

**THE SHAWNEE SIGNAL**  
**Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission Kansas**  
**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**  
**April 2011**



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www.narfe-chapter1162.org

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**Louise Lloyd, President**

It is now spring, and I know most of us are anxious for warmer weather and the reappearance of beautiful flowers and along with the spring season comes the time for our NARFE Federation Convention, which is just days away as I write this article.

As the season has changed, so things are changing in NARFE. Sadly, Charles Saylor who was the National NARFE treasurer passed away, and Richard Thissen who has served as our Region V, Vice-President for a number of years was selected as his replacement to complete the term of Treasurer. And thus the Region V Vice-President position became vacant. An election was held by all the Federation Presidents in Region V. Carol Ek, who has been our Federation President this past year, was elected to fill the position.

In my position as Secretary for the Federation this past year, I have gotten to work with Carol throughout the year and I have found that she is one of the most capable, organized, and dedicated individuals I have ever worked with. There is no one more knowledgeable of what goes on in our Federation than Carol, so she will be able to share experiences and best practices from our federation, and also get to hear about best practices from the other federations that she in turn will be able to share with us. As outgoing Federation President and as Region V Vice-President, she will be a member of the Federation Board, so we will still have access to her expertise and wisdom, something that those who will be elected at the April Federation Convention will definitely appreciate.

Speaking of change, be sure to read the article on the back page of this newsletter "NARFE Continues Its Use of the Internet" by Bob Steinert, our Webmaster to see how NARFE is staying current and making great use of this avenue of communications.

Also, as mentioned in the March newsletter, we are asking members who have talent to share their talent with us at the June Potluck luncheon and meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>. So whether you are singer, dancer, musician, or possibly you have a little bit of comedian in you, we hope you'll consider volunteering to perform at our June 28<sup>th</sup> chapter luncheon/meeting. Feel free to contact Mary Haswell at 913-400-7303, or Ginny Glauser at 913-492-8356.

**Louis Bornman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Legislative Chair**

I attended the NARFE National Legislative Training Conference held 5-8 March 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, VA with Mr. Gary Townson, Kansas Federation Legislative Chair and Kansas Area IV Vice President, of Wichita, and Ms. Cindy Blythe, President Chapter 2099 Osage City, KS. The three of us were the only representatives from Kansas.

There were five special breakout sessions covering NARFE PAC, the U.S. Budget, Budget Cut Threats, Grassroots Organizing, and Contacting Congress. All of these were very informative sessions and are covered in detail in my formal report *which is posted to the chapter website at [www.narfe-Chapter1162.org](http://www.narfe-Chapter1162.org)*. I highly encourage you to go there and read the detailed report as there is not enough room to publish it here.

On Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, we visited the offices of Senators Roberts and Moran and Congressmen Pompeo, Huelskamp, Jenkins, and Yoder. We were able to meet with a staff member from each office and relay our concerns about proposed changes/cuts to federal employee and retiree pay and benefits.

Most receptive but a few did not pay much attention and one occupied our time talking about his extensive budget experience and that Congressman Yoder would have to make some hard budget decisions in the near future.

We must all make a concerted effort to participate in the "Protect America's Heartbeat" NARFE Campaign and personally make contact with our Congressman and Senators to relate to them the personal stories of the potential impacts of their decisions on us as voting constituents and how they may impact the local economy.

We have to take part of the political process and understand that all politics is local. Together we can make a difference.

Thank you for allowing me to attend and represent your interests with our Congressmen and Senators.

OPM Tax Hotline for retirees to call to change the federal tax withholding on their monthly annuity payments: **800-307-8298**.

**Welcome to our Newest Chapter Member!**

Tony Triplett

**In Memoriam**

James Ellwood  
Len Nicoski  
Sylvester Weitkamp

**Future Meeting Dates/Activities:**

April 13<sup>th</sup> – Social Luncheon at Hometown Buffet, 73<sup>rd</sup> and Quivira at 1:00 p.m., RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091

April 26<sup>th</sup> – Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m., Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79<sup>th</sup> and Lowell, Program: Presentation from Johnson County Museum.

May 6<sup>th</sup> – Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., at Denny's Restaurant, 95<sup>th</sup> & I-35 Exit, Lenexa

May 11<sup>th</sup> – Social Luncheon at Hometown Buffet, 73<sup>rd</sup> and Quivira at 1:00 p.m., RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091

May 24<sup>th</sup> – Chapter meeting 1:30 p.m., Overland Park Lutheran Church, Program: Stacey Janssen, Attorney, Elder Law.

