



Kansas NARFE News From Your Federation Officers

August / September, 2009

AUGUST

“NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month.”

Your local presence in every congressional district can have a tremendous impact on advancing NARFE’s legislative agenda.

If you have scheduled a meeting with your representative, this would be a good time to invite other chapter members to take part in that meeting. We must ask every representative to honor and protect our “earned” benefits

“Attend College of NARFE Knowledge”

Sponsored by Region V Vice-President Richard Thissen

South Sioux City, Nebraska

August 24-26, 2009

Hotel Registration: Telephone: 800-798-7980 by August 1. Room rate \$82 per night.

Conference Registration: Richard Thissen, P.O. Box 485, Lake Ozark, MO 65049-0485. Forms are available from your Federation Officers and possibly from your Chapter President. Registration is \$60 which includes meals Monday evening, Tuesday noon and evening.

SEPTEMBER

The 2009 Dues Referendum calls for the establishment of \$40 yearly membership dues. Every member who is on Dues withholding will pay \$36 receiving a 10% discount. Ballots will be mailed to the Chapter Secretary with the Chapter voting to "approve" or "disapprove" the Bylaw change. Every chapter has one (1) vote for every 50 chapter members. If you have 51 voting members, you will have the right to cast two (2) votes.

How your Chapter will make sure every member has a chance to make their vote is that chapter's responsibility. There is a "Special Voter's Coupon" in the August issue of the NARFE magazine. If you use that coupon, be sure you mail it to your Chapter President. That is the only place it will be counted.



President

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August is “NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month”. All members should contact their Legislators about NARFE items. Visit with the candidates who are running for the U. S. Senate. Find out what they can do for NARFE and the Country.

The PAC (Political Action Committee) contribution report for the State of Kansas for the first six (6) months of 2009 is here. Chapter 0138, Wichita, contributed the most of any chapter in the State following with Chapter 0366, Kaw Blue, Manhattan.

Chapter 0138, Wichita, had a very nice membership also with 17 new members according to their last chapter newsletter.

Referendum on NARFE Dues: A decision was made at the National Executive Board meeting on March 4, 2009, to amend the National Bylaws to provide for a single or NARFE dues structure by a referendum to chapters. The National Executive Board decided a single dues structure was in the best interest of NARFE. The referendum will be sent to Chapters for a vote in September this year. Page 42-43 or the August 2009 issue of the NARFE Magazine has a sample Dues Referendum ballot. The deadline for returning your vote is December 8, 2009. If approved, NARFE dues will be \$40.00 annually. If you are on Dues Withholding, your dues will be \$36.00 annually.

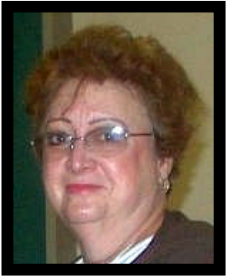
At the June 3, 2009, Federation Executive Board meeting held in Emporia – the board went on record as supporting the dues referendum.

College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) time is here. The reservation deadline for lodging is August 1, 2009. Join us at the Marina Inn, Fourth and B Street, South Sioux City, NE 68776, August 24-26, 2009. It is rumored that National President Margaret Baptiste will be in attendance.

2010 Annual Kansas Convention Developing: The first of August is swiftly approaching and the 2010 (56th Annual) Kansas Federation Convention is beginning to develop. Chapter 002, Topeka, knows how to put on a great convention so mark your calendar for April 25-27, 2010, at the Ramada Inn, 420 SE 6th St., Topeka, Kansas.

Next Executive Board Meeting: The next Kansas Executive Board meeting will be held October 21, 2009, at the Ramada Inn in Topeka.

***“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”
Martin Luther King***



1st Vice President / Membership Chair

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During the past several months, I have not heard from any chapter. One would think things are going well. However, the monthly reports continue to reflect a downward trend as follows:

- The months of May and June the federation had twenty-nine (29) deaths;
- thirty (30) new members (three were current employees);
- twenty-one reinstatements; and
- fifty-five non-renewals for a total loss of thirty-three (33) for the period.

