



Kansas NARFE News **From Your Federation Officers**

September 2011 through November 2011

Federation President

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My trip to Reno in July for the Federation President's Meeting was very rewarding. The first day, I set in on the National Executive Board (NEB) meeting. That was quite an eye-opening-closed-mouth experience – closed mouth, because I was allowed to listen only; as in closed mouth gathers no foot! Richard Thissen has settled into his new position as National Treasurer and continues to be a guiding hand to the NEB.

Many items were discussed, but the budget was most important. The Regional Vice-Presidents voted to remove the allocated money that would be used to continue the services of M&R until they heard what further services the company was going to provide. Also removed from consideration was \$30,000.00 for contracted services by a company called MGI. National Secretary, Elaine Hughes, has been using MGI to perform various duties for membership recruitment. Exactly what those duties are was not explained; however, the secretary wanted to extend the contract. As I have already noted that motion was defeated. This does not mean that this expense will not come back to the table for consideration since during this meeting the NEB continues to meet and deal with business.

The Federation Presidents meeting was called to order and the first item was a report from the Legislative Department. Dan Adcock reviewed the top threats as seen by his department. As our meeting was held in July, Mr. Adcock explained that August 2nd was an important day because that was when the government could no longer cover their debt. Mr. Adcock said several stop-gap spending measures were being bandied about but the scariest was a proposal that current federal employees would see an increase to their contribution to the retirement fund. CSRS figures would increase from the current 7% to 12.5% while FERS employees would see an increase from 0.8% to 6.3%. If Congress gets the increase of 11.2% for Social Security, then FERS employees would see a total increase to 17.5% towards their retirement contribution. With the current two-year pay freeze and an increase to 17.5% a lot of lower graded employees would be significantly hurt.

Another plan would see significant changes to the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHB). Currently employees see a 70/30 split on the cost of services; the government pays roughly 70% and we pay 30%. This plan would define a different way to figure the Gross Domestic Product indexing. This would also call for retirees to pay co-payments and higher deductibles, all in a time when there is no COLA.

We all know that we, as federal employees, are in for some very rough weather as long as members of Congress see us as the way to fix the spending dilemma. This threat is not going away so we have to find ways to counter-act and in many areas, inform and teach our members of Congress that we have earned our benefits and are therefore entitled to receive them.

But a reality is we have to be willing to share on the budget cuts. What we have to do is agree to give a little but pound the stick in the sand where we stop. I don't know if the two-year pay freeze for current active federal employees (AFE) will be enough of a "give back"; I know that the freeze is putting some employees in a bind but over a period of time we can adjust our spending and will effectively adjust. Now we, as an organization, have to look at something else that we can give up and go from there.

The attitude towards federal employees is very negative right now – and I know that I'm not telling you anything you don't already know. What we have to do is use positive advertising that shows that federal employees are not only protecting our liberties but are doing it while doing our part to help balance the budget. What we have to do is take the focus off the employees and put it back on things like contractors being paid millions of dollars while the contract is in default or defeated Congressional representatives are still in their offices while current representatives are being housed in rented trailers. We need to bring people back to the 'real world' and fight back with facts and actual figures because that's what sticks in people's minds.

The rest of the Federation President's Meeting was spent in program groups. The attendees were divided up into three groups; one worked on Retention of Members, one on Advertising, and one on How to Get Members Involved in the Running of the Chapter, By Laws Committee. I was on the Advertising group. There was a lot of useful information passed on to the assembly by all the groups. Several of the suggestions produced by my group were taken well by the NEB and should be acted upon in the future. We specifically addressed the web site, or the lack of useable information available on the web site. Ed Konus, Ohio Federation President, was the team lead and had already done a tremendous amount of work so our committee did not have much to do but add our comments to his prepared presentation.

Wednesday we heard from the NEB on topics such as the e-NARFE chapter. Headquarters has now decided that there is too much involved in running an e-NARFE chapter and they feel that the Federations are not able to keep up with the amount of computer maintenance that is required for the optimum operation. Therefore the NEB has decided that the only e-NARFE chapter will be in Washington. Florida will be allowed to continue with their e-NARFE chapter because they have an approved charter but any more requests will probably be denied. Missouri has a charter ready for submission and will probably continue with their request. We will have to watch and see if they are successful and if we decide to try and put one together then we can learn from their success (and probably get their assistance!).

