



KANSAS FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2006-January 2007

JOHN F. SURRITTE
FEDERATION PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT/FEDERAL LEGISLATION

John F. Surrutte
5907 Longleaf Dr. Lawrence, KS 66049-5801
785 856 0558
jfsurrutte@hotmail.com

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/PAC COORDINATOR

Gary E. Townson
212 E. Brownie St., Rose Hill, KS 67133-9706
316 776 2684
gesst@prodigy.net

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP

Thomas E. Raby
15117 S. Symphony Dr. #1203 Olathe, KS 66062-6126
913 829 6025
thomasraby1@comcast.net

SECRETARY

Carol R. Ek
907 Sycamore Place, McPherson, KS 67460-5902
620 241 1131
crek67460@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Madelyn Brown
1141 St. Mary's Road Junction City, KS 66441-4138
785 238 5623
madelyn11@cox.net

AREA 1 VICE PRESIDENT

Agnes Shellhammer
6606 Lowell Ave Shawnee Mission KS 66202-3866
913 432 0091
agnes.shellhammera@sbcglobal.net

AREA 1A VICE PRESIDENT

Theodore "T.J." Robinson
2501 N. 36th St Kansas City, KS 66104-3631
913 371 7720
save900@aol.com

AREA II VICE PRESIDENT

Gale D. Beck
1012 Meadowbrook Rd. E Iola, KS 66749-2112
620 365 3469
beckgjk26@netks.net

AREA IIA VICE PRESIDENT

L. J. "Jim" Gaskell
715 S. Wilson Chanute, KS 66720-2766
620 431 6235
jlgaskell@cableone.net

AREA III VICE PRESIDENT

W. Duane Evans
2319 Wesley Salina, KS 67401-6925
785 827 0592
wevans0592@esagelink.com

AREA IV VICE PRESIDENT

John Lancaster
651 N. Cedar Downs Circle Wichita, KS 67235-1345
316 721 0606
jlancaster2@cox.net

AREA V VICE PRESIDENT

Ronald Katt
P.O. Box 232, Grainfield, KS 67737-0232
785 673 4822
ronkarol@ruraltel.net

AREA VI VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Cranmer
105 S. Grand, P.O. Box 502 Ness City, KS 67560-0502
785 798 2849
rcranmer@gbta.net

STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Jim Miller
7220 SW Asbury Dr #219 W Topeka KS 66614-4718
785 478 0651
snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net

SERVICE OFFICER

Jodine A. Elwick
3037 Pepper Ridge Court Wichita, KS 67205-1930
316 722 9022
rdjae@aol.com

KANSAS ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

Linda A. Surrutte
5907 Longleaf Dr. Lawrence, KS 66049-5801
785 856 0558
lapavlov@hotmail.com

NARFE NETTER / HISTORIAN

Jim Dodd
1033 West Spruce Street, Junction City, KS 6641-3445
785 238 8041
JDodd40955@aol.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT/ PUBLIC RELATIONS

Donald Cooper
5846 Tuttle Cove Road Manhattan, KS 66503-8432
785 537 1676
cooper@flinthills.com

EDITOR

Dixie Thomas
801 Sunshine St Junction City, KS 66441-4183
785 238 1455
Bthomas56@cox.net

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John F. Surritte, President & National Legislative Coordinator:

In opening this article for the December/January newsletter, I want to thank and congratulate our new newsletter editor, Dixie Thomas. Dixie replaces our present editor, John Lancaster, effective with this issue. John has held many positions with NARFE in Kansas and is presently the Area IV VP. I would like to thank John for performing so well as editor and extend our welcome to Dixie as our new editor.

I met Dixie while meeting with our Junction City Chapter to plan your 2007 State Convention. She is very personable and competent and will make an excellent editor. I know she will do well.

Speaking of our 2007 State Convention, the Junction City Chapter is planning a great event. I encourage your Chapter to plan to attend. NARFE faces many challenges. We need to recruit new members in order to strengthen our NARFE organization. In Kansas, we have a pool of over 50,000 possible members. We presently have 5,000 plus. We have a real opportunity to recruit the 45,000 who have not joined. It depends on you and me to make this happen.

