



Kansas NARFE News **From Your Federation Officers**

April - May, 2010

CONVENTION - 2010

*Downtown Ramada Inn, Topeka, Kansas
April 25 – 27th, 2010*



- 1. *Return to Federation Secretary by April 1, 2010:***
Delegate Listing
Request to Serve on Committee
Awards Listing
Chapter "Proxy" if no member is attending the convention.
- 2. *Return the Memorial Listing by April 10, 2010.***
- 3. *Hotel reservations by April 6, 2010, by calling (785) 234-5400, Downtown Ramada Inn.***
- 4. *Mail your reservations to Maynard Cox by April 10, 2010.***



President

Robert E. Cranmer
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I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Kansas NARFE Convention, Sunday, April 25th through Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Now is the time for all NARFE members to step forward and accept a job to help us retain our earned benefits. Get involved. Take an office in your Chapter and Federation. Make nominations from the floor of the convention for all Federation offices.

I would like to thank the members of the Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters for allowing me to serve as your Federation President these last two years. I have enjoyed visiting the Chapters over the state. I have felt that as president that I should attend as many meetings of Chapters as possible.

The teams from the Federation Executive Board have attended several troubled chapters this past year and have helped re-invigorate them. The teams have spent a lot of their personal time and money helping the Chapters. It has been money well spent. We have not lost a Chapter during the past two years. "Thank You" team.

At this writing, NARFE members have not lost any of their benefits in our health care. GPO/WEP is on hold for the time being. By the time you receive this newsletter things may have changed.

The California Federation is talking about sizing down their number of areas in the state to eight. That is the same number of Area VP's we have in Kansas. I just thought that Area's V and VI were large!



1st Vice President / Membership Chair

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Well hopefully the winter months are over and spring has finally arrived. It's a time for all members to get out and recruit and enjoy the fresh air. The numbers have not been good for Kansas chapters. The numbers are down.

During January and February 2010, we had 57 new members, 36 deaths, 19 reinstatements and the biggest number and the sadness was 65 Non-Renewals for a total loss of 25. In January Chapter 383, Old Trooper, gained 14 new members, however, in February they lost 12. We need to stop going backwards. Why are we having the non-renewals? Each chapter can stop the majority of that number increasing. It just takes a phone call or at least a letter encouraging continuing their membership even to the spouse of a deceased member.

The Federation officers are here to help. You just need to give us a call to assist you. Again, the Membership Plans are an important document to the chapter and budgeting for recruiting should be the largest expense beside programs for the chapters. Your Area Vice Presidents when they come to visit are there to help. They are the closest to knowing you as a chapter and what your opportunities are for recruiting. As Membership Chair, I want to help grow this federation and keep it strong. However, each chapter has to be a part of the state team and be committed to growing. I am hoping each chapter will be in attendance at the Kansas State Convention and have a representative at the membership meeting Sunday afternoon.

The chapter's communication with its members is important to decreasing the nonrenewable and keeping the current membership active. Good luck!

"If God had really intended men to fly, He'd make it easier to get to the airport."





2nd Vice President / Public Relations

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Spring is officially upon us – the flowers are beginning to pop out, the ducks and geese are flying back and the school kids are already wearing shorts and flip-flops to school. Now the weather man says there could be six (6”) inches of snow coming our way! It really pushes the point that if you don’t like the weather in Kansas just wait a few minutes – it’ll change.

Speaking of change – this year Kansas has a few Senatorial or Representative Seats up for consideration. Once again, we’ll be receiving voter information in the mail asking for our continued support for our favorite candidate. NARFE has been on the forefront of several issues, trying to push for repeal of the Government Pension Offset and special incentive payments for federal retirees. Have you done your part when asked to contact your Senator and/or Representative or have you allowed the voice of a few to make the decision for all? While you are out mowing the law, stop and talk to that neighbor across the fence and see what issues they find important. If they are a federal employee, try to get them involved in your local chapter.