M&R provided a report of their future plans if their contract is extended. As you are aware, M&R is responsible for the Protect America's Heartbeat (PAH) campaign. Although the information provided for the PAH campaign is good, I'm disappointed that the people we elected to manage our organization needed an outside company to create a program that should have been second nature to us. I know that the Legislative Department is working very hard to combat the threat being laid upon the federal workforce, but hiring a contract company for thousands of dollars is hard to justify when we have supposedly qualified people elected to run our organization. I guess it's no use crying over spilt milk – what is spent and approved is already done.

Of the M&R discussion, the most important guidance was that we, all NARFE members, are directly responsible for getting the right information to our Congressional representatives. We cannot leave it up to just a few people to speak for us, we all have to step it up and write the letters, call when requested by Headquarters, and continue to visit the local Congressional offices and make our voices heard. Remember – it is the squeaky wheel that gets the grease!!

The Federation Presidents had the opportunity to provide the NEB with suggestions to make the value provided by NARFE to its members better. The NEB really seemed to take our discussions seriously. We will have to wait and see what comes from our work!

All in all, the meeting was very interesting and I learned a lot. I think it is important for other Federations to pass along their best practices so that we can make NARFE a better organization for our members. I have lots of notes from the meeting and have a couple plans in the works – as you know the saying – the only thing constant is change!

Sorry for the long length of my submission but I wanted you all to know that I take this position seriously and with the intent of doing the best job that I can for you.

I attended my first College of NARFE and was asked to present a short program on Active Federal Employees (AFE). It was an honor to be asked to address the attendees and I hope I was able to provide a small insight into what AFE's are looking for when they join an organization. I know from speaking to others that attended, I was not the only one to learn something. The Legislative Department at HQ continues to stay on top of the hot issues. Please act when requested to contact your Congressional representatives.

One of my goals, while in office this year, is to make it to as many chapters as possible and personally meet as many Kansas members as I can. So keep your eyes on the horizon and maybe I'll be at your meeting.



1st Vice President / Public Relations

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I have nothing to report for this edition of the newsletter although I did participate in calling representatives on the hot issues. I go through the daily “scratching of the head” on what is happening in our nation. As I write this article we have just experienced the downgrade of our credit rating and the Dow dropping 400 points in a few hours. It's so frustrating to buy groceries that cost \$45.00 more than a few months ago. Insurance is up, health care is rising, gas prices are higher, and don't even mention taxes that keep increasing. We wanted “change” but not these kinds of changes. We hope that our nations' leaders can work together to fix these problems.

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2nd Vice President / Membership Committee Chair

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In an effort to learn more about approaching potential members for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association I accepted an invitation from the president of Kaw-Blue Chapter 366 to work a NARFE booth at a national convention in Kansas City. The participants were mostly active federal employees with a mix of retirees and spouses. Because it was a national meeting, I was talking to people from all our states. The setting was the trade show floor of the convention center. The booth was supplied with copies of the NARFE magazine to show and give away and some handouts to share. There was some recent information available off the GEMS site and a copy of the Congressional Directory of the 112th Congress. This was the week after the debt-ceiling agreement and we had the news that, at least for now, there were no plans enacted that would weaken our federal workers' retirement and health benefits.

So being new at this, I stood in the aisle and asked the trade show attendees if they were federal employees. If the answer was yes, the next question was if they knew about NARFE. Whether the answer was yes or no, I had a magazine in hand and was able to point out articles and the question and answer pages, and give them a copy. I did run into people who belonged to NARFE, even a spouse that is president of her chapter. Most people did not belong to NARFE or did not know about NARFE. This was not news to me as I had not heard about NARFE while I was still an active federal employee. People were interested enough to ask questions, a few had strong political ideas (we have a political component but we are not partisan) and some walked past without hearing my good news!!

The magazine did draw attention and people were interested in it. I had not anticipated talking much about eNARFE but was glad that I had brought some information with me. People were interested to know that they could join online with the same benefits as a traditional membership.

