



# Kansas NARFE News From Your Federation Officers

June – July, 2008

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## President's Message / Retirement Benefits Chair

By Mary E. Fritzson

Little did I know when I was elected your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President at the 2008 State Convention that I would be assuming the Federation President position within a matter of days. I feel good about the Executive Board members and the support they have offered to give me. One of Eleanor Roosevelt's quotations reads, "When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die." That's when I decided it was time to accept the challenge and opportunity to serve as your President with the help of others.

Many of you do not know me that well. Believe me, I'm a firm believer in NARFE and what it stands for. That's why I'm a life member at both the National and chapter level. I want to be a member of this fine organization so long as I live.

I was widowed in December, 1984, and remarried a widower June 30, 1990. I now have a large step family with four step children and spouses, 14 step grandchildren and 12 step great grandchildren. There is never a dull moment in our lives.

I retired from the Department of Agriculture (ASCS/now known as FSA) in Manhattan, Kansas, after 34 ½ years of service. I was an Administrative Assistant in Personnel Management at time of retirement in early January, 1987, and was my agency's EEO Counselor and Retirement Counselor. I was privileged and proud of the act that I knew agency personnel in all 105 counties in the State of Kansas. During my Federal service, I assisted with statewide training meetings.

I've held various NARFE leadership positions in Kaw Blue Chapter 0366 in Manhattan, Kansas. I was Chapter President in 2000 and again in 2001. Prior to that, I served as Vice President for membership for two years and was named top recruiter in Kansas in 1998. I started our chapter newsletter in 1995 and served as editor for 4 ½ years. I am currently Vice President for Programs, have served on the chapter nominations committee for five years, on the calling committee for more than ten years and proofreader for the newsletter for more than five years. Since 1994, I have served as a delegate to all State Convention except three. I joined NARFE in 1987 but did not become active until 1994 because I was working in the private sector after retirement.

In September 2007, I was appointed Federation Service Officer and served as a trainer at area training seminars in Iola, Kansas City, and Clay Center in 2007 and at Hays and Wichita in 2008.

**"Teamwork is the key to a successful organization."**

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## Ex-President's Message

By Gary E. Townson ([gesst@prodigy.net](mailto:gesst@prodigy.net))

The Federation Convention in Hutchinson was a good convention. John Lancaster worked diligently in helping the Hutchinson chapter organize and host it. There were 204 delegates representing all 45 chapters.

The two Alzheimer's auctions were both successful. The silent auction raised \$2,445.00 and the live auction brought in \$1,590.00 for a total collection of \$4,035.00.

Every year Dick Thissen presents us with a NARFE-PAC challenge. The Missouri Federation convention is held just prior to ours. He lets us know how much PAC funds they collected to see if we can beat it. He advised me that they had collected \$1,200 and we should use that as our target. Glen Darge spent a great deal of time at the PAC table and the total collected for PAC was \$1,841!

As most of you know, I was candidate for Federation President. No one else ran for the job and I was elected by acclamation. The position of Federation President entails many responsibilities. There are numerous Federation appointments that must be made. Some people had agreed to serve in various areas but there were still several appointments I did not have anyone willing to accept. Tuesday afternoon, we left the convention. By the following Sunday night I had still been unable to get members to agree to take numerous jobs. Sunday night was the worst time I have ever encountered. I have never accepted an assignment with a flippant attitude. My word is my BOND. If I agree to do something, the promise is sacred.

The Sunday night following the convention, any time I tried to go to sleep, I woke up with a **PANIC ATTACK** and could not breathe. By dawn on Monday, I was as close to having a nervous breakdown as I have ever come. In 1998, I was diagnosed with Lung Cancer. My left lung was removed. I endured Chemotherapy and Radiation treatments. I am short of breath but had never had this kind of problem. Monday morning, I visited with my lung doctor. He said my lung is functioning OK. He observed that chronic pain can cause this kind of problems. I had my family physician do a complete blood workup. Everything checked out within the acceptable norms. He also mentioned chronic pain. The consensus of opinion is that it is "JUST NERVES"!

