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John Surritte, President and National Legislative Coordinator: I'm going to devote this article to our 54th Annual State Convention in Hutchinson, Kansas. The convention will be held on April 27-29, 2008, in Hutchinson. I encourage every Chapter to send Representatives.

We; Bill Collins, Harold Gottsch and rest of the Hutchinson Chapter; John Lancaster, Area 4 VP and the State Federation Board are planning a very excellent Convention. I sincerely thank the Hutchinson Chapter and John for their hard work. We will have, as our guest speakers; Region 5 Vice President, Richard Thissen, our Headquarters Director of Public Relations, Chuck Timanus and our NARFE Headquarters Alzheimer's Chair, Barb Pretzer. These folks will share with you what NARFE is doing to protect your future benefits, increase our membership and defeat the dreaded Alzheimer's disease.

You will also be asked to elect your Federation Officers for 2008-2009. In addition, you will be asked to vote on at least two resolutions. They are as follows:

1. Raise the Kansas per capita dues from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per chapter member. These dues provide funding for the Federation to support our members. This past year, since the last convention, the Federation used these funds to pay the registration fee for the CONK in S. Sioux City, NB, for 39 chapter members, the chapter training for all of our areas and their chapter members and participation at a HQ's meeting to strengthen NARFE to protect your future benefits. I, as your State President, support this resolution. I have studied per capita dues and find that ours are tied for the lowest in our Region. They have not changed since 2001. Since then our annuities have increased because of our annual COLA increases. Costs do go up so we need to support this 50 cents increase. Thirty-one of our Chapters sent the 50 cents per capita donation request to our Treasurer for 2007. This request was passed unanimously at the Federation Board meeting on October 30, 2007. We, on the Federation Board, truly appreciate this.
2. There will also be a resolution to fund our annual Convention Alzheimer's live auction with funds donated at the auction. I do not support this resolution. I believe it will break the agreement we have with our members that the funds they donate will only be used for Alzheimer's Research and not for administrative costs. I believe that the cost of the auction should be paid with operational funds collected from the registration charge to attend the convention. This year the registration charge is \$11.00. I believe this is a reasonable charge.

The convention should be very informative and based on your input will give your Federation Board the direction they should pursue over the next year. I really hope your chapter will attend and participate.

In closing, I have truly appreciated serving as your State President the past two years. I have enjoyed meeting with many with you. I also want to personally thank all of the Federation Board members I have served with. They have worked hard to serve your interests and have made my job easy. I believe our organization does a lot to protect all of our benefits and have enjoyed being a small part of that.

I wish all of us the best for the future. Thanks again for letting me serve.

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Gary Townson, 1st Vice President: This will be my last article as 1st Vice president of the Federation. At the Federation Convention in April I will be running for Federation President. If I prevail in the election, my next article will be as Federation President. Otherwise, I will not be presenting any more articles as a Federation Officer. We just concluded a grueling but encouraging set of Training Sessions. Gail Beck did a terrific job organizing the training schedule and outlining the different agendas to be covered. Carol Ek [in addition to her normal killer schedule] collected, copied, assembled and delivered the training packets for each Training Session. If anything ever happened to her, the Federation would need at least three people to produce the quality work she does. Every member of the Executive board has been a cheerful, willing contributor to NARFE's activities this year. I consider it a privilege to have been allowed to work with such a dedicated group.

The National Presidential elections are hogging the majority of the limelight but we also have Senator Roberts and all four members of the House of Representatives up for reelection. NARFE/PAC will make some contributions to the candidates we consider friends of NARFE. As I frequently say, that money can only come from one source. **YOU!** You are NARFE/PAC. March is the month NARFE Headquarters designates as the month to emphasize this. The front cover of the March NARFE magazine identifies NARFE/PAC as the 'Key to Capitol Clout.' Pages 18 through 21 of that issue explain why this is important to you. If your Chapter doesn't collect funds for this, you can use the form on page 20 and mail your funds directly to Headquarters or you can mail your contribution to me. At the Federation Convention, we will, as usual, have a table set up to collect PAC contributions. If you do not plan to attend the Convention, send your contribution with someone that is attending.

