



Kaw Blue Communiqué

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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.

**July & August — Vacation
No Meetings!**



Wednesday, September 21
Leslie Cunningham
Mercy Regional Medical Center
"Therapy/Maintaining a Healthy Life Style"

IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth Filby, (Member) Born October 11, 1918, Died April 3, 2011.

Forrest H. Boerner (Member) Born August 7, 1919, Died May 10, 2011.

HOT TOPICS!

- The Senate will be voting soon on the House passed Budget Resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 34) which includes \$375 billion in savings over ten years from current and retired federal employees. Visit the updated www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org for information.
- John Barry, Director, Office of Personnel Management, stated on May 4th that his highest priority is to find a way to accurately measure employees performance.
- Republicans have proposed saving more than \$120 billion over the next decade by requiring the civilian workforce to contribute more toward retirement — a plan that would effectively impose an immediate 5 percent pay cut on more than 2 million federal employees. President Obama's bipartisan fiscal commission has also endorsed the idea, calling the federal system "out of line" with the private sector.
- On Thursday, May 26th, the House Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce held a hearing titled "Downsizing the Federal Workforce." Many in Congress pretend dramatically fewer federal employees, paid less, will solve America's fiscal dilemma.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

GET INVOLVED!!

If you have a computer, the easiest way to keep informed about threats to our benefits is with GEMS (Global Electronic Messaging System). Go to www.NARFE.org, log on as a member, point to "Membership" and click on "Join GEMS." You will receive weekly e-mails with legislative updates.

MYTHS AND TRUTHS

Myth: NARFE is focused on Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) employees and retirees rather than those in the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) or other systems.

Truth: NARFE's focus is on everyone in the federal family. Following are examples of NARFE's legislative accomplishments on behalf of everyone in the federal family:

FERS Sick Leave: Permits FERS workers initially to credit half, and in 2014, all of their unused sick leave toward retirement.

FERS Redeposit: Allows returning FERS employees, who previously left federal service, to repay a deposit to the Retirement Trust Fund, with interest, to combine their past and new federal service for future annuity service.

National Security Personnel System: Ends the Department of Defense's pay-for-performance personnel system and restores employees to the federal General Schedule pay system.

Locality Pay Equity: Provides locality pay that is creditable toward retirement for federal employees in Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Territories.

Proposals were dropped that would have required federal workers to join health exchanges. That would have opened the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) to nonfederal civilians without separate risk pools.

Myth: I'll let other NARFE members respond to Congress; my one response will not make a difference anyway.

Truth: NARFE needs everyone's help in fighting the proposed reductions in pay and benefits. But only about one in six NARFE members have provided their e-mail addresses to receive "legislative alerts." Additionally, only half of those used the Legislative Action Center in 2009 to correspond with their senators and representatives. Every member's response is critical. NARFE needs all members to sign up to receive these legislative alerts, and most importantly, to use the NARFE Legislative Action Center to write their senators and representatives.

Adapted from an article by Bill Price, Legislative Chair of Chapter 1894, Brunswick, NC

Mention These Top NARFE Member Benefits when talking to prospective members! With NARFE you'll receive:

- The latest news on changes in retirement benefits for both the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS)
- Information to help you make the best pre and post-retirement choices;
- An award-winning monthly magazine;
- Access to nationwide NARFE Service Centers
- Membership discounts for travel, financial services, insurance, moving and emergency services.
- Eligibility for scholarships and disaster relief funds.
- Eligibility for a discount rate on the new NARFE e-retirement suite.

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(By: Dick McChesney, Chairman)

Seems all we get is bad news. Just to name a few:

Civilian federal employees salaries frozen for 2 years.

The House passed a bill which would reduce spending by \$4.4 trillion over ten years, of which \$375 billion would come from current and federal retired employees. This bill would also require:

1. FERS and CSRS covered employees to contribute substantially more to their retirement.
2. Freezing federal pay for 5 years.
3. Reduce Federal workforce by 10% over 3 years.