The Kansas NARFE Executive Board will be changing at the convention being held in Topeka in April. Our State Federation can’t operate without capable officers filling the various positions. As a member, you have the ability to elect qualified and dedicated officers, but only if you attend your local area meeting and express your opinion. If your chapter is not able to send delegates to the convention be sure your vote is the one you want passed along by forwarding your proxy vote as directed.

I look forward to seeing you at the convention in April in Topeka.



Secretary / Newsletter Editor

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Remember when it seemed like it was an eternity from one birthday to the next, well either the years have gotten shorter or my age is showing! It seems that the 2009 Manhattan convention reports, officer changes and minutes have just been completed but its Kansas State Convention time again. Please send your delegates listing; proxy credentials from those Chapters who will not have a representative from your Chapter attending; requests for appointment to a committee; request for awards for either your Chapter or one of your chapter members; and the listing of members to be recognized during the Memorial service as soon as possible. Every chapter should have at least one member who has contributed to that chapter and deserves being recognized at convention.

Convention is always a good place to learn what you didn’t know about what NARFE does for you; how you can contribute to your Chapter and Federation; and good fellowship. Everyone who

attends the convention should plan to begin the journey by asking to contribute their ideas to one of the committee's discussion for betterment of NARFE for the State of Kansas. Every member's opinions and interaction with other members are important; and, reports from the committees are used to determine the path that guides the officers' decisions for the coming year. We do have a lot of unfinished business over the State that needs to be addressed; and, with all of the political unrest every member will have to actively work to protect our earned benefits. Federal active employees and retirees will possibly be facing all kinds of challenges during the coming year. We must all be ready to address those challenges with our Federal and State representatives and senators. Convention is a very good place to learn NARFE's position on many of these issues. You don't have to agree, but it is always good to listen and contribute your opinions.

Every year I meet someone who I would have never met had it not been for NARFE. Maybe this isn't important to all of you but to me this is one of the greatest joys of being a NARFE member. Some of these people have become some of my best friends even though miles separate our every day lives. This is a benefit that most generally will only happen when you attend conventions.



Treasurer

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Tickets or chances for the Federation Drawing have been coming in nicely. If more tickets are needed please make additional copies or contact me and I will send you more pages of tickets. Please keep selling and buying chances. Tickets are \$1 for one (1) 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 the Kansas State 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.

Chapter President's and Secretaries – Please Share the Following Information with Your Chapter Treasurer

Filing Form 990-N for 2009: This filing must be completed by **every chapter prior to May 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.

Internet Instructions: Go to: <http://epostcard.form990.org>

If you already have a password: sign on using your EIN number and password – follow the screens for instructions.

If you are a new treasurer or did not file the form 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.

When you receive your receipt for filing, please forward your e-mail receipt to me so I can check your chapter off from the Tax Number list of Kansas Chapters. I have been asked to verify that all Chapters have filed.

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 \$25,000.00.

EIN # _____ Signature and Date _____



Immediate Past President / Federal Legislative Chair

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We are getting closer to Convention. This means we still need folks like you to think about running for a State Federation Office. As of today, March 16, we still do not have candidates for all Federation Offices. I would encourage each Chapter Officer, elected and appointed, to think seriously about running for one of the offices, and encouraging your chapter members to do so. Elected Federation officers include: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. You will have a good time helping and leading Federal Retirees and Active Employees in order to protect their present retirement benefits. I have recently contacted your Area Vice-President to solicit candidates. If you were asked to run for office, please step up and serve.

On a different subject, Health Care Reform, Congressional and Presidential approval is still 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 program 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 (the Surritte family has experienced a 182% increase in health premium costs since 2001 for FEHBP coverage); 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 ten (10) years according to the Congressional Budget Office. We should know before 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 10 years, this, as I said earlier, is a good thing.

To continue; both of our Senators, Brownback and Roberts, voted on March 3, 2010, against the Senate Amendment to allow retirees \$250 to pay for their Health Benefits premiums which in our State increased on average over 15%, \$276 for an individual and over \$500 for a family. This was to offset the affect of no COLA in 2010 for Social Security, Federal Retirement and other Government Retirement programs because supposedly cost did not go up last year.

