



Kansas NARFE News From Your Federation Officers

October - November, 2008



National Convention – Louisville – 2008

Back Row: Bill Collins, Chapter 537, Hutchinson; Brenda Myers, Chapter 1995, Garden City; Elizabeth Bornman, Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission; Richard Thissen, Region V Vice President; Gale Beck, Chapter 2077, Iola; Keith Bray, Chapter 002, Topeka **Second Row:** Thelma Bray, Chapter 002, Topeka; Flo Biehl, Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission; Agnes Shellhammer, Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission; Joan Beck, Chapter 2077, Iola; William Kastens; Chapter 002, Topeka; Jane Lancaster, Chapter 138, Wichita; John Lancaster, Chapter 138, Wichita; Madelyn Brown, Chapter 383, Junction City; Elmer Ketter, Chapter 002, Topeka; Barbara Pretzer, Chapter 366, Manhattan **First Row:** Mary Janet Collins, Chapter 537, Hutchinson; Carol Ek, Chapter 1794, McPherson; Betty Phillips, Chapter 27, Leavenworth; Dolores Vossmer, Chapter 27, Leavenworth; Monica Kastens, Chapter 002, Topeka.

Kansas was very well represented at the National Convention. Twenty delegates from ten chapters carried the Kansas banner. All delegates carried at least one vote except Keith and Thelma Bray. Keith and Thelma decided to attend after all eligible votes had been determined. 100% of the Kansas chapters cast their vote either with a chapter representative delegated or a delegate carrying their chapter's proxy vote. We can be very proud of this representation. That happened because of every chapter President and Secretary making sure their forms were sent timely.

Our own John Lancaster was the Chairman for the Ballot & Tellers committee. Voting went very smoothly and high accolades were awarded to John for his planning and execution of the plan to bring forth accurate and speedy results.

Margaret Baptiste, President; Nathaniel “Nat” Brown, Secretary; Richard “Dick” Ostergren, Treasurer; and Richard “Dick” Thissen, Region V Vice President; were elected to serve two more years in their positions. Joseph A. Beaudoin was elected to serve two years as the National Vice President.

Committees assigned to review all resolutions submitted did an outstanding job when condensing and categorizing which should be reviewed for adoption or rejection. Resolutions were debated with the following actions taken on most “hotly” debated issues:

(1) Honorary Members

Members who have been granted the right to a National membership without further payment of National dues shall retain that status. Honorary National members shall maintain their Chapter dues payments unless waived by the Chapter. This resolution discontinues adding any new Honorary Life Members.

A Distinguished Member recognition category for those who attain the age of eighty-five (85) shall be established, when they have been National members for no less than twenty (20) years, when requested by the Chapter. They shall be deemed Distinguished Members at the National level and shall continue to pay NARFE dues and receive a Distinguished Member pin and ID card.

(2) NARFE Dues

Resolutions which would have established single dues for all NARFE members were rejected by 180 votes. Dues structures will remain as presently established.

(3) Vice President Position

The resolution to discontinue the office of National Vice President was overwhelmingly voted down thus preserving the system of four elected officers in the National office.

(4) Selecting Site for Future Conventions

Beginning with the 2014 National Convention, site selection has been placed in the hands of the National Executive Board site selection committee.

(5) One Member – One Vote

This resolution came out of committee for rejection. It was rejected without debate.

(6) Discrimination on Scholarships

This proposal would have allowed students already in college to compete for scholarships under the NARFE/FEEA Scholarship Program. A great deal of opposition was made to this proposal. This proposal was rejected leaving only high school seniors eligible to apply for these scholarships.

If there are resolutions you wish to have a more detailed explanation on how they were debated, contact either your voting representative or another member who attended the convention.

The 2010 National Convention will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. 2012 will be held at The Nugget in Sparks/Reno, Nevada.

1151 delegates attended the convention. 133 alternate delegates, members, and guests attended making the grand total 1,284. Of a grand total of 6,768 authorized votes, 5,112 were carried by delegates either by voting representatives or by proxy. Region V carried 72.7% of their total authorized votes to convention.

Detailed coverage of the convention will be carried in the November issue of the NARFE magazine.