**Region V Seminar – *College of NARFE Knowledge, (CONK)* Aug, 29th – 31st, South Sioux City, NE**

**NARFE CONTINUES ITS USE OF THE INTERNET, Bob Steinert, Webmaster**

**Face Book** There's a Lot to "Like." NARFE has a robust and growing presence on Facebook. If you are on Facebook, search for NARFE National Headquarters and "Like" us today. Then keep up with all of our posts. It's a great way to get the latest news from NARFE HQ.

**YouTube** And Speaking of Social Media.... NARFE has its own "channel" on YouTube. We've recently uploaded videos from the 2011 NARFE Legislative Training Conference. Go to YouTube.com and search for "NARFE Legislation."

**eCommerce** The Art and Science of Giving. In a final piece of NARFE online news, Headquarters is updating the Association's ecommerce capability. In the near future, NARFE will be able to accept donations for all of its giving programs online. Headquarters IT and Membership Systems personnel are working hard to make this happen!

**eNARFE – A Success Already!** Although word about NARFE's new online chapter, eNARFE, is barely out, the fledgling chapter already boasts 27 members. Known as the "Chapter Without Borders," it provides members with an alternative to a traditional NARFE membership. The online chapter does not hold meetings at a geographic location, and all business is conducted online. We will be reporting back on progress. In the meantime, most of the eNARFE site is accessible by all NARFE members. Go to the main NARFE website, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), and click on eNARFE in the middle of the page.

**eSeminar Plus a Success.** NARFE is receiving reports that many members are signing up for eSeminar Plus, online retirement benefits calculator and financial planning tools offered exclusively to NARFE members. The multi-faceted program has information that will benefit both active employees and retirees. Be sure to check it out by clicking on the button on the NARFE main home page.

**GEMS Selectivity.** NARFE has modified its Global Electronic Messaging System – or GEMS, as we call it. Now, NARFE members can choose the type of e-mail traffic to receive. E-mail messages are categorized as:

1. Priority Legislative/Member Benefit News
2. Federation/Local News
3. Both.

Members joining GEMS for the first time will be asked to choose among these options; existing GEMS members will automatically receive all messages, but will have the option of opting out of any category at any time.

**Protect America's Heartbeat** is a campaign supported by NARFE. NARFE is committed to fighting for the 3.5million active and 1.2 million retired federal employees in every state in the nation who dedicate their lives to protecting America's heartbeat. Be sure to read the complete article in the March NARFE Magazine for full details. Tell our Senators and representatives: Reject additional cuts to pay and benefit. Click on the website <http://protectamericaheartbeat.org> and send the e-mail letter you will see when on the website.

**Flo Biehl, NARFE Disaster Fund**

Every day we hear of another tragedy. Floods, tornados, snowstorms have been in the news in our country and earthquakes and such are in other parts of the world. Some of our NARFE members have been involved in these personally. When hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and those pesky winds hit Florida--who was able to come to our members and help them even before the **insurance claims** were filed? Yes, it was from our disaster fund. It wasn't always a lot but it helped until more help was available. Our disaster fund is one that we give to voluntarily for such help to be given to those in need who are members of our organization. You will find a coupon in our magazine. Give as you wish. I do.

**Sunshine Committee** –Be sure to contact Don Faidley if you know of any members who may be sick or in the hospital - 913-671-7368 or email: [Djfaidley@aol.com](mailto:Djfaidley@aol.com)

**Contact Information:**

**Senator Jerry Moran** – [jerry\\_moran@moran.senate.gov](mailto:jerry_moran@moran.senate.gov); Hays KS office telephone 785-628-6401.

**Senator Pat Roberts** – [pat\\_roberts@roberts.senate.gov](mailto:pat_roberts@roberts.senate.gov); Washington D.C. telephone: 202-244-6521

**Congressman Kevin Yoder** – Kansas City, KS telephone: 913-621-0832, Washington D.C. telephone: 202-225-2865

The Legislative Hotline is available to telephone callers (703)-838-7780 and toll free at 1-877-217-8234, posted on the internet at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org), made available to NARFE-Net Coordinators, and sent to over 54,000 GEMS e-mail addresses.

**A Kansas Legislative Hotline** is available for updates about the status of current bills: In-State - 800-432-3924. Out of state - 785-296-2149. You may also contact the legislators via the website [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

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