committee Reports**  
Political Action Committee (PAC).....Chair Cooper  
Alzheimer's .....Chair Neuschafer  
Membership.....Chair Blythe  
\*\*\*\*15 minutes break – no refreshments\*\*\*\*  
Retirement Benefit Services.....Chair Germann  
Time and Place.....Chair Katt  
  
Invitation to 2012 Convention.....Salina Chapter 280  
John Ourada, President  
  
Turn in Evaluation Statements  
Closing Remarks  
Announcements.....Jim Mitchell  
\*\*\*\*Close of Convention.....President Ek

11:30 AM Federation Executive Board Meeting.....Sunflower Room

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**President**

*Carol R. Ek*  
907 Sycamore Place  
McPherson, KS 67460-5804  
Telephone: 620-241-1131 E-Mail: [ek617@att.net](mailto:ek617@att.net)



As we approach the 2011 Federation Convention many issues need to be discussed at your chapter meetings to be certain all of your members are informed how important their support and continued participation are needed. With the lack of any increase for the cost of living expenses; and the higher costs of almost everything we do – I know the decision to attend convention weighs heavily on everyone’s mind. I do hope you will choose to support NARFE when making this decision. As you will read throughout this newsletter issue, your participation and commitment will make a difference to thousands of active and retired federal employees in Kansas and though out the Nation.

During the past three months, I have had the opportunity to visit with both active and retired federal employees at meetings through out the State. All visits are equally important, but one in Topeka stands out because it was a meeting of active employees who wanted to know why they should be interested in a “retiree” organization. A few of those employees are current members of NARFE but ask for help in telling why all of them needed to become both members of NARFE and their KASCOE (Kansas Association of FSA Employees) organization. These employees are “overlooked” by many federal employees even though an office is located in almost every county in the Nation. As the associates of this organization came in the door, Jim Miller and myself greeted almost every one individually and the constant greeting (until we said “STOP”, take a minute and let us explain why that isn’t correct) was, “we don’t need to stop here because this is for retired people and I’m not near retirement yet! Both Jim and I had an opportunity to speak before the group at the meeting. We are

pleased to report that through the evaluations of the meeting, the employees were amazed at the actions NARFE provides for them! We don't know how many will join our organization, but at least they do know what we do for them and have applications in hand. Many thanked us for being there and bringing this information to them. In fact, they have requested that we be available for their Kansas Convention which will be held in Hays in September. I guess the moral of this story is, just keep asking to get in the door and telling our story. The facts will usually speak for themselves.

Some facts and figures that may give you additional support when visiting with potential members:

#### 2011 Congressional Districts

Region	Name	Active Federal Employees	Retired Federal Employees
KS01	Tim Huelskamp	3,460	4,487
KS02	Lynn Jenkins	6,096	8,901
KS03	Kevin Yoder	4,626	6,213
KS04	Mike Pompeo	3,610	4,650
Kansas	Senators Pat Roberts & Jerry Moran	17,792	24,251

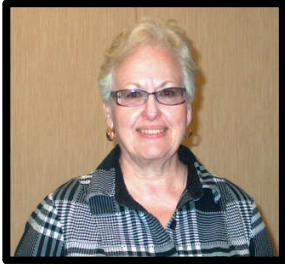
#### Kansas NARFE Members As Of November 30, 2010

Chapters	2009 Members	2010 Members	% Change
45	4,739	4,591	0.09688

Of a total of 42,043 eligible Kansas members we represent only 11% who have become NARFE members. This becomes an issue when visiting with our Congressional leaders. Why don't more of their eligible constituents become members of NARFE? Are we certain we represent the majorities' opinion? We do have twelve (12) chapters who have either maintained 100% membership or have increased their membership from 2009 to 2010. Chapter 2053, Oberlin has increased 1.3125% - Congratulations.

The latest figures available show that Kansas retirees earn \$43,004,402. I do not have figures available for current employees. If you would like to have the latest figures available for your chapter area for potential members let me know. I have provided these for some chapters but not all. Remember, your chapter boundaries are marked by zip code area. These zip codes are available in the on-line reports. If you haven't set up your on-line reports and direct deposit yet, please do so. You will be amazed how having the availability of these reports affects your chapter members' understanding of what is happening currently in your NARFE chapter. ***Remember: If Headquarters has to send written reports or checks, your chapter will be charged for that paper report!***

One last item that is important to you and your members – obtain as many e-mail addresses for your chapter members as possible. Send a copy of your newsletter on-line to those members and communicate with them regarding items important to them. Remind all members of the importance of having their e-mail address in the headquarters files to obtain GEMS notices each Friday and participate in CAP-WHIZ reports to Congressional leaders. Remind your members of both the Headquarters web site [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and the Kansas website [www.ksnarfe.org](http://www.ksnarfe.org) Both sites carry an extraordinary amount of information for both active and retired federal employees. Jim Dodd, of Junction City, has maintained our website since the beginning and it is among the best in the Nation. Thank you Jim for your dedication and excellence of the website to Kansas NARFE members.