The recent National Elections results have also created new opportunities. We now have a new majority in both the US House and Senate. A new Congress provides for new opportunities for NARFE. For example, Congressman Thomas and Senator Grassley will no longer be in charge of the House and Senate committees, which bottled up our efforts to pass Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP Repeal. Also, two of our supporters in Kansas, Representatives Moore and Moran, were re-elected. Also, a new Congresswoman, Nancy Boyda, was newly elected in the 2nd District. Ms. Boyda has visited with many NARFE Chapters in her District and indicated she will support our Federal Retirees.

What this means to us is that every Chapter in the State will need to become more active in helping support NARFE's Federal legislative initiatives in the 110th Congress. We will discuss what we all need to do throughout 2007 and specifically at our 2007 State Convention.

Finally, you need to mark the following dates on your 2007 calendar:

1. The National Legislative Conference will be held in Bethesda, MD, on March 3rd through March 6th, 2007. I encourage every Chapter to send a representative (see page 19 of the November, 2006, National magazine). We need to support NARFE's legislative

initiatives for the 110th Congress. Those initiatives are explained in detail in the November 2006, National Magazine, page 27.

2. Attend the 2007 State Convention April 29 & 30, May 1, 2007. As I mentioned earlier, the Junction City Chapter is working hard to provide you with an excellent convention. You and I need to support them.
3. Attend the College of NARFE Knowledge in So. Sioux City, NB, on August 29 through 31, 2007. Our Regional VP, Richard Thissen, works hard to provide our members with relevant information to help achieve our goals. Dick at our State Convention in Junction City will provide more information. The State Federation Board provided an incentive of \$60.00 per Kansas member to attend, up to a limit of \$2,000 in total.

Finally, through October 2006, you have contributed \$16,271.19 for Alzheimer's Research. You are commended for your compassion for a very worthwhile charity.

In closing, Linda and I wish you a very **Happy Holiday Season. Merry Christmas to all of you and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!**

Gary E. Townson, 1st Vice President/PAC Coordinator:

WOW! The Convention officially started Sunday 9/10/06 at 5:00 P.M., but for me, it began at 9:00 A.M., Saturday 9/9/06. As the Delegate-at-Large for the Kansas Federation, I attended the Federation President's meeting. I was only one of several non-Presidents filling in at the meeting. After a brief welcome from President Fallis, we separated into three groups. Our instructions were to discuss the following top issues: Membership Retention, Mandatory Chapter Membership and National Dues. Everyone contributed to almost every topic. After discussing the 3 "top issues" our group also discussed:

- Raising awareness of NARFE, i.e., AFLAC, GEICO.
- Recommend a President's Meeting every 'off year.'
- Improve Communications with HQ (such as telephone conferences).
- Elected Officers need to be held accountable for their actions.
- National should provide help (guidance) for State Legislation.

At the wrap-up session, each group reported their conclusions. *I picked up two copies of the printed report and somehow misplaced them. The following is just from my notes.*

Group A: Membership Retention.

Emphasize Dues Withholding, Promote Multi-year Memberships with Incentives, Emphasize NARFE's Purpose, Goals and Accomplishments.

Mandatory Chapter Dues An OVERWHELMING NO! (A yes vote would support the Resolution to allow a member to drop Chapter Membership after one year.)

National Dues Simplify. Their opinion could be summed up as "Simplification."

Group B: Membership Retention Buddy

System, M-112 follow-up, Request HQ only send a 'timely' notice to renew, simplify the dues structure, work to get more members on dues withholding and try to get dues withholding for CFE's.

Mandatory Chapter Dues Don't change current system (it would damage the Chapters). Simplify the dues structure.

National Dues Simplify. Go to a single dues structure.

Group C: Membership Retention Need

Training standardized with set standards from HQs. Need a political victory. Must contact dropouts. Annual President's meeting.

Mandatory Chapter Dues Unanimous feeling to NOT take the present requirements out of the By-Laws.

National Dues Need to go to a single dues structure. They recommended an amount of \$36.00.

That concludes the report concerning the president's meeting.

NARFE 2006 National Convention

As a footnote, in a statistical analysis of Membership Retention from June 6, 1995 to June 3, 2005 National lost 95,126 or 21.1% of its members. Region 10 lost the least with a decline of 6.7%. Region 1 lost the most with a decline of 29.6%. Region 5 was right in the middle with a loss of 21.4%. The California Federation lost 82% of its members. They did not provide me with a breakdown of every Federation so I don't know how much of a percent Kansas Federation lost.

