



2011 OFFICERS and CHAIRS

President	Tom Huntzinger	785-766-6717
1 st Vice President	Roger Lemmons	785-840-9594
2 nd 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	Cheryl Bowman	785-979-1568
Newsletter	Wendy Hambly	913-845-0121
NARFE PAC	Linda Surritte	785-856-0558
NARFE Net Coor	Leonard Short	785-
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:

- ☞ New members Keith Landgraf, Barbara Hilpman, Tucelia Palmer-Hardy, and Leonard Short.
 - ☞ Officers and Chairs for 2012
 - ☞ Tom Raby for turning in **143 Best Choice UPS** labels for Alzheimer's.
 - ☞ Linda and John Surritte for matching Alzheimer's donations September - November in the amount of \$381.12.
 - ☞ Betty Scribner for continued recruiting efforts.
 - ☞ Leonard Short for agreeing to be Chapter 378's Net Coordinator
- Report deserving members to Wendy Hambly---

ALZHEIMER'S

John Scott

November Donations = \$587.87

YTD Donations = \$1,011.20

Those of you who remembered to save the bar code labels of BEST CHOICE brand grocery items, please bring them to the December get-together or contact Linda Surritte.

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Sandy Nease

In October, cards were sent to Beverly Kipp,

CORRECTION: The Blue Cross Blue Shield Customer Service phone number is 1-800-221-2362

Reba Bryantt, Ed Simpson, and Norm Wycoff in memory of Helga. Please let me know about illness, special birthdays, celebrations, or honors our members receive, so I can send an appropriate card. Phone: 785-843-3378

December 15^h

PARTY INFORMATION

GATHER IN THE HERITAGE ROOM AT THE LAWRENCE COUNTRY CLUB, FOR LUNCH AND MUSIC PROVIDED BY FREE STATE HIGH SCHOOL'S A CAPPELLA CHORALE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH.

In addition to having time to visit and have a nice lunch, the Free State High School A Cappella Chorale directed by Hilary Morton will perform holiday music. We will dispense with the business meeting, except for the installation of officers. See page 3 for menu choices, cost, and reservation form. We need a head count and prepayment. **Please return the completed form and payment by December 12th.**

January's program is Pam Maxwell, BCBS representative, who will review changes in BCBS coverage for 2012.

NOVEMBER 16th MEETING RECAP

Charlotte Evanson from Stiles Eyecare Excellence gave an informative presentation describing cataract symptoms and the surgical removal, glaucoma symptoms and treatment, and dry eyes symptoms and treatment.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS OPEN SEASON NOVEMBER 14th – DECEMBER 12, 2011

December 12th is the deadline for changing your health benefits provider.

MEMBERSHIP

BETTY SCRIBNER

Welcome to Keith Landgraf, Barbara Hilpman, Leonard Short, and Tucelia Palmer-Hardy. Trucelia is the winner of our membership drawing at the Haskell Health Fair. To date, 8 active federal members have joined Chapter 378, and membership is at 130. This is great progress. It is exciting to actually be involved with active federal employees in Lawrence for a change

We also have a prospective member, Thomas Plank, from Baldwin. If you know him, give him a call and invite him to a NARFE meeting.

Wendy Hambly and I took my NARFE display to 2 health fairs, the IRS health fair in Shawnee Mission, November 15th, and the Haskell Health

Fair, November 21, 2011. The Haskell event was a great breakthrough for getting involved with active federal employees in Lawrence.

Both were good opportunities to get out the NARFE message (an apparently well kept secret) to active federal employees. We gave all employees who stopped by the table a NARFE packet and information about the importance of joining NARFE.

In addition, conversations with health insurance representatives and agency fair organizers provided new recruiting opportunities, ideas, and contacts. I plan to contact the OPM FEHBP representative, the downtown office IRS representative, and jump onboard with the BC/BS events in the area.

Thank you to Wendy for her assistance in once again setting up the display and sharing information with the attendees of the health fairs. I truly appreciate the support and time she has invested in visiting health fairs with me.

I have some Membership Ideas to share with you. There are four specific actions that you can take to help NARFE fight back unfair proposed reductions in federal pay, health, retirement and other benefits before they become law. NARFE is set up, running and has the mechanisms in place for you to take action. All you have to do is support NARFE via dues and NARFE-PAC contributions and use its legislative response system. It simply makes no sense to throw your hands up and do nothing when your federal pay and benefits are at a very real risk of being reduced and you can help NARFE stop the reductions by adding one more voice!

