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Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Legislative Chair	John Surritte	785-856-0558
Sunshine	Reba Bryant	785-843-4407

**KUDOS & THANK YOU'S TO:**

- Chapter 378 for great teamwork and effort in making our Alzheimer's Quilt Fundraiser a **whopping success!** Ticket donations exceeded expectations! Chapter 378 collected \$916 and generous Convention goers contributed \$238 for a **GRAND TOTAL of \$1154** for Alzheimer's Research. **Give yourselves a BIG PAT ON THE BACK!**
  - Linda Surritte for magnanimously declining the quilt when her ticket was drawn twice.
  - John Surritte for motivating us to become an informed electorate prior to the Kansas primaries on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Betty Scribner for her continuing recruiting efforts.
  - Quilt watchers at convention: Linda Surritte, Dianne Throop, Gordon Montney, and Roger Lemmons.
  - Clara Arnold and John Scott for keeping track of the Alzheimer's Fundraiser donations.
  - Kansas Federation Convention Delegates: Tom Huntzinger, Roger Lemmons, Betty Scribner, John Surritte, Linda Surritte, Wendy Hambly
  - Chapter 378 for being selected to host "Meet the Candidates" for Area 1 in July.
- Report deserving members to Wendy Hambly---

**SUNSHINE CHAIR                      Reba Bryant**

I sent a card to Margaret Sanders and Dianne Throop sent a card and the newsletter to her. We will mail future newsletters.

Please let me know about illness, special birthdays, celebrations, or honors our members receive, so I can send an appropriate card.

Email: rebabryant@sbcglobal.net

**May 19th MEETING INFORMATION**

**May 19th** at Conroy's Pub. The program begins at noon, lunch (\$9) at 12:30, followed by a business meeting. May's speaker is Sara Hill-Nelson, who will talk about the history and current activity of the Bowersock Dam on the Kansas River located on the KAW in Lawrence. The month of June brings us Chad Tenpenny, aide to Senator Roberts. He will talk about the Senator's heritage in this part of Kansas. There may also be a chance for Q & A's addressing our concerns. **Please join us.**

**APRIL MEETING RECAP**

Nancy Thellman, Douglas County Commissioner gave an informative overview of the broad scope of county programs and duties. Highlights included: -Commission used a "pay as you go" policy, so finances are not bad as they might have been. -Social Services are important. Budget cuts often result in even higher expenses in other areas forced to deal with the effects of those cuts. *ie.* Cutting mental health services makes jail a "satellite mental health care facility," which is more costly. Pay at this end, to avoid paying more at other end. -One in 3 children born after 2000 will be diabetic = economic and quality of life ramifications. -Local Food Policy Council. -Heritage Area to preserve historical places. -Conservation, hired Eileen Horn to develop projects. -County and Lawrence are cooperating.

**SERVICE OFFICER                      Wanda Lyon**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) increased in March to 213.525. The percent toward COLA increased from -1.4 to -0.9. This percentage must be a positive (+) number for a COLA in 2011.

NARFE has updated and expanded its popular booklet "Be Prepared for Life's Events" (F-100). In one place, NARFE members can record all of the information that their survivors will need to know, including the location of important documents, financial assets and retirement accounts. It also tells whom to contact in the event of the death of a federal employee, retiree or survivor annuitant.

Contact me if you want the latest version. (785)764-2210      or      lyonden@sunflower.com

*Only the educated are free.                      Epictetus*

**LEGISLATIVE**

**John Surritte**

NARFE declared August 2010, "**Meet Your Candidates Month.**" This November we have the opportunity to elect a Senator replacing Brownback, a Governor, and at least 3 Congressmen, including a new District 3 Representative replacing Moore. This election is especially important because the candidates are not incumbents. They are new.

The primary election is Tuesday, August 3rd. Our responsibility between now and then is to pay attention to what candidates have to say.