I saw no alternative than to resign as Kansas Federation President. Since I was sworn in and then resigned, I created a title for myself. I am the "**Almost Federation President**". I had already resigned as Wichita Chapter President. The "Title" of my position within the chapter should be Immediate Past President. I feel I forfeited that title when I just quit. That is the reason I refer to myself as Ex-President. I am truly sorry! I know I am letting all of you and the Kansas Federation down. I am upset by my emotional weakness but must look after myself and my family. Thank you for all your support.

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**We cannot always control what happens around us,  
but we can control how we feel about it.**

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**Vice President / Membership Chair**  
**By Elizabeth Bornman ([bornmane@aol.com](mailto:bornmane@aol.com))**

During the past several months, I attended the State Convention, in Hutchinson, which I thought was successful. I would like to thank those in attendance for re-electing me as your Second Vice President. I ran against a strong contender, Peggy Hughes of Hutchinson, Kansas.

We will have a lot of new individuals on the Executive Board. I know we all will work to keep your federation strong.

As the Federation Membership chairman, I served at the convention as the facilitator for the membership committee. We worked on a draft membership plan, in which each chapter is to adapt the plan for the area in which their chapter is located. I requested copies of all the plans. However, I will solicit copies if I don't receive a sufficient response. I e-mailed each chapter a copy of the draft to use as a guide to the Membership chairperson or if none, to the President or officer with an e-mail address. The overall numbers are not going in an upward direction. We have to make an assertive effort my all to keep chapters alive. We need to push Dues Withholding with current membership.

Hopefully, next year more individuals will consider running for a Federation office.

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**Vice President / Public Relations Chair**  
**By Robert Cranmer ([rcranmer@gbta.net](mailto:rcranmer@gbta.net))**

I was so sorry to get President Gary Townson's resignation. I know what it meant to him. Gary, I wish you the very best.

I would like to congratulate Mary Fritzson for becoming the Federation President.

I was asked by President Fritzson to become the Public Relations chair. I gladly accepted. I will be the custodian of the Federation banners and display cases. Please use them by calling me at (785) 798-2849.

I leave you with a partial quote from J. F. Kennedy: **Ask not what the Federation can do for you but what you can do for the Federation?**

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*If ignorance is bliss,  
why aren't more people jumping up and down for joy?*

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**Immediate Past President / Federal Legislative Officer**  
**By John F. Surritte ([jfsurritte@hotmail.com](mailto:jfsurritte@hotmail.com))**

This is my first newsletter article as your Immediate Past President. I have also retained the federal legislative duties until after the National elections this November, 2008.

I enjoyed being your State President these past two years and I thank you for your support.

I want to acknowledge the service of Gary Townson these past four years while serving on your Federation Board. Gary served as 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and also served as Federation PAC Chair since 2004. He was instrumental in raising many PAC funds to support those Kansas Senators and Representative which supported our Legislative initiatives. Under his leadership, we ranked No. 1 in our Region and in the top 10 States nationwide. In his spare time, he also served as Wichita Chapter President. I want to compliment him on a job well done.

As you know, Gary was elected State President on April 28, 2008, at our State Convention in Hutchinson. Unfortunately, because of health reasons, he told us he would not be able to serve on May 8, 2008, and resigned from the Presidency on May 16, 2008. I consider Gary a good friend and a great supporter of NARFE. I personally wish him and his family the very best. THANKS GARY FOR YOUR SERVICE! I also want to commend Ms. Mary Fritzon, State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, who will succeed Gary as your State President. I have worked with Mary since our State Convention last year in Junction City and have found her to be a very competent and caring leader for our organization. She will do an excellent job as President this next year.

The State Convention was a great success. Based on your evaluation feedback, I believe you enjoyed yourselves and received a lot of information which will strengthen your Chapters to provide the service to our 5,000 Kansas members, and indeed, all 50,000 plus Active and Retired Federal folks in our State. I would like to thank John Lancaster and the members of the Hutchinson Chapter for their great convention. Bill Collins, Clyde Woolfolk, Harold Gottsch and all of their Chapter members did a great job.

