

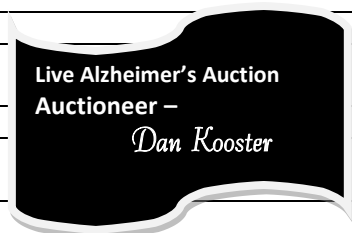


## 2010 Annual Federation Convention

<i>Sunday – April 25, 2010</i>	<i>Monday Morning April 26, 2010</i>
12:30-5:00 p.m. Registration/Credentials . . . . Front Lobby Hospitality Room Open . . . . . Fountain 1 Alzheimer’s Donations . . . . . Regency Alcove Door Prize Gifts . . . . . Atrium	7:30 a.m. Registration/Credentials . . . . Front Lobby <i>Hot Buffet Breakfast. . . . . Grand Ballroom</i>
<b><i>Committee Meetings</i></b>	
1:00 p.m. Audit . . . . . Mansion Green Room  Nominations . . . . . Fountain Room 3	8:30 a.m. Convention Call To Order. . . . Regency East Robert Cranmer, President Invocation . . . . . Judy Shetter, Chaplain Pledge of Allegiance . . . . . Elizabeth Bornman, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Introductions of Federation Officers . . . . . Carol R. Ek, Secretary
1:30 p.m. Alzheimer’s . . . . . Alcove Rooms 1 & 2 ***Silent Auction Begins At 2:00 p.m.*** Bylaws & Resolutions . . Mansion Gold Room  Convention Rules . . . . . Fountain Room 2  Legislative & PAC . . . . Alcove Rooms 5 & 6  Retirement Benefits . . Mansion Dining Room Time & Place. . . . . Fountain Room 4 Membership . . . . . Alcove Room 3	Introduction of Dignitaries. . . . . Robert Cranmer, President Preliminary Credentials Report. . . . . Betty Born, Credential Chair Rules Committee Report . . . . . Regina Barger, Chair Reading of Minutes and Correspondence . . . . Carol R. Ek , Secretary
3:00 p.m. Computer Workshop . . Mansion Oval Room Round Table . . . . . Regency East  *** Recess ***	<i>Federation Officer Reports</i> President . . . . . Robert E. Cranmer 1st Vice President . . . . Elizabeth Bornman 2nd Vice President . . . . Cindy Renee’ Blythe Secretary . . . . . Carol R. Ek Treasurer . . . . . G. P. (Jerry) Ketter Audit Committee Report . . . . .
4:15 p.m. Executive Board Meeting . . . . . Alcove 5	Nominating Committee Report . . . . . John F. Surritte, Immediate Past President Call for Nominations from the Floor . . . . . John F. Surritte, Nominations Chair
<b><i>Sunday – Call To Convention</i></b>	
6:45 p.m. Opening Session . . . . . Regency East  Call To Order . . . . . James F. Miller Convention Co-Chair  Presentation of Colors U.S. Coast Guard Honor Guard Pledge of Allegiance . . Judy Shetter, Chaplain Invocation . . . . . Judy Shetter, Chaplain Welcome to Topeka . . . . Mayor Bill Bunten Response . . . . . James F. Miller Chapter 0002, Topeka President Introduction of Officers . . . . Carol R. Ek Federation Secretary Introduction of Dignitaries. Robert Cranmer Federation President Remarks . . . . . Other Dignitaries	Instructions for Election . . . . . Carol R. Ek, Secretary Break for Election Chapter Caucuses . . . . .
Alzheimer’s National Report Barb Pretzer, Alzheimer’s National Chair Instructions For Alzheimer’s Auctions Janice Neuschafer, Alzheimer’s Federation *****Door Prize Drawing Announcements	<b>**Coffee Break Sponsored By Blue Cross/Blue Shield**</b>
7:30 a.m. Live Alzheimer’s Auction . . . . Regency East	10:20 a.m. Business Session Resumes . . . . . Robert Cranmer, President
	<i>Area Vice Presidents Reports</i> Area 1 . . . . . Florence Biehl Area 1A . . . . . Eugene H. Harter Area 2 . . . . . Gale D. Beck Area 2A . . . . . L. James Gaskell Area 3 . . . . . Donald L. Cooper Area 4 . . . . . Peggy A. Hughes Area 5 . . . . . Ronald Katt Area 6 . . . . . Brenda Myers
	<b>12:00 Noon Break For Lunch . . . . . Grand Ballroom (Ticket Required For Lunch)</b>