I wish to take this time to express my thanks to President Surritte for all he has done for the Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters since he came on the Board four years ago. He has decided to not seek reelection as Federation President but that does not mean he will not still be active. Thank You John.

Elizabeth Bornman, 2nd Vice President: I completed Membership training on the Back to Basics Team at Hayes and Wichita, Kansas, in March. I was hoping more membership chairpersons would be in attendance. My aim and goal to those in attendance was how important that position is to the chapters. I hope the chapters would at least have a program at the chapter meeting on membership with all the information that was part of the training. I will have a workshop on Sunday, the first day of the convention. I hope to continue as your Federation Membership chair for the next administration. Our numbers are down for the 2nd quarter of the year. You need to get those recruiting plans working for you. Please share with me if you are successful in increasing your numbers.

Carol Ek, Secretary: Training Seminars Held Across State

It's been a very busy year for your Federation Training Committee. Headed by Gale Beck, (Area 2 Vice President, Past Region V Vice President, Past Federation President); and President Surritte, five (5) training seminars were held throughout the State. Seminars were held in Iola, Kansas City, Clay Center, Hays and Wichita.

Regional Vice President Richard Thissen attended seminar bringing new happenings from NARFE headquarters to our members.

This type of one-on-one contact is a precious commodity and is without equal to Kansas members.

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Carol's Changes:
(Carol Ek, Federation
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Federation officers included on the team were: Elizabeth Bornman, 2nd Vice President and Membership Chair; Donald Cooper, Public Relations; Carol R. Ek, Secretary; Mary Fritzon, Service Officer; Linda Surritte, Alzheimer's; and Gary Townson, 1st Vice President and PAC Chair.

One hundred twenty-one (121) members took advantage of the seminars and very good comments were heard from each one. If you missed attending one of the seminars, you missed a very good opportunity to learn what your Federation and NARE Headquarters are doing for you.

Convention Just Around the Corner (April 27 through April 29) in Hutchinson, Kansas

Time is drawing short to make your reservations (both hotel and convention). The **deadline is April 7** and those are needed now to determine needs by the Host Chapter.

Reports for Delegates, Awards, Memorial Listing, and Committee Assignments need to be **returned to me by April 1st** so I can get letters to the participating members; President Surritte can determine awards to be given; Credential listings can be prepared for the registration committee; and, Memorial listings can be prepared for the Memorial Service.

We hope to have at least two hundred (200) attend the convention again this year.

Please review the resolutions which you have received notice on and make sure you understand what each is saying. The best way to make the determination on how you wish to vote, if you have questions, is to contact the person who presented the resolution. The resolution regarding per capita tax changes was submitted by Chapter 799, Chanute, Roger Cottrell, President. The resolution regarding Alzheimer's expenses was submitted by Chapter 138, Wichita, Gary Townson, President. **Please work to get you reports to Carol R. Ek, 907 Sycamore Place, McPherson, Kansas 67460-5804, as soon as possible.**

Madelyn Brown, Federation Treasurer: All Chapters have finally sent their Per Capita. Thirty-one chapters sent the Per Capita donation for a total of \$792.00. The amount of Per Capita received was \$4,629.00. This will help pay for the training. **See you at the convention next month.**

Donald Cooper, Immediate Past President/Public Relations: PR - Public Relations. PR, PR, PR, PR, PR should be an automatic reaction to all who are interested in protecting their EARNED benefits. Since 1921, Civilian Federal Employees have had their EARNED BENEFITS influenced by NARFE. So, why shouldn't Civilian Federal Employees think and talk NARFE. How do you talk NARFE? It's pretty simple - think enough of your Organization to share it with other Civilian Federal Employees, Active and Retired. One on One encounters are very effective environments to talk NARFE. Part of that encounter should be LISTENING. By listening to the individual you are conversing with can lead to an opportunity to create a Public Relations situation. If that person is not already a NARFE member, it's time to ask for his interest in being recruited. A little STOP - LOOK - LISTEN - PROCEED (with a sale).