At the Region V Caucus, I presented the Kansas Federation Report. I will include it here in its entirety.

Since President Surritte is unable to be here, I am reporting for Kansas. At our July Federation Board Meeting, the Board agreed on the following goals: To work on increasing Membership, Provide more and better support of legislative initiatives, Continue working to increase

Alzheimer Research Donations and Raise awareness of the need for NARFE/PAC donations.

Kansas Federation was #1 in Alzheimer donations for 2005/06 with \$20,855.00. Numerous individual Chapters have vigorous Fund Raising Activities for Alzheimer's.

Our Federation had an aggressive Training program in 2005/06 and plan to continue and extend it in 2007. We are acting with Chapters and areas of the State on "Back to Basics."

We persevere in helping our Legislative friends obtain P/AC funding from Headquarters.'

We had an excellent turnout of delegates from Kansas and every one of them conducted themselves in a manner you could be proud of (even John). I will leave a lot of the business session reports to John. This was my first NARFE National Convention and I'm certain he picked up subtleties that escaped me.

**Thomas E. Raby, 2nd Vice
President/Membership:**

Chapters are electing, or have elected, officers for the next year. Do you have any "fresh blood" among these officers, or nominees? I sure do hope so, because passing the torch is the best way of blending fresh ideas into the old rut many of our Chapters have been operating in. I urge those of you that get the Federation Newsletter to make sure it is shared, or copied, so that everyone gets the information. (I know it's on the Federation Website: www.ksnarfe.org)

Many of you know I'm a history and trivia buff. I'm starting a contest now and the details are as follows: 1. Winner will receive prize money to award a free membership to a Current Federal Employee. 2. The number of awards will be limited to four (4). 3. Winner will be able to describe all Chapter Squares on the 2001 Alzheimer's Quilt that have numbers other than Chapter number (there are four Chapter squares in this category). 4. In case of a tie the answer with the most detail(s) will prevail. 5. Decision of the judge will be benevolent, but final. 6. Award will be given at the 2007 convention in Junction City, so bring your answer(s) with you.

You should make this a Chapter effort and query those who were involved in the 2001 project. However, Jean Nickell has agreed not to be a source of information. (Jean made the 2001 quilt) so you will have to network with someone else. Also, to avoid any appearance of collusion, Chapter 1162 will not be eligible for this prize.

You're now asking what the membership chair is doing promoting something to do with

Alzheimer's. Well, I believe that our Alzheimer's activities and giving have helped us recruit and hold on to many of our older members. Many CFE's have not faced Alzheimer's in their lives, or their families, but as they get older they start to appreciate the legacy that we leave. It's not the primary recruiting tool in our bag, but it's a good and worthy one. **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

Carol R. Ek, Secretary:

Corrections Made

Area 1 James F. Miller, Federation State Legislative Chair and President Chapter 002, Topeka, change e-mail address to snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net

Area 4 Harold D. Gottsch, Past President Chapter 0537, Salt City, Hutchinson: correct e-mail address to hdgottsch@sbcglobal.net.

The past months have begun a new Chapter in NARFE both nationwide and in our own state. This time of year is always a busy time of year for all of your Federation Officers trying to get news out to the Chapters and visiting Chapters for all of the holiday fun.

Chapter 0383, Old Trooper, Junction City, members are working very hard to make the 2007 Kansas State Convention a memorable one for all NARFE members. The convention will be held April 29 – May 1, 2007. You may begin making your reservations with the hotel now by calling 1-800-321-2211 or 1-785-210-1500. Be sure you identify yourself as being with the NARFE Convention.

The registration form will be mailed out with your "Convention Packet" at the end of December. I always try to get those in the mail for the Chapters who hold their local meeting in early January to have those forms available. Information for the Convention will be mailed to both the Chapter President and the Chapter Secretary.

As always, we hope you will all plan to come to the convention on Sunday so you can participate in the group discussion meetings; the round table meeting; and, the Alzheimer's auctions. When you plan your attendance, please plan to put your name down for active participation.

2007-2008 officers to represent you at your State Federation Level will be elected during this convention. All positions are one-year term offices. Each year the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and, Treasurer are elected. If you are interested in holding any of those positions, send your resume'

to Donald L. Cooper, 5846 Tuttle Cove Rd., Manhattan, KS 66503-8432.