**\*\*\* Recess until Monday Morning \*\*\***

<i>Monday Afternoon – April 26, 2010</i>	<i>Tuesday Morning - April 27, 2010</i>
1:10 p.m. Call To Order . . . . . Regency East Robert Cranmer, President	7:30 a.m. Hot Breakfast Buffet . . . . .
1:15 p.m. Memorial Service . Flora Spotts, Chapter 0002 Reading of Memorial Names . . . . Carol R. Ek	8:30 a.m. Business Session Resumes . . . . Regency East Call to Order . . . . Robert Cranmer, President Invocation . . . . . Judy Shetter, Chaplain Pledge of Allegiance . . . . . Elizabeth Bornman, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
2:00 p.m. Bylaws & Resolutions Report. . . . . Cindy Renee' Blythe, Chair	
2:30 p.m. Break	<b>Committee Reports &amp; Awards</b>
	PAC (Political Action Committee ) . . . . . Donald L. Cooper, Chair
2:45 p.m. Area Delegate Caucuses for Election of Area Vice- Presidents	Alzheimer's. . . . . Janice Neuschafer, Chair
Area 1 . . . . . Regency East	Final Credential Report . . . . . Betty Born
Area 1A . . . . . Alcove 4	Membership Report . . . . . Elizabeth Bornman, Chair
Area 2 . . . . . Alcove 5	
Area 2A . . . . . Alcove 3	<b>***Break – No Refreshments***</b>
Area 3 . . . . . Alcove 6	
Area 4 . . . . . Mansion Dining Room	Retirement Benefit Services . . . . . Walter Germann, Chair
Area 5 . . . . . Mansion Green Room	Time & Place Committee . . . . . L. James (Jim) Gaskell, Chair
Area 6 . . . . . Mansion Oval Room	Invitation to 2011 Convention . . . . . Jim Mitchell & Dixie Thomas, Co-Chairs
3:15 p.m. Introduction of Elected Area Vice Presidents Elizabeth Bornman, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Closing Remarks . . . . . Robert Cranmer, President
3:30 p.m. State Legislative Report . . . . James F. Miller State Legislative Chair	Adjournment
3:45 p.m. National Legislative Report . . John F. Surritte National Legislative Chair	Have you turned in your evaluation sheet? If not, please do so when leaving.
<b>****Vendors Drawings****</b>	<b>+++++ Be sure to turn in your name badge +++++</b>
<b>****Door Prizes Drawing****</b>	
<i>Recess Until Social</i>	<b>11:30 a.m. Executive Board Meeting Alcove 5 &amp; 6</b>
5:15 p.m. 2010-2011 Newly Elected Officers Gather For Pictures In Atrium (Dennis Grossnickle)	
5:30 p.m. Cash Bar Social Hour	
<b>6:30 p.m. *** Monday Evening Banquet***</b>	
Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Robert Cranmer Federation President	
Invocation . . . . . Judy Shetter, Chaplain	
Entertainment . . . . .	
National Address. . . . . Richard Thissen, Region V Vice President	
Awards . . . . .	
Federation Drawing . . . . G. P. (Jerry) Ketter Federation Treasurer	
Installation of 2010-2011 Officers . . . . . Richard Thissen, Region V Vice President	
Recognition of Convention Committees . . . . . James F. Miller, Convention Chair	





## ***President***

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**Hello everyone.**

The structure of NARFE is the member, chapter, federation and headquarters. New members need to know this. I would like to challenge all of you chapter presidents and secretaries to relay all of the information you receive to the members in your chapter. Communicate with the members on the subjects of interest at each meeting. Most presidents do a great job. Keep up the good work.

Area Vice-Presidents use your semi-annual visits to the chapters to communicate with the presidents and secretaries. Explain to the Chapter Presidents their duties. The “Buck Does Stop” with the Chapter President. Thank all of you Area VP’s who are working so hard with the chapters in finding new officers. A lot of the time all it takes is a visit to the chapter. But if more help is needed just call on the Federation Officers to help. One chapter has increased their membership by 50% in the last two months. They hadn’t been meeting regularly for the last several years. Keep up the good work.

Once again these past two months, I have covered the four corners of the State of Kansas. I was caught in two major snow storms (each time I was with one of my sons) and I drove home from Topeka in another snowstorm. I have driven over 2200 miles the last couple of months for NARFE. Many chapters have been revitalized with Federation Officer visits.

The 2010 Federation Annual Convention is progressing fine. The convention program is shown on the first three pages of this newsletter. Now is the time to plan on attending. The Federation is looking for members to run for offices. Any member in good standing may become a Federation officer. All of you have worked for the Federal Government so don’t hesitate to accept a chapter or federation office. We need everyone to get involved in running for NARFE.

I am very sorry the dues referendum failed by less than 1%. It would have simplified the dues structure. We will try again at the National Convention. The 31<sup>st</sup> National Convention will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel on August 29 through September 2, 2010. To request a committee assignment for the National Convention, follow the procedure outlined below:

- (1) Every Chapter President received a packet which contained a form (C/1022) which you as a member can request. You complete that form and return it to the Chapter President for signature.
- (2) The chapter president forwards the approved request to the Federation President.
- (3) The Federation President forwards the approved request to the Regional Vice President.
- (4) The Regional Vice President sends the approved and completed form to the National President no later than March 15, 2010.

Check your January, 2010, NARFE magazine for more information on the 31<sup>st</sup> National Convention.

***“If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?”***



**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President / Membership Chair**

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I hope you all had a great New Year.

I visited Chapter 0027, Buffalo Bill, Leavenworth, for their Christmas and 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. It was great to be able to share in their celebration even though the weather didn't cooperate.

I'm especially hoping your chapters are implementing a chapter Membership plan for 2010. I am available to chapters for visits. Just give me a call. The numbers are down for the State of Kansas; however, we gained more than we lost in November and December. We had 32 deaths, 51 dropped members, 23 reinstatements, and 63 new members, for a total gain of three (3). We are going in the right direction. We need to stop the 51 non-renewals. We just need to recruit the active work force; and work on the retention of the current members by signing them up for Dues Withholding.