\$9 Million by 90th Birthday in Contributions to Alzheimer's by NARFE Members

If Barb Pretzer, chair of the National Alzheimer's Committee, has her way we will make that \$9 million mark by the 90th birthday in 2011. Barb carries her Kansas roots and membership in Chapter 366, Manhattan, Kansas, proudly when announcing "yes" it can be done.

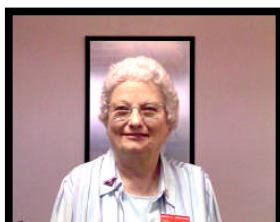
Harry Jones, president and chief executive officer of the Alzheimer's Association, applauded NARFE members' fundraising efforts in support of Alzheimer's research. Maria Carrillo, PH.D, director of medical and scientific affairs for the Alzheimer's Association, talked about five new NARFE research grants. Maria comments that all of the NARFE-sponsored projects relate to early detection of Alzheimer's. "You should be very, very pleased by the selections made by your Alzheimer's Committee," she said.

Some Kansas members carried copies of the calendar "Sharing Our Gifts to Assist Alzheimer's Research in Curing This Disease" which is the work of members of Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas. We were not allowed to sell this calendar at the convention, however, it really made the rounds and several copies went to other States. This project has created a lot of publicity not only for the NARFE organization but also the work we do for Alzheimer's Research. Members have been interviewed with published articles in the Topeka Capital-Journal titled "Oldies but Goodies". Interviews were also done by television with segments on ABC reaching as far as Wichita, Chanel 10.



As stated by Betty Born, the proposer of the original idea of creating a calendar, "the goals are many. They are: to give chapter members a fun project to work on together; to produce a work of art, a memento, a keepsake for many; to energize our chapter with new vigor; to establish a legacy of "can do"; to gain recognition for our chapter locally and nationally; to increase our membership with both retired and active federal employees; a new image on what retirement is all about; to show that we indeed have fun after retirement; to raise money for Alzheimer's Research; and, to provide needed awareness for this disease." Net proceeds from this calendar will be donated to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research fund.

Additional information relating to this calendar can be obtained by contacting Chapter 0002, Topeka, Kansas.



Presidents Message / Retirement Benefits

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One of the positives of being Federation President is being exposed to so much information about NARFE. Recently I've had the privilege of reviewing and approving two requests for matching funds. After my review and approval, these requests were forwarded to

Richard Thissen, Region V Vice President, and then on to Chuck Timanus, Director of Public Relations, for further handling and hopefully for approval. Both are very helpful in preparing and approving these requests. We are lucky to have both working with us.

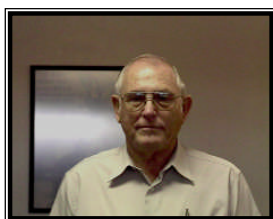
The requests open the door for enhancing our recruitment efforts at upcoming health fairs, senior fairs, etc. Yes, these requests do take some extra efforts but hopefully they will generate some positive recruitment results. I challenge each of the Area Vice Presidents to look for opportunities to generate more of these requests. It's not too early to be looking at 2009 area events to allow plenty of time to process the request(s).

Are you keeping up with the releases on the march to our final countdown on the Consumer Price Index (CPI)? As of this writing, the CPI for July was 6.2% higher than the 2007 third quarter average base of 203.6. August figures will be released September 16. Once the figures are released for September (probably mid-October) the CPI will be available for calculating the next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Stay tuned for the final countdown.

Chapter elections are approaching. Encourage chapter members to seek office and/or volunteer for a committee position for 2009. Leaders are needed to keep our organization strong and healthy.

It's not too early to be planning on attending the State Convention at the Clarion Hotel in Manhattan (Wildcat Country) on April 26-28, 2009. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. I'm excited because my chapter is the host chapter. Let's have a super-duper attendance.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jodine Elwick, former Service Officer for the State Federation, in the loss of her husband Ray.



1st Vice President / Public Relations Chair

Robert E. Cranmer

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I was so sorry to hear of the death of Jodine Elwick's husband Ray. All of our prayers are with you Jodine.

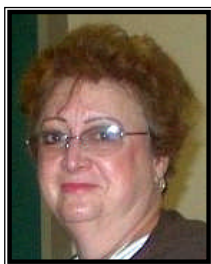
On behalf of the Federation: Area 1 Vice President Tom Raby; Area 1A Vice President Eugene Harter; and, I attended the Leavenworth, Buffalo Bill Chapter 0027, picnic. Leavenworth Chapter has over 400 members and over 100 attended the picnic. Thank you Chapter 0027 for a great time and good food.