PR isn't just outside situations. Public Relations work well in the Chapter.

PR at the Chapter Meeting can bolster interest, morale, action and rewards. PR is making certain the NARFE attendee feels welcome at the Chapter Meeting. A simple greeting or an earnest conversation of interest can be great PR. Making personal goals of being better acquainted, and responsible for causing that "shy" member or visitor to want to come back to the next NARFE meeting - PR.

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Dixie Thomas

Editor: As most of you know, I jumped the gun on the last newsletter and thanked everyone for supporting me as newsletter editor. Well, I have now started carrying a calendar with me, I have a calendar on my desk and I put suspense's in the computer to make sure I am aware of upcoming responsibilities. Thanks again to all of you. I've enjoyed meeting and working with you on different levels and look forward to working/visiting with you in the future.

Getting that brief news article printed in the local News Paper of what the NARFE Chapter is doing - PR. While getting the news printed - getting better acquainted with the news staff - PR in motion!

Providing information to the Newsletter Editor can be your day's dose of PR contribution. If your Chapter lacks a Newsletter, your PR act for the month might be to volunteer for being a Newsletter Editor. PR for prosperity can be a rally cry. Think PR. Talk PR. Show PR. Be PR. All NARFE Members can be a PR Person Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Don't stop there - make it PR time all the time.

Think PR. Be PR. Be in attendance at the Federation Annual Convention at the Grand Prairie Hotel, Hutchinson, Kansas, April 27, 28 & 29, 2008. If you can't attend the Convention, make certain your representative knows how you want to be represented on the issues - another form of PR.

Demand to know what happened at the Kansas Federation of NARFE Convention. Tell others what you learned - even your Newspaper Editor.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - YOUR PR COUNTS. JUST DO IT!

Gale D. Beck, Advisory Officer and AREA 2 Vice-President: Area 2 Chapters, you have been slighted the past few months due to the Federation Training taking place this past month. Please feel free to contact me for upcoming visitations.

Training planning and the actual training take lots of time. Eastern Kansas had their training late last year and Region 5 and 6 Western Kansas received their consolidated training, Friday, March 7th at Hays. Region 4 Training Seminar was Friday, March 14th at Wichita. This wraps up the Kansas training for now. Thanks to all of those who were Trainers, the Area Vice Presidents who set up the training sites, noon lunches and all of the other coordination that was necessary. To all of the NARFE Members who took the time to attend the seminars. "THANKS". I hope that those who attended will now take the time to review the handout material and put it to good use. Also "Thanks" to Carol Ek, Federation Secretary for printing and assembling all of the handout materials. This was a major task in itself.

Chapters are reminded of the upcoming State (Federation) Convention to be held in Hutchinson, April 27, 28, 29th. Chapters in Area 2, please be sure all of your requested reports for the convention are submitted timely. If not submitted timely, it creates more work for NARFE Members who are officers at the chapter and federation level.

Other reminders: Please remind your chapter officers and members that the special recruitment fee for recruiting new working federal employees, first timers expired December 31, 08. The application is F-14F (09-05). These applications need to be destroyed, now. The back of the envelope has an orange colored flap on it. First time members recruited now - the dues are \$33.00 and covers NARFE, Federation and Chapter first year dues. The following years dues are: NARFE Dues \$29.00 plus whatever the chapter dues are for the chapter that the member belongs to.

HOPE TO SEE MANY OF YOU AT THE CONVENTION IN HUTCHINSON.

Thomas E. Raby, Area 1 Vice-President: Every two months we each write an article, separate from each other. I'm sure we all think that we are probably duplicating the efforts of another Federation Board Member with our thoughts and ideas. I do try to think change the pace occasionally, so here's a different approach. What do you do

**Jim Dodd, NARFE
NETTER/Historian:**

Thanks again to everyone who has sent me their new e-mail addresses. Please be sure to update your e-mail address at the NARFE HQ website, www.narfe.org.