Congratulations to chapters gaining new members through the New Incentive Program as follows:

- One (1) new member:
  - 0280, Salina
  - 0550, Pittsburg
  - 1160, Sunflower, Kansas City
  - 1794, Heart of America, McPherson
  - 1947, Black Squirrel, Marysville
  - 1998, Clay Center
  - 2050, Custer 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Hays
  - 2053, Oberlin
  - 2231, Jefferson County, Valley Falls
- Two (2) new members:
  - 1873, High Plains, Dodge City
  - 2099, Osage County, Osage City
  - 2215, Jackson County, Holton
- Three (3) new members:
  - 1763, Independence
  - 2077, Iola
- Four (4) new members:
  - 0366, Kaw Blue, Manhattan
- Five (5) new members:
  - 0027, Buffalo Bill, Leavenworth
- Ten (10) new members:
  - 1162, Shawnee Mission, Shawnee

The special rewards program ends June 30, 2010. We currently have two (2) chapters in the small chapter category (100 or less) in the top ten. Chapter 0537, Salt City, Hutchinson is at number ten (10) with nine (9) new members; and Chapter 0799, Chanute, is number six (6) with ten (10) new members. I hope they continue recruiting and make the top three to seek the reward money. First, second and third place winners in each category will be presented with cash prizes and special recognition at the 2010 NARFE National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. First place will receive \$500; second place winners will receive \$300; and, third place winners will receive \$200. The contest will only count new members recruited by the chapters or by recruiters representing the chapter. Members recruited by National will not be counted. To maintain its strength as a lobbying organization, NARFE needs new members. We are also looking for new ideas for recruitment. Contact me if you have ideas or suggestions.

Historically, chapters and individuals have accounted for 30% of NARFE new recruits. It's fallen recently to 18% so we're hoping a dose of healthy competition will bring it back. Good luck and let's focus on our recruiting and retention efforts at the chapter level. Remember you still get \$8.00 for each new active member you recruit.

I will be awarding certificates to those chapters and members who have worked hard this year in recruiting. Remember to let me know of efforts your chapter may have made where a significant number of new members have been recruited. Awards will be presented at the Federation Convention. Refer back to the handouts from the "Back To Basics" training for suggestion in recruiting.

I do hope all chapters have appointed your Membership chairman. Even though it's everyone's responsibility to be concerned with membership, the chapters need a lead person to insure membership stays a focus point of each chapter. It is a very important position in your chapters.



***2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President / Public Relations***

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John Clements, Director of Membership Development, reports that the NARFE Recruiting Contest will be ending July 2010. I want to pass on my Congratulations to Chanute Chapter 0799 and Hutchinson Chapter 0537 for making the grade and currently holding number six (6) and ten (10) in the Category I: Small-size Chapters. Chanute has recruited ten (10) new members while Hutchinson has recruited nine (9). Keep up to good work with your endeavors.

Communication or lack thereof, is a chapter killer. Each and every one of us is guilty of not passing on necessary information at our chapter meetings. Begin by changing what you deliver and how you deliver it with your first meeting of 2010. Like the calendar, turn over a new leaf!

Here are a few tips for conducting a successful meeting:

- Prepare an agenda – an effective agenda is one of the most important elements for a productive meeting
- Post the agenda for the next meeting in the chapter newsletter
- Ask that agenda items be sent to you no less than two (2) days before the meeting
- Follow the agenda during the meeting.

I hope your chapter is making plans to attend the Federation Convention being held in Topeka in April, 2010. All members (in good standing) of the chapters are eligible to attend and set in on meetings; if you desire volunteer to represent your chapter as a delegate for the business sessions. Each chapter president and secretary has been provided with read ahead documents giving deadlines, descriptions of business sessions, hotel registration, and such. Don't be afraid to let your opinion count. Mark your calendar for April 25 through 27, 2010, and we look forward to seeing you there! Don't be afraid to let your voice be heard.

Keep your eye on the Health Care Overhaul and Excise Tax on "High Value" Insurance Plans. Read all that is available then contact your Representative and Senators to let them know your opinion. Remember, we elected them to do what is right and fair for us – don't let them get away with passing legislation that hurts us without having your say.



**Secretary / Newsletter Editor**

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Every Federation Executive Board member and Chapter President should have received their “Call to 2010 Convention Packet” the first week of January, 2010. I hope all of you reviewed the documents contained in the packet very carefully because the form M-110 contained all data needed to determine that the correct number of delegates-at-large, delegates, and alternate delegates have been designated to carry your votes. Numbers on that form also are used to determine the amount of per-capita dues to be paid by your chapter. If any of the information appears to be incorrect, it is the responsibility of the Chapter President, working with other officers, to make certain either that the figures are agreed to be correct or are corrected by the Federation before the applicable deadline dates.

Every Chapter Secretary received their “Call to Convention Packet” which included sufficient forms to support all registrations, Welcome Letter for all registrants with an accompanying map of the Topeka area, and all forms needed to complete the chapter members’ participation wishes to the convention. Review your chapter member’s achievements to promote NARFE during the year and recommend them for a special award. Ask all chapter delegates which committee meeting they wish to attend on Sunday afternoon – let them make that choice. *All attending members* will be assigned to attend some meeting though it is not mandatory that they attend that meeting. All members are notified by letter of which meeting they have been assigned to and their option to attend.

Let’s make this year the year that at least one delegate will attend from all forty-five (45) chapters in the State.

I was privileged to attend the meeting at Chapter 0384, Emporia, on January 11, 2010. I always learn during these meetings and wish I could carry that knowledge on the every chapter in the State. What I found during this meeting are that there are members in every chapter who want to contribute to the wellness of their chapter but just need encouragement and maybe do a job that someone else *has always done*. And, at that same time that other person would like to contribute by not having to do that job that *they have always done*. A lot of times, it’s a two way street that just needs a nudge to meet in the middle. Another thing, of which is the most important, I may think I’m communicating with you but unless you ask me I never know that I’m not. Let’s take extra time to make certain others understand what we are trying to say. The Emporia chapter had a wonderful buffet luncheon and I know they are going forward with a few new officers and some who just changed their positions. With all of the knowledge, and the members who wanted to learn more about NARFE, I know this Chapter will go forward to meet the new challenges. Congratulations Emporia – good job.

I was also excited to hear that the Oberlin Chapter where I had the privilege to meet with in December has now held their first official meeting in a few years. They have increased their membership by seven (7) and also are looking forward to the new year and extended challenges. Congratulations Oberlin – for the new members and the new beginning.