Finally, on August 3, 2010, primaries will be run to select candidates for Senator Brownback's seat, and Congressmen's Moore, Moran and Tiahrt's seats. Between now and then it is incumbent that Area VP's and Chapter officers get to know their candidates. It is important we stay proactive and let all candidates know our issues and needs. You can find good information to pass on to the candidates in our NARFE magazine and at the NARFE National web site. There is a good handout to be found there on our Legislative program.

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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Umm-things to do today. Okay, we all have our to do lists and this might give you some ideas on what to put on yours.

I would put contributions to NARFE/PAC as number one. This is certainly the time to have money to give candidates that we think will be supportive of us and the benefits we have earned. As one of our members said today "you are not fully dressed unless you are wearing you NARFE/PAC pin".

I like to contribute to our scholarship fund that helps children and grandchildren of our members. Seniors in high school can apply for this scholarship. Several are awarded in each region.

Also, I contribute to the disaster fund. When disaster strikes where you live, some moneys are available to the NARFE members. This happens before insurance or other help is forthcoming. If you are in need of the simple things in life such as food to eat or cleaning supplies, this help is a godsend. The above are found in your monthly magazine. There are coupons there that will help you in how to direct your contribution.

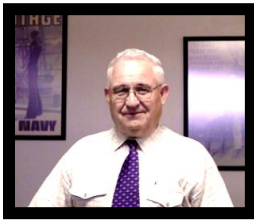
I have enjoyed visiting with several Chapters. The Topeka chapter welcomed me in the fall and also to their Christmas meeting. I went to Lawrence for the installation of officers and another meeting. Of course, I attended my own chapter meetings in Shawnee Mission. I met with Valley Falls then disaster struck for me. I was really sick and it lasted for over a month with a short hospital visit in there. Now I am back on the trail of visiting chapters again. I plan on being in Holton and enjoying being with them. Next on my list is going to the Federation convention in Topeka and being on one of the committees while there.

In NARFE, we meet so many wonderful people. We all have had different experiences yet have all worked for the Federal government.

"Noise means nothing! Often a hen who has merely laid an egg cackles as if she has laid an asteroid."

Mark Twain





Area 1A Vice President

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As I start to write this column on March 20 (the first day of Spring) there is 6+ inches of new snow on the ground. It seems this is the winter that never ends.

I would like to reminisce some about what I have observed during the last two years. In all chapters of Area 1A, I have seen some new faces emerge as officers (this is good). In every chapter I have seen new members recruited (and this is good). The sad part about this is that in many Chapters, there are more members who have passed away or not renewed for some other reason, than they have gained new members. This certainly means we have more serious work to do.

It has also been my great pleasure to see very dedicated and sincere officers and members in every Chapter. I also believe every Chapter knows we need to keep our membership up so we can remain a viable and effective organization. “Thank You” for your good work and please keep it up.

In regards to the State Officers, much personal time and effort is devoted. I have appreciated each and every one of them and I would like to express my special gratitude to several who have impressed me with the amount of time and effort they have devoted during the two (2) years I have been involved. Carol Ek, as Secretary and Newsletter Editor, has impressed me with the volume, variety and quality of service rendered. Robert Cranmer, as President, has been all over the state attending Chapter meetings and various other functions plus trying to keep the rest of us on the right track. Gale Beck, as Area VP – Advisory Officer – and State Training Officer, has spent many hours (along with several other officers) working to preserve and heal weak Chapters. Jim Gaskell, as Area VP and Time and Place Chairman, has devoted much time and effort to find Chapters that will accept the responsibility of our State Conventions (and this is not easy). Madelyn Brown and Jerry Ketter who served as Treasurer in 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 respectfully, this job is time consuming and exacting. John Surritte and Jim Miller have devoted much time in keeping up with the state and federal legislation and keeping us informed of this legislation and the Representative and Senators standings on issues. Thanks to all of you.

Please attend the State Convention at the Downtown Ramada Inn at Topeka on April 25-27. Please make yourself available to serve as a Chapter or State Officer. Please make a continual effort to recruit a new member.

I'll close with a quote from John Wooden, “You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.”



“God gives every bird his worm, but He doesn't throw it into the nest.”