**1st Vice President / Public Relations**

Dixie Thomas  
801 Sunshine St  
Junction City, KS 66441-4183  
Telephone: (785) 238-1455 E-Mail: [bthomas56@cox.net](mailto:bthomas56@cox.net)



**WELCOME TO THE 2011 NARFE CONVENTION**  
**OLD TROOPER CHAPTER 383**  
**JUNCTION CITY**  
**10 – 12 APRIL 2011**

Old Trooper Chapter 383 INVITES ALL OF YOU TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION. YOU WILL LEARN UP TO DATE NATIONAL AND STATE INFORMATION AFFECTING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES *PLUS HAVE A GREAT TIME!!* See you 10-12 April!

Among the dust on everything in my house, living room furniture snuggled up to the dining room furniture, the bathroom ‘almost’ literally in my office, and trying to not trip over paint buckets, rollers and drop cloths (OH and don’t forget the new windows sitting around everywhere waiting to be put in), I will attempt to get you updated on the preparations for the GREAT 2011 NARFE CONVENTION!

By now we THOUGHT we would be sitting around waiting for all of the reservations to arrive so that we could make up the envelopes etc. However, we are taking this time to get organized and to contact local businesses for buying ads in our program booklet. Here is a lesson we learned Wednesday. Home-owned businesses welcome you and are proud to put an ad in the program. And even though we personally know managers of the LARGER businesses, they apparently do not have permission to put even a \$10.00 ad in a program. Seriously? Bottom-line, we enjoyed our day “soliciting” especially when we ended up at Baskin-Robbins...!!! I sent emails to all chapter presidents advising them of the ads in the program and to let them know that this year members can have their names in the program. (Those Chapter Presidents that do not have an email were sent a letter with the program ad information.) Back to the convention - We have done a lot of work but as I stated above, we are at the moment gearing up for the last few weeks to make sure everything is ready, assigning tasks and getting excited!



The **convention theme** is in honor of Kansas’ 150<sup>th</sup> birthday – the State flower – SUNFLOWERS.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President / Membership Chair**

*Cindy Rene` Blythe*  
10486 Fairview Rd  
Burlingame, KS 66413-8554  
Telephone: (785) 589-2266 E-Mail: [cindy.r.blythe@uscg.mil](mailto:cindy.r.blythe@uscg.mil)



It's hard to believe with all the snow on the ground that spring and summer are just around the corner, but they are and with the warm weather comes our 2011 Kansas Federation Convention. Junction City, Chapter 0383, will be the host chapter for this year's convention. The dates of the convention will be April 10<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Junction City. All chapter presidents and secretaries have received the convention packages listing all the deadlines, please review the dates and get your reservations to Chapter 0383 on time.

With all the changes coming out of our Nation's Capital, the importance of attending the Federation Convention takes on a different meaning. The main speaker for this year's convention is Chuck Timanus, NARFE's Public Relations Officer. Mr. Timanus has a first line view of the issues that NARFE is working to support/repeal. As you have all seen and heard by now, Congress and the President are working to whittle down the benefits that federal civilian employees have worked so hard for. As federal employees, both retired and currently employed, we can no longer allow opportunities for our concerns to be heard to slip quietly by while we idly sit by and do nothing.

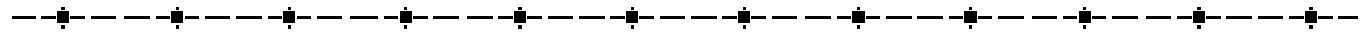
There are three bylaw changes that have been submitted for consideration during the convention. As you meet during February and March, each chapter should consider how they want their vote to count.

The first bylaw proposes a change to Kansas Bylaw, Article VIII, Section 1(a). The proposed change would decrease the current per capita amount of \$1.50 to \$1.00. The per capita is collected annually for each member on the rolls as of 30 November, excluding any honorary, National Only, and Non-Voting Life members. If adopted, the Federation would have a net loss of \$2,315.50. The math on this proposed bylaw change is this: based under the new dues structure, the Federation will receive \$4.00 from the 10% funds for each member. Kansas has approximately 4,631 members for \$18,524.00; add the per capita of \$1.50 and the total is \$25,470.50. If the proposed bylaw change is approved the accounting is \$4.00 from the 10% funds = \$18,524.00 plus \$1.00 per capita for a total of \$23,155.00. The proposed change would result in a net loss of \$2,315.50 for the Kansas Federation verses a potential \$5,094.10 gain. Okay, I'll put away my calculator 'cause my fingers are burning!

The second proposed bylaw change is to add a section to Kansas Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1 that would require any change in the amount of per capita assessment to the chapters to be accomplished by paper ballot during the convention. Currently only delegates-at-large and delegates attending the convention can vote on issues brought up during the convention unless a paper ballot is called for and approved by 2/3 eligible voters attending the convention. The ramifications of this resolution change would be that the larger chapter(s) could potentially sway the vote without ever sending a delegate to convention. When paper ballots are required, every chapter is approved for one delegate for every 25 voting members in the chapter. If no delegate-at-large or delegate attends from a chapter, they may have any attending eligible Kansas member carry a Proxy vote for their chapter. One member attending from a chapter can also carry the total chapter votes. Because of this, smaller chapters (even though sending full delegate-at-large and delegate compliment to the convention) cannot compete in the total outcome of the vote if the larger chapters join together in voting.