**Treasurer**

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I hope I have mailed the Per Capita Statement to the correct Treasurer of each chapter. If I didn't please pass the statement on to your current treasurer so we can handle the Per Capita in a timely manner.

I have already received checks from over half of the Chapters in the Federation. I have had a couple of inquiries about a change in membership from the November 30<sup>th</sup> cutoff. If you gained members in December, I congratulate you but you are not required to pay for that member this year. Hopefully they will retain their membership for the coming years.

In this newsletter, there is a page of tickets (chances for the Federation Drawing to be held at Convention). If more tickets are needed, please make additional copies. Tickets are \$1 for one (1) ticket or \$5 for six (6) tickets. Completed tickets may be sent with chapter members to the convention. If you wish to send completed tickets to me please convert cash to check and make the check payable to Kansas Federation of NARFE and mail to the address at the heading of this article. Do not send cash! More tickets will be available for sale at the convention.

**Filing Form 990-N for 2009** - **This filing must be completed by every chapter prior to April 15, 2010.** Each chapter should have their EIN tax number. If you have misplaced the number contact your Area Vice President or myself and we can help you.

If you are a new treasurer or did not file last year "**Sign on as a New User**". You must register and obtain a login ID. Once you have a login and password you can access the system and create your e-postcard.

If you do not have a computer or wish me to enter the form for you, please complete the statement below and mail it to me.

=====

I \_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer of Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ certify that our organization is still in business and our annual receipts are less than \$2,500.

EIN # \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Immediate Past President / Federal Legislative Chair**

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We are getting closer to Convention. This means we need folks like you to think about running for a State Federation Office. We will elect a President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. I would encourage each Chapter Officer, elected and appointed, to think seriously about running for one of the Offices above or encourage your chapter members to do so. You will have a good time helping and leading Federal Retirees and Active Employees in order to protect their present benefits. I will be contacting you Area Vice-President for candidates in the near future. Please step up and serve.

On a different subject, Health Care Reform. Congressional and Presidential approval is closer than it has ever been in the last 100 years, since the days of Teddy Roosevelt. According to our NARFE headquarters, the present FEHBP will remain as it presently is. This is good. The proposed law will cover 31 million additional Americans who presently have no Health Insurance, will lower health insurance premium increases in the future, will close the donut hole for medicines, will prohibit Health Insurance Companies from canceling or denying coverage, will allow dependents to use their parents insurance until the age of 27 and will reduce the Federal Deficit \$131 Billion over the next 10 years. We should know before the Convention if this bill has become law. As long as we can keep our present insurance at lower future costs than we have experienced the past ten (10) years, this as I said earlier, is a good thing.

In closing, I look forward to seeing you all again at our Convention. Take care until then.



**Area 1 Vice President**

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It's great to be a member of NARFE!

We share with other of like minds the quest to keep and restore benefits that were promised to us when we were hired. We are a diverse group of people having worked at many types of jobs but all working for the federal government and doing it with pride!

I have visited with some of our chapters and am so pleased with their commitment to NARFE. There is an excitement as you see the active nature of each chapter. Go NARFE!

I am glad to see my lawn again. The snow which was fine in the beginning got old fast. So did the fog. I know it is too early, but I am wishing for spring. I hope all are well and are planning on going to the Federation convention in April and the National Convention in August. You will be glad you did.



President Robert Cranmer presenting 62<sup>nd</sup> year award to James F. Miller, Chapter 002 President

*Congratulations Chapter 0002, Topeka  
62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Award and Christmas Party  
December 4, 2009*



Installation of 2010 Officers, Chapter 0002 Topeka, Kansas. (l. to r) Gwen Ketter, Secretary; Richard Wike, Vice President; Sherry Potter, Treasurer; and James F. Miller, President





*Installation of Officers*

*Chapter 0378, Freestate, Lawrence*

*(Left to Right) Tom Huntzinger, President; Roger Lemmons, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Ken Rowan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Dianne Throop, Secretary; Clara Arnold, Treasurer; and Area 1 Vice President, Flo Biebl*



**Area 1A Vice President**

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**What a Winter! We'll remember this one for a while. Think Spring!!**

**We all still need to keep retention of members and recruiting of new members as one of our main goals (remember there is safety, comfort and success in numbers).**

**The current NARFE recruiting contest has been quite good for some chapters and I hope we will all make a concentrated effort to take advantage of the contest before it ends in July. Two chapters in Kansas, Chanute and Hutchinson, were in the top ten for their category at the end of 2009. I congratulate them on their effort.**

**With the Health Care Bill still unsolved and many other issues unsolved, please keep in touch with Congressional members of your area.**

**Since the 2009 State convention I have visited each of Area 1A chapters twice except Doniphan County, Chapter 2136, and I plan to visit them at their March meeting. All chapters in the area are in good spirits and functioning well. That having been said, they (we) all need more members; more members attending meetings; and, more members willing to accept Chapter and State officer positions.**

**I encourage you all to make plans to attend the 2010 State Federation Convention at the Downtown Ramada Inn, Topeka, KS, April 25 through 27. For those who can't make it to the whole convention, do try to attend the Monday sessions (April 26<sup>th</sup>).**

**I wish to inform the Chapters in Area 1A that I will not be a candidate for Area 1A Vice President for the next year. My wife, Sally, and I expect to be moving out of the 1A area within the next 12 to 15 months. I want you all to know it has been an honor to serve as Area 1A VP for the last two years. It has been a privilege and very educational for me. I am so proud of the fine folk (members) in each of the chapters. It has been very rewarding to share their joys, accomplishments and their concerns. From Sally and me both – *"Thank You"!***

*I'll close with this anonymous quote: "Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear....."*



*Chapter 0027, Buffalo Bill, Leavenworth*

*Celebrates Holidays and 60<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary*

*(Left to Right) John F. Surrutte, Immediate Past Federation President; Joe Kolb, New Chapter 0027 President; and Eugene H. Harter, Area 1A Vice President*

Many were unable to attend the anniversary and Christmas party due to severe weather in the central and western part of Kansas. Looks like they had a wonderful time and good food.