Area 2 Vice President / Kansas Federation Training Officer

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I have visited the Osage City Chapter 2099 during the past month and the Ottawa Chapter 785 which is one of the elder chapters so to speak in Kansas. All have been reminded of the upcoming Kansas Convention, April 25-27, at the Downtown Ramada Inn, Topeka, Kansas.

So what is new?? "The Usual?" As per usual it is found that it is so easy to leave it up to someone else to take care of; "protect"; and look after our "Retirement Benefits" income. With Congress considering setting our house on fire and us loosing some of our benefits, so what? Some other good NARFE members will spend their time, their money, and their retirement years looking after and protecting my retirement. We can forget about the convention, forget about supporting PAC, supporting our chapter, someone will step up to the plate? Will that someone always be there? "It is time that all NARFE members become more active (involved)." "When?" "Now is not too soon!"

The following is a reprint from the National Letter Carriers dated 16 January 1993 entitled **"Do you just belong?????????"**

"ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER, THE KIND WHO WOULD ASSIST, OR ARE YOU JUST CONTENT, THAT YOUR NAME IS ON THE LIST?

DO YOU ATTEND THE MEETINGS AND MINGLE WITH THE CROWDS? OR DO YOU STAY AT HOME AND CRY BOTH LONG AND LOUD?

DO YOU TAKE AN ACTIVE PART TO HELP THE CAUSE ALONG (YOUR CHAPTER???) OR ARE YOU SATISFIED TO BE THE KIND TO "JUST BELONG"

DO YOU TRY TO BE AMONG THOSE WHO HELP THE LOCAL GROUP.....OR LEAVE THE JOB FOR OTHERS AND JUST NOT GIVE A HOOT?

THERE'S QUITE A PROGRAM SCHEDULED THAT MEANS SUCCESS, IF DONE....AND IT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE HELP OF EVERYONE. SO ATTEND EACH BUSINESS MEETING (CONVENTION) AND HELP WITH HAND AND HEART, DON'T BE JUST A MEMBER, BUT TAKE AN ACTIVE PART.

THINK THIS OVER MEMBER, IS THIS RIGHT OR WRONG??? ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER OR DO YOU "JUST BELONG"?

Chapter officers, please, keep your membership informed on the upcoming convention. Encourage them "to join you" in attending the convention. It is not only the chapter presidents, secretaries and Federation Executive Board Convention. **"IT IS EVERY KANSAS NARFE MEMBERS CONVENTION."** Make it a point to attend this one. "Please", please share the convention information with yourrrrrrrrrr chapter members.



Area 2A Vice President

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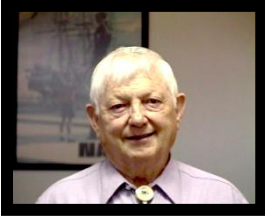
We are moving at super sonic speed toward the April 25-27 NARFE Convention in Topeka. It is still not too late to recruit a member who has never attended one of our State conventions. It could change their whole outlook on NARFE and what we as a “grass roots organization” have done and are doing for the sake of all federal employees and retirees. I have witnessed several people who came away from a State NARFE convention with a completely new and valuable understanding of our mission in NARFE.

Area 2A will try to organize (or reactivate) a new NARFE chapter in Parsons, Kansas. The previous chapter folded about seven (7) years ago because they failed to recruit and find people who would accept leadership responsibility. Now, under the leadership of Jane Beachner of St. Paul, we may be able to make a new chapter possible. Our State Federation of Chapters held a recruitment meeting in Parsons in October of 2009 and found several persons who expressed interest in becoming members and several joined NARFE for the first time. It is these new members and present members living in Labette County where the core leadership is present. We have scheduled an organizational meeting in Parsons for June 21. We had originally scheduled it for January of this year but due to weather and other conflicts it had to be moved to the June date.