There will be opportunities for all of you to learn more about NARFE and how it works for you. Sessions are being planned which are **open to all NARFE members** – **THAT MEANS YOU!**

National Legislative Conference held in Bethesda, Maryland, March 3 – 6, 2007.

College of NARFE Knowledge held in South Sioux City, Nebraska, August 27 – 29, 2007

Kansas State Convention, Junction City, Kansas, April 29-May 1, 2007

Other learning opportunities if requested by your Area Vice-President

Madelyn Brown, Treasurer:

If you haven't submitted your travel voucher, please take a few minutes to complete it.

As a reminder, the Per Capita Letters will be sent out at the end of the year and will have a suspense of January 31, 2007.

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.**

Agnes Shellhammer, Area I Vice-President:

The general election is over and it was full of surprises here in Johnson County. I was an election worker again this year, as I have been for ten years. Fourteen hours makes a long day, but it goes fast when you are busy. We had over fifty per cent voting in our precinct. **Hope every one has a Happy Holiday Season!**

Theodore "T.J." Robinson, Area IA Vice-President:

T.J. was hospitalized four days prior to sending this newsletter. Your prayers are requested. –Note: I spoke to T.J. just before finalizing the newsletter and he apologizes for not providing up-to-date information for his Area. He was hoping to be out of the hospital in time to do his news but now he is hoping to be out by Thanksgiving. T.J. We wish you well.

Gale D. Beck, Area II Vice-President:

Elections are over as far as the government goes for now. I hope that each of you got out and voted. It was proven that people could have a say as to who will represent them. The public has

spoken. Now it is up to each of us to establish a good communications channel with our Government Representatives. One-way to do this would be to plan to attend the NARFE Legislative Conference in Washington D. C. March 4, 5, 6 2007. Yes, I know each one of you cannot attend for one reason or another; but each one of us can support those who do make the effort to attend and who will represent us at the Legislative Conference. Those who attend will attend Legislative Sessions and will visit your Senators and your Representatives, to give them updates on legislative issues from (your) NARFE's point of view. I have visited several Chapters in Area 2 since the last newsletter, Chapter 2098, Tri-River Chapter and Chapter 2099, Osage City Chapter. Earlier in the year I visited the Emporia Chapter # 384, which I missed on my previous listing. Looking forward to visiting the Ottawa Chapter #785 in the future.

Attendance at the Legislative Conference in Washington, March 2007, the Annual Kansas Convention at Junction City, April 29, 30 and May 1 and the Region V. "College of NARFE Knowledge" August 27-29th at the Marina Inn were discussed extensively at the October Executive Board meeting. How to get you as NARFE Members to attend? A starter is to mark the above dates on your 2007 Calendar and ask your membership to do the same. Watch for more upcoming information on these events.

Training here in Kansas. Several of you have asked about Training Seminars for your Chapter and Chapters. Such training is still being considered as a part of our overall program, and will be addressed again in the coming year. Make your desires known, as to what kind of training seminars you want and when.

Last but not least, conduct your Chapter elections before the end of December 2006 and have your Secretaries submit your F-7 Chapter Officer reports timely, which means no later than early December.

Remember to share major items in this letter with your members, since distribution of the letter is not made to your general membership.

L.J. "Jim" Gaskell, Area IIA Vice-President:

I look forward to a planned visit to the sixth of my six Chapters here in Southeastern Kansas in early December. The thing I like to emphasize as I talk to Chapter members is how important it is to continually work to add new members to our Chapter rolls. When no new members are added,

the opportunity of new and younger leadership is not possible. And as each of you experience the process of aging, just as I do, before we know it we do not have members that are able to serve in the officer's positions or are unwilling because of their poor memories or inability to get around. This is not just a problem that is cropping up in our small Chapters but in Chapters with dozens of members!

I do not want to put any person on the defensive concerning efforts to recruit a new member to their Chapter during 2006, but I do want to challenge every NARFE member to think of just one potential member they know and make a strong effort to ask that person to join NARFE. If you do not have an application blank, you can cut one out of your NARFE magazine or ask your Chapter president to furnish what you need to sign up a new member. If you are unable to make house calls, just give that person a call on the phone and explain why you belong to NARFE and that as a federal retiree or survivor, we all need to work together to protect our earned benefits!