**Area 2 Vice President / Kansas Federation Training Officer**

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**Area 2**

Update on happenings in Area 2 and training comments for Area Vice Presidents/others if the shoe fits.

I have visited three chapters since the last newsletter, Tri-River Chapter 2098; Iola Chapter 2077; and Emporia Chapter 0384.

Emporia Chapter 0384, one of the oldest in Kansas, organized January 29, 1954, fifty-five (55) years ago just went through a reorganization process at their January, 2010, meeting. After 55 years reorganization was needed to recharge the chapters' batteries (membership) so to speak and get on with the business of the membership supporting a chapter and continuing to be a leader in chapters in the Kansas Federation. This was done through the support of Federation President Robert Cranmer, Secretary Carol Ek, Past Federation President and State Legislative Chair James F. Miller and myself. "Thanks to members of the Emporia Chapter, they have again taken on the challenge and the current members and officers will take the challenge to see that the chapter has another 55 years representing NARFE members and helping to protect earned benefits."



2010 officers for the Emporia Chapter are: (left to right) Anna Marie Kuhlmann, Treasurer; Steve Miller, Vice President; Rita Dawson, Secretary; and, Glenda Failing, President.

Again, "Congratulations to the Emporia chapter for accepting the challenge. We look forward to seeing you at the 2010 annual convention in Topeka.

“Whoever said a job working with people was easy. It is always a challenge, but it can be done and you will succeed.”

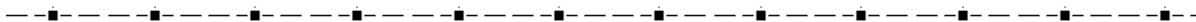
### Training Officers Topics

Here are some comments and food for thought for current Federation Area Vice Presidents and others.

Area Vice Presidents of our eight areas (are elected at each annual Federation Convention for a one year term) by the members of their particular area. Kansas Bylaws pages 5-11 spells out the duties of the Area Vice President. This is a brief resume` of the duties. At the June, 2010, Federation Executive Board organizational meeting more detailed supplement of duties will be made available. Those elected to Area or Federation positions must be prepared to assume those responsibilities; or, you are not carrying out the responsibilities that you assumed when you took the “Oath of Office”.

As a final note: Area training seminars and chapter reorganizational meetings have been conducted over the past several years to lend support to weak chapters and assist the Area Vice Presidents. A lot of work goes into these meeting, by the Federation leadership and others; however, these seminars are conducted to recharge the chapters. Following the meetings, the Area Vice President, must follow up by working with those chapters and see that members are contacted again as well as following up with spouses. See that they are receiving communications on how to become involved in the chapter. Any delay simply compounds the problem.

This responsibility falls with the chapter leadership; however, “the Area Vice President” must take the lead and not leave it solely to the chapter officers to determine when and how it should be done. The chapter leadership needs your continued help. The NARFE money spent, time spent by Federation Officers, and others simply goes down the drain so to speak if timely follow ups are not made. Timely means six months and not more than nine months.



Chapter officers, who receive the Federation newsletter, please pass on timely information to your chapter members and officers who do not receive the newsletter. If you do not pass it on it is “*Dead On Arrival*” and “*the Buck Stopped With You*”.



#### **Area 2A Vice President**

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I received an e-mail this morning from our Federation President of our Kansas NARFE Federation concerning recruiting new members and I knew what I wanted to write about. Recruiting is not an easy job. In order to be successful you need to BELIEVE that recruiting new members is important for our cause. Why does NARFE exist? What is our purpose? Does it matter what Congress does regarding our earned benefits?

One only needs to read through brochures that NARFE has published about the successes we have had and the many NARFE members who have gone before us. NARFE was organized in 1921. WE need to realize that our lives would be much different as a federal employee or a federal retiree (or survivor). The original members of NARFE petitioned our Congress to provide a retirement plan for federal

employees. Before 1921 there was no financial help to those persons retiring from federal service. NARFE was successful in getting Congress to set up our first retirement plan in 1922. Before 1960 there were no benefits available to survivors of retired federal employees. Again, NARFE was successful in working with Congress to make provisions for a surviving spouse to receive part of the pension after the death of the federal worker.

NARFE members supported the establishment of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA's) for federal retirees. This one benefit is more than worth the cost of a membership. Our COLA's vary each year from none to several percent but likely average at least two (2%) each year. After just ten (10) years of retirement, the loss of income without a COLA would equal 20% of your pension check. Many people live much longer than this and the loss would continue as long as you live.

I fear that many of our members see NARFE as another social organization that gets together to have lunch or dinner, talks about what others have done, and goes home. I am thankful that there are more than a few that realize how important it is to be active in NARFE which includes talking to people about becoming a member of NARFE. If you start with co-workers you know you have a good chance to win them over. Educate yourself as to why you are a member and let them know that their membership and support of NARFE is needed. If they ask what NARFE has done for them, just tell them that NARFE works closely with members of Congress and that NO benefits have been lost by federal retirees since 1993. *That is saying a lot in these times.* Let them know we need their help to keep this kind of influence active with our members of Congress.

I note in Robert's e-mail that Chanute Chapter 0799 has recruited ten (10) new members since the contest started and stands at sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) place Nationally and that Hutchinson has recruited nine (9) new members in that same time frame for tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) place in the small chapter category. Congratulations to each of these chapters and the work they have done.