The overall numbers are not going in an upward direction. We had three voluntary cancellations. We have to make an assertive effort to keep chapters alive. We need to continue to push Dues Withholding with all memberships.

Hopefully, the membership chairs have a plan to recruit and turn this downward trend up. All Presidents, please continue to share the great information in the Recruiter's Journal with your membership. There are great ideas for recruitment and retention. Remember, the Recruitment contest continues through June 30, 2010. There's still time to be in the running for that great money if you win.

I hope your chapter will have at least one representative at the upcoming College of NARFE (CONK) in August.

If you have had a good program that you could recommend, let me know. Good programs attract new and current members to meetings.



2nd Vice President / Public Relations

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As we all know, not all the functions we attend for NARFE are pleasant. I recently attended a funeral for a long time member of a local chapter. While listening to the service, my mind wondered to the things my family would need to know to settle my estate. There was an excellent session regarding necessary forms, etc., at the 2009 Kansas Federation Convention, but my eye was recently caught by a new scam brought to light by the AARP Bulletin. The scam I'm referring to deals with property deeds. I did a little research via the internet and found a Kansas Bill of Sale of Personal Property (Sold As Is) that is available for instant download for \$9.99. As I read the form, I was horrified to realize that anyone could complete the form and present it to a notary and

“POOF” my property could be gone. As the population gets older, they become a perfect target for scam artists; and, grieving widows are especially vulnerable. Don’t become a scam statistic. While you are checking to be sure your forms are in order, take the time to visit your county registrar’s office and verify the signature(s) on your property deeds.

Don’t forget – any request for Public Relations information can be made directly to me at cindy.r.blythe@uscg.mil.



Secretary / Newsletter Editor

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As I prepare this edition of the Kansas Federation newsletter it comes to mind how blessed we all have been though our lives by big things like our career goals that most of us have now cataloged as memories; by living in the center of the greatest Nation in the world; and by being able to live the life that began with our forefathers writing the “Constitution of the United States” giving us the freedoms we have. Then a double “Thank You” goes to all the men and women who have served or are now serving in the military to protect those freedoms for us. We sometimes don’t remember often enough that all these things can be lost too easily.

As many of your Federation officers are addressing in this issue, we must communicate with our representatives and senators to ask them once again to listen and act accordingly to save the benefits we worked for many years to earn. We all considered the extra hours we spent to do a good job, or to get the job done, as part of our role because of the promises we were given of a retirement annuity, good health insurance, and the other benefits we have. I’m sure many persons serving in the House and Senate do not realize what is asked of the Federal employee serving in the rural field offices. I was told one time, by a very wise man, not to bother to contact the person who is not your representative because they don’t care – you don’t vote for them. I’m sorry to say to my dismay; I now believe he was correct. That’s why it’s so important for each one of you to contact **your** representative because **your voice** is the only one who makes a difference.

President Baptiste’s column is always the first I read when I carry my magazine in from the mailbox. As usual, the August column hit right to the heart of being a NARFE member. The people are the heart of NARFE. No matter what position we served in as employed federal civilian employees, we are one in the goals and stories we carry with us. Be sure you express this often to the members of your chapter when welcoming them to your regular meetings and asking them to serve in positions with you. It’s already time to begin asking members to serve as officers and chairmen of your committees for the coming year. Starting now, hopefully you will have a full slate of volunteers by election in October.

***“The grass may be greener on the other side,
but it’s just as hard to mow”***





Treasurer

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What an unusual spring and early summer. With all the rain the crops look great and gardens heavy with produce.

I want to thank the members of the executive board for getting their vouchers in on a timely manner. The voucher system works best when vouchers are sent in at least quarterly.