On the Federal Legislative front, you should be proud that all of our U.S. Representatives; Boyda, Moore, Moran and Tiahrt support our Premium Conservation and GPO/WEP legislation. I want to recognize John Lancaster, Gary Townson, and all the other folks in Congressional District 4 that got Representative Tiahrt on board. Also, Senators Brownback and Roberts support our Premium Conversion. This is a big improvement on where we stood 4 years ago. Thanks to all of you.

Also, NARFE Headquarters has asked that we contact all of our Senators and Representatives, as well as those folks running against them in November, this August, 2008, and let them know our initiatives we would like them to support. Since all of our incumbents now support us, at the very least we should let them know we appreciate their support. This can be done with phone calls, emails or personal visits. I will be asking, in September, what your chapter did during August. In advance, I thank you for your efforts.

In closing, you have a great NARFE organization in Kansas. I ask you to continue working to protect your benefits by supporting your Chapters and your Federation.

Thanks again for your support.

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**Secretary**

By Carol R. Ek ([crek67460@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crek67460@sbcglobal.net))

The final gavel fell on the 54<sup>th</sup> Kansas State Convention on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Salt City, Chapter 0537, Hutchinson, hosted a great convention under the leadership of Harold Gottsch and Clyde Woolfolk, Co-Convention Chairmen; Bill Collins, Chapter President; John Lancaster, Area 4 Vice-President; and the many members who pitched in to welcome all attendees.

The resolution asking for an increase in yearly per-capita dues was adopted as amended by the delegates. Kansas Bylaws have been changed to read: (Article VIII, Revenues and Expenses, Section 1.) The revenues shall be derived from the payment of each chapter of a Per Capita assessment of one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per member listed on form M-110 or similar report issued by NARFE headquarters as of November 30 of each year, with the exception of honorary, National Only, and Non-Voting Life members.

The resolution regarding Alzheimer's funds was withdrawn by the author of the resolution.

Chuck Timanus, Public Relations Director, NARFE Headquarters, received a warm welcome. As a part of Chuck's report to the convention, he included tales from his days and nights spent in Western Kansas reporting sports on the radio.

We do have several new members on our Federation Executive Board this year along with some who are changing job titles. Area 1A has a new Area Vice President, Eugene H. Harter of Atchison. Area 4 has a new Area Vice President, Peggy Hughes of Hutchinson. Area 6 has a new Area Vice President, Brenda Myers of Garden City. Congratulations to each of them and we wish them a successful relationship with their new assignment.

Chapter 002, James Miller has returned to watch over our State Legislative matters. Jim tells me that he is not the State Legislative chair but the Chapter will watch over our benefits to alert us if anything is amiss.

Janice A. Neuschafer, McPherson, has accepted the position of Alzheimer's Chairperson; and, Robert Cranmer has returned to the Executive Board as Vice President.

We are now looking forward to the National Convention which will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, September 7-12. Several members from Kansas are attending the convention so I hope all of you will get your forms turned in soon. The C/08-1 must be signed and returned to Headquarter by June 9<sup>th</sup>. The C/08-3 original and green copy should be returned to Headquarters **if delegates are attending the convention** from your chapter. The yellow copy needs to be sent to me with the gold copy retained by the chapter. **If no one is attending**, sign the form and send the entire form to me. I will return proper copies as soon as they are completed.

**Order Officer Badges At:** [www.fraternalupply.com](http://www.fraternalupply.com) or, Fraternal Supply, P. O. Box 1780, Chesterfield, VA 2832. Telephone: (804) 790-1566.

**Order T – Shirts, Sweatshirts, ETC with NARFE Logo At:** SM Teamworks, Custom Screen Printing, 526 Bertrand, St. Marys, KS 66536-1695. Telephone: (785) 437-3020.

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### **Treasurer**

**By Madelyn Brown ([madelyn11@cox.net](mailto:madelyn11@cox.net))**

The Executive Board approved holding a drawing at the convention where any profits earned would go into the Federation Treasury. Prizes were awarded in the amount of \$100 for first place; \$50 for second place; and a basket for third place. Because of the lateness in announcing this drawing, I think we did pretty well. Winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Richard Thissen; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Barb Pretzer; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Karol Katt. We did make a profit of \$137.00.

Thank you to the Hutchinson Chapter for a great convention.