I suggest that each chapter talk about membership and establish a goal for new members this year and a strategy on how and who will be responsible for carry out the objectives of NARFE.



**Area 3 Vice President / PAC (Political Action Committee)**

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December 16<sup>th</sup> was the date I had the privilege of installing the 2010 Kaw-Blue Chapter 0366 officers. The President is L. Ann Domsch; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President is David Schafer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is Marjory Mortvedt; Secretary is Pam Van Horn; and, Treasurer is Dale Walters. The programs were music by NARFE members – Al Schmaderer, Dick Stroade and Larry Morgan; and, Jennifer Hough, Tourism Communication Manager, KANSAS editor.

January 11<sup>th</sup> was the date when I traveled the snow lined road to Home City for installation of the 2010 officers of the Black Squirrel, Marysville Chapter 1947. Lila Alferts continues as President; Dora Jones, Vice President; and the new Secretary/Treasurer is Ivan Bartels of Marysville. A fine discussion was held on new member prospects.

January 14<sup>th</sup> I attended the Old Trooper Chapter 0383 meeting at Junction City. They had over 100 in attendance at their noon meeting. A young lady who had spent time in Sweden last summer provided an excellent program on her experiences living a few weeks with a Swedish family.

January 14<sup>th</sup> I also attended the Tri-County Chapter 1933 meeting at Herington where I installed the 2010 Chapter officers; Tom Duggan, President; Cynthia Mowat, Vice-President; and Dee Dugan, Secretary. They had a very interesting program by a Herington resident on the great variety of bathroom facilities she had experienced during her years of foreign employment. Her account sure makes one appreciate the good old USA.

January 15<sup>th</sup> I attended the Salina Chapter 0280 meeting for the installation of 2010 officers; President Duane Evans, Vice President Wanda Hughes, Secretary Irene Hill, Treasurer Robert Scuitte, and Service Officer Harold Klaege. They had a fine program presented by the Electrical Power Company.

January 21<sup>st</sup> I attended the Chisholm Trail Chapter 2137, Abilene, meeting where I installed the following officers: President Betty McVicker, Vice President Virginia Fry, Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Bair.

January 26<sup>th</sup> I attended the meeting at Chapter 1998, Clay Center.

I've talked about the need for expanding our membership numbers. Make it a point to find out who currently is employed at the federal locations in your area. You aren't allowed to solicit their membership at the place of employment, but figure out some way to make them aware of NARFE at their non employment area. Many are not aware of what NARFE can mean to them. Be resourceful; find ways to talk with them. Show them what a dime a day can do for them (and in turn, what their membership can do for Kansas NARFE). Pick out three (3) people you would like to share what their membership in NARFE can mean to them and to the rest of Kansas NARFE. Studies show that people are seldom motivated to membership by only one invitation. So, tell them, ask them to join, tell them again, ask them to join, until they do join. Help make your chapter meeting an event that people will want to attend.

*NARFE PAC (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report of Contributions)*

*Region V*

<i>State</i>	<i>Contributors</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>\$ 3,136.87</b>
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>\$ 5,003.00</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>3,259.00</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>3,410.00</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1,480.00</b>
<b>North Dakota</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>2,853.00</b>
<b>South Dakota</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1,685.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>\$ 20,826.87</b>

*Kansas Chapter Report (01-01-2009 through 12-21-2009)*

<i>Chapter Location</i>	<i>Chapter No.</i>	<i>Contributors</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Total Chapter Members</i>	<i>Average Per Member</i>
<b>Topeka</b>	<b>0002</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$ 355.00</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>.723</b>
<b>Leavenworth</b>	<b>0027</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>280.00</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>.610</b>
<b>Wichita</b>	<b>0138</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>797.00</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>1.572</b>
<b>Salina</b>	<b>0280</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>.769</b>
<b>Manhattan</b>	<b>0366</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>485.00</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>1.720</b>
<b>Lawrence</b>	<b>0378</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>140.00</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1.346</b>
<b>Junction City</b>	<b>0383</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>465.00</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>1.670</b>
<b>Emporia</b>	<b>0384</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>.347</b>
<b>Hutchinson</b>	<b>0537</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>195.00</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1.980</b>
<b>Pittsburg</b>	<b>0550</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>.820</b>

Atchison	0621	1	20.00	30	.666
Belleville	0739	1	20.00	59	.339
Winfield	0757	1	20.00	35	.571
Ottawa	0785	1	20.00	36	.556
Fort Scott	0792	2	50.00	29	1.724
Chanute	0799	8	205.00	65	3.154
Shawnee Mission	1162	6	340.00	742	.4580
Great Bend	1709	1	20.00	65	.3080
Independence	1763	3	60.00	33	1.818
McPherson	1794	11	310.00	55	5.636
Herington	1933	1	50.00	40	1.250
Sabetha	1948	2	40.00	29	1.379
Garden City	1995	3	60.00	30	2.000
Scott City	1996	2	40.00	27	1.481
Clay Center	1998	1	25.00	23	1.087
Oakley	2032	2	50.00	15	3.335
Iola	2077	14	320.00	76	4.211
Ulysses	2086	1	25.00	11	2.273
Tri-River	2098	11	220.00	100	2.200
Osage City	2099	1	20.00	35	.571
Troy	2136	3	40.00	14	2.857
Abilene	2137	2	30.00	57	.526
Holton	2215	5	110.00	37	2.973
Valley Falls	2231	1	25.00	53	.472
<i>State of Kansas</i>		277	\$ 5,003.00		

Be reminded that NARFE-PAC funds are only accepted from NARFE members. These funds are to be kept separate from other funds and identifiable to a NARFE member by name and NARFE membership number. If you are submitting those funds, using the form found in the NARFE Magazine, please make it plain what your Chapter is by number. This will give your chapter proper credit. The funds sent to me are entered onto the form provided by National and I in turn submit those funds, along with the identifying numbers to the NARFE National Office. I do have a supply of pins.