I have attended two chapter meetings: one in Scott City Chapter 1996; and one in Great Bend, Chapter 1709.

The Federation, along with Salina Chapter 0280 and surrounding Chapters sponsored a NARFE information/recruiting booth at the North Central Flint Hill Area Agency on Aging Fair 2008, which was held at the Salina Bi-Centennial Center on September 23. An estimated 700 persons attended this one (1) day event. Plans for this event were made by Donald Cooper, Area 3 Vice President and I. Members working the booth were: President Mary Fritzson and her husband, Harold, Chapter 0366, Manhattan; Area 3 Vice President Donald Cooper, Member Al Schmaderer, and National Alzheimer's Chair Barb Pretzer, Chapter 0366, Manhattan; Member Gary Begnoche and Chapter President Duane Evans, Chapter 0280, Salina; Member Virginia Fry, Chapter 2137, Abilene; Member Carla Cranmer, Chapter 1709, Great Bend.

Two winner's names were drawn for "free memberships". These were awarded to Meta Wendelken, Wakefield; and Sekiko Van DerSluis, Junction City. All eligible persons were allowed to sign up for a free membership.

Chapter 1991, Goodland will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary party on October 10th at Hanks Restaurant in Goodland; Garden City will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary party on October 11th at the Finney County Library in Garden City. Our Region V Vice President, Richard Thissen plans to be in attendance. Several Federation officers also plan to be in attendance. Everyone is welcome to attend these parties just get in touch with the host chapter to let them know in advance how many to plan for.



2nd Vice President and Membership Chair

Elizabeth Bornman

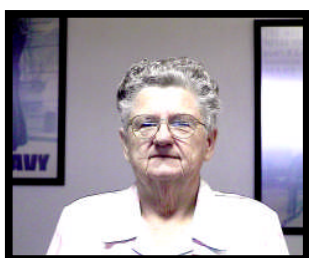
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Membership continues to be a problem with many chapters. It appears we all need to do a better job with following up with those with second notices. There have been a significant number of drops these past two months. Junction City has been doing a good job with recruiting; however, they still are having drops. I have only heard from one chapter in the State who has submitted the Membership Plan. Please get them in to me as soon as possible. If you don't help yourself as a chapter, we can't as a Federation. I'm sorry the new dues resolution did not pass at the convention. It would have enabled a lot of chapters to spend more money on recruiting.

I would like to have a few success stories to put in this newsletter. So, if your chapter has any, please e-mail me with what you have been doing.

The NARFE website has sufficient information for your chapters to use to recruit and it doesn't cost you anything.



Treasurer

Madelyn Brown

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Attending my first National Convention was a thrill. It was really more than I expected. Glad that our officers were reelected and we did elect a vice president. There were disappointments, some of the resolutions I had hoped would pass, didn't pass, but there is always the next convention in Grand Rapid, MI, in 2010.

This also was my first trip to Louisville, KY, and what made it enjoyable was my great traveling companions. We did a lot of walking, ate a lot of good food and loved the vendors. I picked up a lot of goodies to share with my chapter members at our October meeting. I carried proxies for two (2) chapters, so I gathered up all the information that was printed reference the convention and sent to the Presidents of the Herington and Marysville chapter. I hope this will be shared with their members. We were very lucky that we all left Louisville before IKE made his presence known.

I attended the Flint Hills Conference for Aging in Salina to help with the NARFE recruitment booth for a couple of hours. I think it is something we need to keep doing for the exposure. Maybe we can do more planning for a future visits and other fairs or celebrations.



Immediate Past President / Federal Legislative Chair

John F. Surritte

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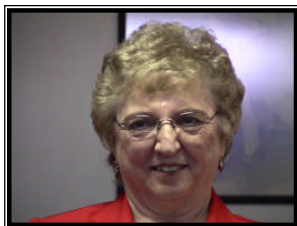
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As my grand-daughter, Lily Ann says, I'm "very busy so this article will be brief and to the point.

Hopefully, all of you have spent the past two (2) months contacting your incumbent U.S. Senators and Representatives thanking them for their support these past two (2) years. Also, you should have contacted their opponents asking them for their support. If you have, that's good! If you haven't, do it now!