When vouchers come in showing travel to chapter meetings it reminds me of how much time and effort the members of the executive board spend in their work for NARFE. Many of them will be attending the College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) that is held August 24-26 in South Sioux City, Nebraska, at the Marina Inn.

Hope everyone had a pleasant Fourth of July and enjoy the many reunions and spot activities of the summer season.



Immediate Past President / Federal Legislative Chair

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NARFE Legislative Hotline, number 679, was released Friday, July 24th. This edition leads with news on the fate of civil service provisions in the Defense Authorization bill and provides an update on health care legislation. The final countdown prior to the August recess and NARFE's Grass-Roots Advocacy Month is covered.

President, Margaret L. Baptiste praised Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) for winning passage of her NARFE supported amendment to allow federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part-time basis without offset of annuity from salary. In addition to NARFE, the Collins amendment, cosponsored by Sen. Voinovich (R-OH) and Sen. Kohl (D-WI), has the strong support of the Government Managers' Coalition and the Coalition for Effective Change. (The NARFE press release URL is <http://www.narfe.org/departments/publicrelations/articles.cfm?ID=1852>)

The NARFE victory came after a larger, broadly bipartisan amendment, supported by NARFE and the entire federal-postal coalition, was pulled. Facing a filibuster, amendment 1522 offered by Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Sen. Collins to make several improvements to civil service, was withdrawn by the sponsor. Like provisions in the House passed Defense Authorization (H.R. 2647) the Akaka-Collins amendment would make unused sick leave for FERS employees creditable as time served in their annuity computation, as it is for CSRS employees and provide retirement equity for federal employees in Alaska,

Hawaii and the U.S. territories. Sen. Akaka was forced to withdraw his amendment when Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) filibustered against the measure for an hour and twenty minutes.

In part Sen. Coburn said: "By the way, if you are a Federal employee and unhappy with me trying to defeat this amendment, you should pay attention to something. There is no guarantee to your Federal pension based on the economics we face today in this country. If you think it is guaranteed, you have another thought coming because the world economic system is going to determine whether we can honor that pension. That is what is coming. We are very close."

I find Senator Coburn's comments very scary and out of touch with reality. NARFE Headquarters needs to let him know how much we have contributed to our retirement plan and that it is not a gift we received, but rather a benefit we paid for.

I also suggest that as your Chapters contact their Senators and Congressmen, they voice their displeasure with his ideas for federal retirees and active employees. He and they need to spend more time fixing the economy and health care and not finding scapegoats to blame for a mess he contributed to over the past few years.

Congressional consideration of massive health care reform is likely to be delayed until September. This development allows NARFE members more opportunity to urge lawmakers to include our Premium Conversion legislation (H.R. 1203/S.491) in any health care overhaul. NARFE President Baptiste continues her request to each NARFE member to contact his or her Congressional delegation, one Representative and two Senators. Use NARFE's Legislative Action Center to easily send a message to your own Representative and both Senators. (The URL to use is <http://capwiz.com/narfe/home/>).

Since early June, Region Vice Presidents and their federation presidents and national legislative officers have been organizing and coordinating with District and Chapter Officers to prepare for NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month. Grass-Roots Advocacy Month (see June magazine pages 16 and 18) is designed to use the summer recess, August through Labor Day, September 7, to conduct face-to-face visits with every Representative and every Senator. Complete information packets about the August Grass-Roots Advocacy Month were sent to federation and chapter presidents and legislative officers and are available on the NARFE website: <http://www.narfe.org/departments/legislation/articles.cfm?ID=1803>

This is a very important time, between now and the end of September. This is the time to contact our Senators and your U.S. Representative and ask that they support our priority Legislation regarding the Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP Repeal.

As you know, the Congress and the Obama Administration are working hard to pass Health Care Reform by the end of summer, September 21, 2009. President Baptiste has asked that we use this as an opportunity to push Premium Conversion, therefore, we, on the Federation Board, are asking each an every Chapter in the State to ask our Senators and Representative to be supportive and to cast an affirmative vote in support. If you have already acted, we give you our thanks. If you have not acted, we ask that you do immediately.

