



**OFFICERS and CHAIRS**

President	Tom Huntzinger	785-749-2240
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Roger Lemmons	785-840-9594
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Ken Rowen	785-842-8847
Secretary	Dianne Throop	785-841-1408
Treasurer	Clara Arnold	785-842-1680
Membership	Betty Scribner	785-865-8235
Service	Wanda Lyon	785-764-2210
Public Relations	Gordon Montney	785-760-0595
Newsletter	Wendy Hambly	913-845-0121
NARFE PAC	Val Romero	785-843-6858
NARFE Net Coor	Jim Turrentine	785-842-3674
Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Legislative Chair	John Surritte	785-856-0558
Sunshine	Reba Bryant	785-843-4407

**CHAPTER PRESIDENT Tom Huntzinger**

This is a very active time for all of us. Midterm elections have the potential for a substantial impact to federal retirees. Some key Congressional seats are in close races and others represent broad differences in their philosophy of government. The Congressional District vacated by Dennis Moore representing east Lawrence is an example. NARFE is working hard at the national level to stay abreast of these events. At our Chapter level we are working to enhance membership and maintain contact with legislators. Leading up to this mid term election we struggled to keep up with the Candidates and their issues. It was a learning experience this first time around for me. To improve our access to this process, I have joined the Voter Education Coalition. It is an organization of representatives from at least a dozen organizations in the community that share an interest in educating voters about candidates and informing Candidates about key issues. This group hosted a forum for state legislative candidates and a forum for County Commissioners and the State Board of Education. It will begin planning in January for the City and local School Board races next spring. Hopefully we can enhance our presence through this Coalition in the future. All of us can do our part by voting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Our own election of Chapter Officers is coming up in November so please make an effort to attend the November meeting and participate. Our Chapter has been energized and enhanced by the work of those who have been officers this past year. We would welcome anyone interested in any office to contact John Surritte and volunteer. We have a couple of officer positions that as of this writing do not have a candidate. I would encourage you to volunteer for one of these offices.

# VOTE

**LEGISLATIVE John Surritte**

No COLA this year. If you are interested in the proposed \$250 for seniors, use NARFE's Action Line to send an email to our congressmen. The average for a female surviving spouse annuity is about \$900 per month. The \$250 would help cover the increase in health plans. The Washington Post survey revealed people feel federal workers **are** overpaid, don't work as hard and have cozy benefits compared to the private sector. The Republicans are supporting this attitude, which seems to be leading to a reduction to our benefits as a way to balance the budget. **NARFE, a bipartisan organization**, did not support many Republican candidates.

Concerning 2011 Chapter nominations, I am happy to report that the following officers and chairs are willing to serve in 2011: Wanda Lyon (Service Officer), Reba Bryant (Sunshine), John Scott (Alzheimer's), Betty Scribner (Membership), John Surritte (Legislative), Jim Turrentine (Net Coor), Gordon Montney (Public Relations), Wendy Hambly (Newsletter). Officers on the ballot are: Tom Huntzinger (President), Roger Lemmons (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Elaine Seeman (2<sup>nd</sup> VP), Dianne Throop (Secretary). Positions needing interested members are: Treasurer and NARFE PAC.

**CANDIDATE INFO from NARFE MAGAZINE**

Per NARFE article in OCTOBER 2010 issue pages 29-35, THIS IS HOW THEY VOTED:

Congressman	Bill 191	310	737	251	334
Moran (R)	-	-	+	-	-
Jenkins (R)	+	-	+	-	-
Brownback (R)			-	-	-
Moore (D)	+	+	+	+	+

+ Voted for the NARFE-preferred position  
 - Voted against the NARFE-preferred position

Explanation of Bills Continued on page 2

**Happy Birthday to Virginia Hammersmith  
 November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Candidate Info continued: Explanation of Bills  
 2009 HOUSE VOTE #191, APRIL 2, 2009

Fiscal 2010 Budget Resolution

2009 HOUSE VOTE #310, JUNE 4, 2009

Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave -- Passage (HR 626)  
 Passage of the bill that would grant federal employees paid leave for up to four weeks to care for newborn or newly 2009.

HOUSE VOTE #737, SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

Medicare Premium Adjustment -- Passage (HR 3631) Rep. Frank Pallone's, D-NJ, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would adjust 2010 Medicare premiums to equal 2009 premiums, paid for by a reduction of the same amount to Medicare Improvement Fund expenditures for fiscal year 2014. Note: A two-thirds majority of those present and voting (283 in this case) is required for passage under suspension of the rules. Motion agreed to 406-18. A "yea" vote is considered a "plus" for NARFE purposes. (See November 2009 NARFE, "House: No Medicare Hike for Fed Retirees," pp. 8-10.)

