

MEMBERSHIP**BETTY SCRIBNER**

Welcome to 3 new members: Lonnie Cox, Raymond Farve, and Margaret Atkinson. Welcome back to Lloyd Stullken and thank you to a number of you who renewed this month for another year or two. You are all important to the success of NARFE.

Overall during 2011, Chapter 378 gained 20 new members and reinstated 4 drops for a current total of 133 members. Other statistics: 3 members were dropped, 2 members requested a voluntary cancellation, and 4 members passed away during the past year.

As of mid-2011, NARFE's total membership was 300,533. There are 2.47 million active federal employees and 1.9 million retirees + many of these possible members have spouses who are eligible to join NARFE. Potentially, our national membership could be in the millions! In Douglas County alone, there are more than 560 active federal employees who live in the Lawrence area but some commute to agencies out of the area. Another 600 federal retirees live in the area. Of those numbers, Chapter 378 claims only 133 members. This number parallels with NARFE chapter statistics all over the United States.

Unfortunately, most federal employees are unaware of NARFE, its sole purpose to protect and enhance federal workers and retiree benefits, and what NARFE does for them on Capitol Hill. Most federal retirees have heard of NARFE, but do not fully comprehend NARFE's role in enhancing and protecting our benefits. They are unaware of the impact of NARFE representative's testimonies in government committee hearings in the fight for our benefits. Therefore, my 2012 membership goal is to saturate Lawrence federal agencies with information on the relevance of NARFE to the government worker's life. To facilitate achieving this goal, I have established a membership committee to develop new ideas and assist in "getting the NARFE Word out." The committee members are: Cheryl Bowman, Elaine Seeman, Wendy Hambly and Lew Ruona.

The best way to spread a rumor is "one person at a time." So it is with gaining new members – would you consider helping us by contacting your agency this year? If so, please contact me, Betty Scribner, Membership Chair, at 785-865-8235 or email: elisabethscribner@yahoo.com.

LEGISLATIVE**JOHN SURRITTE**

NARFE Legislative Hotline – January 13, 2012

MESSAGE FROM NARFE PRESIDENT

JOSEPH A. BEAUDOIN: "A House-Senate Conference Committee, facing a February 29 deadline, will soon begin negotiations on extending the payroll tax holiday. The House passed position asks current and future federal employees to bear a third of the cost of the extension through further pay freeze and increased retirement contribution totaling \$64.5 billion over ten years. NARFE and the entire federal postal coalition are fighting back. Please use the information below to tell Congress this proposal is unfair."

NARFE TO CONDUCT NATIONAL**"CALL CONGRESS DAY"****WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

Last week's Hotline promised full details including a preferred script. President Joseph Beaudoin asks that Hotline users save the date of Wednesday, February 15 and share this step-by-step plan with all NARFE members via chapter newsletters and other communication channels.

- 1) *Call the Capitol using NARFE's toll free number, 1-866-220-0044. Ask the operator to connect you to your representatives' and/or senators' office.*
- 2) *Tell the staff person who answers the telephone next where you live so they know you are a constituent, then say:*

"I am a retired/active federal employee and member of NARFE." [Tell the staff person a little about your work.]

"[Insert Senator or Representative name] represents thousands of federal workers and retirees and their survivors. Any plan that pays for 1/3 of the payroll tax cut by taking money out of the pockets of fewer than 2% of America's middle class is unacceptable, unfair, and certainly isn't shared sacrifice."

"Federal workers, retirees, and survivors have already done their part, saving the federal government \$50 billion over two years. Making \$65 billion in further cuts to pay, earned health and retirement benefits, or making changes to cost-of-living adjustments, would unfairly single out those who protected our nation, including many now on a fixed income."

FEBRUARY'S MAGAZINE ARRIVING IN YOUR MAILBOX

The February issue of NARFE is in the mail and contains must read coverage of the perils facing current and future federal retirees. The budget process, FECA, and a NARFE-PAC preview are also covered. Pages 20 and 21 are devoted to Renewing Respect and our Protect America's Heartbeat campaign.

Obtaining the Hotline:

This weekly legislative message is available to:

- a) Telephone callers (703-838-7780 and toll free at 1-877-217-8234)
- b) Posted on NARFE's website, www.narfe.org
- c) Made available to NARFE-Net Coordinators
- d) Sent to over 70,000 Global Email Messaging System (GEMS) e-mail addresses

Each delivery channel is a service of NARFE, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association.

Email addresses for congressmen:

Jerry Moran (moran@senate.gov)

Pat Roberts (pat.roberts@senate.gov)

Lynn Jenkins (lynn.jenkins@mail.house.gov)

Kevin Yoder (yoder@house.gov)

KANSAS FEDERAL RETIREES BEWARE

The following is an email from Judy Etter, NARFE Federation, Area 1A VP and President of the Atchison NARFE Chapter.

Subject: Elimination of Exemptions

"I copied this directly from an e-mail I received from Melanie Meier (D), my state representative in Topeka. Notice the highlighted portions [in blue/red]."

