



**2011 OFFICERS and CHAIRS**

|                                |                |              |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| President                      | Tom Huntzinger | 785-766-6717 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | Roger Lemmons  | 785-840-9594 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Elaine Seeman  | 785-331-2280 |
| Secretary                      | Dianne Throop  | 785-841-1408 |
| Treasurer                      | Cheryl Travis  | 785-841-1616 |
| 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                      | Linda Surritte | 785-856-0558 |
| NARFE Net Coor                 |                |              |
| Alzheimer's Chair              | John Scott     | 785-542-3510 |
| Legislative Chair              | John Surritte  | 785-856-0558 |
| Sunshine                       | Sandy Nease    | 785-843-3378 |

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

- ❖ Elaine Seeman for recruiting 4 new members.
- ❖ Betty Scribner for convincing members to renew.
- ❖ John Surritte for continued efforts to provide the Chapter with up-to-date legislative information
- ❖ Linda Surritte for keeping the Chapter informed of effect on our COLA if congress changes the index used to calculate COLA's.
- ❖ Tom Huntzinger for getting a Thank You card for Clara Arnold as she retires from the Treasure's position.
- ❖ Our 5 new Chapter members, Ace & Lareeda Hickey, Leonard Short, and Myron Feuborn for joining Chapter 378!

---Report deserving members to Wendy Hambly---

**SERVICE OFFICER Wanda Lyon**

June 2011's CPI-W (Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers) decreased by 0.2 percent.. The new CPI-W index figure is now 222.522, which is **3.26** percent above the 2008 third-quarter average of 215.495, which is the base figure for determining the next COLA.

| CPI-W     |         | MONTHLY % CHG | % TOWARD NEXT COLA |
|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Jan 2011  | 216.400 | 0.5           | +0.42              |
| Feb 2011  | 217.535 | 0.5           | +0.95              |
| Mar 2011  | 220.024 | 1.1           | +2.10              |
| Apr 2011  | 221.743 | .08           | +2.90              |
| May 2011  | 222.954 | 0.5           | +3.46              |
| June 2011 | 222.522 | -0.2          | +3.26              |

John and Linda Surritte reported at July's Chapter meeting that Congress may vote to use a different index to determine our COLA. On average this index is generally 0.25% lower than the CPI-W currently used to determine our COLA.

(785)764-2210 or [lyonden@sunflower.com](mailto:lyonden@sunflower.com)

**AUGUST 17th MEETING INFORMATION**

Meet at Conroy's Pub. Program begins at noon, lunch at 12:30. Choose from 3 menu items. Iced tea, coffee, gratuity, and tax are included for \$10.00. A business meeting follows lunch. August's program is Kim Gronniger of Weststar, who will talk about the company's future plans. September's program is Riley Scott, State Director and Deputy Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, Kansas.

**JULY 20th MEETING RECAP**

Janice Early, Director of Lawrence Memorial Hospital, had a scheduling conflict and was unable to attend the meeting.

We had a great turn out and several guests/new members. The new members are largely a result of the recruiting letter Elaine Seeman recently sent to postal employees and retirees. Welcome new members: Ace & Lareeda Hickey and Gus McClelland. Welcome guests (and soon to be new members) Leonard Short and Myron Feuerborn.

Not having a speaker actually turned out well, as we had time to visit.

**LEGISLATIVE John Surritte**

**Hope you remembered to call President Obama and your Congressmen on July 27<sup>th</sup>, NARFE's telecom day...if not, better late than never. The President's number is 1-888-225-8418, and Congress' is 1-866-220-0044.** Supply your zip code to be connected with the correct congressman and request a written response. Ask that they not cut benefits to reduce federal deficit.

John announced that in September, as Past President, he will be asking for candidates' names for the Chapter's Board Ballot.

**SUNSHINE CHAIR Reba Bryant**

Our Sunshine Chair, Reba Bryant needs a little sunshine of her own. She has surgery scheduled for August 10th.

Sandy Nease has volunteered to fill in for Reba, so let her know about illness, special birthdays, celebrations, or honors our members receive, so she can send an appropriate card.

Phone: 785-843-3378

**ALZHEIMER's John Scott**

Donations: July \$21 Year to date \$232

**MEMBERSHIP****Betty Scribner**

We're half way through 2011, and our recruiting efforts are **phenomenal**. Thank you for your help. Many of you gave me names of people to call or visit; you participated at fairs and seminars at federal agencies; and you sent letters. It all began with our own brochure being printed and handed out at many meetings, displayed at agencies, and mailed. Thank you for voting "yes" to spend the money to see our name in print. Several other NARFE chapters in Kansas are copying the idea.

Another aspect of membership is **RETENTION**. A month before your membership expires, you will receive a renewal reminder in the mail. Returning that right away ensures you will not be dropped and have to be reinstated. National dues are \$40.00 and Chapter dues are \$5.00, so total cost is \$45.00. **Dues withholding is an option and saves you money.** The cost is \$39.00 (\$3.25/month) withheld from your check. It takes about 60 days to set up, so start early. If you need more information and/or forms, please call me at 785-865-8235.

We have lost another member. *Jeanne Lytle*, 85 of Lawrence, KS, formally of Junction City, was born February 10, 1926, in Leadville, CO to William and Elsie (Walsh) Meese.

Jeanne married Meredith D. "Buck" Lytle January 11, 1948. He preceded her in death on July 30, 2007.

Jeanne was a homemaker. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Junction City and attended the First Presbyterian Church in Lawrence, KS. Jeanne was active with the Geary Community Hospital Auxiliary and the Geary County Extension Club, and a member of NARFE Chapter 378.

**HEADS UP**

Remember the October 19<sup>th</sup> Chapter 378 meeting will be held at Meadowlark Estates on 6<sup>th</sup> and Folk. **ALSO NOTE that we need a head-count for lunch.** A method for getting that headcount is in the works and will be announced in the September newsletter. **The lunch is being provided by Meadowlark Estates, and there is NO CHARGE for lunch.** More information will follow.

**NARFE, one of America's oldest and largest associations, was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned rights and benefits of America's active and retired federal workers. The largest federal employee/retiree organization, NARFE represents the retirement interests of nearly 5 million current and future federal annuitants, spouses and survivors.**

**SOME of NARFE's LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS in the 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS**

- ✓ Equity for Federal Retirees in Stimulus Bill: Ensures that federal, state and local government retirees who are not eligible for Social Security will receive a one-time, \$250 per-person refundable tax credit for the 2009 tax year.
- ✓ Protection of Federal Benefits: Protects benefits by defeat of an amendment to the fiscal year 2010 House Budget Resolution that would have cut federal civilian retirement and/or health benefits by \$10 billion over 10 years.
- ✓ TSP Accounts Rights for Survivors: Ensures that surviving spouses have the same rights over their inherited accounts as any other TSP participant.
- ✓ Enactment of Several Civil Service Improvements in the Defense Authorization Bill:
  1. Reemploying Annuitants: Allows federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity.
  2. (FERS) Sick Leave: Permits FERS workers initially to credit half, and in 2014 all, of their unused sick leave toward retirement.
  3. Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) Part-Time Service Fix: Permits certain CSRS workers to phase down to part-time status at the end of their careers without reducing their final annuity.
- ✓ Enactment of Enhancements to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP):
  1. Automatic Enrollment and Immediate Contributions: Provides automatic TSP enrollment of, and immediate matching contributions for, newly hired federal employees.
  2. Roth Option: Adds a "Roth" option to the TSP, allowing participants to make after-tax contributions to the plan and withdraw their earnings tax-free upon retirement.