The last proposed change would change the seating arrangements at the National Convention. I attended the National Convention for the first time this last year. The seating arrangements are decided by a drawing between the Regional Vice-presidents and are then placed in sections accordingly. Only the voting delegates are allowed to sit in the portioned off sections, any guests and spouses are relegated to the back of the room. We must keep in mind when considering this proposal that the over-all age of our membership is advancing and with that comes the issues of health and mobility. Often times, members attending the convention need the additional assistance of their spouse or caregiver. I've given lots of thought to this proposed change; common sense would tell you that if the delegates vote by raising a card then it wouldn't, or shouldn't matter, who sets where. But not having seen the crowd from the podium, maybe the cards are hard to see. If a vote is close and need to be counted that could pose a problem.

It is not my intention to try and tell you how your chapter should digest these proposed changes. I feel that as the Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee, it is my duty to the Federation to provide you with the best means to make an informed decision.



**Secretary**

*Louise Lloyd*  
11433 Reno  
Lenexa, KS 66215-4843  
Telephone: (913) 661-1720 E-Mail: [llnarfe@yahoo.com](mailto:llnarfe@yahoo.com)

It's hard to believe that the 2011 Federation Convention is only a month away. The next month is a crucial time for information to be transmitted to me as Federation secretary so that things can run smoothly for the convention.

In mid-December, correspondence was transmitted to all the chapter presidents that included the red Delegate- at -Large forms. The packet also included their registration packet and a report form for them to complete and submit to their appropriate Area Vice President summarizing the year's activities and accomplishments. These packets were transmitted to the individual whose name I had on file at the time as Chapter President, so if updated F-7 forms were not sent to me until the latter part of December, they would need to have provided this packet to the newly elected President. If any chapter President does not have this red Delegate-at-Large form, and report form for providing to their Area Vice-President, please contact me by phone 913-661-1720 or e-mail [llnarfe@yahoo.com](mailto:llnarfe@yahoo.com) to let me know so that we can get the forms to you.

A packet was also transmitted in mid-December to all the chapter secretaries that included all the registration forms, credential forms, i.e., Delegate form(s), Alternate Delegate form(s) and one Proxy form. The number of credential forms should equal the allotted number of delegates per chapter based on membership at the end of November 2010 per the M-110 report. If a chapter cannot send a representative to the convention, then the chapter should complete the Proxy and return to me and assistance will be provided in obtaining someone to carry your proxy for your chapter.

Also in the packet mailed to the secretaries are four forms that are requested to be completed and sent back to me as Federation Secretary, preferably by March 10<sup>th</sup>, but contact me if a little more time is

needed. The forms include, Delegates Listing, Memorial Listing, Awards Listing and the Request to Serve on Committees. This year, a change is being implemented, if any changes are needed to the Memorial Listing. After the initial Memorial Listing is transmitted to me, please contact your respective Area Vice-President, as they will be responsible for updating the list and will be reading the names of the individuals at the convention.

And finally, all members of the Federation Board, and past Federation Presidents, who are not currently serving either as Chapter President or Secretary, were also sent correspondence that included a red Delegate-at-Large form that can only be used by them. If any board member or past Federation President did not receive their packet, please contact me by phone or e-mail.

A final reminder that all chapters are asked to provide a door prize for the drawings held during the convention. A wrapped gift or check will be appreciated. The value of this gift should equal an amount of at least \$10.00. Several drawings are held throughout the convention.

**Meeting with Congress Kevin Yoder's 3<sup>rd</sup> District Office**

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Presidents from the Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City Kansas (T.J. Robinson); Freestate Chapter 0378 in Lawrence (Tom Huntzinger); and, Shawnee Mission Chapter 1162 (Louise Lloyd); along with Flo Biehl, Area 1 Vice President; and, Elizabeth Bornman from the Shawnee Mission Chapter; met with a staff member of Congressman Kevin Yoder's District Office temporarily located in Kansas City, Kansas. The meeting gave us the opportunity to relate NARFE's mission and commitment to both active and retired federal employees. The meeting provided us sufficient time to articulate the issues of most concern to both active employees and retirees. We appreciate information and talking points provided by Gary Townson, the Federation National Legislature Chair that we were able to utilize for the meeting. Within the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, there are approximately 10,000 active employees and federal retirees, so thus we do represent a substantial number of votes within this district. All of those in attendance felt positive about the meeting. The next goal we have is to hopefully arrange a similar meeting in the future with Senator Moran's district office and possibly involve additional chapters for that meeting.