We now have over 80 Kansas Chapter & Federation newsletters archived on the KSNARFE.org web site. If you wish to have your Chapters newsletters saved on the web site please send them to me as an e-mail attachment and they will be posted on the web site.

Other newer items now posted on the web site are: At item #1 The new Post Office web site pages for Federal Retirees, At item #5B: KS Chapter President, Sec. & Treasurer charts, At item #9: The current membership charts updated from HQ M-110 reports, At item #15A: New HQ phone list.

Please let us know if there is any other NARFE information or web site links that you would like to be added to the KSNARFE.org web site. **Hope to see all of you at the state convention in Hutchinson!**

when NARFE is not your focus? Here's a few ideas:

- What about taking some courses and classes? Have you checked out your library lately? They have a wealth of materials other than books. There are movies, DVD's, tapes and magazines at most libraries. Do you get involved in any group activities? This can include church activities. In Johnson County the Park & Recreation District has 50+ offices with lots of programs like hiking, computer courses, "Red-Hat Society" events and more.
- All of us that are retired are "farmed" for volunteer work. That keeps many of us busy. I'm in the middle of "Tax-Season" with preparing taxes at the Olathe Senior Center. This is volunteer effort that doesn't last all year and doesn't feel like a job, there's a real feeling of reward in helping folks with a difficult task.
- We all can't monitor state government like the folks in Chapter 2 can. But, we can all monitor our City Council or our Board of County Commissioners meetings and activities. Do you know who all your elected officials are? This includes those insurance salesmen that are on the local school board. Are they selling annuities to the district employees? Do you know if that's a good, or a bad, thing? If you approach civics and government with one simple curiosity, you'll come away with many.
- I'm sorry that many of our members have never opened the seemingly infinite supply of knowledge available on one's home computer. You can double check your Doctor concerning your ailments and medications. You can check out things like "odyssey of the mind" or investigate political claims. You can shop the world on E-bay or Amazon, etc.

The main thing is: keep busy! We all are mindful of the price of bananas at Dillon's, or gas at Phillips. These are important, but there are millions of other things, too. Beer is supposed to have a compound, or is it an element, that helps with preventing Alzheimer's disease. Don't do a terrible thing and waste your mind if a little beer will help.

Hope to see each of you in Hutchinson.

Jim Gaskell, Area 2A Vice-President: I have two subjects to cover in this newsletter. First, please understand the urgent need to approve the By-Laws Proposal to increase the Annual Dues chapters pay the first of each calendar year. At present the amount of dues is one dollar per voting member in each chapter. The Proposal your chapter has or will be reviewing before our next Annual Convention is to increase this amount to \$1.50 per member per year. This proposal will need a majority vote in order to go into effect. The Federation Officers are not trying to build a big reserve in their checking account. Quit the difference - we need the added money to maintain the services that you and all chapters are now receiving. Without this increase, it will be necessary for Federation Officers to reduce spending which may reduce training, travel, printing and mailings. Encourage your chapter to support this and instruct delegates to vote in favor of this proposal at the NARFE Annual Convention.

My second subject is: Will your chapter consider hosting a NARFE Convention in year 2010 and beyond. Next year we will be meeting in Manhattan but we have no firm commitments for any year beyond 2009. If your chapter has any interest, I ask you to send me a note and have your delegates bring a proposal for hosting a meeting to our April 27-29 meeting. I will be chairing the Time and Place Committee immediately after lunch so if your chapter has an interest, please attend and discuss the possibilities.



TIME FOR A LAUGH!

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, 'Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up my Irish Whiskey!'

Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Paddy looked up again and said, 'Never mind, I found one.'

Paddy was in New York.

He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, 'Okay, pedestrians.' Then he'd allow the traffic to pass.

He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk.

After the cop had shouted, 'Pedestrians!' for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, 'Is it not about time you let the Catholics across?'

Duane Evans, Area 3 Vice-President: This has been a good year for Area III. We have had many new members join NARFE. Every effort has been made to make these new members feel welcome and be an integral part of chapter activities. Some new members are now serving as officers in their respective chapters.