The second part is to make a "good" member out of a "new" member. Be sure to get them to the Chapter meetings, introduce them around and make them feel welcome. Also try to get them involved in some Chapter activity to make them know they are needed.

Please do not think this message is for the other person since you are too busy or just don't want to "get involved". Remember, the future of your Chapter and the whole NARFE purpose of protecting our earned benefits can be blunted if we fail to do OUR part.

W. Duane Evans, Area III Vice-President:

I have been rather busy the last couple of weeks attending Chapter meetings. First, I attended the Junction City meeting. It is held in the senior citizens center. Before the meeting, lovely decorations were placed on the tables. This created a festive mood. About 100 members and guests were there. Chapter President James Martin held an election for new officers. These were filled except for the secretary. The 2007 officers will be installed next month.

I attended the Marysville Chapter meeting held at Home City, Kansas. Only a few members attended but it was apparent that

they enjoyed being together. I installed their 2007 chapter officers. I attended the Manhattan Chapter meeting. About 75 members and guests attended. They had an interesting program about barns. A brief history was given of selected barns in Kansas and other areas as well as a slide showing that particular barn. The Chapter president conducted an election of officers. These individuals will be installed at the next meeting.

The next day I attended the Salina Chapter meeting and conducted the election of 2007 chapter officers. They will be installed in December by a prior chapter president. The Central High School Chorus entertained members and guests. The music was beautiful.

On Saturday I went to Concordia and attended their chapter meeting. A slate of 2007 officers were approved at the meeting; therefore, I installed them.

The Abilene Chapter has invited me to attend their next meeting at which time I will install their officers.

I have not contacted the Herrington or Clay Center Chapters yet. I will try to get in touch with them soon.

John Lancaster, Area IV Vice-President:

Welcome to the cooler weather and wild winds of Kansas. With Veterans Day having just passed, I would like to thank all the veterans who have served our country either in combat or peacetime. I recently attended the premier of a documentary about the Marines taking Iwo Jima and it would bring tears to one's eyes.

With the elections at NARFE and Nationally just over, we will have to wait to see what may be done to our benefits. Keep your eyes and ears open for any developments.

There are several things coming up about which we may need reminded.

1. With the Chapter elections being held this month and next, please send your Chapter Rosters (F-7) to Secretary Ek as soon as the elections are held. You don't have to wait till the new officers are installed.

2. Secretary Ek will be mailing information about the upcoming convention in Junction City in December. Let's have a representative from each Chapter at the convention. It looks like the meals and rooms will be a little more expensive than last year, but if each Chapter financially helps their representative(s), just a little it will help us maintain 100% attendance as we had last year.

3. I have downloaded the M-114 from each Chapter in Area IV and we need to be sure the Chapter Secretary looks at the information on them so that National can correct them, especially the phone number.

4. The M-110 reports from National shows the membership for each Chapter. This is the basis for the Per Capita bill from the Federation Secretary. The M-110 on which the per capita is figured will be the one containing November's membership totals. Be expecting the per capita bill from the Federation Treasurer just after the report is published.

God Bless America!

Ronald Katt, Area V Vice-President:

Congratulations are extended to all elected Chapter officers and appointed chairpersons for the 2007 service year. Thank you to all officers and chairpersons who served their Chapter in 2006. NARFE members accepting the privilege of leadership in your Chapter is commendable and needed for a strong and viable organization.

Area visitations are scheduled for 1991, Goodland, December 6 and Chapter 2050, Hays, December 13, 2006. Area V. P. always enjoys the fellowship as well as informative discussions received during Chapter visits.

Area V. P. extends a thank you to NARFE members for their acts of love and kindness during the illness and death of my Mother, NARFE member Ollie E. Katt.

With the holiday season upon us we wish each and every NARFE member the joys and happiness of the season!

Bob Cranmer, Area VI Vice-President:

To all Area 6 Chapter Officers: Now is the time for Election of Officers and to fill out Form F-7. Be sure and send one copy to me.

Congratulations to Brenda Myers (New Chapter President) Chapter 1995 Garden City. You have a great slate of Officers for Chapter 1995. President Brenda Myers, V.P. Neil Austin, Secretary Betty Robinson, Treasurer Adah Jenkins and Service Officer Norman Christensen.

Lawrence Dawson, NARFE owes you a big THANK YOU for the years you put in as an officer in Chapter 1995.

My condolences to Area V VP Ron Katt for the loss of his Mother.