For those of you who may want to arrange similar future meetings with your congressman, we were advised that many of the congressional representatives will commute to Washington D.C. on Mondays and usually return on Thursday evenings. Typically the schedule will find the congressional delegation in D.C. for three weeks and back in their home states for the fourth week.



**Treasurer**

*G. D. (Jerry) Ketter  
2958 US HWY 75  
Sabetha, KS 66534-9618  
Telephone: (785) 284-2808 E-Mail: [ekjer@att.net](mailto:ekjer@att.net)*

Tickets or chances for the Federation Drawing have started to come in. If more tickets are needed please make additional copies or contact me and I will send you more pages of tickets. Please keep selling and buying chances. Tickets are \$1 for 1 or \$5 for six. Completed tickets may be sent with Chapter Members to the convention. If you wish to send completed tickets to me please convert cash to check and make check payable to Kansas Federation of NARFE and mail to the address at the heading of this article. Do not send cash! More tickets will be available for sale at the convention.

I had hopes that this would be the last year that a drawing would be necessary. I know that for some it adds a little excitement to the convention but I'm not at all sure that drawings are the proper way to fund the Federation. In 2007 the funds of the Federation were very low and two temporary measures resulted as remedies. The first in 2007 was asking for donations. This gained a few funds but was very inequitable as many chose not to donate. The second remedy in the 2008-09 year was the drawing and it has been with us since. Also in 2008 the per-capita dues were increased to \$1.50 as a more equitable solution. If we can rely on history as the basis for future spending we now have adequate funds but projecting into the future is difficult in a volunteer organization. This spring two members of the Executive board will attend the Legislative Conference paying much of the cost out of their own pocket with only partial Federation funding. For each similar event the Federation Board struggles with the decision of how much expense the Federation should fund and how much to expect from the volunteer who is already volunteering their time.

I hope to see you at the convention in Junction City April 10-12 2011.

**Presidents and Secretaries please share the information below with your Chapter Treasurers!**

**Filing Form 990-N for 2009** - This Filing must be completed by **every chapter prior to May 15, 2011.** Each chapter should have their EIN tax number. If you have misplaced the number contact your Area Vice President or myself and we can help you.

**Internet Instructions:** Go to <http://epostcard.form990.org>

If you already have an ID - Sign on using your EIN number and password, read the screen for instructions.

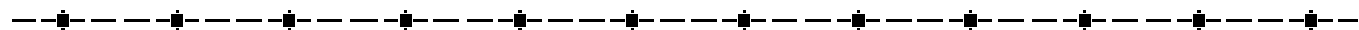
If you are a new treasurer or did not file last year **Sign on as a New User.** You must register and obtain a login ID. Once you have a login and password you can access the system and create your e-postcard.

**When you receive your receipt for filing please forward your e-mail receipt to me so I can check your chapter off from the Tax Number list of Kansas Chapters. I have been asked to verify that all Chapters have filed.**

If you do not have a computer or wish me to enter the form for you, please complete the statement below and mail it to me:

=====  
I \_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer of Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Certify that our organization is still in business and our annual receipts are less than \$25000.00  
EIN # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Date \_\_\_\_\_



*"Beginning today, I will no longer worry about yesterday.  
It is in the past and the past will never change.  
Only I can change by choosing to do so!"*





**Immediate Past President**

*Robert E. Cranmer*  
*P. O. Box 502*  
*Ness City, KS 67560-0502*  
*Telephone: (785) 798-2849 E-Mail: [rccranmer@gbta.net](mailto:rccranmer@gbta.net)*

The 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention is upon us. It will be held April 10-12, 2011, at the Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center, Junction City, KS.

The deadline for Registration for the Convention is March 25, 2011.  
The deadline for room registration with the Hotel is March 11, 2011.

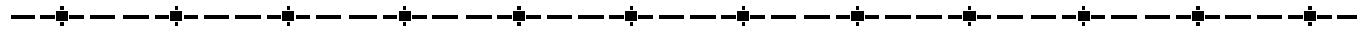
The Nomination Committee is looking for Kansas NARFE members to become Federation Officers. All Chapter Presidents should discuss this need with their chapter members for them to run for an office in either their chapter or the Federation. It is not too late to serve the coming year on the KS Federation Executive Board as President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer. Just send your request and a resume to the Nomination Committee Chair, Robert Cranmer, at the address above.

The Nation's finances are in a hard time. Even without any cuts from Congress, I am receiving \$200 less per month take home in my annuity than last year.

The other day I came across a speech I had received while in the Air Force. General William Dean stated that the first quality that a leader must develop is **INTEGRITY**. Integrity- the quality of or state of being of sound moral principle: uprightness, honesty and sincerity.

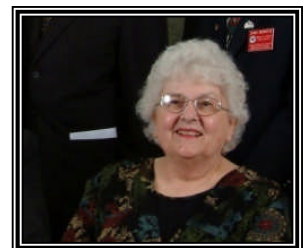
The next quality is **LOYALTY**. We often think of loyalty going up—loyalty to the one you are working for. But you must be loyal to the members along side of you. If you do not agree with an idea, talk over any disagreements with the person who issued the idea.

