



Kaw Blue Communiqué

Volume No. 17 Issue No. 3

Manhattan, KS Date September, 2011

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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HOT TOPICS!

- U.S. Postal Service leaders are poised to forgo legal obligations in September by skipping a \$5.5 billion payment for retiree health care.
- Debt-ceiling deal gives us temporary reprieve.
- “Super Committee” required to recommend cuts of \$1.5 trillion by November 23rd and Congress is to consider the cuts by December 23rd.
- If Congress does not pass the “Super Committee’s” recommendations, automatic across-the-board budget cuts will take effect. But, Federal retirement, pay and the FEHBP will be exempt, along with Social Security, veterans’ and other benefit programs. Medicare cuts would be triggered, but only to health providers and insurance carriers.
- The Budget Control Act requires Congress to vote on a balanced budget amendment by December 31st.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

(By: Elaine Liddell, Program Chairman)

Please plan to attend your meeting. We meet at RC McGraw’s, 2317 Tuttle Creek Blvd. Lunch is served at 11:15AM.



Wednesday, September 21

Leslie Cunningham
Mercy Regional Medical Center

“Therapy/Maintaining a Healthy Life Style”

Wednesday, October 19

Pam Maxwell

Nat’l and Spec Field Representative,
BC/BS

Update on 2012 Blue Cross Services



Wednesday, November 16

Melissa Kirkwood

Development Officer for the Flint Hills Discovery Center

Flint Hills Discovery Center Update



Wednesday, December 21

Al Schmaderer, Larry Morgan and the
“Old Timers Band”
Holiday Music



IN MEMORIAM

- Joy Aileen Force (Member) Born: July 16, 1928; Died: November 10, 2010
- Glendola M. Mathews (Member) Born: July 1, 1925; Died: May 29, 2011

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(By: Dick McChesney, Chairman)

The nearly \$1 trillion in spending cuts Congress approved August 2 did not include reductions in federal retiree and employee benefits. BUT, experts believe the second round of deficit reductions - which will cover entitlements and addition revenues - will contain many provisions affecting federal retirees and employees benefits.

A bipartisan "super committee" of 12 senior lawmakers must find as much as \$1.5 trillion in additional savings by November 23, 2011. Dan Adcock, legislative director for NARFE said even though employee and retirees were not targeted by the August legislation, cuts likely in staffing, hiring freezes and canceled programs will occur. As the "super committee" considers entitlement programs, including federal retirement, social security and Medicare, CSRS and FERS retiree benefits will be in their bulls eye. None of the "super committee" members are from Kansas; however, it is still critical we speak up now. The "super committee" will be receiving input from their colleagues as they determine how the additional \$1.5 trillion can be cut. If each of us would periodically just do one of the following it will go a long way in protecting our benefits now and in the future:

1. Meet with Senator Roberts, Moran and Congresswoman Jenkins or their staff persons.
2. Write a personal letter to each of the above.
3. Call the Capital switchboard toll free at 1-866-220-0044 and ask for each of the above congress persons and talk to their staff persons. Also call the White House toll free at 1-888-225-8418.
4. On Internet send the NARFE prepared letters to the above as asked by National NARFE. (Hopefully, you are signed up to receive NARFE's info by e-mail.)

The common message retirees and employees need to tell them not to single us out by making cuts to our retirement and health benefits which are earned and promised. Also, certainly current employees are sacrificing enough already. Now the challenge: Will you periodically do one of the above? If you and I rely on John or Jane to do it, it won't get done!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(By: Ann Domsch, adomsch@ksu.edu)

The summer is quickly passing and it is again time to start NARFE for the fall season. I just returned from CONK (College of NARFE Knowledge) and found it very informative. Every NARFE member should attend! You will be enlightened, challenged and even made angry at times. One of the speakers told us:

- To be sure and tell our congress person who you are and where you are from as they will pay more attention to people from their district as you are the ones to re-elect them.
- Don't be afraid to visit with a staff member if you cannot get hold of the congress person as their staff are the ones that keep that congress person in the loop.
- The scheduler is the gate way to the congressman so ask for this person.
- Always ask the congressman what will it take to get this passed or defeated.