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### **Area 1 Vice President**

**By Thomas E. Raby ([thomasraby1@comcast.net](mailto:thomasraby1@comcast.net))**

The 2008 Federation Convention is in the vault. The Hutchinson Chapter did a great job with assistance from Wichita and McPherson. The changes on the Federation Executive Board are significant this year. Most of us were looking forward to working with Gary Townson as President. Our prayers and hopes go with Gary as he deals with life's curves.

I may have upset some folks when I reminded them that the fate of our income tax exemption in Kansas is tied to the same exemption enjoyed by KPERS retirees. While this is technically correct, I have to concede that legislators have very often enacted laws that violated other laws. This can result in expensive legislation for the injured party to get proper relief. As someone who monitors my board of county commissioners and city council, I'm very grateful that we have folks in Topeka that monitor the State House. Though not directly related to NARFE, one of our members is monitoring a school district and their financial practices. Thanks to all who stay involved in politics at all levels. They're all spending our money, and; government manufactures and sells nothing tangible or marketable. Even life insurance companies give you something to die for.

The new executive board has some challenges ahead, but with the increase in per-capita tax, we will be able to afford new efforts in recruiting and advertising.

I've started the new rounds of visits to Area 1 chapters. Visiting folks that don't go to conventions (or travel very far) helps in getting feedback for those of us who are able to know our federation officers members. I urge all of you to keep in touch with your Area VP if you have any needs, questions, or ideas.

## **Area 1A Vice President**

**By Eugene H. Harter ([ehh7305@yahoo.com](mailto:ehh7305@yahoo.com))**

I wish to express my appreciation to the Area 1A chapters for allowing me to serve as your Area 1A Vice President. I also wish to extend an appreciation to T. J. Robinson for his many years as Area 1A Vice President. I know in the last year or so T. J. has been hindered by personal and family health problems and I offer him and his family my prayers and good wishes for their comfort and return to good health. It was also pleasing to know that all chapters of Area 1A were represented at the State Convention.

I also wish to commend the (Salt City) Hutchinson chapter for a superb job of hosting the 54<sup>th</sup> State Convention. It was a pleasure to see three (3) of my Extension compatriots (Harold Gottsch, Bill Collins, and Gene Algrim) working so hard. We appreciated it and we thank you. And a big thank you to all chapters for your contribution to the Alzheimer's fund and the NARFE-PAC fund.

Now a little about my background: First off my wife Sally and I have 5 children. I grew up on a farm north of Bern, Kansas, in Nemaha County. I served in the US Army from 4/1954 to 1/1957. I graduated from Kansas State University 1/1960 with a B.S. Degree in Agriculture. Most of my federal employment was with the Kansas Extension Service. I started out as Assistant County Agent in Atchison County in 1960. Later, I served as County Agricultural Extension Agent in Jackson County, Pottawatomie County, and Kingman County. I also served as Agricultural Extension Economist for NE Kansas Farm Management Association in Brown and Doniphan counties and Soil Conservationist for Bureau of Indian Affairs at Horton, Kansas. In my non-federal employment life, I was Agricultural Rep and Ass't Cashier at Farmers State Bank in Westmoreland for 5 years and was a full time farmer in Pottawatomie County for about 16 years.

With membership recruitment and retention as major goals of NARFE, I was impressed by a piece in Jim Gaskell's newsletter (Remember how you were recruited to NARFE? Did a friend or fellow worker ask you to become a member? We all know at least one or more persons either working for the federal government or are retired or are survivors of a federal retiree. All these persons can benefit if they become members). Another valuable help for all to read is the NARFE leaflet (LET US NEVER FORGET ALL THAT NARFE HAS DONE FOR FEDERAL RETIREES, AND THOSE YET TO RETIRE). This green leaflet was handed out at the State Convention by Gale Beck and was originally developed by Arlo Hagge, NFVP, Region V Iowa; Updated by Jim Dodd, past Kansas Federation President; Updated by Past Kansas President, John Lancaster; Updated by Gale Beck, Past Kansas President and Area II Vice President and Past Region V NFVP. The information in this leaflet is an excellent reminder to us, and a helpful tool to use in getting new members and retaining our current members.