Now for the most important part, each Chapter President should ask their members to vote on November 4. As you all know, financial times are getting tough, therefore we need folks in Congress to remember we earned our retirement and do not want it reduced. We should remember that we are not asking for anything we did not earn through our years of Federal service.

In closing, I've been asked, as the Past State President, to encourage you to apply for a Federation Officer position to be considered at our next State Convention in Manhattan. The officer positions which will need to be filled are Federation President; 1st Vice President; 2nd Vice President; Secretary; and, Treasurer. I will remind you to submit your resume' announcing your candidacy as we get closer to Convention. I know, through my travels as Federation President, that there are excellent candidates for Federation Officer Positions. Please don't let **Kansas**, and more importantly, **NARFE**, down.



Federation Secretary / Editor

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I was granted the honor of representing our President, Mary Fritzson, at the National Convention as delegate at large. Because of that, I did have to go in a day early to attend the Federation Presidents conference on Saturday.

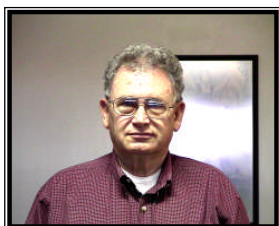
The meeting fell short of my expectations but it did really bring home the difference in the inter workings of the Kansas Federation officers with the Chapter members and many other Federations. It was my hope to bring home suggestions on programs the Federations used to assist the Chapters to encourage members to fill officer positions; revitalize Chapters; and, in short how the Federation can provide optimum service to its members. Instead, we discussed membership recruitment; how to read the M111, M112, M114; and, the use of the F7. From the time I entered the Federation scene, I have had the privilege of working along side such high class, knowledgeable officers that I guess I just expected too much. Early in the meeting, I became aware that our Midwestern values and work ethic are to be admired. The service provided by our Region V Vice President Richard Thissen is unsurpassed. Richard was not only recognized by almost everyone there, he was the "go to" guy. As I reported earlier in the

Convention Highlights, John Lancaster chaired the ballot and teller committee. John received high accolades and a rousing applause for the short waiting line to vote and the fast and accurate results of the votes.

One meeting has been held with the 2009 Kansas Annual Convention co-chairs Chuck Marr and Dave Schafer from the Manhattan Chapter. They are busy planning the convention, and getting their members lined up to bring you another hopefully “rousing” convention. The convention will be held at the Clarion Hotel, Manhattan, Kansas, April 26-28, 2009. I notice when reviewing totals from other Federation Conventions; the Kansas Convention is one of the highest in members’ attendance. This speaks highly of the Kansas members and their dedication to NARFE.

Be sure to send your completed F-7, “Chapter Officer Roster”, as soon as possible after the election of officers. Please use the old form which shows the complete information for each person. I will be mailing you a letter and form with instructions for mailing. Officers do not have to be installed before completing the F-7. Mail copies to National Headquarters; the Federation President; the Federation Secretary; and, your Area Vice-President. I do hope all chapters can fill the officer and committee positions with dedicated members.

John Lancaster emailed me a website which lists federal employees by county. It lists all federal employees but does not list Postal employees. The website is: http://php.app.com/fed_employees/search.php Just fill in Kansas and the county you wish to check. These are current employees and it does give you another source to find potential members.



Area 1 Vice President

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The National Convention is now history for 2008. I followed much of the events on the national website, but there’s no substitute for being there. I hope all attendees will share their sense of the convention and not just recite the events that occurred. It appears that this convention ran smoothly and the president was in control. I hope to hear more as time passes.

We’re getting ready for the November 1 retirement appreciation event at Ft. Leavenworth. Eugene Harter, Elizabeth Bornman, and I will represent the Federation at this annual event. We saw lots of retirees and employees there last year.

The press for increasing membership is continuing. I know that most members do not see the Federation Newsletter, and that’s a shame. Please take it to meetings and pass it around. Here are a few basic things to keep in mind.

- Keep a supply of applications and magazines in your car so you can be ready to recruit a member at any time.
- Drop magazines at your Doctor’s and Dentist’s office. Take one to your Public Library. If someone has told you not to bring them; don’t ask, just leave them with the others. By the time they sort them out, you may have recruited someone.
- In most cases the membership chair and chapter officers are looking for recruiting opportunities. This is nowhere near enough. Every member needs to be recruiting. If you need materials, or information, contact any chapter officer, or contact me, or your Area VP, or Elizabeth Bornman. We’ll get you the items or the information.