1. IF YOU ARE A NARFE MEMBER:

- ✓ Sign up your spouse as a member
- ✓ Recruit others to join
- ✓ Make it your goal to continually recruit others

2. IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER:

- ✓ Call Betty Scribner, membership chairman at 785-865-8235
- ✓ Call 800-627-3394 and join with a credit card, or
- ✓ Join online at www.NARFE.org

3. FOR MEMBERS & NOT-YET MEMBERS:

- ✓ Provide the information below to those you know are not members, including active and retired federal employees, their spouses and survivors. Ask them to join NARFE.
 - a) Go to www.NARFE.org

- b) Go to home page
 - c) Click on Membership
 - d) Click on "Join GEMS"
 - e) Provide your e-mail address so that you receive "Hotline legislative alerts" (GEMS = Global Electronic Messaging System)
 - f) If you do not have or use a computer, call 1-877-217-8234 to hear the alerts;
- ✓ Respond to your senators and representative on legislative issues raised by NARFE.

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD
 Wrap up of Membership 2011...Our chapter has reaped some of the fruits of the challenging efforts that members have put into pursuing members from their various agencies, friends, and acquaintances to join NARFE in the past and present years. It has been a year of pushing/knocking on doors – and many important contacts have been made with active federal employees.

Most of the new members recruited by our chapter come from the U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and possibly other agencies of which I am not aware. Thank you to all of you who have accompanied me to health fairs, written letters to active members in your agencies, made calls, talked to people in your interest groups, and made those around you aware of NARFE. Without you, we would not have **130** members today. Every person represents one more voice in Washington, D.C.

The increase of dues this year from \$33 to \$45 and the economic crises that is being felt by Americans also presented a challenge. You may remember when you were a young, newly employed federal employee that you were focused on pay raises, meeting personal expenditures, and didn't want to worry about the fact that there might be a financial breakdown to face in the future. That has not changed – we found they listen, agree, but do not move very fast to help with the challenge that NARFE presents to them.

As 2011 fades into the past, we look forward to a bright future and opportunities to share the importance of NARFE. Everyone has someone who could be a part of our chapter – your spouse, a friend, a past coworker, or an acquaintance. Thank you for your diligence and willingness to charge forward.

LEGISLATIVE

JOHN SURRITTE

We will install our Chapter officers for 2012 at the December Christmas party.

As everyone knows, the so-called super committee was unable to reach an agreement on the \$1.2 billion deficit reduction. For federal retirees and social security recipients this means, at this time, your earned benefits will not be reduced. However, we will need to remain vigilant and respond as asked by NARFE leadership if circumstances change.

Announcement from Roger Lemmons: At a recent meeting of the Lawrence Parkinson Support Group (LPSG), Molly Woods, an attorney and partner at Stevens and Brand, spoke to the group about Medicaid Eligibility for Long-term care. She is well versed in law and what older people can do to protect their life savings, rules concerning nursing homes, scams. She talked for a solid hour and no one left or wanted to leave. She is very up front, easy to understand and knows her business. The LPSG is extending an invitation to attend the January 17, 2012, LPSG meeting to hear valuable information that could make a difference in your finances, estate planning, preparation of your will, and ways to retain the most of your estate without getting cross-ways with the IRS. The meeting begins promptly at 2:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church located on the south side of Clinton Parkway just west of 23rd and Iowa. You can enter the church through the east doors. Please feel welcome to attend. There might even be some light snacks and/or something to drink.

NOTE: KEN ROWEN recently participated in the Honor Flight Network Program, which provides trips to Washington, D.C. for veterans to view the World War II Memorial. Val Romero is also among the veterans who have made the trip.

Visit www.honorflight.org/ for more information about the program.

Meeting Notice: Board Meeting of 2012 officers and chairs prior to the Christmas Party on December 15th. The meeting is at 10:30 at the Lawrence Country Club. Any chapter member is welcome to attend.

*Hope to see you at the
NARFE Chapter 378 Christmas Party.
Mail you reservation today!*

**NARFE
CHRISTMAS
PARTY**

The NARFE December meeting will be a Party at the **Lawrence Country Club on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15th, at Noon.** Spouses and any active or retired Federal Employees are welcome.

We need a head count and prepayment, so please mail this completed form with remittance by DECEMBER 12th to:

**WENDY HAMBLY
25029 Dehoff Dr.
Tonganoxie, KS 66086**

**NAME(S) OF THOSE ATTENDING:
(please print clearly)**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Phone Number: _____

The 2 selections for lunch are listed below. Each meal is \$12, which includes coffee and tea, tax, and gratuity.

CHOICE OF MEAL(s):	# OF MEALS
The Soup, Salad, & Sandwich Buffet includes two daily soup selections, a variety of meats, cheeses, bread, garnishes, full salad bar, potato chips, and brownies.	
Quiche (Ham, Cheddar, Broccoli) includes Fresh Fruit and Rolls.	
TOTAL # OF MEALS:	
COST PER MEAL:	x \$12
TOTAL REMITTANCE ENCLOSED:	

*****Make check payable to:***
NARFE Chapter 378**

NOTE: Beverages other than coffee or tea will be on a cash basis and subject to tax and gratuity.