The officer training in October 2007 provided by the Kansas Federation of Chapters was much appreciated and is being used by chapter officers. We thank them for their devoted service.

Gene Dester and Bill Foerschler devoted years of faithful service to the Abilene Chapter. In October they informed chapter members that they would not serve as chapter officers in 2008. They said that it was time for someone else to take over or else fold the chapter. Don Cooper talked to several chapter members and opened up a dialog for others to take over as chapter officers. We thank Betty McVicker and Carolyn Bair for responding and now serving. The Abilene Chapter members do many good things in the community. Members enjoy each other and contribute to Alzheimer's. I am glad that we did not close the chapter.

I wish to step down as your Area 3 Vice President. When I took the office, Judy Grossnickle told us that she would be too busy with her Square Dance club obligations for the next couple of years to serve. Judy's time commitment has extended for another year; therefore, she is not a candidate to serve next year. Don Cooper said that he would be a candidate for this office. I do not want to exclude anyone so if you want to serve let me know or be prepared to have someone at the State Convention nominate you. I have enjoyed attending your chapter meetings and serving you.

John Lancaster, Area 4 Vice-President: Words have meanings. Sayings have meanings; however they are sometimes disguised as hidden hints. Words can hurt and words can make one's heart feel relieved.

The convention in Hutchinson marks the end of my term as Area Vice President of Area IV and a sitting position on the Kansas Federation Board. The time on the Federation Board has been, in the most part, positive.

In 1996 when I agreed to take the position of Federation Public Relations Officer and through the following years when I attempted to serve as Membership Chair, 1st Vice President, (elected when I was not at the convention), Federation President, Newsletter Editor, as well as chairman of the Ballot and Teller Committee at the National Convention, I have met some of the most remarkable persons in the world. They include the Chapter Officers, Chapter members and members of the National Executive Board. In the four trips Jane and I made and visited the National Office, we were always received as special people even though we were just NARFE members, just like the rest of the Kansas members.

I guess I have a question - - What have you done to enhance the life span of NARFE? We cannot live without active membership recruitment of new members by CHAPTERS. Last month, for example, of the 16 new members in Kansas, there were 4 who were recruited by the chapters and 2 of these were recruited by one member. I know of one member in Kansas who has recruited more than 125 new members. How many have YOU recruited?

Anyway, I am sure that the Kansas Convention in Hutchinson will be a great event and I also know that Bill Collins, Harold Gottsch and Clyde Woolfolk, as well as the other

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a

pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mommy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what you would do?'

A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?'

One child blurted out, 'Aces!'

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, 'So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?'

The little boy replied, 'Thank God he's in bed!'

members of the Hutchinson Chapter 537 have worked hard to make it a success. I hope that each of you, who will be at the convention, and those who should be there, will listen to the discussion of the items on which we will vote and make a sound decision on them; one that will make a positive, lasting, effect on the fate of the Kansas Federation and NARFE.

Remember, PAC is what NARFE is about, Alzheimer's is what NARFE supports, but without members, what do we have?

I will miss the people in Area IV and the members of the other 45 chapters in Kansas with whom I have had the opportunity to visit.

I will miss the people in Area IV and the members of the other 45 chapters in Kansas with whom I have had the opportunity to visit.

I am especially proud of the members of Area IV who had the most total members attend the recent Federation Training sessions.

God Bless and **Verba Volant, scripta manent!**

Ron Katt, Area 5 Vice-President: March 7, 2008 in Hays, Kansas was the location for "Back to Basics and You" training seminar for Area V and Area VI. This was a very well organized, presented and informative seminar by NARFE's Federation Officers and Region V Field Vice-President Richard Thissen. A thank you is extended to the trainers, host Chapter 2050 Custer 7th Calvary and the eighteen Chapter members who attended the seminar.

The 54th Annual Convention is fast approaching for NARFE members. The registration deadline is April 7, 2008; therefore if you haven't got your registration in the mail, do so today. The Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center and the work done by Chapter 537 and others are shaping up for another fun, relaxing and learning Convention.