And last but not least is **ENTHUSIAM**. Be enthusiastic about the goals of NARFE. Be enthusiastic while recruiting new members. If you think about these qualities they will work for you in NARFE as well as in your daily life.



**Area 1 Vice President**

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I have visited all of the chapters in Area I. They are an exciting group of people. They are so committed to NARFE. They work hard to preserve our earned benefits. In addition, they support the cause of working with Alzheimer's Research to help rid this terrible disease.

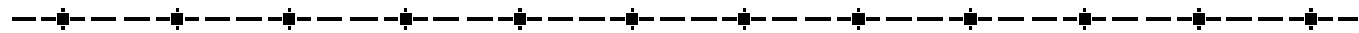
March is PAC month for us. This is an excellent time to make a contribution to NARFE/PAC. Our magazine has a coupon for your use. It would also put your chapter number on the coupon. A

donation of \$20 or more will get you a pin to wear proudly. This donation is not deductible on your income tax but is a very worthwhile donation.

Other donations that I regularly make are to the disaster fund and to the scholarship fund. The later has provided needed college funds to several in our own Area I in recent years.

This writing sure sounds like my recent church attendance. Every fund wanted some money and they were all so worthwhile. What are we to do? I would suggest that each of you make up your own mind. I'm sure that will have you doing what is best for you.

Another thing I would say to you is to walk proud. We have seen remarks in recent months about our being overpaid and underworked. Bosh! I have never met a federal worker who wasn't giving one hundred percent and who wasn't trying to not only give service but also try to improve at all times. Be proud of your service!



**Area 1A Vice President**

*Judy Etter  
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Hope you're all thawing out. A week ago we had drifts up to my knees between the house and the barn and it was cold. Yesterday it was 60 and I had to look toward the horizon to see any snow. However, I've seen no sign of my crocuses yet.

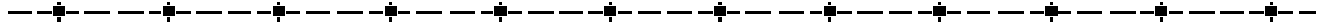
Thanks to everyone who sent cards and e-mails and prayers for my husband's recovery. He is now running on two cylinders instead of one (his words) and has returned to work. He'll be at the convention as a delegate from the Atchison chapter. However, after he went back to work he was driving my all-wheel drive VUE instead of his pickup, and if he wasn't driving his pickup, I wasn't driving his pickup, so I didn't do much visiting.

I did attend a town-hall meeting in Oskaloosa for Second District Representative Lynn Jenkins and Senator Jerry Moran. Rep. Jenkins was leaving as I got there (a plane to catch), but I did bring up to Senator Moran the fact that our annuities were just that, not benefits, that they were fully funded, and that the cost of the items we need the most to continue with our daily lives like gasoline, food, and utilities was going up but our cost of living allowances had already not changed for 2 years; therefore, with the 2-year freeze, our annuities would not change for at least 3 years. Since that meeting the Making Work Pay credit has taken effect and most annuity checks are at least \$30 smaller in February than in January and will stay that way. Health insurance costs have also increased, putting an even larger burden on retired Federal workers.

NARFE is helping the image of the Federal worker (we have been vilified as being lazy and always wanting something for nothing (benefits) with the new public relations campaign. This could be a selling point to get new NARFE members. Congress is also attacking the current Federal worker, so contact those you know who are still employed and inform them of how NARFE is also working for them. As the Atchison chapter president, I have asked our chapter members to bring me the names of

retired or active Federal workers who are not NARFE members. The membership chairperson and I will write a personal letter to these individuals, telling them the advantages of NARFE membership and how their active participation can help the local chapter, the Federation, and the National association.

I look forward to seeing you at the convention in Junction City. Until then, look for signs of spring!



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

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Area 2 NARFE Chapter Officers are being reminded that the 2011 Federation Convention will be held at Junction City Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, April 10 - 12. The scheduling has been changed for this year hoping that this encourages more NARFE members to attend. A reminder to chapter officers; information about the convention must be provided to your chapter members in a timely manner. Each Chapter Secretary and President has received the information. Please see that it is provided to your membership at chapter meeting, and through other communications sources, otherwise it is DOA. Thus your chapter members will not have an opportunity to plan; go to the convention and you the members will not have an opportunity to learn the latest about NARFE.

Here are a few reminders. (1) Reservations to the hotel must be made by March 11, 2011. (2) delegates must be selected, one delegate for each 25 chapter members or part there of. (3) discuss funding for your delegates. Do not expect your members to finance all of the cost of the convention. The members going represent "your chapter" and should not be expected to carry the whole cost of attending. This should also be discussed at your chapter meeting and documented in your chapter minutes.

Follow ups after the convention. Ask that those who attend to make a report at the next chapter meeting providing the membership with an update of the latest that is happening in NARFE. Tape recorders are a good source of support in case the delegate(s) do not take short-hand. Remember conventions take money, takes planning, and a follow up report to your memberships is always needed. One additional source of information is to provide brief high-lite reports of the convention in a chapter newsletter, or a handout, or both at a chapter meeting. These do not have to be professionally done, just "notes" of what transpired at the convention. Conventions are important, once again a good learning source, but not unless chapter officers help to make it one.