Members just received NARFE calendars for 2009. You are not required to send any money for these calendars. However, you're mighty cheap if you don't send a few dollars for these nice calendars. Remember the contest. Kansas has had several beautiful photos on the calendar. While you have the checkbook out; don't forget NARFE/PAC and Alzheimer's Research. Several members of Chapter 1162 are participating in the Memory Walk at Corporate Woods on October 4.

Chapter 1162 is also inviting candidates to chapter meetings in September and October. Area 1 chapters are being notified, as well as neighboring chapters who share the same officials. This is a great effort and should be repeated throughout the State.

Note from the Editor: Elizabeth Bornman notified me that Jim Slattery and Dennis Moore will be attending the Chapter 1162 meeting.

Each chapter should have their nominating committees in place and be considering their officers for the next year. Pursue the newer members for chapter positions and back them.



Area 1A Vice President

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Well fall has arrived and now it's about time for our FALL BACK TIME CHANGE, which is important so we don't get to church an hour early or an hour late (whichever it is)!

But it is also time for us to get out and vote for the candidate that most nearly represents our needs. Please be sure to vote! If you need assistance or are not able to get to your voting place here is some information that may be helpful to you: ADVANCE VOTING – With Advanced Voting, any registered Kansas voter can vote by mail or in person before Election Day. (1) Contact your county election officer to request an application for an advance voting ballot. (2) Complete the application and return it to your county election officer. (3) You can have your ballot mailed to you starting 20 days before the election. (4) You may vote in person in the county election office starting the Tuesday before Election Day, or up to 20 days before the election, depending on the county. (5) All ballots must be received in the county election office by the close of polls on Election Day. (6) Sick, disabled or illiterate voters may receive assistance in applying for and casting advance voting ballots. If you have questions, call toll free 1-800-262-8683.

Speaking of candidates and voting, I would like to commend the Leavenworth (Buffalo Bill) Chapter 0027 for their Candidate Forum held on the 1st Thursday of October normally on even years. They have done this for a good number of years and have done it in a well organized and advertised manner which has resulted in good attendance and a helpful dialogue between the candidates and the attendees. Donna Gillett has been in charge for a number of years and if anyone would like helpful tips and ideas, you might want to contact her. Her phone number is 913-682-5017. Her address is: 517 South 21st St., Leavenworth, KS 66048.

Since our Federation Convention, I have visited Chapter 1948 (Pony Express, Nemaha County) on May 22; Chapter 2164 (Brown County) on July 17; Chapter 2136 (Doniphan County) on August 8; Chapter 0027 (Buffalo Bill – Leavenworth) annual picnic and meeting on August 26; and, all of my home Chapter 0621 (Atchison County - Atchison) meetings. I have appreciated the enthusiasm and cooperativeness that I witnessed in these chapter meetings. I encourage anyone in my area to contact me if you have questions or matters that I may help you with. Make it a point to ask at least one person each month to become a member of NARFE.

I'll close with this quote from Will Rogers: "I'd rather just buy stocks that go up".



Area 2 Vice President – Advisory and Training Officer

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The NARFE Bi-Annual Convention has come and gone and much will be said about it in the NARFE Magazine and other publications so “please” take the time to read the articles and Hi-light those parts that are of interest to each of you.

The Convention was held in Louisville, Kentucky, at the Galt House where NARFE has held some past conventions. It was “well run”, one of the best ever in the conducting and movement of NARFE business, and I have attended them since 1990. NARFE President Margaret Baptiste did an excellent job of conducting the “Business Meetings”. Not only is NARFE business conducted at the convention, but it gives each NARFE member an opportunity to meet and make “new friends”; an opportunity to renew acquaintances from past conventions; past “College of NARFE” events; and, learn more about NARFE. It is indeed “five days” of education not only about NARFE but about Alzheimer’s and how your organization “NARFE” is a participant.

I will be visiting Area 2 chapters in the coming months to give them an update on NARFE happenings; and, attend the October 22 Federation Executive Board meeting at the 2009 Convention site in Manhattan.