In closing, because of your efforts, we have every Representative supporting both Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP Repeal and both Senators supporting Premium Conversion. Now, we just need to seal the deal and get them to vote "yes".

As Past President, I want to commend all of you for supporting Alzheimer's Research. Janice says you have donated almost \$22,000 so far this year through June. This is above and beyond the call of duty and I thank you very much.

Thanks for your efforts and have a great summer.



Area 1 Vice President

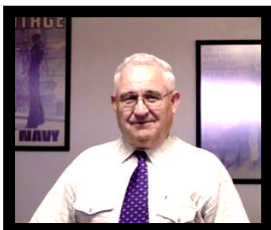
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I've just returned home from a glorious three weeks from being in Canada and riding the rails in the Rockies and before that a trip to Washington, D. C. Oh well, now back to the real life.

The biggies now are the health care issue with premium conversion and the upcoming vote on our dues structure. Each requires thought and action on our part. With health insurance raising at the rate it has been, it really makes sense for us to visit or at least write our leaders in Washington about our desire to have the health insurance premium taken out before taxes. Many of our members live close to the bone and it would make a big difference to them. This is the time to act.

In our local chapters, we have the upcoming vote on one dues structure. Our magazine has covered this issue very well. I'm hoping that all of our chapters will turn in a positive vote. While we are at it, let's encourage dues withholding. It will save some money for the member and will save work in renewing each year.

I would like to visit my chapters soon if it is convenient for you. Christmas is fine – but why wait so long. I want to get to know you now.



Area 1A Vice President

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My how times flies when you're having fun or my goodness where has the time gone???? Here it is the middle of the summer and I've still got a zillion things to do.

If any of the above pertain to you, take heart because the temperature is gradually lowering (I hope) and the nights are at least getting longer. Also, the time demands of your garden, lawn and grandchildren's sports activities are winding down. Soooo now is a good time to devote more time to your NARFE needs. Let's start by being a better member ourselves and making a diligent effort to gain more members. It shouldn't be that hard because there are many more eligible members than there are members. Let's each one win one.

There are several events happening in Northeast Kansas that I wish to bring to your attention:

- On **August 20th, Brown County, Chapter 2164** will be hosting a special meeting with guest speaker, Barb Pretzer, NARFE's Alzheimer's National Chair and Region 5 chairman. The meeting will be at Lorie Beth's Restaurant at 210 N. 1st Street in Hiawatha. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. and following lunch Barb will speak for 20-30 minutes followed by a question and answer session.

Lunch will consist of broasted chicken, broasted potatoes, cold slaw and a drink at a cost of \$8.00 per person (included tax and tip). ***If you plan to be there for lunch, they will need to know by August 13th. Contact Daryl Monaghan at 785-742-2568 or 785-547-7944.*** If you do not plan to be there for lunch, Barb's presentation will begin at approximately 12:30 p.m.

- On ***August 26th, Jackson County, Chapter 2215*** will be hosting a visit from House Representative Lynn Jenkins at 2:00 p.m. The visit will take place at the Jackson County Fair Building. This building is one (1) block north of the intersection of U. S. Highway 75 and State Highway 16. Go north on Highway 75 one (1) block, turn right (east) on 5th Street and the Fair Building will be on your left (north) it is approximately one-half (1/2) block from Highway 75. If you plan to attend, ***please RSVP*** by August 20th to ***Alva Burns, 14310 162nd Rd., Mayetta, KS 66509, or call 785-966-2496.*** This would be an excellent opportunity for those in northeast and east central Kansas to meet Lynn and let her know our interests and to thank her for co-sponsoring Premium Conversion Legislation (H. R. 1203) and for voting against the substitute amendment to the fiscal year 2010 Budget Resolution.

Please remember, you are richer today if you have laughed, given, or forgiven.....