This was a learning experience for me. The second day, longtime NARFE members helped at the booth. I was able to experience their approach to potential members. We will not know if we added any members those days, but a lot more people have heard the word NARFE. I will be better prepared the next time as I try to market/sell membership to the only organization dedicated to protecting the earned retirement benefits of federal employees, retirees, and their survivors. NARFE and our Federation President have put out information to help us as we approach potential members. I have not been through all that information yet but it is out there to help. Meanwhile, those of us in NARFE will work to ensure the federal employee is treated fairly. Someone worked for me, a FERS employee, before I knew about NARFE. When I retired, I received no benefit from more than 2000 hours of accumulated sick leave time but through the efforts of NARFE, future employees will not have that experience.



Secretary

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As you read this newsletter, we are four months into the Federation fiscal year. This past quarter, in an effort to conserve resources such as paper, envelopes, postage, as well as the considerable amount of time spent with mailings of the federation convention minutes, board meeting minutes, and newsletters I have tried to transmit correspondence electronically to those chapters with internet capability. For those without this capability, as well as those who would prefer to receive a hard copy of the documents, the various documents were sent in the mail. For the newsletter, a hard copy was mailed to all the Chapter Presidents, with electronic copy sent to the secretaries who had internet capability, and hard copies to those who don't have internet capability. In addition, our webmaster, Jim Dodd, sent an email with a link to the newsletter on the Federation website to all those for whom he had e-mail addresses. We are hoping this will allow more individuals to have access to the Federation news. If you have e-mail capability and didn't receive an e-mail from Jim Dodd, you will want to be sure to provide Jim a current e-mail address.

I wanted to advise the chapters that I will be mailing a packet to all Chapter Secretaries around October 1st that will provide a copy of the F-7 Chapter Officer Roster forms. All chapters should be electing officers in October or November. A completed F-7 Chapter Officer Roster Form with all the newly elected officers and chairpersons will need to be submitted to NARFE HQ by no later than **January 1st**. A copy of that form will need to be sent to the Federation President, Federation Secretary, and to the Area Vice President. Each Chapter Secretary should keep a copy of the form. Although the form is not due until January 1st, in order to help me with my efforts of updating Federation Directories, I would greatly appreciate the completed F-7 forms being sent to me by no later than **December 15, 2011**.

It should be noted that NARFE HQ will no longer accept the older F-7 form that had contained more detailed information. Only the newer form that requests last name and membership identification number will be accepted by NARFE Headquarters.

You may submit the F-7 on line by following these instructions:

1. The form must be submitted using the Chapter President's identification – so either ask the President for concurrence that you send the F-7 or have them send it. Get the information needed: last name, membership identification number and chapter from the M-114.
2. Go to website www.narfe.org
3. On the banner across the top, click on "leadership"
4. Sign in with your last name and membership identification number
5. Take the option "list of interactive forms"
6. Take the option "chapter area roster – form F-7"

7. Log on with chapter President's last name, membership number, and chapter number
8. View only on secure website "yes"
9. Be certain you fill in every block on the form by either marking change, no change or vacant
10. Be certain you hit the submit block. This will automatically send a copy back to you, to the Federation President, Federation Secretary, and Headquarters. You do need to make a copy to send to the Area Vice-President. This can be completed by forwarding a copy to them by e-mail or sending a copy by regular mail.

The mailing I will send in October to the Chapter Secretaries will also provide instructions for submitting proposed Convention Resolutions (Form F-3A) and Proposed Bylaws/Standing Rules Amendments (Form F-3C). So it is not too soon for your chapters to be considering if they have any changes they want to propose.



Treasurer

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Again let me report that all chapters in Kansas have filed a 990-N for 2010. We will not be able to file for 2011 until after December 31, 2011, and then the process will start all over again with a May 15, 2012 deadline. While Kansas chapters have all filed, other states have had problems with a few chapters that did not file. Regional Vice President Carol Ek has informed the Kansas Federation Board that two chapters in Region V did not file last year and some chapters had trouble because they filed under the wrong number. Because of the seriousness of filing, warnings and reminders of the 990-N are sent out periodically on the NARFE-NET. Please do not let these reminders upset you. Carol Ek has spent a great amount of time checking with the IRS and NARFE National Offices to make sure that we all have the same information. I have verified the list of EIN numbers that Carol provided with the list I used to verify the 2010 year filing and they are the same.