Since the State Convention, I have visited the Nemaha County, Chapter 1948, meeting and my own Chapter, Atchison 621, meeting. If any of you in Area 1A have a time I can come and visit with you, either now or this fall, please let me know.

I will close with a quote from Sherry Anderson, **“Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless”**.

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**Area 2 Vice President / Federation Advisor / Training Officer**  
**By Gale D. Beck ([beckgjks26@netks.net](mailto:beckgjks26@netks.net))**

The Kansas NARFE Convention is history. Of the eight areas in Kansas, four have new Area Vice Presidents. Area 1A, Eugene H. Harter of Muscotah; Area 3, Donald L. Cooper of Manhattan; Area 4, Peggy A. Hughes of Hutchinson; and Area 6, Brenda Myers, Holcomb, Kansas. This means that 50% of the Area Vice Presidents in Kansas are coming on board for their first term. Chapter Presidents should extend an invitation to your new Area VP, or your continuing VP, to attend one of your chapter meetings and ask them to give your chapter an update on NARFE issues. It is realized that some chapters do not meet during the summer months; however, it is still not too early to arrange for that first chapter visitation so that your chapter members can mark the date and plan to attend.

The Federation Executive Board will hold its first board meeting with the new Executive Board, Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, at Emporia, Kansas.

Chapters in Southwest Kansas, Area 6, are to be “Thanked” for their support of the Memberships Recruitment Program they supported during the early part of April. Chapter 1709, Golden Belt of Great Bend; Chapter 1873, High Plains, Dodge City; Chapter 1995, Garden City; Chapter 1996, Scott City; and Chapter 2086, Ulysses. We hope that the assistance that was provided will help your chapters to grow in membership during the coming years. If you have need for additional assistance, please feel free to contact your Area VP. This was an experimental program and we wish your chapters and all chapters in Kansas success in membership growth in 2008/2009. **“Membership does not ‘just happen’; it takes planning and work by all of your membership.”**

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**Area 2A Vice President**  
**By Jim Gaskell ([jlgaskell@cableone.net](mailto:jlgaskell@cableone.net))**

As an introduction of myself, I am one of the old timers in two ways. First: I have held several offices in NARFE since I joined just about ten years ago. I was recruited by an article in Federal Times from an advertisement for NARFE membership. When I read the ad, I made the decision that NARFE was an organization I wanted to belong to so I mailed in my application. I have had no regrets. Secondly: I hope to celebrate my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday near the end of May, 08.

I enjoy working with my five NARFE chapters here in southeastern Kansas. People and chapters have different characteristics but that keeps me on my toes and thinking about how I can best provide the information or other assistance they may need.

About my background; I retired from the US Department of Agriculture in 1994 with 41 years of federal government employment. Part was while I was in college at Kansas State in the late 1940's plus a couple years of military in the 1950's as a technician maintaining the guidance system on Nike guided-missiles around the city of Seattle, Washington. We were in a cold war with Russia at that time and needed to protect the Boeing manufacturing plant in the area. The rest of my work has been in the Soil Conservation Service. I started in Atchison County

(Effingham), moved to Labette County (Altamont), and then to Neosho County (Chanute) where I worked 23 years as the See-Kan Resource Conservation and Development (RC & D) Coordinator for this non-profit group. RC & D is involved with all USDA agencies.

My wife, Lorraine, and I will celebrate our 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August of 08. We have a son, Dan, in Wichita with five daughters; and our daughter, Barb, in Lawrence with two sons and a daughter. They have produced five great-grandchildren for us to spoil.

I was born in Cameron, Missouri, and my family moved to Northeastern Kansas when I was ten. I was raised on a farm and expected to become a farmer after college. I did work four years in Labette as a farm/ranch manager but the Army called and I gave up my hope of being a farmer. I love farming and farmers, but I believe I have been able to accomplish more in my federal service than I could have as a farmer.

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### **Area 3 Vice President / NARFE-PAC Chair** By Donald L. Cooper ([cooper@flinthills.com](mailto:cooper@flinthills.com))

All good stories start *with*, back in ‘88, I was just a number in the NARFE count. If you take a look at the June, 2008, issue of NARFE, page 19, the count for Kansas is 23,691 annuitants. Then count in the Active Federal Employees and that’s another 25,418 persons – **49,109 total**. Kansas NARFE count is just over 5,000 – roughly only **10%**.