I and others have brought this message before but we must remember and practice our strong understanding that we can find new members and get them into an active NARFE chapter. That is the only way chapters can grow and survive. Recruiting is not difficult. You start by asking a person you know to become a member and explain to them that they worked for the federal government for many years and now that they are retired, they need to “work for themselves” by joining NARFE to protect their hard earned and promised benefits that we now have. We have members of Congress stating to other members of Congress that federal retirement benefits are not a given thing. ***Congress gave us all our benefits and Congress can take those benefits away.*** Our nation is in a recession and money for budgets is hard to find. Both the state and federal legislators are and will be looking to see where they can cut expenses to meet their budgets. It does not take a genius to know that they will be looking at our pensions and health care benefits as a source of money to run our government. We need to be informed and prepared to meet their proposals to strip or reduce our benefits. Being an active member of NARFE is a good first step in “working for yourself”.

“The only thing wrong with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket!”





Area 3 Vice President / PAC (Political Action Committee)

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Spring is a time of renewal. The grass is growing, early spring flowers are emerging from their winter hideout. Perhaps we should take a cue from nature and brighten our smiles, put a hint of excitement in our greetings and look forward to a new beginning. Our National President, Margaret Baptiste, made reference to *Conventions being a Contact Sport*. Let's all adopt some of that enthusiasm shown in her article on page 6 or the April, 2010, NARFE magazine. Make up your mind to spread cheer and enthusiasm in our every day contacts and our outlook on the future of NARFE in our lives.

Reread the March, 2010, Legislative Report on page 8, "Federal Retirement and Health Benefits O.K. in President's FY 2011 Budget; Page 12, House Hearing Probes FEHBP Drug Benefit; Page 18, Roundup of State Taxation of Federal Annuities. These are all items that make up a great entry to interest stirring conversations with your acquaintances who are NARFE eligible *BUT* not yet NARFE members. I once heard a talk by a Kansas person who was being sent to South America to turn around a lagging business in that country. He was told, DON'T COME HOME UNTIL YOU HAVE THAT SITUATION TURNED AROUND. Do we need that kind of thought – "don't quit selling NARFE membership to your NARFE eligible acquaintances until they are NARFE members? Remember, Spring is in the Air, spread the word around – GO NARFE.

Another of your NARFE sales jobs is talk Kansas NARFE Annual Convention attendance. Topeka has a great program arranged for us. Urge those around you to be an attendee. It is a great opportunity to revitalize NARFE spirit. Call your NARFE Chapter President and tell of your need to be an attendee at Topeka, April 25 thru April 27. Do your part to make this convention one of the best.

I'll see you in Topeka!!

NARFE PAC – YOUR POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Get out your March, 2010, issue of NARFE and review pages 18, 19, 20 and 22. The article by Jacob Cassady and Christopher Farrell, Legislative Representatives is a real read. These articles outline the reasons you should be a great supporter of NARFE-PAC. The article is appropriately title **NARFE-PAC POLITICAL MIGHT MULTIPLIED**. That article is a must read for all Federal Employees and retirees. The article outlines how much good NARFE-PAC does for us. It is so very critical that we take this opportunity to protect our influence through NARFE. Go back and reread that article and share it with those current and retired Federal Employees of your acquaintance. (It could be great leads for you to be making a recruitment pitch to someone you are trying to recruit to NARFE membership.)

All of you received a letter from National President Margaret Baptiste dated March 5, 2010, urging you to make a contribution to NARFE-PAC. This letter contained a NARFE-PAC Contribution Card. Of great concern to me is the fact that the card did not have a means of linking your contribution to your Chapter. It would appear to me that, simply filling out the amount you were sending would not

give your NARFE Chapter credit for that contribution. So, it is hoped that you either added that information to the form or clipped a form from your NARFE magazine and used it to accompany your NARFE-PAC contribution.

A good number of Kansas NARFE members have mailed their NARFE-PAC contributions to me. We will have an opportunity to make contributions at the annual meeting this month in Topeka. I will have a supply of the NARFE-PAC pins available so that you can display the visual fact that you are a NARFE-PAC supporter.

Please urge your fellow NARFE members to help Kansas to remain the top State Federation to support NARFE-PAC in our Region. Kansas was first last year and it seems that other states will be trying to outrank Kansas. So, talk NARFE-PAC to your fellow Kansas NARFE members about keeping Kansas Number ONE.