Area 2 Vice President / Kansas Federation Training Officer

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The year 2009 is more than half over. What have you and your chapter members done for NARFE to date this year?

With all the Legislation information that has come and is coming down the track, it looks as if each of us needs NARFE, whether we are a Federal Retiree, spouse, or Federal Employee. So I ask those who receive the Federation newsletter to please pass on key information to your chapter officers and members. "Remember" not everyone receives the Federation newsletter. Chapters that do not publish a chapter newsletter, their members are kept informed by the NARFE magazine, "and" occasional chapter meetings. Chapter members that do not have e-mail, do not attend chapter meetings, and remember not all chapters meet every month to be updated on current issues, so it becomes very difficult for these retirees to keep up to speed on their benefits and what they need to do to protect them.

What else is new? This past month I visited the Emporia Chapter 384 which is 55 years old this year. "Congratulations" Emporia. Emporia like most chapters is looking for new blood and those willing to assume a leadership position. This was discussed at their last chapter meeting with worksheets provided each member to be completed and turned in by the end of the meeting. A mini-chapter officer and committee meeting will be the program for the September meeting with all members encouraged to attend the regular noon lunch and participate in the mini-briefing on duties of officers and committee chairs and what NARFE members need to know about their organization operation.

What else is new? **USDA/FSA Agency, formerly ASCS:** This USDA Agency has Federal employees in almost every county in the nation and will hold its 50th NASCOE Convention this August at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, with some 800 to 900 employees and their spouses in attendance all of which are eligible to join NARFE. Those USDA employees attending belong to the active association of FSA, however, many will be retiring one day and may be interested in NARFE. Their association will provide booth space at the convention at no charge to NARFE. The Tennessee NARFE President will be working in concert to see that NARFE information is made available to USDA/FSA employees and spouses who stop by the booth. By the way, "What have you done for NARFE lately?"

Jean Nickell, member of Tri-River Chapter 2098, recently flew to Texas and en route visited with a fellow passenger, a postal employee who had never heard of NARFE. By the time they landed Jean had a new NARFE member.

Thanks to all who continue to support NARFE by recruiting members and providing leadership to the organization.



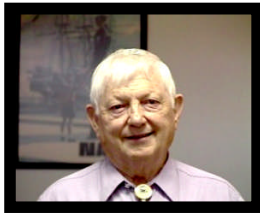
Area 2A Vice President

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This is a wild and wonderful summer. Congress is in session and going wild. But the wonderful part is to look forward to the August recess when they all come home to answer to the people who voted them in or did not vote for them. The one message I have for our legislators is to stop spending borrowed money and money printed without any value on expanding programs we cannot even pay for as they exist today. At the rate they are going, our country will take many, many years to recover from the debt we are building, if we can at all. In a few years (or less) interest rates will likely skyrocket making what savings we may have worth a lot less.

Another wonderful thing about all this is that it is a great time to talk to federal employees about the benefits of belonging to an organization that is working to protect ours and their benefits which they are earning right now. Some legislation that might help them see how NARFE is helping all active employees to talk about the "Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act". Attached to this bill which became law was an amendment that affects the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). One addition relates to new federal employees – they will be automatically enrolled in the TSP with the federal government matching contributions made by the employee. Before, new employees had to wait to get started in saving with TSP. Also, a Roth-type option has been added to the TSP, allowing participants to make after-tax contributions to TSP accounts and then withdraw earning tax-free upon retirement. There are other positive messages for the active employees.

Share your NARFE magazine with prospective NARFE members and let them taste what a wonderful organization we have and how they can help us and themselves at the same time by becoming a member of NARFE.



Area 3 Vice President / PAC (Political Action Committee)

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Mid-year on the calendar and three months into the KANSAS NARFE YEAR! My, how the time flies!

I visited Chapter 1998, Clayco, Clay Center during the last week of May. We discussed the need to contact potential NARFE members. It's not easy, but we need to explore the prospects of "finding" those prospective members.