NARFE PAC is your opportunity to provide some influence on our Legislative people to cast their votes on issues that are in the best interest to you as a NARFE member. It is indeed, great that Kansas NARFE has the top amount contribution from NARFE Region V States. We need to keep up this pace. I'm certain that the other states will be working toward "outdoing" Kansas during this year. So, be sure to call attention to NARFE-PAC to ALL of your Chapter meetings. Not all of the Kansas Chapters have a designated NARFE-PAC chairperson so designate a member of your chapter to serve in that capacity. Let me hear from those chapters who will be making that appointment, giving me that person's name. Also file a Form F-7 as previously instructed by the Federation Secretary. After you have assigned that person, make sure they are on the Chapter meeting agenda. This will provide time for NARFE-PAC awareness and an opportunity to allow your members to make a contribution to the NARFE-PAC fund.

It's always great to have a good push for NARFE-PAC at the State Convention, but you need to give those Chapter members who aren't attending the State Convention an opportunity to show your Chapter's strength in the Kansas NARFE-PAC.



**Area 4 Vice President**

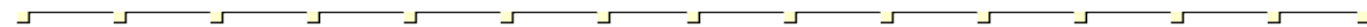
*Peggy A. Hughes*  
1306 E. 21<sup>st</sup> Ave  
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As January’s weather has warmed from the early cold extremes, the plans for state Convention in April in Topeka and other issues related to NARFE have warmed too. January has been an active month for NARFE issues. Communicating this wealth of information to NARFE members and visiting with legislators is even more important. The issues include the ongoing and the new.

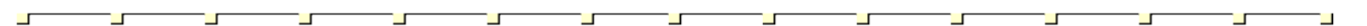
- Health Care Reform of course is still on hold. It’s easy to keep up on it by using the weekly legislative message which is available by calling toll free at 877-217-8234 or via internet at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org).
- NARFE National’s 2010 Integrated Operating Plan for Recruitment and Retention was released which emphasizes that it is important for actions among National, Federations and Chapters to be coordinated as an interrelated effort. It is a written plan easy to share with Chapter members. The message is that teamwork is essential.
- Federal retirees not eligible to receive Social Security benefits have seen Medicare Part B premiums increase from \$96.40 to \$110.50 as of the first of the year. As a past Social Security Administration employee, I remember when the current law was passed which protects most other beneficiaries from a Part B rate hike for the years when there is no COLA increase. Last September, the House passed H.R. 3631, called the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, which would protect federal retirees from any premium increase for this year. The Senate considers the bill next. Senators need to hear from us now if Federal employees are to be protected as well. Please encourage members to send an e-mail through <http://capwiz.com/narfe/issues/alert/?alertid=14260196>.
- Chapter recruiting numbers came in for calendar year 2009 with increased numbers. I was proud to see Hutchinson Chapter 0537 listed under Category I as one of the top ten small-sized chapters with nine (9) new members. The recruiting contest doesn’t end until mid year. Participating chapters can win monetary awards.

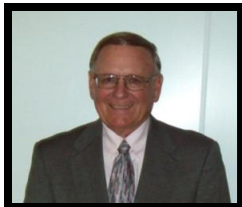
My first visit in the new year was on January 14<sup>th</sup> at the McPherson Chapter. They had an interesting program given by the United Way director on how the local dollars are used. A warm welcome with a wonderful meal at a very nice meeting facility was a great way to start the New Year. In addition, I was invited and attended the Hutchinson Chapter’s local board meeting on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish all Kansas NARFE members a very happy and productive New Year.



**Multifarious** – *“If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?”*





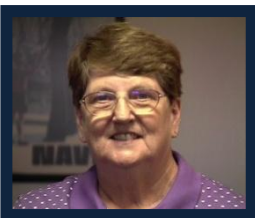
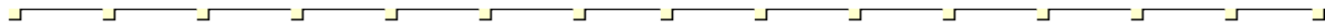
**Area 5 Vice President**

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Congratulations and thank you to elected and appointed Chapter officers for serving in 2009 and those serving your Chapters in 2010. It takes guidance and leadership for an effective organization which makes your service very much appreciated.

Chapter Presidents and Secretaries are in receipt of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention packet from the Federation Secretary. The convention will be April 25-27, 2010, at the Ramada Inn, Topeka, Kansas. Chapters are encouraged to timely review the packet material to assure chapter reports are completed within the required time frame. Conventions are informative and fun, so let us do all we can to have each Chapter represented by delegates.

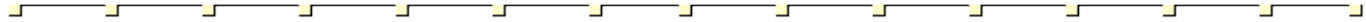
Chapter's members Gary and Annette Miller, Oberlin and Beverly Kindler, Norton are making a membership difference for their Chapter 2053, Oberlin. Through their efforts and dedication the chapter membership has increased by seven (7) during the last three months. What makes this significant is the seven (7) new members represent a 43.5% increase in membership.



**Area 6 Vice President**

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*Brenda has been dealing with a lot of illness in her family and wishes to be excused from writing an article for this edition. She hopes to be back with the April-May edition and see you at convention.*



**Alzheimer's Chairperson**

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The preliminary total for 2009 contributions to NARFE Alzheimer's from Kansas chapters is \$30,013.93 which computes to \$6.33 per member. Our goal was \$5.25 per member. Thanks to all! Nationally, NARFE has donated \$8,376,269.55 as of November 30, 2009.