At the time of this writing the Senate has not voted on this bill.

Also there is talk to require employees and retirees to pay a larger percentage in federal health premiums.

Obviously, NARFE members must follow National NARFE's lead and contact Senators Roberts and Moran and Congresswoman Jenkins as well as President Obama in opposing action detrimental to our benefits. This makes it very important for all who have computer Internet access to receive the latest from NARFE headquarters. Those who haven't, please do so by joining GEMS (Global Electronic Messaging System) at www.narfe.org select GEMS, enter member ID # (on your NARFE magazine label) complete and submit. You will receive Legislative Hotlines and other messages. GEMS is the best way to stay informed and assist in protecting earned benefits.

The 2011 Kansas Legislation adjourned May 13. Federal retirees were untouched, thus retaining the Kansas Income Tax exemption on CSRS and FERS annuities. Jim Miller and Ron Richey, Topeka Chapter have spent countless hours at the State house monitoring hearings and protecting our interests. Some of our Chapter members have volunteered and will help them when requested.



“ . . . help us see a world without Alzheimer’s.”

ALZHEIMER’S UPDATE

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

Kay and I owe a few hundred thank you for all the help we have received starting our Alzheimer’s mission. As of 12 April 2011 our chapter has collected \$1001.22. Our chapter donated 24 items to the Alzheimer’s Auction at our 2011 Convention in Junction City. With Chuck Marr’s famous (good luck, tomato plants), we were credited with **\$668.00** to NARFE Alzheimer’s Research from our Chapter. That is super! This money will help find a cause and a cure for this mind robbing disease. We also received a *Special Citation for Outstanding Contributions* in the amount of **\$11.07 per member** last year! We were one of the highest contributors in Kansas. Thank you fellow Kaw-Blue Members!

According to Alzheimer’s Association 2010 facts, Alzheimer’s disease triples healthcare costs for Americans aged 65 and older. It is the 7th leading cause of death in the US. There will be nearly a half million new cases of Alzheimer’s disease each year and by 2050, nearly a million new cases will occur each year. There is no clearer, more predictable public health crisis facing the country today. Let us all band together and find a cause and a cure for this heinous affliction. Your continued monetary support will help us see a world without Alzheimer’s. **(We are on a roll, Kay and I feel very confident that in our lifetime a cause and a cure will be found.)** Our pennies collection and other Alzheimer’s programs will continue, please give them your support. Our Sunshine activities continue. Please contact us if you know of a NARFE member who becomes sick, injured or dies. We would like to send out the appropriate card to the member or families. Thanks fellow NARFE members!

MEMBERSHIP

(By: Bill Fuller, Vice President for Membership)

The Membership Committee has been aggressively working on the members who have received their second membership renewal message. So far, we have been successful in encouraging renewals. To keep our membership viable we need your help! The most effective recruiting method is through personal contact especially with those people who you know and who know you. The second best way is to let us know of any potential members so we may contact them. In these economic times our membership numbers is important when we lobby congress to vote in our favor to protect our earned benefits.

We welcome **Sanford G. Tilley, Annette Ramsey and Larry E. Biles**. We express sincere condolences to the families of Kenneth Filby and Forrest H. Boerner.

MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD

MONTH	GAIN	REINSTATED	LOSS
Mar-May	3	4	10
Memberships in peril: 10			
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of 5/30/11: 273			

2011 CONVENTION

The 2011 Convention was held in Junction City, April 10-12. The Kansas Federation 2011-12 officers elected were: Cindy Blythe, President; Dixie Thomas, 1st Vice President; **Ann Murphy**, (Kaw-Blue Chapter) 2nd Vice President; Louise Lloyd, Secretary; Jerry Ketter, Treasurer, and **Don Cooper**, (Kaw-Blue Chapter) Area 3 Vice President.

Congratulations
Ann and Don!



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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Forwarding Service Requested
Judy Grossnickle, Editor