Well, Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters could sure use some of the remaining 90% - 5,000 is nice but more of the 90% would be better. For a number of years, I was just one of those numbers (*mind you all of those numbers are important – very important*) it was true back in ‘88 and still true in 2008 – for Federal retirees and active employees to better protect their **earned benefits** NARFE must have a significant percentage of the people NARFE represents as “inside the fold numbers”. Looking at page 19 again – the total figure of annuitants and active Fed’s adds up to 4,965,767 persons who were and are the “getter Done” folks. We need good representation at the table.

Back to Don Cooper, I was one of those dues paying numbers for a long time. I kept informed of NARFE by reading the NARFE Magazine. I relied upon other folks to look after my interests. And, they did a good job. Then, a NARFE Area Vice President cared enough to urge me to participate in the NARFE Chapter Meetings, serve on committees and attend a Kansas Federation Annual Convention. It was one of those conventions where another NARFE member cared enough to nominate me to become the NARFE Area 3 VP. While serving in that position, I became aware of what NARFE can do for the Federal Employee, active and retired. Again, a past NARFE Region V Field Vice President cared enough about me to encourage me to be a candidate for Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters President. I served as President of the Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters two years. For the past two years, I served as Immediate Past President and Public Relations Officers. I’m now starting my second time of being an Area Vice President – a very good position to assist with the function of the Federation Executive Committee as a coordinator of the eight NARFE Chapters of Area 3.

*(Area 3, Donald Cooper - Continued)*

Read the NARFE Magazine to note that our National President, Margaret Baptiste, is very serious about the welfare of NARFE and that includes all of the various positions and committees that make up the force that has each and everyone of the “FED Force’s” interest at heart. All of NARFE members are recruiters, and members of committees by virtue of being part of the count.

Being part of the count is an opportunity to be a part of NARFE-PAC. NARFE-PAC is an opportunity to make contributions to a Political Action Committee. PAC’s are an effective tool to gain the attention of those persons who are serving in the United States Congress – serving those who the Congressional Member has been elected to represent. We are a part of those numbers who are supposed to be represented by those Senators and Representatives in Congressional action. Remember – they are also representing others who are seeking their own interests. Some of those “other interests” are needing moneys to be designated by action of the Congress. If those “moneys” need to be diverted from some other source, meaning our annuities, Health Care, Insurance and other EARNED BENEFITS, NARFE needs to be a force to be recognized by the Congressional People. Be generous in your 2008-2009 contributions to NARFE-PAC. Much money must be available to be ready for the 100<sup>th</sup> Congress. Our **EARNED BENEFITS** may be at the greatest **RISK** of all times. Let us Be Prepared – be generous when your Chapter NARFE-PAC Coordinator urges you to make a generous contribution to NARFE-PAC. NARFE-PAC Chapter Coordinators keep in mind the need to identify the source of those PAC contributions.

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#### **Area 4 Vice President** **By Peggy Hughes ([pah@southwind.net](mailto:pah@southwind.net))**

For those I was not able to meet at the recent 54<sup>th</sup> Annual NARFE Convention in Hutchinson April 27-29, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the newly installed Area IV Vice President. As a life-time member of NARFE since the late 80’s, I joined while still employed by the Social Security Administration as a Claims Representative and Public Information presenter. My husband, Gary, and I have lived in Hutchinson since 1974 and have been active in various local civic and community organizations throughout the years. Most recently, I ended a two-year term as District Governor for Altrusa International, Inc., a service organization for business and professionals.

Area IV includes five Chapters in Wichita, Hutchinson, Cowley County, McPherson and Kingman. It will be my pleasure to have the opportunity to visit each of these Chapters at least once in the coming weeks.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank John Lancaster, former Vice President, for his years of tireless service. John has graciously offered his continued assistance and support.

I will attend the Executive Board meeting in Emporia on June 25<sup>th</sup>. My first Chapter visit will be with the Kingman Chapter on July 14<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to serving the five Area IV Chapters and encourage each of them to contact me when needed. I hope to meet more of the Kansas area wide NARFE members in the coming months.