What are the Upcoming Budget Threats? Debt limit compromise, super committee, automatic cuts, balanced budget amendment and possible government shutdown. This year is a wake up call, so keep your eyes and ears open.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

By: Ann Murphy

In June I visited "Big NARFE" and was given a tour of the building. There are four Legislative Representatives that work for NARFE and theirs was the busiest office in the building. The place was organized (I hope) chaos. They are required to research the days media concerning anything specifically to do with federal workers or federal retirees and what is going on in general. They were not in the office as they spend a lot of their time on the Hill. Every day that Congress is in session some of them are attending meetings or visiting with congressional staff to ensure that members of Congress understand our issues.

NARFE considers our PAC contributions a defense fund. NARFE past president Baptiste put it this way, "Political contributions are a necessary part of effectively promoting an advocacy agenda. NARFE-PAC enables the access we need to make our case to lawmakers and allows us to reward those who honor and value public service."

NARFE believes the challenges we face are to be taken seriously. The calls to restructure federal civilian retirement and benefits are real. By contributing to PAC we can make our voices heard.

ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE

(By: Michael & Kay Cardella, Alzheimer's Chairman,
785-539-3448 e-mail: milinscol@Gmail.com)

At the start of this year Kay and I assumed the NARFE 366 Alzheimer's Chair and Sunshine Positions as Elaine Liddell moved to the all important Programs Chairman. The Alzheimer's collections have made this a great year for us. Our chapter has donated \$1221.21 so far. Our last collection was in June, 2011. We turned in the pennies collection and if we had only 1 cent more we would have had \$50.00! The plans for Alzheimer's Research Collections this year are moving right along. Look for a special Kansas State Football mail box to be up for bid. This very elaborate box will fit over a standard mailbox and will feature the winner's
(Continued in the next column)

ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE (Continued from previous column.)

name and address plus various Kansas State Football logos in bright **Kansas University Football colors**. Plans also include the building of one for the many **Kansas University Football Fans**. Chances will be sold for each box and all proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Research fund. An additional yard art item, a large colorful peacock will also be available for the lucky winners. Once again every cent we collect will go to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research program. Not long ago, Alzheimer's was widely considered a hopeless condition. Today a network of scientists, health care professionals and industry leaders are working together to uncover the mysteries of the disease.

If you have Alzheimer's disease, or if a family member is affected many questions arise. What you should know? What you should do? What is being done about treat Alzheimer's? What is happening to me or my loved one? Alzheimer's disease causes gradual irreversible changes in the brain. These changes usually cause problems with memory, decision making, and self care. The disease also affects communication—both in expressing thoughts and in understanding what others are saying. You may be worried or anxious about the changes you have noticed so far. While there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, treatment will help with some of the symptoms. Your coping skills increase with more information about the disease. Special Alzheimer Information packets are available and are located on the entrance table. Please pick up one of these free packets. They contain a wealth of information concerning Alzheimer's and the effects of the disease.

Thank you to all those
who attended the Town
Hall Meeting with Senator
Moran on July, 2nd!

MEMBERSHIP

(By: Bill Fuller, Vice President for Membership)

The recent Chapter Activity Reports indicate the Kaw-Blue Chapter had ten members sent second renewal notices, five dropped for non-renewal, and three members passed away. During that same time period we only gained one new member. The Membership Committee is contacting those sent second notices and encouraging those dropped to renew. We extend our sincere condolences to the families of Joy Force and Glendola Mathews and certainly appreciate their involvement and membership in our NARFE Chapter.

At the September meeting, the Membership Committee will outline an exciting and aggressive Membership Recruitment Event. Learn how current member can invite prospective members and earn significant financial incentivizes.

We welcome Mariellen Appleby as our newest member.

MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD			
MONTH	GAIN	REINSTATED	LOSS
Jun-Aug	1	0	8
Memberships in peril: 10			
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of Sep 10th : 268			

The only way to recruit new members is to ask (or persuade) them to join.

FALL BACK

NOVEMBER 6



Chapter 366 President
Ann Domsch
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Forwarding Service Requested
Judy Grossnickle, Editor