The EIN number is to businesses and organizations what a social security number is to an individual. Each chapter that has a bank account must give the bank their EIN number. We will need to continue the process of verifying the EIN numbers because with chapter officers changing, and sometimes accounts changing for the convenience of the new treasurer, there is the possibility of error. In the next weeks the Kansas Area Vice Presidents will have the verified numbers as part of their policy manual. I am asking each Area Vice President to make sure that their policy manual is current and then verifying each chapter's EIN number with the Chapter Treasurer.

For several issues I have asked those that receive the KANSAS NARFE NEWS to share the newsletter with other members in their chapter. Now the newsletter is on the Kansas web site. I hope that members that are capable will print off a copy and share with the chapter membership.

Our financing continues to run in line with previous years. Our CD of \$3,041.74 rolled over in June and our checking account balance is \$ 3,234.66.

Area 1 Vice President

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Reports are online now and printed copies are not just sent to you. You need to have a password to have access to the reports. If you don't have a password – get one.

When I visited the chapters in my area I noted some interesting programs. One of our legislators visited a chapter and legislative aides have also been speakers. A postmaster gave another program. One group had a mystery sketch about one of their members and the members were to guess who it was about. Two chapters have a drawing from those attending and they are given a small gift. I've been to two indoor picnics. Yum! Health insurance, health issues, home safety, transportation and roads would also be interesting topics for a chapter meeting. Nurses and pharmacists would be good speakers. I am also a resource as a speaker.

I look forward to having chapters get on my calendar. I do installation of officers and also just enjoy getting to know all of you.



Area 1A Vice President

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Greetings from northeast Kansas! Today it's raining - something we have seldom seen this summer. It's so ironic to see pictures of the Missouri River flooding and a dried-up cornfield in the same picture. I'm really looking forward to autumn.

The Area Vice-Presidents are going to start highlighting chapters in their areas and I was selected to be the first to do so, both as Area Vice President and as President of the Atchison chapter.



The Atchison chapter has 27 voting members and 1 member in LSA status. Between 7 and 10 members attend the monthly meetings which are held September through June. The chapter has one former Federation executive board member (Eugene Harter – former Area 1A Vice President) and two current Federation board members (Judy Etter - Area IA Vice President and Lorene Mumm - Convention Liaison Secretary). The chapter was established on September 3, 1957. The Atchison

chapter hosted the state convention in 1978. In 2010 the chapter contributed an average of \$8.61 to the Alzheimer's Association. In June, by unanimous vote, the chapter became the Amelia Earhart Chapter 621 - Atchison. Several other changes were also made to the chapter's bylaws to bring them into line with the way the chapter conducts its meetings. National Headquarters returned the approved bylaws in July. I am the editor of the newsletter (The Flier) and have been trying to get it off the ground (my name is not Amelia) this summer. Hopefully, we will publish our first quarterly issue in September. If you are in Atchison at lunchtime on the third Tuesday of the month, stop by the KFC/Taco Bell on 59 Highway and join us.

Make sure your members know how they benefit from PAC contributions. With Washington in turmoil, it is more important than ever to support PAC. If everyone contributed \$20, we could help make NARFE a stronger voice to be reckoned with.



Area 2 Vice President / Kansas Federation Training Officer

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Region V consisting of seven Midwest states held their 10th regional College of NARFE Knowledge in South Sioux City, Nebraska August 29, 30, 31 with a couple of hundred NARFE members from the region in attendance. While this was the 10th "Kollege of NARFE" it was still the first for several attendees, but the 10th for others.

Dan Adcock, head of NARFE Legislative Department, was a guest speaker on current legislation. Richard Thissen, our national Treasurer and past Region V Vice President, provided support throughout the three days. Barb Pretzer, NARFE National Alzheimer Coordinator, reported on Alzheimer issues. Carol Ek, our new Region V Vice President, spent much time seeing that all events started on time and ended on time.