I attended the Federation Executive Board Meeting in Junction City, Oct. 25, 2006.

I will be visiting more chapters in the near future.

Jim Miller, State Legislative Chair:

Most of us have seen the sign in a small town or on a building that states something like this "ON THIS SITE, ON JULY 3, 1896, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HAPPENED!" Legislation activity, in Kansas and in Washington, D.C., would post a similar sign for their buildings due to adjournment to concentrate on the fall campaigns.

There has been very little activity in organizations and employee retired groups because (1) many members are actively working in the campaigns of candidates they support and (2) many feel no need to do any legislative tasks until the election is over and the results are known. National elections – perhaps some changes. Kansas – In the Kansas Legislature, I don't foresee wholesale change. Example: my district has the incumbent Republican running unopposed. Too with rumors of voting machines being rigged to favor one political party over the other, we can probably count on some races being contested with recounts or in courts. If so, no one can predict when those will be settled. Yogi Berra may have been right when he said, "It ain't over till it's over." It may take some time to settle the dust on this election and results.

Jodine A. Elwick, Service Officer: Greetings from Your State Service Officer:

It feels like winter is a little early, but the weatherman is promising some better weather for Thanksgiving. **Have a "Happy Thanksgiving!"**

Recently, I received some information that some retirees covered under Tri-Care had been placed under Medicare Pharmacy Program (Part D) and that Tri-Care for Life would no longer honor their prescriptions and they had been switched to Part D without the retirees' permission. It was found that when the new Medicare pharmacy program changed earlier this year, Medicare enrolled many beneficiaries in Part D without their consent. If at anytime you find this has happened to you, you need to call Medicare, toll free at (800) 633-4227 and ask that your Part D enrollment be canceled. Medicare says that this all is required to correct your record. Enrollment in Medicare Part D will be terminated as of the last day of that month. Medicare will then notify the commercial carrier for Part D and your health benefits carrier and coverage will be continued as if the coverage had never been interrupted.

Open season will soon occur and I'm sure you're beginning to receive all kinds of mail wanting you to change your coverage. Remember, you're not required to change your coverage if you are perfectly happy with your present coverage. You should review the other plans to determine if there is a plan that better fits your requirements. In that event, you can enroll in this plan.

You should have recently received information about eligibility for dental coverage and optical coverage. Again, you need to review your plan to determine what coverage you already have and what it covers and

whether the dental and optical coverage will be beneficial to you. As an aside, when you go to the dentist and are paying your bill on completion and the dentist does not have to file paperwork, ask if they will give you a discount for cash. Some dentists will give a discount.

There are still scams going around trying to get your personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, etc. **DO NOT! DO NOT!** Give out your personal information over the phone. Legitimate organizations will never ask for your social security number, bank account number, or personal information over the phone. **DON'T BE SCAMMED!**

In each Service Office article, I will try to address items that are relevant to both active and retired members. If you have questions or I can be of help, please do not hesitate to contact me. REMEMBER: Life is not about the destination ... but rather the journeys... enjoy the ride!!!!

Linda A. Surritte, Kansas Alzheimer's Chair:

Through the end of October, the Kansas Chapters collected \$16,271.19, which computes to \$3.19 per member. Our goal for this year is \$3.30 per member. With your continued support we can make that goal.

After some discussion by the Federation Board it has been decided to again have the live and silent auctions at the upcoming state convention. In response to negative comments about the 'flea market' quality of some of the items donated for the auctions, we are now requesting that donated items be of new or 'antique quality' and that they have an estimated auction value of at least \$3 or more. As usual, crafted items are especially appreciated. Your Chapter may also be willing to donate a purchased item, if approached. Remember that tracking credit for auction items goes to the donating Chapter.