One way to become an informed voter is to attend candidates' speaking events to find out what their views are and to express what our needs and concerns as federal employees and retirees are. Linda and I attended a Saturday morning meeting with Tom Holland who is running for Governor. It was informative and provided us the opportunity to convey our views to the candidate. **Remember the one who watches out best for you IS YOU.**

Also, NARFE National sent an email, concerning the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. The message includes an introduction and a document, which provides timely and relevant information and talking points. **NARFE urges its members give the talking points to members of Congress, congressional candidates and their staff at any upcoming forums or meetings they have scheduled,** including "Meet Your Candidates Month" events. Coverage in the June issue of *NARFE* magazine will provide information to all NARFE members. A link to this document is on the NARFE web site. **A copy of the document appears on page 4 of this newsletter.**

**"Elections belong to the people. It is their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."**  
*Abraham Lincoln*

**QUILT WINNER**

Congratulations to Betty Warne of Wichita Chapter 138! Her winning ticket was drawn after Linda and John Surritte of Lawrence Chapter 378 graciously declined the quilt when their tickets were drawn twice.

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

**Betty Scribner**

WELCOME to our new member Ed Simpson. Renewal letters were sent to: Everett Loury, Thomas Waner, James McConnell, Richard Tilden. If you know any of these people, give them a call and remind them to renew, as we need them as members of our chapter.

On the Membership-Drive-Front, Tom, Wendy, and I are developing a presentation for prospective members. It describes the benefits of being a NARFE member. We have a draft of a slide show, and I am working on a script. Any and all ideas, suggestions, and/or comments are welcome. We'll have popcorn at the July meeting presentation.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Wendy Hambly and I participated in the American Postal Workers Union Convention (APWU) with Richard Diller, Chapter 138 President, in Wichita, KS.

Richard gave a brief presentation explaining NARFE and its mission to protect and enhance civilian federal workers benefits to an audience of 65-75 postal workers. A table with the NARFE poster and recruiting materials from National were displayed. We handed out the NARFE magazine, stated NARFE's purpose, and answered questions.

Two political aides were at the convention and stopped by our table. We were able to provide them information about NARFE, NARFE's concerns, and the Political Action Committee (PAC). Richard arranged for them to speak at Chapter 138's July meeting where other candidates will also be presenting. Also, the newsletter editor for APWU stopped by the table. She plans to put a NARFE article in her APWU newsletter.

The 2011 APWU Convention is in Topeka on April 15-16, and there is a Tri-State APWU Convention on April 13-14, 2011 in Topeka. The APWU, like NARFE, has local meetings throughout the state. The day was informative, we reached a few people, made two political contacts, and got some ideas on how to root out federal worker groups and get in the loop for APWU conventions.

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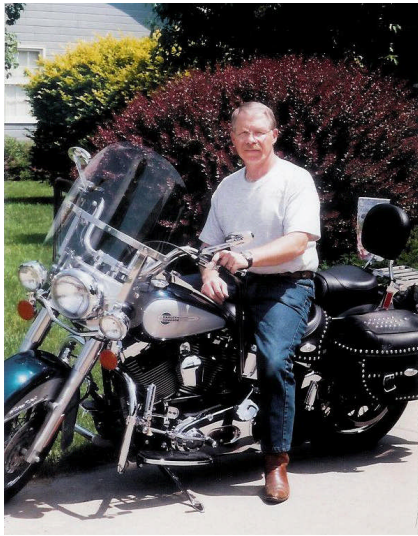
*A society of sheep must in time beget a government of wolves.*  
*Henry de Jouvenel*

## FEATURED MEMBER

Hands down, there was no other choice for May's featured member. It had to be our top man for Chapter 378's Alzheimer's Quilt Fundraiser, who tipped the scales with donations for nearly 300 tickets! Our own Roger Lemmons.

Roger retired from USDA-FSA (Farm Service Agency) Formerly ASCS January 3, 2003 with 37 years of service.

He began as a general clerk. Then moved into the management-training program. That led to the County Executive Director (CED) position in Jefferson County at Oskaloosa. A position he held for 18 years. His duties included management of



the County office and the programs such as the Conservation Cost Share, Facility (grain storage structures) Loan, and Farm Subsidy Payments.

In 1989 he accepted the Conservation Program Specialist position for the State of Kansas. This brought about a move to Manhattan, KS. His duties were to oversee several emergency programs and specifically Conservation programs, which included the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Through the CPR, over \$155,000,000 was distributed annually into the hands of Kansas farmers for retiring cropland and planting it to grass. As program specialist, Roger and his staff were responsible for the procedures to implement programs and were the prime contacts of the county offices for direction and problem solving. He also traveled to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Washington, DC several times to help write procedure and train all other State Office Conservation Program Specialists.