The College of NARFE Knowledge is always a place to learn. If you missed this 10th College of NARFE Knowledge, you missed out on a lot of learning. You and I as NARFE members should be concerned with what we can do to support our membership, our chapters and Federations in protecting our earned benefits. We (you and I) cannot provide leadership, we cannot follow and be a good supporter unless we learn about the issues and this Congress has their mind on changing the rules, which can cost "you and I" benefits.

As background information, when Charles Jackson, from the St. Louis area, was Region V Vice President in 1993, he had a vision for bringing NARFE members of Region V together in the off year from the National Convention. His purpose was to up-date our NARFE members in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota on current issues. The first two College of NARFE's were at Omaha, Nebraska at the Best Western. From there they were moved to South Sioux City, Nebraska where they have been held every other year since then. Charles Jackson, after organizing the first College of NARFE in 1993, went on to become NARFE National President for two terms. He has attended all NARFE National Conventions since completing his terms as NARFE President.

If you have never attended, remember there will be another College of NARFE Knowledge the year after next and it will probably be in South Sioux City. I am looking forward to seeing you there. It is said, "When you stop learning, you cease to be a productive individual." To Learn is to Grow----- See you year after next.

Area 2A Vice President

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As I prepare this article, we are enjoying the "vacation" that our Congresspersons and the President has given us. It is a relief to not have a daily assault on our EARNED BENEFITS. But looks as if another round is about to start. We now have a "Super Committee" to worry about. Boy, what a deal - - - just one thing after another. NARFE has proved strong and spoken out again. We must never let the pressure drop, even for an instant.

Now I see that the U.S. Postal Service is proposing to cut employees, and change their health and retirement plans. We have lots of Postal Worker members, so what does NARFE do???

Area 2A has just had a big party. We recruited new members and celebrated the 90th birthday of NARFE and the 50th birthday of the Bourbon County and Chanute Chapters. There was an open house with refreshments. The highlights of the celebration were short presentations from: Carol Ek, Region V Vice President; Cindy Renee' Blythe, our Kansas Federation President; and Walt Germann, our Kansas Federation Service Officer. Thanks to each of you for your kind assistance.

I have had a difficult time finding out when our Congresspersons were holding "Town Hall" meetings. Web sites were not very complete and calls to their offices were no help at all. Guess they don't keep the office staff up to date.

It has been a LONG, HOT summer in SE Kansas. I am ready for fall and ready to get to work to protect our EARNED BENEFITS.

Area 3 Vice President / PAC (Political Action Committee)



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Fall is in the air! After the many 100 degree days, a few cooler days are welcome.

I attended the meeting at the Black Squirrel Chapter 1947 at Home City. I also attended the meeting at Concordia for the Crossroads of America Chapter 739. Of course, I have attended my home Chapter 366. The Chapters have good programs.

I attended the NARFE Region V 10th Biennial COLLEGE OF NARFE KNOWLEDGE, August 29-31, 2011, at South Sioux City, Nebraska. The Marina Inn is located on the banks of the Missouri River, which had flooded up to the lawn of the Marina Inn. The sand bags were being removed and grading being done to elevate the yard to be above the recent flood line. One hundred seventy-two Region V members were in attendance from the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota. Seven support persons also were in attendance to provide a very good program. Kansas had 32 of those 172 persons in attendance. Kansans were active on the program. Carol Ek, the current NARFE Vice President for Region V, Barb Pretzer the NARFE Alzheimer's Region V Chairperson and National Chairperson, Cindy Renee Blythe, NARFE Kansas Federation President, were on the program.

We have a lot to do to protect our earned benefits. We all need to be recruiters. Bring those persons who are eligible to your Chapter meeting and encourage them to become members of NARFE. We have a goodly number of currently employed and retired persons who should be NARFE members. It is in the interest of those people and you that they know NARFE and become a part of NARFE. Share the good news about NARFE with others.

NARFE-PAC

NARFE-PAC is your opportunity to provide funding to call attention to our Political Representation of NARFE. So, once again I call your attention to the **NARFE-PAC Creed – “of the donors, by the members, for the good of all members and survivors”**.