We will again have Live and Silent Auctions at the Kansas Federation Convention being held April 25-27 in Topeka. Please start gathering your "NEW" and "ANTIQUÉ QUALITY"

items you wish to contribute for auction. The Convention Alzheimer's Committee has requested that all items contributed have an auction value of \$5.00 or more. All personal and chapter checks submitted should be made out to "NARFE /Alzheimer's Research". **KEEP IN MIND** – when you come to auction, we **DO NOT** have the capability to accept credit cards.

Pennies Against Alzheimer's Disease (PAAD) project – How about challenging another chapter of similar size? When sending me a check for the pennies, be sure to indicate on the Submission Forms that this is for PAAD funds. Let's make this a "fun" project. Those members who cannot attend meetings can participate by sending a check payable to "NARFE/Alzheimer's Research" once a year for all pennies collected in their jar at home during the year.

"Going Green for NARFE-Alzheimer's!" is the theme for a 50/50 Cash Raffle to be sponsored by NARFE-Alzheimer's National Committee at the 2010 National Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This will be a cash only raffle instead of the usual gift raffle. Per Michigan State law governing the operation of 50/50 raffles, the following rules must be observed: (1) all tickets must be purchased at the convention site and cannot be sold in advance, and (2) ticketholders must be present at the drawing to win. Ticket prices will be \$1 per ticket, or \$5 for six (6) tickets, or \$10 for fifteen (15) tickets (remember to take your stick-on mailing labels). Fifty percent will go to NARFE/Alzheimer's Research. The remaining fifty percent will be split among three winning tickets holders. Barb Pretzer, National Alzheimer's Coordinator will give more detail in her article in the March, 2010, NARFE Magazine.

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**State Legislative**

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Governor Parkinson gave, according to reports, a passionate, heartfelt State of the State speech. He offered his solution to the budget crisis and said the five letter word, TAXES. 2010 is an election year and every nauseous nabob and their lobbyists jumped all over his suggestions. Simple fact – most Kansans want MORE and BETTER services. Simple fact number two – don't raise our taxes to pay for those. One prominent lobbying group is AMERICAN FOR PROSPERITY. I'm not positive about this, but believe it's accurate. These folks aren't referring to ALL Kansans prosperity. They are lobbying for THEIR prosperity. I'm checking into the source of their abundant funding, the salaries paid, especially to their CEO, what the organization pays their lobbyists. It pays to know the enemy, and in this session, these folks aren't likely to be friends.

So the battle lines are drawn between the agencies who believe they have made every possible cut and can't cut anything more, and are encouraging their elected Representatives to vote for the Governor's recommendations.....and the parties who believe more cuts can and should be made. I doubt if any of the latter have ever spent a minute in KNI (commission recommended that facility close and farm residents out to community based facilities, or Parsons, KS) or have aging relatives who are coping with cuts in MEDICAID and MEDICARE. The semi good news? Busy as the KS Legislature is and will continue to be, our benefits may be under the radar for awhile longer.

Ron Richey may have stepped back from his Chapter Legislative post but he hasn't stepped away from responsibility. While I was E.W.M. (\*\*engaged with Maynard, who was sound asleep when I carried some requested items over to him at the Village Health Center this morning) Ron Richey sat in on a "harmless" little Taxation Committee. The bill is HR 2463. The intent is to establish a committee on simplified state tax structure. You can look up this bill (and others) at [www.kansaslegislature.gov](http://www.kansaslegislature.gov) but a fast definition is, this committee, if approved, (1) will study the overall tax structure and policy of the State of Kansas; (2) identify a tax structure that operates in the best interests of Kansas citizens; and, (3) formulate a fair, simple and effect tax structure.

The committee shall particularly study ways to decrease tax rates of such taxes imposed by the State by broadening the tax base upon which each tax is imposed AND STUDY THE EFFECTS OF THE IMPOSITION OF A FAIR, FLAT, OR CONSUMPTION TAX...OR A FLAT, SIMPLIFIED KANSAS INCOME TAX including what taxes currently imposed by the State might be eliminated and be replaced by imposition of such tax.

The committee will have eleven (11) members, all appointed. It will begin on July 2, 2010. The committee will meet five times during the interims of 2010 and 2011. The committee will meet two times in Topeka and one time each in Congressional district one, three and four ...to provide the opportunity for full citizen input for the committee's consideration in making the committee's findings and recommendations.

Some of the requirements to speak before the committee MAY follow State House procedure and policy ... Here I'm required to request 24-48 hours in advance (difficult to do when there is little advance notice) and provide 45 copies of testimony.

The good new on this is..... we may be left alone this session. (Just a guess?) The bad new is, we've already heard that the tax exempt status of FEDERAL retirees will be brought up at committee meetings.

*(In case you haven't heard, Maynard fell and broke five (5) ribs so is a little out of commission right now – a "Thinking of You card might perk him up a little)*



**Retirement Benefits (Service Officer)**

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***"Walter had nothing to contribute for this edition."***



**NARFE Net / Historian**

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With most chapters having just elected their Chapter Officers for 2010, each chapter should try to have someone take the position of Chapter Historian. With no one keeping some kind of chapter historical record, much of the information will soon be lost. Even someone keeping a Chapter “scrap book” of photos, copies of meeting minutes, would help keep the information from being lost forever.

With the National Congressional voting that can affect NARFE members in many ways, every chapter member who has a computer on-line should sign up for the NARFE HQ Hotline and other e-mail messages.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Computer Training Session at convention on April 25<sup>th</sup> in Topeka.