There has been additional negative feedback that many very nice articles are auctioned for very little money. Recognizing that the convention attendees will only spend so much money at the convention, a suggestion has been made that Chapters may want to consider having local drawings for 'very nice' articles. Large rolls (2000) of two-part tickets can be purchased at most office supply stores for only \$6-8. This would allow you to collect money for Alzheimer's Research from your Chapter members as well as the general public. Your local bank, book store, senior center, etc. may be willing to let you set up a table and display the item. If you do this, remember that all tickets are "given for donation" not "sold." Also be sure you refer to this as a "drawing for donation" and not a "raffle." For instance, your sign could read "Drawing for Donation, All Proceeds Go To Alzheimer's Research, Suggested Donation \$1.00 per ticket." You may also want to say "Sponsored by NARFE - National Active and Retired Federal

Employees Association.” Prospective contributors can be told they will receive a contribution receipt for tax purposes from the Alzheimer’s Association if they provide a check. Contributors may be more willing to write a check for \$5.00 instead of paying \$1.00 in cash if told this. Just make sure that checks are made out to **“NARFE/Alzheimer’s Research.”**

If you do have a drawing of this type and would like to offer tickets to other Kansas Chapters, I can help by providing Chapter mailing lists. Also, if you would like to offer tickets for donation at the state convention, we will try to accommodate you if space is available. Your Chapter may be required to pay a table rental fee (approx \$10), however, if no free tables are available. Having the drawing at your Chapter meeting, or somewhere else within your community, may give you some local news coverage if you advertise it. However, if you would like to hold the actual drawing at the state convention, we will attempt to make time on the agenda for that. Please contact me to help coordinate these efforts and/or if you have any questions about having a local drawing.

Reminder: All checks you submit to me should be made out to **“NARFE/Alzheimer’s Research”** (Checks made out to “NARFE/ Alzheimer’s” or “Alzheimer’s/NARFE” will also be accepted). If you have Internet access, the regular monthly contribution submission form is available on the Kansas NARFE website (www.ksnarfe.org) as option # 32. If you need an original form and do not have Internet access, just contact me and I will send one to you. You can then copy as needed.

Quotation: *“Inside every older person is a younger person -- wondering what the (blank) happened.”*
-Cora Harvey Armstrong

Jim Dodd, NARFE Netter/Historian:

Again thanks to those who have sent me their changes in e-mail addresses. If you have turned on your “Spam” blockers, be sure you have shown that NARFE HQ and KS NARFE e-mail addresses are OK to receive.

If your Chapter has not designated a Chapter Historian, if at all possible one should be designated during this period of Chapter officer elections. If no historian is designated good information about the Chapter can easily be lost forever.

I have added several additional Chapter newsletters to www.KSNARFE.org web site, accessible at home page item #14. Also a link to the free WebMD web site is at item #42.

Have a great holiday season!!

Donald Cooper, Immediate Past President/Public Relations:

Special Notice to the Kansas NARFE membership

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) has a new Chairperson of the National NARFE/Alzheimer's Committee.

Barb Pretzer, member of the NARFE Kaw-Blue Chapter 0366, Manhattan, has been appointed by President Margaret Baptiste to be the Chairperson of the National NARFE/Alzheimer's Committee. Barb will continue to serve as the Region V Alzheimer's Coordinator, as she has done for the past three years.

There will be several new Regional Alzheimer's Coordinators. However, many of the ten Regional Coordinators will continue to serve their former positions.

Kansas NARFE members can be proud that one of their own will be serving NARFE/Alzheimer's, as their new leader.

Public Relations: using the old railroad crossing caution - **stop, look & listen** can very well be applied to the public relations duties of each of us. Stop and observe the persons we meet to see if they might be a NARFE eligible person. Listen to find out what might give you an indication that they could very well be a potential NARFE member. Then set aside the tendency to not ask. Let them know about the benefits of NARFE. All too often we don't take the extra effort to let people know about NARFE.

Do your part to place NARFE out for peoples to know about NARFE. Remember the two NARFE Displays that the Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters own. A recent application of **letting people know about NARFE** at a conference held in Hutchinson resulted (Gale Beck reports that so far) with Kansas now having eight (8) new NARFE members. I mailed the NARFE tabletop Display to Harold Gottsch. Harold got it to the Conference. It was at part of their *getting their attention!!*

I have the NARFE Displays stored at my home – just waiting for your request to send them for your use.

Help your Chapter President fill all of the Chapter Committee Chair positions. I would sure like to see the 2007 F - 7 Forms reflecting caring people's names in all of those positions.

Dixie J. Thomas, Editor:

For my first newsletter, I've had quite an experience. Some of you may notice I made some of the print a bit smaller than normal. Well, not to worry, your glasses still work. There was a lot of information and I got in as much as I could by deleting as little as possible and using smaller print. Hopefully, it gets better and easier. Thanks to John Lancaster for providing the format in Microsoft Word. My family wishes you and your family a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