Remember the old saying – “It doesn't 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 of your members to contribute to **NARFE-PAC**; **\$20** or more qualifies you to a **NARFE-PAC** pin. Wear it proudly. I have a good supply of pins. If you need some, let me know. I just sent contributions in for a couple more chapters. Make it a point to bring **NARFE-PAC** up at your next meeting. Now is the time. Do it!



Area 4 Vice President / National Legislative Chair

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What will the congressional SUPERcommittee do to us?

Federal retirees are facing the largest threat to our earned benefits since Congress passed the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision in 1983! History has proven that just because the Federal Government promises something, those promises can be broken. After the

budget fiasco, Congress established a 12-member ‘Super Committee.’ It is composed of 6 members of the House of Representatives and 6 members of the Senate. There are three Democrats and three Republicans from each chamber on the committee. The 12-member committee has been tasked with making \$1.5 trillion additional cuts in the deficit. The deadline for reporting their proposals is November 23, 2011. Whatever they propose must be simply voted up or down with no amendments allowed. Both chambers of Congress must pass it by December 23, 2011. The President must sign it by January 15, 2012. There are many possibilities of ways the ‘Super Committee’ could do us harm. They could reduce the amount the Federal Government pays for our health benefits. They might mess with Medicare and/or Social Security. In the past our COLA’s have been delayed, deferred or outright cancelled. Now the talk is of changing the way our COLA is calculated to make it smaller. (How can you get smaller than zero)? The information I picked up at the College of NARFE Knowledge indicates our best hope is for them to NOT AGREE on anything! If they reach an impasse, the budget goes into “sequestration”. This means that every Department takes an equal reduction on their budget...Well, almost every Department that is. Some ‘discretionary programs’ would be reduced. Exemptions are provided for the ‘security category’ which includes discretionary appropriations associated with agency budgets for the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the intelligence community management account. Other areas exempt from the sequester would include: **Government payments for various Federal Annuitys, Employees Health Benefits and Social Security Benefits. Medicare payments are not exempt from the sequester, but are limited to reductions of no more than 2 percent for a fiscal year.**

We have no idea what is going to happen to us but given the intransigence (bullheadedness) displayed on the full House & Senate budget talks, an impasse appears likely. Only time will tell.

Area 5 Vice President

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Chapter 2053, Oberlin, hosted an area membership meeting in Atwood on September 11, 2011. The purpose of having the meeting in Atwood was to take the meeting to potential members rather than invite potential members as guests to the regular chapter meeting location in Oberlin. The area membership for Chapter 2053 comes from the three counties of Rawlins, Decatur and Norton with the larger town in each county being Atwood, Oberlin and Norton. The meeting was special because Kansas Federation Officers and Regional Officers attended and provided current information on the importance of NARFE to potential members and current members as well. A future newsletter mailing will carry an article of the meeting’s accomplishments.

It is that time of year for chapters to elect members to lead their chapter for another year. NARFE members are encouraged to take the opportunity to serve your chapter by making yourself available for an officer or committee chair position.

What adversity will our retirement and health benefits face in the upcoming months? I don't know, but we as NARFE members shall continue to do all we can to urge lawmakers not to single out federal workers and annuitants for reductions in our earned compensations.

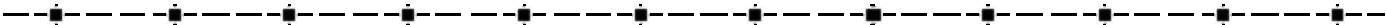
Following a long hot and dry summer, we hope autumn will bring cooler temperatures and beneficial moisture.



Area 6 Vice President

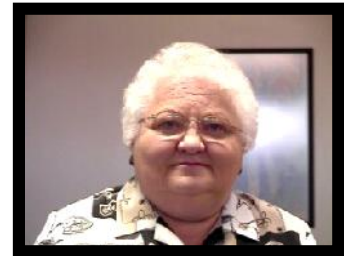
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[No article provided for this issue of Kansas NARFE News]



Alzheimer's Chairperson

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As of July 31, 2011, Kansas chapters have collected \$13,055.54 which averages to \$2.91 per member. The 2011 goal is \$5.50 per member.

As of June 30, 2011, NARFE contributions to Alzheimer's Research reached \$9,293,510.16 The Alzheimer's Association operates on a fiscal year calendar. For the period July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011, Kansas ranked number 6 of the 54 Federations for a total of \$21,095.00.