I'll revisit some of the past newsletter figures – the Kansas count for federal retirees (OPM 2006 figures) is 23,804. The count for federal employees in the work place (2006 figures) is 25,418. This brings up a total of 49,822 potential NARFE members. The question is who and where are they?? At the present time, KANSAS NARFE membership is 4,691(9.4%). It is still time to look for those potential NARFE members. Where are they and how do we approach them for becoming NARFE members! Have you targeted your people and made a decision on how to tell them about NARFE, tell them about NARFE, and tell them again about NARFE? ***Go talk to at least three (3) potential members this week and ask them to join NARFE?***

August 24, 25 and 26 are the days you are invited to be in South Sioux City, Nebraska. You still have time to get your reservations for the College of NARFE (CONK) activity. Kansas can surely have more participants than the other states. Just do it – you'll enjoy it!

NARFE is the way to go!

NARFE - PAC

2009-2010

Give to NARFE - PAC

Today federal employees and annuitants have a sound retirement system and a model group health insurance program. We worked hard and paid for these benefits during our federal careers so we could depend on them in our retirement. But, to do so, we must make certain that those protections are not diminished or destroyed by Congress.

NARFE - PAC is a separate, segregated fund of the Association comprised only of voluntary contributions from NARFE members specifically for political purposes. There can be no commingling of monies contributed to NARFE - PAC and other monies of the Association. Four elected National Officers of NARFE constitute NARFE's Political Action Committee. This committee is responsible for the final decision on which candidates for the House and Senate will receive NARFE - PAC contributions.

Your voluntary contributions to NARFE-PAC help fund the political arm of our organization in Washington whose sole purpose is to protect the benefits of individuals with a vested interest in the civilian retirement systems of the federal government.

After a candidate requests, in writing, a contribution from NARFE – PAC, the Legislative Department informs the appropriate federation PAC coordinator of the request. It is then the PAC coordinator’s responsibility to obtain evidence-based advice from NARFE leaders and members in the candidate’s state or congressional district. After carefully considering the recommendation from the state, along with other factors, the National Officers make the final decision as to whether and how much to contribute to a particular candidate.

Challenges we faced yesterday are dwarfed by the unparalleled economic upheaval and trillion dollar budget deficits are facts of life today. That’s why calls to restructure federal civilian retirement, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and the Social Security and Medicare programs have to be taken seriously. During the two decades of its existence, NARFE-PAC has allowed NARFE members to pool their political resources on behalf of U.S. House and Senate candidates of their choice.

NARFE-PAC consistently has ranked among the nation’s most important political action committees. It has given NARFE and its member’s stature in the political arena. I, with Dan Adcock (National Legislative Director), urge all chapters to feature NARFE-PAC at every chapter meeting. As Dan has stated, “It is our opportunity to make a difference in who will best represent our interests”.

Because some have asked, I have completed a chart of contributions from January 01, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>No. of Contributors</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Total Chapter Members</i>	<i>Average Per Member</i>
0002	Topeka	12	\$ 355	491	\$ 0.723
0027	Leavenworth	9	195	459	0.425
0138	Wichita	48	499	507	0.984
0280	Salina	4	100	130	0.769
0366	Manhattan	24	485	282	1.720
0378	Lawrence	4	140	104	1.346
0383	Junction City	10	446	273	1.634
0384	Emporia	1	25	72	0.347
0537	Hutchinson	9	185	98	1.888
0550	Pittsburg	1	50	61	0.819
0621	Atchinson	1	20	30	0.666
0739	Belleville	1	20	59	0.339
0757	Winfield	1	20	35	0.571
0785	Ottawa	1	20	36	0.556
0792	Fort Scott	2	50	29	1.724
0799	Chanute	6	155	65	2.385
1162	Shawnee Mission	3	70	742	0.094
1763	Independence	3	60	33	1.818
1794	McPherson	6	215	55	3.909
1933	Herington	1	50	40	1.250
1948	Sabetha	2	40	29	1.378
1995	Garden City	3	60	30	2.000
1996	Scott City	1	20	27	0.741