Roger came to Lawrence at the urging of his wife, Shirley, and their desire to live closer to their children and grandchildren. Their daughter is a 5th grade school teacher in McLouth, and their son is in an UPS management position in Tulsa (Broken Arrow). They have 5 grandchildren. The oldest

grandchild is a senior at OSU, and the youngest is an 8th grader. The ruler of the house is his wife's dog, Gracie.

Roger says he enjoys fixing/working on about anything. Other passions include riding his Harley Davidson, and for many years his interest has been photography. In addition, Roger served 23 years as a volunteer firefighter. He served as chief of the City of Oskaloosa Fire Department (FD) and captain in the Riley County FD. Roger says, "For me there is no greater 'rush' than to get suited up and enter a structure fire with a charged line. I like to do crazy things like Bungee jump, parasail and maybe someday parachute jump."

Roger joined the Manhattan NARFE Chapter in 2003. He was 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in Manhattan, which involved securing programs for the chapter. He currently is 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Lawrence NARFE Chapter and arranges meeting programs.

When asked if he had anything else to share, he said, "Our organization is only as strong as it's membership, more specifically the membership that regularly attends Chapter meetings. It takes more than just belonging to make a successful chapter. Each of us needs to take an active role in voicing our support or displeasure on congressional actions that affect each of us as retired federal employees. Always remember: Congress giveth, Congress taketh away."

## NATIONAL CONVENTION August 2010



The 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial National Convention is "NARFE's voting booth" to elect NARFE leaders and the kick-off for NARFE's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Check out details at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).

NARFE was founded in February 1921 by a group of 14 retired civil servants who were looking to better the status of federal retirees. At that time, federal annuities were capped at \$60 a month, but many retirees were receiving as little as \$15 a month.

Today, the Association's more than 300,000 members continue to work to enhance and protect the retirement benefits of nearly 5 million federal workers.

## TALKING POINTS FROM NATIONAL

The following is the document from NATIONAL referenced in the Legislative article on page 2:

### BIPARTISAN NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REFORM

The National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, created by President Obama in February, is scheduled to make recommendations to Congress by December 2010 on ways to reduce the deficit and control the long-term growth in the debt. The 18-member, bipartisan commission has already started to conduct public hearings. Under an agreement with congressional leaders, the commission's recommendations would be considered in an expedited manner by the House and Senate on an up-or-down vote without amendments. As the commission begins its work, it is important to keep the following points in mind:

- During previous periods of entitlement reform, policymakers first discussed cutting the “big three” – Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. However, when lawmakers realized the political realities of cutting a program such as Social Security, which has 40 million beneficiaries (77 million by 2030), **they have turned to easier targets – including the “captive audience” of federal retirees** — a much smaller constituency (2.3 million retirees and survivors). In fact, during the budget crises of the 1980s and early 1990s, federal retirees and survivors lost in excess of \$50 billion in deferred, reduced and canceled cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), while Social Security COLAs were preserved. A stark example was the application of the once-used sequestration process of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law, which eliminated civil service COLAs but held Social Security recipients harmless.
- Federal civilian retirement does not face the same solvency challenges as trust funds that support Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund (CSRDF) is fully funded and actuarially sound. According to the

nonpartisan Congressional Research Service: “Using a 75-year projection period, the Office of Personnel Management estimates that the total value of securities in the trust fund will grow throughout the projection period, ultimately reaching about 4.2 times payroll, or nearly 18 times the amount needed to pay annual benefits. In summary, by definition, under the financing arrangements set out in current law, the system is not now and never will be ‘insolvent’ or without adequate budget authority for payment of benefits. Again, because the budget cost of the system can never exceed the cost of monthly benefits to living annuitants, the cash required from the Treasury or taxpayers will never exceed the cost of those monthly payments.”

- While Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid will consume two percentage points more than the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the next 10 years, civil service retirement's share of the GDP will shrink by 0.06 percent, with the decline in the number of annuitants covered by the closed former retirement system, the Civil Service Retirement System.
- Federal retirement will not be directly affected by the boom in the senior population because the federal retirement population is a function of the size of the federal work force, not the general population.

**Action Requested for Members of Congress:**  
Can Federal/Postal workers and annuitants count on you to preserve COLA equity between all federal retirement programs and defend the integrity of a system that provides deferred compensation and benefits to individuals who have dedicated their careers to public service?

**Congressional Staff Members:** For additional information from the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, please contact NARFE at [leg@narfe.org](mailto:leg@narfe.org) or 703-838-7760, x201.