Speaking of convention sites, no chapter has stepped forward and offered to host the Kansas 2011 convention. A host chapter needs a hotel that can accommodate at least 200 guests plus convention meeting rooms. Not all chapters in Kansas have such facilities available. Chapters that have such facilities should consider being a host for the 2011 convention. “If your chapter members want to know what is involved, ask you Area VP to find out what needs are and what is involved. Chapters can become involved in a convention and develop a chapter team to go forward later and accomplish other goals, plus make a profit from the convention. Now is not too soon to take that step. “JUST ASK!”

Congratulations are in order to Chapters 1995, Garden City; and to Chapter 1991, Goodland; who will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary this month. Chapters should “always” recognize such anniversaries. Celebrating reminds members and the public that your NARFE chapter is alive and well. Not only should the 25th Anniversary be celebrated but do not overlook other anniversaries like 30 years, 40 years, and the list goes on.

According to Federation Records: Topeka Chapter 0002 celebrated their 61st Anniversary on May 08; Leavenworth Chapter 027 will be celebrating their 60th on December 15; Wichita 138 is celebrating 56 years; and, both Salina 280 and Freestate – Lawrence will be celebrating 55 years.

There have been fifty-nine (59) chapters organized in Kansas of which forty-five (45) are still active chapters. By the way, do you know where your “Chapter Charter and Chapter By-laws” are? If not, and after a search and you still do not find them, ask your Area VP where and how to secure duplicate copies. If not already done by your Chapter, why not frame your Chapter Charter and display it at chapter meetings?



Area 2A Vice President

L. James Gaskell
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I know I have harped on recruiting new members, but this is likely the most important part of being a member of NARFE. So, I am again reminding you how to recruit members for NARFE. Just how does a person recruit a new member to NARFE? **JUST ASK THEM TO JOIN!**

Most of you likely know at least one federal retiree that is not a member of NARFE. You can do them a great favor by sharing some things NARFE is doing to help you and them. Perhaps by asking them to come with you as a visitor to your next NARFE meeting will spark an interest in them to become a member of NARFE. You may be the only person who can interest them in joining NARFE. It is not difficult. Pick up one or more application blanks at your next meeting and have them available to sign up a friend.

NARFE Chapter 0799, Chanute, has invited Barb Pretzer, Chairman of the NARFE – Alzheimer’s National Committee to their December 1 meeting. Barb is an exciting speaker and she will have the latest information available on our efforts to find a cure for Alzheimer’s. If you want to make a contribution to this cause, please make your check to “NARFE Alzheimer’s Research and get it to your chapter Alzheimer’s Chairman. Should any of you out there wish to attend this December 1 meeting, please contact me and I will determine if we still have space for you. We meet at 1:30 a.m. in a nice room at the Neosho County Community College in Chanute. Our chapter will provide you with specific information if interested.

ANNUAL FEDERATION TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE - Topeka Chapter 0002 has voted to sponsor our 2010 Federation Convention. Jim Miller is working with the Holiday Inn staff to try to make arrangements.



Area 3A Vice President – PAC (Political Action Committee) Chairperson

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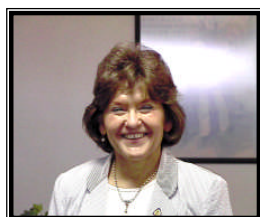
Fall is officially here. In one sense, it’s time for serious thoughts about what our NARFE chapters should be doing. The National NARFE convention is history and it’s time to begin planning for the coming two years.

One of the items Chapters have at hand is the selection of 2009 Chapter Officers. It’s time to assess the need for any change of officers. So, ask your current officers about their willingness to serve the same position for 2009 and if not, seriously select a person who will willingly be a candidate for that position of leadership during the coming year. All chapter members should look at chapter officer positions as an opportunity to serve NARFE, for the benefit of all active and retired Federal Employees. It is vitally important to insure that our benefits will survive attempts to cut them back. Current employees should be concerned for tomorrow’s employment and future retirement. A response I get from current employees is: “I’ve got a way to go before retirement”. That viewpoint may end with the retirement package being lighter if it isn’t demonstrated that organized employees will be organized retirees. Each NARFE Chapter can benefit greatly with a substantial number of currently employed members. A great goal would be – that each retired Federal employee team up with a current employee, to get that currently employed person to become directly involved with NARFE.