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## **Area 5 Vice President**

**By Ronald Katt ([ronkarol@ruraltel.net](mailto:ronkarol@ruraltel.net))**

All Area V Chapters were represented at the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention April 27-29 in Hutchinson, five chapters by proxy and one Chapter by delegate. Members attending from Chapter 2032, Oakley, were delegate: Deloris Steinike and husband Herb; Joyce and Bill Beougher; and, Karol and Ron Katt. Members attending enjoyed the organization, information and fellowship that the Convention brought NARFE. Some of the Convention highlights for Area V included:

- a) I, Ron Katt, was elected for the eleventh time Area Vice President for the 2008-2009 year. I appreciate the opportunity that the VP position offers in meeting and working with Chapter members in carrying out NARFE activities
- b) Alzheimer's Research Certificates were presented to Chapter 2291, Colby, for contributions in excess of \$4.00 per member; Chapter 1991, Goodland, for contributions in excess of \$7.00 per member; and, Chapter 2032, Oakley for contributions in excess of \$8.00 per member for the year 2007.
- c) Membership citation award presented to Chapter 2085, Stockton, for recruiting and having a 4.65% increase in membership in 2007.
- d) Passing resolution to increase the per-capita tax for Chapters from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per member for the 2009 year.

Membership remains an important function for NARFE Chapters. Let's do all we can as members to help NARFE help us by building strength in membership in 2008-2009.

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## **Area 6 Vice President**

**By Brenda Myers ([bmyers59@pld.com](mailto:bmyers59@pld.com))**

With my first Federation Convention behind me, I find a new "hat" to wear. I accepted the Area VI Vice President's position.

I have been Secretary of Chapter 1995, Garden City, and current President. A Life Member of NARFE since 1995, I strongly believe in what this Association is doing to preserve benefits.

My daughter lives in Holcomb and has given me three grandsons, Matt, 25; Brad, 20; and Steven, 8. Matt is married and lives in Hays; Brad is a student at Ft. Hays State and looking forward to his third year; Steven will be a third grader at Wiley School in Holcomb this fall. My son lives in Phoenix, Arizona, is single, owner of Carl's New and Used Furniture in Garden City and visits once a month. Volunteer work with RSVP takes up a lot of my time. I'm Tour Director for Friends of Sandsage Bison Range and conduct Driver Safety Program Classes for AARP.

(Area 6, Brenda Myers – Continued)

Three certificates were received at Convention, two for Scott City and one for Garden City. A Certificate of Appreciation for contributing more than \$5.00 a member for Alzheimer's Research in 2007 was presented to the Chapter 1995, Garden City, members at their May meeting.

Robert Cranmer visited Scott City, Chapter 1996, May 13<sup>th</sup> to introduce me and to present the two awards they received. A Certificate of Appreciation for their contributions to Alzheimer's Research in excess of \$4.00 a member for 2007; and, a 16% increase in membership in 2007 rewarded them with a Citation for Distinguished Service.

Other visits will be made later as most chapters in this area do not meet during the summer. Ulysses is the exception and a July visit is planned. Chapter 1995 is planning a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for October 11, 2008, at the Finney County Library, 605 E. Walnut Street. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

Each Chapter should have received, along with your M-114 report, material from Headquarters about the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. If your chapter cannot be represented, a proxy can be selected. Send the entire signed form to Carol Ek, Federation Secretary.

August is "Meet the Candidates" month. I'll need help with this project from Area VI Chapter Presidents. I encourage you to be planning now for an event in your town, if possible, or combining with those close to you. Arranging meetings for your membership to meet candidates is important to further NARFE's role in gaining support for our bills.

Congratulations to Mary, Elizabeth, Don and Robert. The first Vice President of the State Federation and Public Relations Chair is Robert Cranmer, our former Area VI Vice-President.

I would point out my Federation Convention experience was a good one. I found everyone to be extremely friendly and am looking forward to serving as Area VI Vice President and have recently completed plans to attend the National Convention in Louisville.