Area V's February membership reports showed a gain of two members. Chapter 1991, Goodland and Chapter 2032 Oakley gained one each. Congratulations are extended to the two Chapters and all Chapters are encouraged to continue to do all you can to recruit and retain members. **NARFE's reward and strength lies in our membership.**

Robert Cranmer, Area 6 Vice-President: The area training seminars are history. Area V and VI held their combined seminars on March 7th. Area VI had three out of five chapters in attendance. We have enough material for two or three day seminars.

Chapter 1873 President Richard Goodnough was recuperating from a 2 knee replacement and couldn't attend.

Over the past two months, I have driven 650+ miles visiting chapters and attending training seminars.

April is Kansas Federation State Convention month. Hutchinson Chapter 537 will host the 54th Annual Convention at the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center, Hutchinson. If your chapter is unable to attend, please fill out the yellow Proxy Credential Form and send in to the Federation Secretary.

I hope to see every chapter represented at the convention.

Betty Born, Legislative (State): Wow! What an experience has been my work this year as NARFE Federation Legislative Chair. As the end of this year's legislative session approaches, I no longer feel exactly like a neophyte, and, indeed, at my advanced age, it is gratifying to realize that I have learned much about the legislative process.

My report for this newsletter is, in short: The Kansas Senate resumed action on



Are YOU smarter than a 5th grader???

There are 7 girls in a bus.

Each girl has 7 backpacks.

In each backpack, there are 7 big cats.

For every big cat there are 7 little cats.

Question:

How many legs are there in the bus?

For the answer - see me at the state convention! Dixie



March 4, after the "Turnaround Week." We were then over half way through the legislative session. All bills (with exception of bills in the "exempt" committees) will need to be out of their committee settings by March 26, with everything completed by March 29.

Although bills can still arrive through the House Tax Committee and Ways and Means Committee on the Senate side, or on the floor, that could affect our benefits, that seems unlikely to occur.

Mary Fritzson Service Officer: The five area training seminars have now been completed - - the one at Hays for Areas V and VI on March 7th and the one at Wichita for Area IV participants on March 14th. The trainers were thrilled with the attendance at Wichita. If memory serves me right, I think the number was around 40. Time does not permit each trainer to cover all handout material but hopefully those attending will study the handout material and will also share it with other chapter members. I've enjoyed being a trainer and always look forward to meeting and visiting with other NARFE members.

Our next chance to be together is at the 54th State Federation Convention in Hutchinson, April 27-29, 2008. If you are in a position to encourage attendance, I urge you to do so. I will be handling the Retirement Benefits sessions at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 27th and hopefully will have a good attendance and some good questions too for a lively and beneficial discussion. I hope to see many of you at the State Convention.

Continue to recruit and retain NARFE members because we need each and every one of you to continue to tell our story.

Linda Surritte, Alzheimer's (State): The final 2007 numbers are in. The Kansas chapters collected \$24,818.12 which computes to \$4.98 per member. Our goal was \$4.00 per member. You've surpassed that goal! THANK YOU! I will be sending the final 2007 report to Chapter Alzheimer's Chairs in early April. As of the end of February 2008, you have contributed \$1,202.90.

The Alzheimer's Committee will be establishing the 2008 goal at the Federation Convention to be held April 27-28 in Hutchinson.

We will again have both the Live and Silent auctions during the convention. The success of these fundraisers depends on the quantity and quality of items donated. This year, we are requesting that donated items be new, like new or antique quality. The Convention Committee is also requesting that items have an estimated auction **value of \$5** or more. As usual, crafted and/or homemade items are especially appreciated. Remember that tracking credit for auction items goes to the donating chapter. Also, if you are coming to the convention, be sure to **bring your checkbook or cash since we are not able to take credit cards for payment. Checks are preferable** for ease of handling and if you want to get an acknowledgement tax receipt letter from the Alzheimer's Association.

I will be stepping down from the Federation Alzheimer's Chair position next year. I've enjoyed working with all of you these past four years. If you or someone you know may be interested in taking over this position, please contact me for more information.