In August 2010, a member of the Buffalo Bill Chapter 27, Leavenworth, challenged his chapter members to donate \$2,200.00 and he would give a certain amount if that challenge was met by August 2011. Chapter members met the challenge!

The North Dakota Federation has developed a brochure that may be left at funeral homes to help with establishing a memorial. Go to www.narfe.org/nd to download the brochure. Several chapters have visited funeral homes in their chapter area with positive comments from funeral directors.

Do you know the history of how NARFE chose Alzheimer's Research as their charity? The idea was started by the New Mexico Federation in early 1983. At the time, NARFE (national or otherwise) did not have any kind of official, established support of ANY cause. The New Mexico Federation thought that at least their federation needed one. A new national foundation (what was later to become the Alzheimer's Association) had just been formed to provide research on Alzheimer's disease. Since this was a disease of the elderly and the idea would be a good step in improving the image of federal retirees,

it was recommended as a project for the New Mexico Federation of Chapters. They had a terrific response in their first year. They, in turn, recommended the national NARFE organization take it on as an official program. It was adopted nationally in 1985. NARFE is their number one contributor among all membership organizations.

The drug Namenda leads all other therapies approved for Alzheimer's disease by a wide margin in the treatment of newly diagnosed Alzheimer's disease patients. NARFE donations had a hand in helping to fund its discovery.

Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death (fifth leading cause of death for those 65 and older) and the only cause of death among the top 10 causes in the United States without an identified way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression. Today, an estimated 5.4 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and this number is expected to grow to as many as 16 million by mid-century without disease-modifying interventions.

REMEMBER: 100% of NARFE contributions are used for Alzheimer's Research. When submitting a check made out to "NARFE/Alzheimer's Research", you will receive a letter from the Alzheimer's Association documenting your donation for tax purposes.



State Legislative



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STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Several committees have met during the off session. Most of them were debating income taxes, other sources of revenue, and what to do about KPERS (Kansas Public Employees Retirement System). NARFE's interest in KPERS discussions centers on linking the two tax exemptions together. Although KPERS has been the center of attention this summer, a FLAT TAX (sometimes called a FAIR TAX) has been discussed. I recently read a quote attributed to GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney, back in 1996, where he said a 17% flat tax is "a tax cut for fat cats." That quote was reported by columnist George Will in a column on 9-4-2011, in the Topeka Daily Capital. George should visit the Kansas State House and listen to some of the ideas being floated!

Some want to eliminate ALL income taxes, starting with corporations, to attract more business to Kansas. Some want to eliminate personal income tax, but perhaps pay for those eliminations by removing our tax exemption. These were interesting discussions, but nothing to hang our legislative hat on.

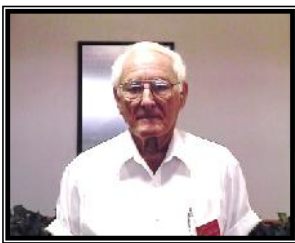
Here's a tip for 2012. IF you approve of your Kansas Senator, check with them on their reelection plans. Campaigns are expensive and good volunteer help is always appreciated. And, if you don't approve? Stay in contact!

Retirement Benefits (Service Officer)

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[No article provided for this issue of Kansas NARFE News].



NARFE Net / Historian

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The FEHBP open season will be soon. If you need information about your current service provider or to compare your current provider with other providers there are “links” at the KSNARFE.org home page that will take you to the various provider web sites. The links are item numbers 49, 50, 51 and 52.

The Kansas Federation Officers board list at item number 2 has been updated. Also several Kansas Federation board meeting minutes and other information have been added to item number 13A.

There are more than 300 current and “archived” Federation and Chapter newsletters at home page item number 14.

Mentor to Secretary

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I attended the College of NARFE Knowledge. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about the operation of NARFE on the national level and to meet fellow members of NARFE. I enjoyed visiting with Kansas NARFE members and meeting members from other states.

Later this year I will be contacting the Area Vice Presidents, Chapter Presidents and Chapter Secretaries regarding the 2012 Kansas State Federation of Chapters convention that will be held in Salina in the spring. All Kansas NARFE members should consider attending the convention. It is a worthwhile experience.
