



Volume I, No. 2

Amelia Earhart Chapter 0621—Atchison

2011

### **December Meeting Change**

Our December meeting will be December 20<sup>th</sup> at Paolucci's, 155 S 3d, Atchison, at 11:30 a.m. Each member will order lunch off the menu. Please come join us.

### **December through February Meetings**

December 20—Paolucci's (see above)

January 17—KFC/Taco Bell

February 21—KFC/Taco Bell

All meetings are at 11:30 a.m. We eat lunch at 11:30 and then have the program about 12:15, and then conduct our meeting. In January Wendy Woolston, R.N., from Benedictine College, will give us advice on healthier living. In February, rather than have a program we will have a door prize drawing. Please come.

### **COLAS**

Retirees will receive cost of living allowances (COLAs) this year for the first time in several years. Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) retirees will receive a 3.6 percent COLA and those who are retired under the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) will receive 2.6 percent.

### **Inclement Weather**

In the event of a snowstorm, we will cancel our meeting if Atchison County Community Schools are closed. KAIR radio (1470 AM and 93.7 FM)

will carry school closings as will some of the Kansas City and Topeka TV stations.

### **Scholarship Program**

The NARFE scholarship program is for high school seniors who are children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, step-children, step-grandchildren, or step-great-grandchildren of NARFE members in good standing. Scholarships are for \$1,000 and each region (there are 10) awards 6 scholarships. Students must have a 3.0 or higher grade point average on an unweighted 4.0 scale. They must submit a complete transcript, a letter of recommendation written by a counselor or teacher, and an essay on an as yet undecided topic. The February, March, and April NARFE magazines will have more information and applications and the NARFE website also contains information. Money for the scholarships comes from tax-deductible donations made by the NARFE-Federal Employee Education Assistance (FEEA) Fund. See the magazine or website for more information on making donations.

### **Disaster Relief Program**

NARFE has a disaster relief program funded by tax-deductible donations made to the NARFE-FEEA Disaster Fund. Any NARFE member who is affected by a declared natural disaster is eligible. Funds in the amount of \$500 per member per request are given for injury,

damage to the primary residence, or other needs. You can see the NARFE website or call Judy Etter for more information on both the disaster relief and scholarship programs.

### **Service Officer and F-100**

The basic responsibilities of the service officer are to—

*“• Help individual chapter members, their families and survivors take the proper actions to obtain and retain their annuities and survivor, health, long-term care, and federal group life insurance benefits; “ and*

*“• Provide support to members having serious problems with their benefit arrangements and particularly to surviving spouses when they suffer the trauma of a death or serious illness.”*

*“A major aspect of the service officer function is to assist chapter members with problems involving programs managed by OPM and to facilitate communication between the two. Members, families and survivors frequently need help in correctly preparing and forwarding the reports and forms required for their claims.”*

(F-58, *Chapter Service Officer*, 12/10)

As we age, we depend more on our friends and relatives to help us with important decisions.

The service officer can help your survivors cut through the government red tape they will encounter concerning your Federal life insurance, annuity, Social Security, and other matters. Along the same lines, NARFE has a booklet you can fill out longhand or online at the NARFE website that will help you organize your personal and financial information. The F-100, *Be Prepared for Life's Events*, can be accessed at the NARFE website by entering your membership number (on your magazine mailing label) and last name, then clicking on Downloadable Forms on the left side of the page and scrolling down until you find the F-100 under the heading “Chapter Materials.” If you do not have a computer and would like this

booklet, call Judy Etter at 913.773.8565 and I will see that you get a copy.

### **Election of Officers**

The chapter elected officers for 2012 at the November meeting. The following will be installed at the first meeting in 2012:

- Judy Etter, President
- Mary Underwood, Vice President
- Peggy Coder, Secretary—Treasurer

Judy then appointed the following chairmen:

- Membership and Public Relations: Mary Underwood
- PAC and Legislative: Eugene Harter
- Service Officer and Program: Lorene Mumm
- NARFE Netter: Peggy Coder
- Alzheimer's: Venita Jo Rader
- Newsletter: Judy Etter
- Sunshine: Sally Harter

Many of these individuals previously filled the same positions. However, Venita Jo asked not to run for treasurer again. She has been the treasurer of the Amelia Earhart chapter for 8 years. She has agreed to stay on as Alzheimer's chair and we are certainly glad—she does an excellent job.