2010 HOUSE VOTE #251 MAY, 6, 2010

Telework for Federal Employees -- Passage (HR 1722)

Rep. Stephen F. Lynch's, D- MA, motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill that would require the heads of each executive agency to establish and implement a policy that would authorize employees to telework as much as possible without diminishing agency operations or rules and pass the bill that would require the heads of each executive agency to establish and implement a policy that would authorize employees to telework as much as possible without diminishing agency operations or performance. It also would require that agency heads provide training for telework employees and designate a telework managing officer. Note: A two-thirds majority of those present and voting (277 in this case) is required for passage under suspension of the rules. Motion rejected 268-147. A "yea" vote is considered a "plus" for NARFE purposes. (See May 7, 2010, Hotline 714, "Telework Bill Defeated.")

2010 HOUSE VOTE #334, MAY 28, 2010

Fiscal 2011 Defense Authorization -- Motion to Table (HR 5136) Rep. Ike Skelton's, D-MO, motion to table (kill) Rep. Michele Bachmann's, R-MN, appeal of the ruling of the chair with respect to the Skelton point of order that the Bachmann motion to recommit the bill was not germane to the bill. The motion would recommit the bill to the Armed Services Committee with instructions that it be immediately reported back with an amendment that would freeze the pay of members of Congress and non-uniformed federal employees. Motion agreed to 227-183. A "yea" vote is considered a "plus" for NARFE purposes. (See August 2010 NARFE, "Fed Pay Freeze Attempts Defeated," p. 12.)

**KUDOS & THANK YOU'S TO:**

- **Linda and John Surritte** – for matching funds for Alzheimer's donations in Aug, Sept, Oct.
- **Chapter 378** for **already** surpassing 2009 donations, and there's still 2 months to go!
- **Elaine Seeman** – for volunteering for the Special Events Committee

**KS FEDERATION LEGISLATIVE Comments**

The following is a response from Jim Miller, Kansas Federation Legislative Chair, to an email asking for candidate information:

*Brownback and Roberts [voted] 0 % with us [NARFE]. Moran, 20 %, Dennis Moore, wife running to replace him, 100 % on NARFE issues. Lynn Jenkins, 40 %.*

*I'll toss in my " promos " for Steve Six, Chris Biggs and just about anybody on the Democrat slate. Chris I know and worked with. Steve Six has been the BEST Attorney General in memory, Brownback and Jerry Moran voted almost if not at 100 % for Wall Street bankers, Big Pharma and Big Health Insurance companies. My hope for Jerry Moran (my educated guess is he'll waltz into the Senate) is...he has all those years as a Congressman and will now have six years in the Senate, so he won't HAVE to cater to the lunatic fringe with his votes. My hope is...he'll be more of a moderate Republican and at least try to make some progress for our nation.*

***TWO events to beware of: (1) the NATIONAL Committee to cut expenses (Oh look! Federal employees and retirees! Let's nail them!) and (2) the Special Committee on Taxation in the KS Legislature. Next meeting, Nov. 12, in the State House, final report will be to the 2012 Legislature. My best guess....attempts to have federal retirees lose the tax free benefit, and recommend a Flat tax for KS.***

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Betty Scribner**

Welcome Sandy Nease and Archie Hawkins both long-time members. In April of 2010 we had 118 members, July 122, and October 120. Although this number is up from past years, it is important that we continue to be aggressive in our efforts to reach active and retired federal potential members.

We are trying to arrange presentations with 2 agencies. The goods news/bad news is membership tends to increase during economically down years when benefits are threatened. **That time has arrived.**

Also, National dues increase in 2011: 1 yr = \$40, chapter, 2 yrs = \$72, and 3 yrs = \$102. Using **Dues Withholding** gives you a **15% reduction** on National dues, reducing those to \$34.00 for 1 yr. Chapter dues of \$5/yr are added to national dues.

Email: [elisabethscribner@yahoo.com](mailto:elisabethscribner@yahoo.com)

**NARFE NEWS**

NARFE Legislative Hotline, number 732 released Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010:

**Second Consecutive Year Without a COLA:**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) confirmed what has been reported on this Hotline - there will be **NO Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)** in the three federally administered retirement programs – Social Security, military retirement and federal civil service. This is the second consecutive year without measured inflation.

**Take action through the Action Alert on the NARFE Legislative Action Center:**

(<http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=18873501&PROCESS=Take+Action>). Or you can call your Representative and two Senators. The NARFE toll-free number for the Capitol Switchboard, 1-866-220-0044, allows callers to ask for any Representative or Senator by name. When doing so, tell your Congressional delegation the following: ***"I urge you to include federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible for Social Security in any legislation offering a \$250 payment to seniors."***

**Free State Chapter 378 Candidates for 2011**

Vote for 2011 Chapter Officers at November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. All incumbents are on the ballot, except the treasurer and NARFE PAC candidates. These positions need to be filled. Let John Surritte know if you are interested in a position. Step up to the plate, NARFE needs to be proactive in these questionable times.

**ALZHEIMER'S FUND****John Scott**

On October 9, 2010, of the 45 Kansas NARFE Chapters, Chapter 378 had given the second highest "Per Member" amount for Alzheimer's Research this year (\$15.59), based on a total giving of \$1668.00. Late October donations of \$78.00 plus Surritte's August through October matching funds of \$264 bring our YTD total to **\$2010**. Our Chapter has indeed done very well for Alzheimer's Research in 2010, and we still have November and December! Thank you to everyone, and a special thank you to Linda and John Surritte.