*“Beginning today, I will open my mind and my heart.  
I will welcome new experiences. I will meet new people.  
I will not expect perfection from myself nor anyone else:  
Perfection does not exist in an imperfect world.  
But I will applaud the attempt to overcome human foibles.”*

**Area 2A Vice President**

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As I prepare this report it is 65, sunny, and free of snow in Southeast Kansas. So we look forward to the NARFE Convention April 10-12 in Junction City. We deeply appreciate the Old Trooper Chapter 383 for the great work they have done to help make the meeting one ALL NARFE members should attend. The Courtyard by Marriott is a nice hotel and I look forward to spending some time there. Please get delegates selected and registration made for rooms and the convention it's self.

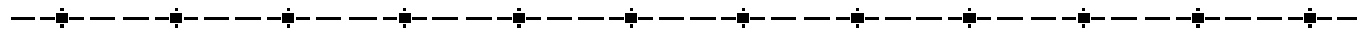
Chapters in 2A area are progressing along. Some are doing well while others need encouragement. Getting retired workers to join is a problem. We hear them say "why should I join when current members are working for me". My response is that I work for myself to see that my benefits remain. If there is "fall out" that your benefits are protected, so be it. But don't you want to help too? Do you depend on others to do your work? There is power in numbers; you and your spouse should both join NARFE.

We have a new Senator. Have you contacted Senator Moran, introduced your self and tell him to support the position of NARFE? Do it soon.

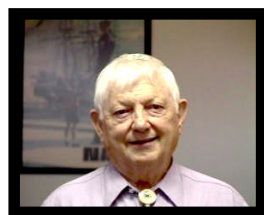
Some chapters are planning a 90th anniversary NARFE event later this year. We must invite our State and Federal Congressmen to it.

Let's remember that March is NARFE-PAC month. Contributions to NARFE-PAC are one way to inform our Congress people. There is information in the March NARFE Magazine along with a contribution form. Be sure to put your NARFE chapter number on the form before sending it in.

See you in Junction City in April.



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



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Spring is getting closer!

Winter travel had it's interesting times this winter. One of the Chapters meeting attendance was greatly affected by the amount of snow present on the roads. The following meeting scheduled for the same Chapter was greeted with a day long snow storm prompting meeting cancelation.

It was my privilege to visit with 2011 chapter officer installation of five of the eight chapters. Two of the chapters have first time Presidents. The Manhattan chapter has new Vice Presidents, Secretary

and Treasurer. It is great to have new people step forward to serve on the Executive Boards. Many thanks are extended to those former officers for their devotion to serving in their past positions.

I had the pleasure of attending the meeting of the Old Trooper convention meeting with Federation President Carol Ek and Federation Secretary Lois Lloyd. A very fine meeting gave the assurance of great prospects for a fine Kansas Federation 57th Annual Convention, to be held April 10 thru April 12, 2011. The Old Trooper chapter members are prepared to provide a convention well worth your time to attend. So, each Chapter should make plans to be well represented in Junction City on April 10 - 12, 2011.

There is no better person qualified for new member recruitment than yourself. Each current NARFE member should be looking at recruitment. We have some excellent members who are current active Federal employees. Current active Federal employees need to be encouraged to be members of NARFE. Urge your chapter members to look at the people they know, who are currently working in Federal positions. Then make an effort to let those current Federal employees know what they mean to NARFE and what NARFE can mean to them. Tell them what is available to them and ask them to become a member of NARFE. As I have said before - ask that person to become a NARFE member, ask again, ask AGAIN (some experts say you may need to ask a person to become a member five times before they finally will become a member). -ASK AGAIN!! Consider giving a membership as a gift. Show your mail carrier that you care - ask them to become a member. Ask your Post Master why he or she should be concerned about their future. NARFE membership will go on beyond their retirement. (Besides, NARFE mail goes toward their postal load count!)

Check upon the other U.S Government offices such as the Farm Services Agency, Natural Resources Conservation, USDA Wildlife Services and the list goes on.

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

The March 2011 issue of NARFE magazine has the **2011-2012 NARFE-PAC pin** on the front cover. The cover story is - NARFE-PAC: Defending Federal Benefits with Federal Employees and Retirees facing the "fight of a generation" to preserve their pay and benefits, the launch of NARFE's annual campaign couldn't be timelier. Urge all of your members to read pages 20, 21 & 22. Also, share those points with persons who are eligible for NARFE membership and need to become a NARFE member. This could be a very good tool for getting new members.

Remember the old saying - "it doesn't just cost - IT PAYS" to be a member of NARFE. No other organization can do for the Federal worker and retiree, what NARFE can do. There's power in numbers. Do your part in bolstering those numbers. Urge all members to contribute to NARFE-PAC, \$20 or more qualifies you to a NARFE-PAC pin. Wear it proudly!