1998	Clay Center	1	25	23	1.087
2032	Oakley	2	50	15	3.333
2077	Iola	13	310	76	4.079
2086	Ulysses	1	25	11	2.273
2098	Osawatomie	11	220	100	2.200
2099	Osage City	1	20	35	0.571
2136	Wathena	3	40	14	2.857
2137	Abilene	2	30	57	0.526
2215	Holton	5	110	37	2.973
2231	Valley Falls	1	25	53	0.472
	Total Kansas	193	\$ 4,135		

Region V Totals

<u>State</u>	<u>Contributors</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Iowa	84	\$ 2,395
Kansas	193	4,135
Minnesota	110	3,139
Missouri	105	2,890
Nebraska	25	665
North Dakota	104	2,225
South Dakota	55	1,440
Total Region V	676	\$ 16,889



Area 4 Vice President

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August is NARFE Grass Advocacy Month. It's a time to learn in detail about the initiatives before congress, where the legislators stand on those issues and then gain knowledge of and understand the potential impact those decision could have for the future of all federal civilian current and retired employees. It is also a time to take action to communicate our view by writing letters to legislators or otherwise find ways and opportunities to meet and greet congressional representatives and senators. Hutchinson Chapter 537 has scheduled such a meet and greet for their August chapter meeting. A summer social picnic is the venue at a local park. Congressman Jerry Moran received an invitation and will be asked to speak to those in attendance. It will be a great opportunity for members to ask questions and express their concerns.

Another benefit expected from the Hutchinson chapter's changed meeting date and more casual location is the opportunity for the chapter's members to spend some time at the meeting getting to know one another a little better, always an advantage when working to build the retention of members. In addition, members are encouraged to bring guests and prospective members so they can learn what advantages come from NARFE membership. An indoor shelter house with a kitchen has been reserved and the meal will be catered so everyone will be free to mingle. Callers are going the extra mile to get membership attendance to an all time high by offering rides to those who might need them. Good luck Hutchinson for a well planned meet and greet summer gathering.

I will kick off my first visit to all area four chapters with this meeting. I then look forward to visiting the other four chapters in the next few months.



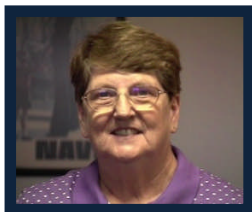
Area 5 Vice President

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Crop update for northwest Kansas: Wheat harvest for 2009 complete with yields from 10-70 bushels per acres and test weights from 58-65 pounds. Considering the crop stress from early drought and damage from hail it is not too bad. This is the membership in NARFE: With the slippage in non-renewals and the addition of new members, not too bad. However, both situations could be better.

Hays Chapter 2050 and Goodland Chapter 1991 at their regular meetings June 10 and July 1 received their Chapter awards for recruiting and having a membership increase in 2008. Oakley Chapter 2032 and Hays Chapter 2050 are working on plans for their 25th Anniversary celebration in October, 2009.

August being “NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month” is a reminder for each NARFE member to let your voice be heard. Voice to your legislators by face-to-face or any other corresponding means for their support of fairness and equity for Federal retirees through “Premium Conversion” (H.R. 1203/S.491) and Social Security Offset correction (H.R. 235/S.484) bills.



Area 6 Vice President

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I was very happy that all five (5) of the Chapters in Area 6 were represented at the convention in Manhattan. Four (4) Chapter Presidents; one (1) chapter with a delegate; and of course our very own Federation President were in attendance. We did have ten (10) delegates from Area 6 in attendance.