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## State Legislative

By Jim Miller ([snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net](mailto:snyderfan89@sbcglobal.net))

The Kansas Legislature banged the gavel for Sine Die, as predicted, on May 29, 2008. Ron Richey, the Topeka Chapter Legislative Chairman, was on hand until the final bang of the gavel. The accomplishments of the 2008 Legislature could be sentiments expressed by a wise old Indian who after a storm said "Much thunder, much lightning, no rain". The Speaker of the House was quoted as stating "The majority of folks came here (on the final day) saying we weren't going to do business, and they didn't want to do business". Some critics say that described the entire 90 day session! Charges and counter charges were tossed around as the

*(State Legislative, Jim Miller – continued)*

Holcomb Coal Fired Plants legislation was passed by both the House and the Senate, and then vetoed by Governor Sebelius. Several times! Vetoed each time and the Governor's veto lacked enough votes in the House to override. We can count on the issue, and "the economic development" to hit the committees early for the 2009 session.

There are several "schools of thought" on the federal retiree tax exemption. One is to just ignore the issue, as there are no dangers to the exemption. Another is to "hunker down", keep a low profile and the exemption won't be noticed? If you, and your opinion are in either camp, you may be making a very expensive gamble! The Topeka Chapter has an advantage by being the chapter closest to the State House. We also have a habit of facing challenges head on, of being in a pro-active instead of a reactive position. Example: Our guest speaker for our May meeting was State Senator Vickie Schmidt, who provided her take on the 2008 session. During the Q and A after her talk, Vickie was asked "What would be your vote should legislation come before the Senate to strip retired federal employees **ONLY** from the organizations currently having that benefit / tax break?" Her response was "That would be totally unfair, and I would vote against it!" The suggestion from the Topeka chapter is simple: This is an election year. Check with the candidates, Senator and Representative, and ask them the same question. Don't be a One-Issue voter, but this issue is important to many retirees.

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## **Alzheimer's**

**By Janice Neuschafer ([janicen3@cox.net](mailto:janicen3@cox.net))**

I have been appointed as the Kansas Federation Alzheimer's Chairperson for the coming year. Thank you to Linda Surritte who held this position the last four years. As a brief introduction, I retired from the US Postal Service in 1999 after 34 years of service with the last 14 years in Postmaster positions. I currently live in McPherson.

The Live and Silent Auctions, at the 2008 Kansas Federation Convention was a great success. We collected a total of \$4,123 for Alzheimer's Research. Chapters who donate items for the auctions are credited for the items they contribute and are sold at auction. Thank you to all chapter members who contributed items, and to those who bid on and purchased items at the auctions.

The 2007 Kansas Federation contribution goal was set at \$4.00 per member. The average per member collected was \$4.98. The Alzheimer's Committee at convention set the goal for 2008 at \$5.00 per member.

New monthly submission forms were recently mailed to all Chapter Alzheimer's Chairpersons. This form is also available on the KS NARFE website ([www.ksnarfe.org](http://www.ksnarfe.org)) at Option 32. All checks submitted to me should be made payable to "NARFE/Alzheimer's Research.

A special "thank you" to Linda Surritte and Carol Ek for helping me get started with this new appointment in the Kansas NARFE Federation.

**NARFE-Netter and Historian**  
**By Jim Dodd ([JDodd4095@aol.com](mailto:JDodd4095@aol.com))**

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

NARFE Headquarters has added a lot of new information to their website.

On the Kansas Federation website ([KSNARFE.org](http://KSNARFE.org)), the following items have been updated:

- a) At home page item #2, the new Federation Officers elected at the Hutchinson Convention are listed.
- b) At item #9, the current Chapter membership number from the HQ-110 reports have been listed.
- c) The Alzheimer's contribution submission form has been updated to show the new Federation Alzheimer's Chairperson. The form now is in Microsoft Word and PDF formats. (Note: If you get a "password" required frame when you try to open the MS word format, just click on the X in the upper right of the frame to delete it. No password is required.) Save the MS version of the form to a file in your computer before trying to edit it.

Please let us know if there is any other NARFE information or web site links that you would like to have added to the [KSNARFE.org](http://KSNARFE.org) website.



**National Active and Retired Employees Association**  
**Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters**

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