NARFE-PAC January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2010 had 1,132 donors with \$23,565 being donated. This is a contribution of \$20.82 per person. Disbursement was \$2,000 to Lynn Jenkins.



*"Beginning today I will take life one day at a time,  
one step at a time.  
Discouragement will not be allowed to taint my positive self image,  
my desire to succeed or my capacity for love."*



**Area 4 Vice President**

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212 E. Brownie  
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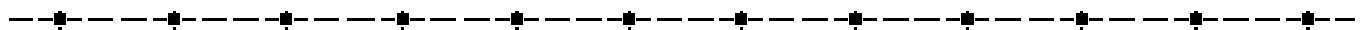
During this quarter I have visited the Salt City and the Heart of America Chapters in addition to participating in the Wichita Chapter activities.

Saturday Jan. 22 Congressman Mike Pompeo held his first Town Hall meeting. I, along with other members of the Wichita Chapter, attended and we were able to speak briefly with him. The following Friday I drove to Topeka to take part in the Kansas Days Sesquicentennial activities. While there I visited with both Senators Roberts and Moran and met with all four members of the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition I met with several State of Kansas elected officials.

I subsequently went to another public meeting for Congressman Pompeo. Due to late night votes in Washington, he did not fly back in time to attend the meeting so it was cancelled.

I have been spending considerable time organizing the appointments in Washington for the upcoming Legislative Training Conference. Kansas Federation Second Vice President Cindy Rene` Blythe and Shawnee Mission Chapter Second Vice President/Legislative Chair Louis Bornman will be accompanying me. The staff from NARFE Headquarters will provide us with up to the minute information concerning bills impacting us prior to our heading to Capitol Hill. Since there are so many attacks to our financial future, this upcoming Federation Convention will be loaded with information for you. I am painfully aware of our reduction in spendable income but this is one place you should not skimp. If your Chapter has someone else attending the Convention, you might think they can bring the information back to you. Well, they can bring back what they heard but they can't provide you with answers to questions you might have asked. Don't expect others to do all the work. As a member, you have an obligation to support NARFE activities while your benefits are being defended.

See you April 10 in Junction City.



**Area 5 Vice President**

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Congratulations' to elected, re-elected Chapter Officers and appointed Committee Chairs for your agreement and dedication to serve your Chapter for 2011. For those members serving as Officers or Chairs in 2010 but not in 2011 a big thank you for your service. NARFE is grateful for willing members who step forward and serve in whatever capacity members can to keep the organization strong.

Knowledge is a big factor of membership value to self and NARFE. We as members need to take every opportunity to acquire the information we need to assist in protecting our earned benefits. One very good way to hear valuable information first hand is attending the Federation Convention. This

year the Convention is at Courtyard by Marriot, Junction City, Kansas, April 10-12. If you have not registered, contact your Chapter President or Secretary for application and get registered by no later than March 25, 2011. The Junction City chapter is working hard with Federation Officers in putting together an informative as well as a fun-filled Convention.

***Karol and I are moving to new location!*** As of March 10<sup>th</sup> our new address will be 704 Grant Street, P. O. Box 294, Victoria, KS 67671-0294. No new telephone number yet but my cell phone number is (785) 673-8061.



***Area 6 Vice President***

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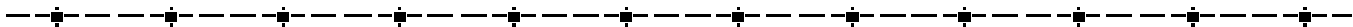
***“If we are ever to enjoy life, now is the time, not tomorrow or next year. Today should always be our most wonderful day.”***

***Thomas Drier***

Seems like I just wrote an article for the newsletter and now another deadline is approaching tomorrow.

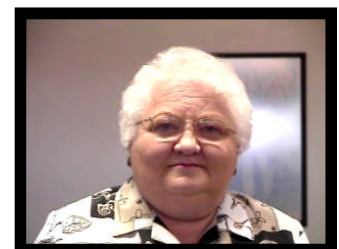
I visited Chapter 2086, Ulysses, for their October meeting. Alice Frey, President has agreed to be on the Nominating Committee for Federation officers at convention. This chapter has nine members and they changed their meeting time to the third Thursday at four in the afternoon to accommodate the Sec/Treasurer Esther Walker’s school schedule. Kansas weather interfered with my planned visit to Great Bend in February so hope to accomplish this in March or April. Garden City officers were installed by me at the January meeting; Neil Austin, President; Betty Robinson, Vice President; Donna Christensen, Sec/Treasurer. Norman Christensen will remain as Service Officer and has also agreed to serve as Auditor at this April’s Federation State Convention.

Hope to see you in Junction City April 10-12. Get your reservations in soon to help them with their planning.



***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)

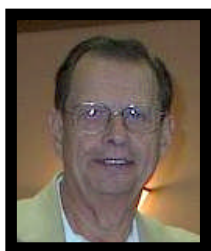
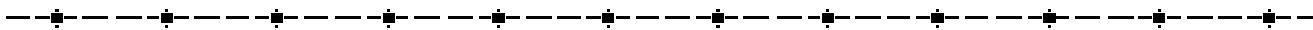


The preliminary total for 2010 contributions to NARFE/Alzheimer's Research from Kansas chapters is \$29,730.88 which computes to \$6.38 per member. Our goal was \$5.50 per member. Thanks to all! Nationally, NARFE has donated \$8,904,066.75 as of November 30, 2010.