Area 4 Vice President

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I visited the Wichita Chapter's noon luncheon meeting on March 17th. The Chapter meets at the Home Town Buffet west side on the 3rd Wednesday in uneven months. The guest speaker was Jay Prather, KAKE TV weatherman. He started his talk by giving some perspective about what it's like to be a weather person in south central Kansas. Much more challenging than many parts of the country because of the many variations in Kansas weather patterns, plus the extensive area in Kansas for which he has reporting responsibilities. The second part of his talk was answering many of the member's questions regarding this winter's unusual weather which included a rare phenomenon called hoarfrost. Unusual in Kansas because it can only occur when the air is very still. Interesting programs draw members to the meetings and I applaud the Wichita NARFE program committee. In addition, the chapter committees gave their reports and updated the members on the status of the many NARFE issues on the forefront at this time.

Indeed, NARFE information has been flowing at a very rapid pace especially since the first of the year. There are many important issues on the table and NARFE HQ is working hard to interpret, weigh and keep members informed about the fast flow of changes. That is why it can be readily argued that membership in NARFE is more important than ever. It was reported in the Wichita Chapter's last newsletter that they have seen "an awakening People who have never been involved in politics are attending meetings, signing petitions, calling or writing their legislators and discussing elections....." This is healthy and certainly what our country's forefathers intended us to do, as long as it is done with civility and a balanced consideration for the issues.

Since January, I have carried with me and reminded NARFE members that schedule M can be filed and attached to the SSA 1040 tax return if members meet the requirements and are eligible to receive the \$250 one-time payment NARFE HQ fought hard last fall to include in the Federal budget. Several approached me after the Wichita meeting to ask questions concerning the form.

I look forward to attending the Cowley County chapter meeting on April 12th and the NARFE convention in Topeka the end of April.



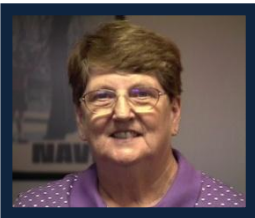
Area 5 Vice President

*Ronald Katt
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NARFE members qualifying for distinguished membership are commended. It takes dedicated members to make an association strong and that is why I was privileged February 3, 2010, when I attended Chapter 1991, Goodland's meeting to honor distinguished members. Four qualifying members were present to receive their distinguished membership awards from NARFE.

It's also with special pride that I have witnessed complete revitalization of Chapter 2053, Oberlin. This chapter has recruited nine (9) new members since November 19th, 2009, which is a 64.29% increase. They are now holding regular meetings and have good programs which draw the members to the meetings. I will not be carrying a Proxy for their chapter this year because one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate delegate will be attending the convention in Topeka.

NARFE members are encouraged to continue proactive in protecting their earned benefits. Keep responding to national and state officer's directions for e-mails, letters, etc. to national and state legislators in support of NARFE issues.



Area 6 Vice President

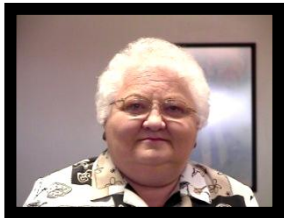
*Brenda A. Myers
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I'd like to call your attention to the message from National President Margaret Baptiste in the March magazine. It makes a good second read and especially the message under her picture. "Let's stay focused on our core mission, and let's do it with respect for one another." It's my intention to "retire" from the Area VI Vice President position. I've been working more as a substitute Paraprofessional at the Holcomb Elementary schools. As far as I know we will have four representatives from our Area at convention in Topeka, my how the time flies, it's getting closer and closer. Carla Cranmer will be the Area VI representative on the nominating committee, Brenda Myers on the Audit Committee. Thanks to Robert Cranmer for his leadership, friendship, and advice these two years.

Visits have been made to Scott City, Dodge City and Garden City chapter meetings. Attendance is low in a couple chapters. It seems like too many are getting so busy with other things NARFE is way on the back burner. We need one of those great "light bulb" ideas to get people interested again. It would be great to get the younger retirees signed up whether they attend meetings or not. Ulysses has changed their date in April so I can't make that meeting.

