



# Kaw Blue Communiqué

Volume No. 17 Issue No. 1

Manhattan, KS Date: March, 2011

## INSTALLATION OF 2011 OFFI-

**CERS:** Area 3 Vice President, **Don Cooper** installed the new 2011 officers on December 15th. The new officers are: **Ann Domsch, Bill Fuller, Elaine Liddell, Shirley Delano, and Barbara Hackbart .**



## HOT TOPICS!

- The continuing resolution funding the federal government through September recently passed the House **without** amendments further curtailing federal pay or benefits.
- Amendments proposed by Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., to eliminate step increases for federal employees were **voted down**.
- Rep. Todd Rokita's, R-Ind., proposals to eliminate other pay raises and prevent federal workers from doing union activities on the job did not come up for a vote .
- The fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget submitted by President Obama to Congress on February 14 recommends freezing federal civilian salaries for the second year in a row and cutting non-defense discretionary spending by \$400 billion from a five-year freeze in this area.
- Other plans to reduce federal civilian retirement and health benefits suggested in December 2010 by the President's Bipartisan Fiscal Commission were not included in Obama's 2012 budget.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Ann Domsch	537-5147
1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Bill Fuller	776-6296
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Elaine Liddell	776-5559
Secretary	Shirley Delano	776-4845
Treasurer	Barbara Hackbart	494-2425
Past Pres.	Don Erickson	539-6004
News Editor	Judy Grossnickle	537-2457

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

(By: Elaine Liddell, Program Chairman)

**Please plan to attend your meeting.** We meet at the Bamboo Buffet, 2304 Stagg Hill Road, Manhattan, KS, next to Briggs. Lunch is served at 11:15AM.

### **Wednesday, April 20**

Overview of Grain & Animal Health Research

Dr. Thomas Shanower  
Agricultural Research Service, USDA

### **Wednesday, May 18**

Susan Adams, Director of Volunteer/Guest Services  
Mercy Regional Medical Center

### **Wednesday, June 15**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED**



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

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

Members: please read everything you can about what is happening in Congress this year. There is a real need for these people to balance the budget so they are looking for any dollars they can get their hands on. Be prepared to call your congress person at any moments notice.


Here are some things that are happening that affect you. On December 8, the house voted NOT to provide Social Security beneficiaries a one-time \$250 payment in lieu of a cost-of-living adjustment for the second year in a row.

Both the Senate and House have passed so called "Doc Fix" legislation, H.R. 4994, to prevent Medicare provider reimbursement rates from being cut 25 percent. The path runs through 2011.

New representatives and senators will know little about the federal civil service, health benefits and retirement, and it is up to NARFE members nationwide to educate them early in the 112th Congress. FACE to FACE meetings are by far the best way, and these are a NARFE specialty. Please get out and visit with our representatives when they are on break.

The NARFE Public Relations Department has a large supply of 2 inch red, white, and blue "Proud to be a Federal Retiree" buttons for sale. The buttons are 50 cents each, including postage. Would you like one of these? Let me know and I will put in a large order.

Remember that March 2011, is NARFE-PAC Month. Read the March NARFE magazine for details.



**Thanks to all the  
outgoing and  
incoming  
officers.**

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

(By: Dick McChesney, Chairman)

National NARFE has listed some of the most important legislative items they and we members need to work on during this present 112th session of Congress. Protect your current benefits for retirees and employees by doing the following:

1. **Health Care Reform.** Even though NARFE is neutral on this law, NARFE will do what ever possible to maintain the current Federal Employee Health Benefits Program for all retirees and employees.
2. **Retirement equity for Federal employees and retirees.** Example: No change in high 3 annual salary to 5 years for retirement computation or any change which dilutes employee retirement benefits compared to present retirees.
3. **Obtain relief for those not eligible for social security, but, under Medicare Part B.** Persons in this category pay higher Part B premiums compared to those under social security whereby Part B cost is frozen when no cost of living increase is received.
4. **Premium conversion** to ease the high cost of health care for federal annuitants and military retirees. Explanation: Current employees deduct their cost of Federal Employee Health Benefit Program premiums from income when filing income taxes. Federal and military retirees cannot.
5. **The Social Security government pension offset and windfall elimination provision.** These social security reductions have occurred since the 1980s. The best chance of relief is if the Social Security system is reformed, which remotely could be introduced in the 112th Congress.

National NARFE leaders do an excellent job. The real influence on our legislators is their constituents (us). We need to make the personal contacts, telephone calls and send letters to our Senators Roberts, Moran and Congresswoman Jenkins supporting our cause. Those who have internet need to be on the Global Electronic Messaging System.

(Continued on page 3, column 1 )

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT, Cont

NARFE Legislative Hotlines are usually received weekly by e-mail. It is the best way to stay informed and take action as National NARFE suggests.

At the time of this writing there has been NO mention of federal annuities being taxed by the State of Kansas. Currently our Federal Retirement is not subject to State Income Tax. Jim Miller and Ron Richey of the Topeka chapter are at the State House a lot during session and do a great job of monitoring and protecting our interests. Our chapter has offered to furnish support anytime needed.

## POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE, PAC

(By: Ann Murphy, PAC Chairman)

What is PAC? NARFE PAC was established in 1981 to enable us to take our case to our elected lawmakers and allows us to reward those who listen and support our concerns. NARFE PAC helps fund the political arm of our organization in Washington. It helps elect Senators and Representatives who are sympathetic to the concerns of federal workers and who support fair and equitable federal retirement programs. PAC must operate in compliance with Federal Elections Campaign Act. For example, we never talk about a PAC when talking about votes. We never talk PAC when in any government building.