We will again have Live and Silent Auctions at the Kansas Federation Convention being held April 10-12, 2011, in Junction City. Please start gathering your **"NEW" AND "ANTIQUÉ 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 capabilities to accept credit cards.

New research suggests that walking about five miles a week may help slow the progression of cognitive illness among seniors already suffering from mild forms of cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease. Researchers also find that walking 6 miles a week can help prevent onset of disease. Even healthy people who do not as yet show any signs of cognitive decline may help stave off brain illness by engaging in a similar level of physical activity.

**Chapter 366, Kaw-Blue, Manhattan:** Last week Michael Cardella sent me checks for: (1) Best Choice Labels - \$60.00; and, (2) Cashier's Check from the bank in the amount of \$110.17 for pennies. Michael says "that is a lot of pennies (5 gallons)". That is a chapter working together collecting Best Choice labels and pennies for the benefit of Alzheimer's Research. They are to be commended!



**State Legislative**

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If any NARFE member or federal retiree wants to gain a healthier respect for Ron Richey, Topeka Chapter Legislative Chairman, type in <http://www.kslegislature.org/li/> on your computer and prepare to be amazed ! Listed are the House and Senate Calendars and Journals and have your soft drink or coffee with you when you sit down. You'll be there for a while!

A very large number of tax bills were introduced on Thursday, February 17 and voting resumed on Friday. Most of the bills were pertinent to business and corporate concerns, but individual taxes including Social Security are included. With so many committee meetings taking place, Ron has to pick and choose, especially when I'm working somewhere else.

Latest scheduling guesstimates for the Kansas Legislature sets adjournment early in May? My guesstimate on that late a date is to provide the very latest figures in tax revenues to assist in nailing down the taxation decisions. Does that mean no firm decisions will be made by the Legislature until AFTER our NARFE state convention in Junction City, April 10-11-12 ? Could be, but the unexpected can always jump up to bite us, so we will continue to have a NARFE presence at the State House. Interest has been shown by chapters in Manhattan and Shawnee Mission for visiting the State House and sitting in on some of the sessions. Checking the website listed above will provide some possibilities!

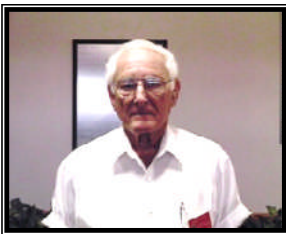
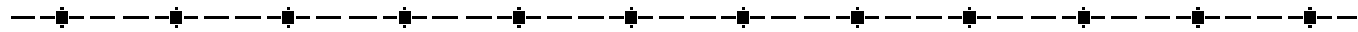


**Retirement Benefits (Service Officer)**

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Telephone: (785) 209-1938 E-mail: [jgermann1@cox.net](mailto:jgermann1@cox.net)



Just returned from a two week stay in Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina visiting friends and relatives. So I don't have too much to report except I am glad that after the big snow, my wife and I headed south as soon as they opened I-70 between Junction City and St. Louis. Had a fun trip with the high 80's in Miami and a bit cooler north of there, but it stayed nice. Now that I am home, I am looking forward to meeting and visiting with everyone at our State Convention in Junction City during April. Hope everyone has sent in their reservations, if not, you need to get them, we expect a big turnout here in Junction City and want everyone to enjoy there stay with us. See you in April."



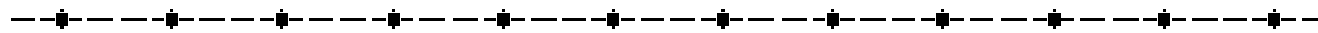
**NARFE Net / Historian**

James E. Dodd  
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Telephone: (785) 238-8041 E-mail: [JDodd40955@aol.com](mailto:JDodd40955@aol.com)

Since this newsletter is emphasizing the KS NARFE convention in Junction City, I also want to welcome everyone to the 2011 convention. Since many of us do not meet in person except at the State conventions, the convention is a great time to put a "real person" face to the e-mail addresses we have.

If you have any publications, or other items that you would like to have added to the Kansas Historical records, please bring them to the convention and I will make a copy and return the original to you. As always, you are encouraged to update your records at the NARFE HQ web site.

See you at the convention!



**2011 Region V College of NARFE Knowledge – Richard Thissen**

*The dates of the 2011 CONK are August 29-31. It will be held again at the Marina Inn in South Sioux City, Nebraska. Room rates are \$87 per night (double) which includes full buffet breakfast for two people. Registration will be \$60; this includes Monday evening sandwich buffet and the Tuesday noon and evening meals. I have been asked what the price is for some one just visiting and not attending the sessions; it is \$60. That is because the registration fee just covers the mean expense; other expenses are covered by the donations from the corporate sponsors.*