Get your **UPC Labels from BEST CHOICE products to Dianne Throop**. Make collecting a family affair!

**November 17<sup>th</sup> MEETING INFORMATION**

Meet at Conroy's Pub. The program begins at noon, lunch (\$9) at 12:30, followed by a business meeting. The November program covers Long Term Care insurance and installation of 2011 Free State Chapter 378 Officers and Chairs.

**October 20th Meeting Recap**

Judy Billings of the Lawrence Convention and Visitors Bureau said efforts for this area to become a Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area began in 2002. A Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area is under the National Parks Service (NPS) and must be a grassroots-effort by volunteers, have an accepted management plan, and receive Freedom's Frontier Federal Grant dollars combined with required community matching funds. Being approved as a Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area makes it possible for Lawrence and Douglas County to develop the history of the area. She showed a brief video covering some of the area's history. She said the 3 R's, revenge, retribution, and retaliation, were part of the Border Wars (1854 and 1865). Where Quantrill was a hero in Missouri, he was a villain in Kansas. The desire for a "legacy of understanding and to live in a civilized society" ushered in a new era. She went on to say there is a strong freedom story emanating from this 35,000 square mile area covering 29 Kansas and 12 Missouri counties. The next step is to develop a map of the events of the area. The map will be ready the first part of 2011 and will be a tool for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kansas' statehood. Kansas was admitted to the union as a free state on January 29, 1861.

In November of 2010, the Freedom's Frontier Convention and Visitors Bureau will move from the Chamber of Commerce Office to newly renovated space in the Carnegie Library Building on the NW corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Vermont (formerly the Lawrence Arts Center). They are developing a website ([www.freedomsfrontier.org](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org)), and looking for someone to develop the signage for the area over the next 15 years. We should see some of that in 5 years. They hope to attract visitors by connecting the individual stories so visitors will have more information. Judy Billings says we can support this effort by spreading the word.

**Special Events Committee Tom Huntzinger**

The committee will identify and describe a series of special activities for the Chapter members and spouses that are either complimentary to regular meetings or separate events.

Events should be enjoyable as a first expectation and not necessarily be associated with the regular meeting venue. Events may be informative or contribute to the Chapter time and place outside the regular venue and Conroy's. An event must be approved by both the Chapter President and 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and they may choose to bring it to a Chapter vote. A Special Event may involve travel to other towns or places. Group travel (bus or van) must be a part of the event when an event is proposed that involves travel beyond the Chapter community area. Events can be proposed that require expense contributions from attendees, but these events must not be associated with a regular Chapter meeting.

The committee will present a series of initial ideas to the Chapter members for their information, questions, and approval. Then they will proceed with special event arrangements, as appropriate, throughout the year.

Elaine Seeman has volunteered for the committee. We still need a few more members to step forward. If you have questions, please contact me at [tomhuntzinger@sunflower.com](mailto:tomhuntzinger@sunflower.com).

**SUNSHINE Reba Bryant**

I sent a sympathy card to the Harold Johanning family. Harold, former NARFE member, passed away recently.

Please continue to let me know about illness, special birthdays, celebrations, or honors our members receive, so I can send an appropriate card.

Email: [rebabryant@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rebabryant@sbcglobal.net)

**NET COORDINATOR Jim Turrentine**

Chapter website at [www.narfe.org/chapter378](http://www.narfe.org/chapter378). We are still working on it. The committee is meeting next Tuesday, so please email suggestions to me or Wendy Hambly at [haq@copper.net](mailto:haq@copper.net).

Have a computer question? Contact me at [jim\\_turrentine@yahoo.com](mailto:jim_turrentine@yahoo.com).

**MEMBERS TO DO LIST****1) VOTE**

- 2) Call John Surritte to tell him you'd like to be on the ballot for treasurer or be NAFRE PAC chair.
- 3) Recruit someone for NARFE.
- 4) Sign up for Dues Withholding and save some money. Form available from Betty Scribner, Membership Chair.
- 5) Use NARFE's Legislative Action Line to send your Congressmen an email to protect benefits.
- 6) Participate in the Chapter 378's Alzheimer's Fund Raiser. Save the UPC's from Best Choice labels for Alzheimer's Fund Raiser.
- 7) Volunteer for the "Special Events" committee.
- 8) Submit an idea for a Special Event
- 9) Email your birthday to Wendy Hambly at [haq@copper.net](mailto:haq@copper.net)
- 10) Come to November's meeting
- 11) **DID I MENTION VOTE?????**

**As long as the differences and diversities of mankind exist, democracy must allow for compromise, for accommodation, and for the recognition of differences.**

*Eugene McCarthy*

**Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.**

*George Jean Nathan*

**The greatest task of democracy, its ritual and feast - is choice.**

*H.G. Wells*

**The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter.**

*Winston Churchill*

**Our idea is that a state is strong when the people are politically conscious. It is strong when the people know everything, can form an opinion of everything, and do everything consciously.**

*V. I. Lenin*