Our five National NARFE Legislative representatives know our position and they stay on top of the big picture as well. They are aware of policy, process and politics. They go to the Hill for meetings usually with the committee staff because that's where the action is. They provide members on both sides of the issue with information and work with their staff. We meet with members of Congress when Congress is ready to move on an issue. They are always ethical and never promise contributions for a vote.

(Continued in next column)



## PAC Cont

March is NARFE PAC Month. If you noticed the cover of the March *NARFE* Magazine it displays the new PAC pin. You may own a pin by contributing \$20.00 or more to PAC. Contributions are purely voluntary and are not tax-deductible. All money collected goes to NARFE to be used to support candidates who request our monetary assistance and who support our causes.

## ALZHEIMER'S NOTES

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

For the past six years Elaine Liddell has led our chapter in our continuing fight against Alzheimer's. Her caring nature as the Sunshine lady for all our chapter members is commendable. We are sure we speak for all our NARFE members when we all say, "THANKS, ELAINE! JOB WELL DONE!" Elaine has accepted the position of Program Committee Chairman. Kay and I assumed the positions as the Chairmen of the Alzheimer's and Sunshine Committees. If you have information on a NARFE member who needs some cheering due to an illness or injury or has passed on please contact us with this information. We plan to continue all on-going Alzheimer's fund programs.

Who says pennies don't add up? Well they sure do in the Kaw blue Chapter. We collected about (five gallons of pennies) at the meeting in February. These were run through a bank's coin counter. A grand total of \$110.17 was the coin count. A special thank you to Bernadine & Harold Eichman for their help in this collection. A big HIGH FIVE is extended to everyone who donated pennies! The **BEST CHOICE** labels brought in an additional \$60.00. Every cent of our donations (from pennies, memorial donations, *Best Choice* labels, table donations, auctions and Alzheimer's yard sales) is used to support research to fight this disease. We will find a cure for this terrible disease with your help. Thanks again, folks, keep up the good work with your donations.

**6 MILES**

**Amount of weekly walking  
that may help prevent brain  
shrinkage, and possibly  
dementia, as you age.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

(By: Bill Fuller, Vice President for Membership)

Membership in the Kaw-Blue NARFE Association has many valuable benefits. Keeping informed on important issues and becoming involved to protect the benefits we have earned are two big reasons to be an active member. We must share these and the many other benefits with our friends and co-workers, both active and retired, as we encourage their membership in NARFE. Membership is the key to the strength and success of any organization. Our focus must be on both, retention of current members and recruitment of new members.

We welcome **Wilma Philbrook, Dale A. Scott, Deborah Umscheid, Leland K. Scott, Louis J. Harrington, Darla Kay Hanks, Larry D. Ness, Tari Ann Piskac and Julian A. Siebert.** We express sincere condolences to the family of Kayann F. Heinly.

While we celebrate the addition of nine (9) new members, we must examine the complete

membership situation: three (3) members transferred out of our chapter, one (1) passed away and five (5) were dropped for non-payment. Eighteen (18) members were sent 2nd membership renewal notices. Obviously we have a big job ahead of us . . . Together we can be successful.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

**F. Kayann Heinly (Member) born  
Oct 30, 1930 died Dec 26, 2010**

### **MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>GAIN</b>	<b>REINSTATED</b>	<b>LOSS</b>
Dec—Feb	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
Memberships in peril: 18			
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of 2/4/11: <b>276</b>			



**NARFE**

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Chapter 366 President  
Ann Domsch  
4024 Lindsey  
Manhattan, KS 66502

Forwarding Service Requested  
Judy Grossnickle, Editor

## KAW-BLUE CHAPTER 366, MANHATTAN, KS

### 2011 Officers and Standing Committees

#### 2011 OFFICERS

President	L. Ann Domsch	565-1590
1st Vice	Bill Fuller	776-6296
2nd Vice	Elaine Liddell	776-5559
Secretary	Shirley Delano	776-4845
Treasurer	Barbara Hackbart	494-2425
Past Pres	Donald Erickson	539-6004

#### GREETERS

Ray Aslin	776-3503
Ed Call	539-4966
Katherine Cardella	539-3448
Micheal Cardella	539-3448
Don Cooper	537-1676
Dick Dunham	539-7844
Don Erickson	539-6004
Dick McChesney	537-8302
Sandy Mathewson	776-0401
Barb Pretzer	539-6766
Ike Richman	539-7008
Al Schmaderer	539-9262
Helen Selvidge	537-7614
Dale Walters	539-4970
Bill Weber	537-9697
George Wyatt	539-6605

#### CALLERS

**Chairman,**  
**Al Schmaderer**           **539-9262**

Bernadine Eichman	539-7008
Mary Fritzson	494-2389
Anna Marie Gates	537-7726
Elaine Liddell	776-5559
Dick McChesney	537-8302
Sandy Mathewson	776-0401
Mary O'Laughlin	776-6863
Dave Schafer	539-7842
Lorraine Walterscheid	537-7955

#### MEMBERSHIP

**Chairman,**  
**Bill Fuller**               **776-6296**

Ed Call	539-4966
Don Cooper	539-1676
Barb Pretzer	539-6766
Pam Van Horn	826-8917

#### LEGISLATIVE

**Chairman,**  
**Dick McChesney**       **537-8302**

Dick Dunham	539-7944
Bill Phillips	776-8724

#### CHAPLIN

Don Cooper	537-1676
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#### ALZHEIMER'S & SUNSHINE

Micheal & Kay Cardella	539-3448
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#### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Shirley Delano	776-4845
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#### AUDIT

Shirley & Fred Delano	776-4845
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#### SERVICE OFFICER

Don Erickson	539-6004
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#### POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)

Ann Murphy	539-2056
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#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Judy Grossnickle	537-2457
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