### **Important Contacts Social Security**

Web: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

Phone: Voice: 800.772.1213

TTY: 800.325.0778

### **Veterans Affairs**

Web: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

Phone: VA Benefits: 800.827.1000

Meds by mail: 888.385.0235

Leavenworth: 913.682.2000

Topeka: 785.350.3111

### **Office of Personnel Management**

Web: [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov)

Phone: 202.418.3300

## Chapter Officers

- Judy Etter—President and newsletter editor (913.773.8565) ([jetter@bbwi.net](mailto:jetter@bbwi.net))
- Mary Underwood—Vice president, public relations, and membership (913.367.1486) ([munderwood1951@sbcglobal.net](mailto:munderwood1951@sbcglobal.net))
- Peggy Coder—Secretary-Treasurer and NARFE netter (913.833.4925) ([pcoder@yahoo.com](mailto:pcoder@yahoo.com))
- Venita Jo Rader—Alzheimer's chair (913.833.4742)
- Eugene Harter—Legislative and PAC chairs (785.872.3443) ([wren@rainbowtel.net](mailto:wren@rainbowtel.net))
- Lorene Mumm—Service officer and program chair (913.682.1197) ([rogormum@aol.com](mailto:rogormum@aol.com))
- Sally Harter—Sunshine (785.872.3443) ([wren@rainbowtel.net](mailto:wren@rainbowtel.net))

## E-Mail Address

Why is it important that NARFE has your e-mail address? NARFE has a Global Email Messaging System (GEMS). It uses GEMS to send important messages from the NARFE president and also sends the weekly NARFE Newswatch. Both of these e-mails contain up-to-date information about your current legislation, benefits, annuity, and NARFE in general. Otherwise, you must wait for the magazine and not all the same information will be in it. The state of Kansas has 4,243 members (Nov 2011) and only 933 receive GEMS messages. To register your e-mail address with NARFE, go to the NARFE website ([www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org)) and log on (membership ID is on the magazine mailing label). Go to left column of page where it says "What You Can Do Online", and click on "Update Your Record." The Amelia Earhart chapter would also like to have your e-mail—please send it to Judy Etter at [jetter@bbwi.net](mailto:jetter@bbwi.net).

# HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HANUKKAH, KWANZA AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Congressional Contacts

### Kansas

#### Senator Pat Roberts

E-Mail: <http://roberts.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?E-mailPat>

Phone: DC: 202.224.4774

Topeka: 785.295.2745

Local Office: Frank Carlson Federal Building, R 392  
444 SE Quincy

Topeka, KS 66683

#### Senator Jerry Moran

E-mail: <http://moran.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-jerry>

Phone: DC: 202.224.6521

Topeka: 785.232.2605

Local Office: 800 SW Jackson, Suite 1108

Topeka, KS 66612

#### Representative Lynn Jenkins

E-mail:

<http://lynnjenkins.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=209>

Phone: DC: 202.225.6601

Topeka: 785.234.5966

Local Office: 3550 SW 5<sup>th</sup> St,

Topeka, KS 66606

### Missouri

#### Senator Roy Blunt

E-mail:

<http://www.blunt.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form?p=contact-roy>

Phone: DC: 202.224.5721

KC: 816.471.7141

Local Office: 911 Main St, # 2224

Kansas City, MO

#### Senator Claire McCaskill

E-Mail: <http://www.mccaskill.senate.gov/?p=contact>

Phone: DC: 202.224.6154

KC: 816.421.1639

Local Office: 4141 Pennsylvania, # 101

Kansas City, MO

#### Representative Sam Graves

E-Mail:

<http://graves.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=84>

Phone: DC: 202.225.7041

St Joe: 816.233.9818

Local Office: 201 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St, # 330

St Joseph, MO