Actually, I have received notice of Jury Duty so don't know if any of my spring plans will finalize.

Thanks to all of my NARFE friends for their prayers, thoughts and cards honoring the loss of my oldest grandson's wife, Audi Rae, on February 5th. She was a brave lady and hoped that all she went through with treatments would benefit others.



Alzheimer's Chairperson

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We have the final 2009 numbers. The Kansas chapters collected \$30,604.93 which comes to \$6.46 per member. Our goal was \$5.25. Thanks to all, you have surpassed that goal. I will be sending the final 2009 report to Chapter Alzheimer's Chairpersons in early April. The Alzheimer's Committee will establish the 2010 goal at the Federation Convention to be held April 25-27 in Topeka.

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

Freestate Lawrence
Chapter 0378



Wendy Hamblly has made a queen sized quilt (108" x 97") to be raffled at the Convention. Tickets will be sold for \$1 for one or \$5 for six. This picture was taken before the quilt was bound. Binding is a rust colored fabric. The center pattern is "Storm at Sea".

Profits will be donated to NARFE Alzheimer's.

Brochure FH-12 (01/10) has been updated. These may be ordered via the F-18 through the NARFE website. Please destroy any earlier versions.

As of January, 2010, NARFE members have given \$8,513,845.29 to Alzheimer's Research.



State Legislative

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If you have seen a football coach, official or player toss a handful of grass into the air before a kickoff to determine the direction and strength of the prevailing wind, you have captured a snapshot of this legislative session. This week of March 8-13, because of the many amendments being offered to bills, with few legislators in the House paying attention, it was agreed to table ANY discussion on taxes, revenues, budgets until May 3rd. (Note...the legislators convened on January 12, making a 90 day adjournment around April 12). Reason? By then the legislators should have a clearer picture of how revenues were coming in, especially income taxes. Woops! The week of March 15-20, after hearing from many constituents, Americans for Prosperity, representatives for education and the most vulnerable of our citizens; leaders in both the House and the Senate have decided the week of March 22-27 will be engaging in lengthy FLOOR sessions with HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS hanging in the balance. (If you have read this far, WE are somewhere in that mix.) There are implications for every motorist, state government employee and retiree, public school students, and social services recipients. The Legislature will “explore” spending cuts (where?) tax hikes (where?) or a combination of both, to resolve a Kansas budget deficit approaching \$400 million. Chapter 0002 citizen lobbyists will continue to listen, and raise the issue of fairness, should federal retirees be “cherry picked” out of the income tax benefit package. My hope is; ***YOU, dear reader, have made the same point with YOUR legislators.*** If not, as my Senator and Representative have said, EVERYTHING is on the table this session.



Retirement Benefits (Service Officer)

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Most of the Chapters in Kansas have been notified of the production of the new F-100, “Be Prepared for Life’s Events” dated March 2010. It is a change from the old F-100 to include more details. The purpose of the form is to help each member organize their personal and financial information into one location so that your survivors will have information that is so important in the matters of your estate. While one’s death is a difficult topic to discuss; reviewing this information with your family will help them to understand the steps they will need to take. Any questions that come up also can be addressed. You should ensure that your family members review this form with you and know where it is located. You also should review this guide periodically to ensure that the information is up-to-date. I suggest and recommend that all Chapters and their Service Officers request this new F-

100 as soon as possible. I requested the forms for the Convention and my Chapter, received them within a week. These new forms F-100 are for Chapter members only.



NARFE Net / Historian

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With all of the changes being made in your Medical and Medicare systems, it is even more important to get all of the updates from NARFE HQ. If you are not receiving the HQ internet messages, be sure to go to the NARFE.org web site and check your e-mail listing.

For those attending the KS NARFE convention in Topeka, we will be covering some of the following items during the “computer workshop” on Sunday evening. How to use the magnify your screen application in your Windows program; how files are stored on your hard drive; how to make file folders; and, how to copy files to your computer will be discussed. As time permits, we will try to answer any other computer questions you might have.

Hope to see you at the convention.