Judy

On Wednesday, January 11th, Governor Brownback delivered his State of the State address to a joint session of Senate and House members, his cabinet, the Supreme Court Justices, the Kansas School Board, the Regents, and many more state dignitaries. The Governor stated that his Administration has been working the past year on reforming Kansas government and they plan to implement many initiatives. The following is a short outline of his address:

1. TAXES - he proposes reducing the current 3 state income tax brackets to 2 brackets and eliminating deductions, exemptions and credits. ***This would include eliminating exemption for retired state, federal, and military pay, mortgage***

interest and charitable contributions. He also proposes limiting State revenue growth to 2% and using any money over that to continue to reduce income taxes

2. DEBT – he proposes to dedicate the influx of money from the expanding gaming facilities to paying down debt.

3. KPERS – he proposes conversion of the state government retirement plan to a 401K-type plan.

4. MEDICAID – he proposes consolidation of all MEDICAID programs under one agency called the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

5. SCHOOL FUNDING – he has a proposed funding plan that will put the emphasis of school funding back at the local level and take away the weighting system. His plan would lock in the amount of state funding for schools at the level they receive next year and take the cap off of school boards ability to raise the Local Option Budget. Many details of the plan have not been worked out yet.

6. WATER – he proposed the repeal of the "use it or lose it" water law.

A 2nd email, from Melanie Meier, District 40, Kansas House of Representatives to Judy Etter further clarifies Gov. Brownback's proposals:

"There is no bill yet to reference, so everything out about the proposal is still up in the air.

The Governor and his people keep saying that they are getting rid of all exemptions. When I asked whether that includes the retirement exemption and asked for the figures showing how that would affect retired people from the budget folks they say that no one thought about that and they will have to do some figuring for me.

It is very strange that no one has thought about the retirement exemption yet. I think it is a huge deal! They did tell us that they are serious about the mortgage interest deduction and that because people will supposedly have more money, that they will give more to charity even without that exemption.

I will let you know as soon as I find out anything. I am hoping that someone does think about it and the retirement exemption is retained, we will only know for sure when the actual bill is introduced.

Thanks for emailing and getting the word out. The more people that express concern, the more likely someone will listen!"

NARFE Defends Retirement System Before Congress.

David B. Snell, right, director of NARFE's Retirement Benefits Service Department, testified Jan. 25 before the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service and Labor Policy. Committee Chairman Dennis Ross, R-FL, is visible in video monitor. For the full text of Snell's statement go to:

[http://www.narfe.org/pdf/FederalPostalCoalitionTestimonyforFederalRetiremen%20Hearing 12 512.pdf](http://www.narfe.org/pdf/FederalPostalCoalitionTestimonyforFederalRetiremen%20Hearing%2012512.pdf)

WASHINGTON – American Federation of Government Employees National President, John Gage, today issued the following statement in response to the congressional hearing on federal employees' retirement security before the House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee on the federal workforce, U.S. Postal Service and labor policy:

“Congress created the Federal Employees Retirement System in the mid-1980s to mirror leading private sector practices. The vast majority of a federal employee's retirement income comes from personal investments in the government's 401(k) plan and mandatory payments into Social Security. Federal employees also receive a very modest pension that provides an average of \$939 a month when they retire. **As NARFE Director of Retirement Benefit Services, David Snell, so eloquently stated in his testimony before the subcommittee, ‘federal employees are not retiring rich.’**

Despite what Subcommittee Chairman Dennis Ross would lead one to believe, the FERS retirement system is fully funded and poses no additional tax burden on the American public. Yet the congressman and others want to cut federal employees' wages so more of their take-home pay goes into this fully funded system. That's not only unnecessary, it's downright unfair.

Congressman Ross is right about one thing – the American public is outraged. They're outraged by lawmakers who are more worried about protecting their millionaire and billionaire campaign donors than creating jobs for the millions of unemployed workers.”

**NARFE Legislative Hotline (24/7): 877-217-8234
U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 866-220-0044**

AWARD PRESENTED TO BETTY SCRIBNER

Roger Lemmons presented Betty Scribner with “A Diamond in the Rough” award at the January Chapter 378 meeting for her “untiring efforts in growing our chapter and her leadership.”

In her 2 years as Membership Chair for Free State Chapter 378, Betty increased membership from 101 to 133. She has also gone above and beyond her duties by disseminating NARFE information at health fairs and federal agencies, and providing recruitment opportunities to and cooperating with other NARFE chapters. She understands the importance of NARFE to federal workers and retirees and is passionate about getting the NARFE word out.



2012 KANSAS FEDERATION CONVENTION

- WHO:** Salina Chapter 0230 is hosting
Contact person is Ronald Lull
1200 Roach
Salina, KS 67401
785-827-6197
- WHAT:** The NARFE 2012 Kansas Federation Convention
Register by March 30, 2012
Registration fee and meals are \$80
- WHERE:** Ramada Convention Center, Salina, KS
Room Rate is \$72/night and includes a cold Continental breakfast
Room Reservations due by March 22nd
- WHEN:** April 22-24, 2012

Delegates will be determined at the February 15th meeting. Tom Hunzinger and John Surrutte are Delegates-At -Large. In addition, Chapter 378 will need 5 members to fill the remaining Delegate positions.

Any member may, and is encouraged to, attend the convention. Dianne Throop has registration forms and Delegate credentials.

The Federation is having a drawing at Convention. Tickets for the drawing are \$1 and are available through Dianne Throop.

White House Comment Line: 888-225-8418