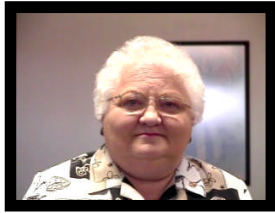
I did send a letter thanking all delegates from Area 6 for attending the convention and reminded them all to tell other members about the College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) in the fall. I am planning to attend.

I did present the certificate to the Garden City, Chapter 1995, for the Alzheimer’s Award for \$5.92 per member. I mailed the Certificate for Service for Sharon Mauler’s 15 years as Chapter President to Derinda Bussman to present at the Chapter 1709, Great Bend chapter meeting.

I do hope to get to Ulysses to help Alice Frey possibly get more plans under way for additional recruitment for new members.



***“The foolish man seeks happiness in the distance;
the wise man grows it under his feet.”***



Alzheimer's Chairperson

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As of June 30th, Kansas chapters have collected \$21,765.89 which average \$4.59 per member. The 2009 goal is \$5.25 per member.

So far in 2009, memorials in the amount of \$707.00 have been received for "NARFE/Alzheimer's Research". No matter the amount of the memorial, the contributions add up for a very important cause. Acknowledgements are sent for all memorial donations, and to the family of the person the memorial is made in memory of.

If any NARFE member belongs to a club who might be making a donation to a good cause, remember "NARFE/Alzheimer's Research". Any donation will be acknowledged.

All chapter Alzheimer chairpersons recently were sent an updated (4/6/09) Alzheimer's Association order form. Pens, pencils, post-it notes, bookmarks, brochures, etc., can be ordered from the Alzheimer's Association at no cost to your chapter.

All checks you submit to me should be made out to "NARFE/Alzheimer's Research".

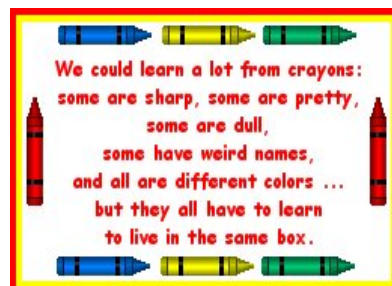


State Legislative

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Most of the Kansas Legislature is out of town, but several committees are meeting "intermittently". Governor Parkinson has indicated ... should any unforeseen budget emergency arise, he will take care of it, without calling the Legislature back into session. The Governor and Legislators repeat what is becoming the axiom for states ... EVERYTHING IS ON THE TABLE!

We have several choices in the "off-season". The wrong one would be to avoid speaking with your state Representative and Senator. We have a large a varied Legislature around Kansas, so please stay in touch with yours, and should you pick up any news flashes, please share with your state federation officers!

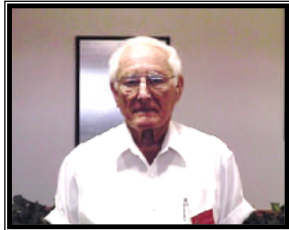




Retirement Benefits (Service Officer)

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I don't have anything new to report at this time!



NARFE Net / Historian

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On page 21 of the August, 2009, NARFE magazine is a list of the current forty-two (42) NARFE Federation web sites. If, when you view some of the other States web site and find files or information that you feel would be good to have on the KSNARFE.org web site, please let me know in an e-mail. I will try to add a Kansas version of the files to the web site if we have space.

I appreciate all of the e-mails with corrections to the KS web site and will make all of the corrections to the web pages. With your help, the web site will be more accurate and have current information.

Latest Figures Available on Number of Retirees and Current Employees
By Congressional District

<u>District</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Retirees</u>	<u>Current Employees</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	Jerry Moran	5,783	6,757	12,540
2	Lynn Jenkins	8,793	11,906	20,699
3	Dennis Moore	5,266	9,035	14,301
4	Todd Tiahrt	3,124	7,051	10,175

(Figures are approximately two (2) years old)

Editors Note:

I'm sorry that I could not include any color in this edition but my good printer broke down and you know how getting them replaced (under warranty) is. Hopefully, we will be back to full power next edition.