The NARFE booth at the Senior Fair 2008, hosted by the North Central Flinthills Area Agency on Aging, at the Salina Bicentennial Center, on September 23, was great exposure of NARFE's opportunities. It was rewarding to be able to provide individuals with materials relating to NARFE membership. It was also great to provide people with the NARFE Booklet, F-100, Be Prepared for Life's Events. It was pointed out that the organized record of the items needed to have on hand for a person who was incapacitated or a person who died and the survivor needed a list of records to process benefits. My thanks to Robert Cranmer, 1st Vice President of the Kansas Federation, for stepping forward to lead this effort. I also want to commend the efforts of those NARFE members who took time to work that booth. They are: Gary Begnoche and W. Duane Evans of the Salina chapter; Carla Cranmer of the Great Bend chapter; Madelyn Brown of the Junction City chapter; Virginia Fry of the Abilene chapter; Mary and Harold Fritzson, Barb Pretzer, and Al Schmaderer of the Manhattan chapter. I believe a lot of good was done with our presence at the fair.

I attended the first fall meeting of the Herington chapter on September 4th. I also attended the Abilene chapter Annual Picnic and meeting on September 18. They had a great turn out, wonderful food, and a good meeting.

I wish to thank all of you who sent me cards of concern and recovery from the strokes I had in mid-July. I am indeed thankful that I have the ability to do most of the things I was able to do before these strokes. I will make attempts to carry out my duties as Area 3 Vice President and PAC Chairman.



Area 4 Vice President

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NARFE members have recently returned from convention in Louisville with rave reviews. The total in attendance was reported to be 1,300. Twenty (20) from Kansas attended giving all Kansas Chapters representation either through delegates or by proxy.

Attending Conventions really makes us realize the full scope of our membership in an organization. "This is a well-organized organization to belong to", a first timer was heard to say. "I think NARFE members often take their membership for granted" was the response to his comment. Good point to make. Remember we, as NARFE members, have not lost any of our benefits since 1993. That takes actively involved members giving their full attention to the details with commitment and resolve. I think each of us needs to take a moment to realize how important it is to be proactive. To be proactive, we must all step up and do what we can to help keep our organization strong and viable. Take an opportunity to learn as much as you can especially from those who have recently returned from the National Convention. You'll come to appreciate our NARFE membership even more.

In the meantime, **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** now to attend these important events:

- **Legislative Training Conference:** Held bi-annually, it is open to all NARFE members. It is scheduled in 2009 on Saturday, March 7-10, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.
- **CONK (College of NARFE Knowledge):** Held bi-annually, it is scheduled for August 24-26, in South Sioux City, Nebraska.
- **NARFE National Convention:** Held bi-annually, it will be held 2010 in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and, 2012 at the Nugget Hotel in Sparks/Reno, Nevada.



Area 5 Vice President

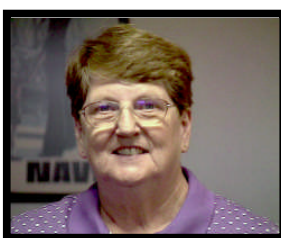
Ronald Katt

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I visited Chapter 1991, Goodland; and, Chapter 2291, Colby, during their meetings of September 3 and September 16 respectively. The meeting agendas included Chapter 1991 receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for contributing in excess of \$7.00 per member and Chapter 2291 for contributing in excess of \$4.00 per member to Alzheimer's research for 2007.

Congratulations! Goodland Chapter 1991 will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary on October 10th with a luncheon and program honoring the Chapter's Charter members. Chapter 1991 was organized October 21, 1983, and is now the oldest active chapter in Area V. Regional, State and Area officers plan to attend and participate in the celebration.



Area 6 Vice President

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WOW! What a great experience to go to National Convention in Louisville (Looavul), Kentucky.

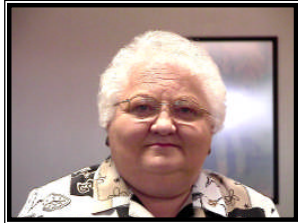
Delegates re-elected Margaret Baptiste to her second two-year term. She is very capable, very approachable, and has that great English wit. This convention moved along so well we could have cut one day from the schedule. The banquet food was the best I have encountered in many years.

Trolley cars, Carriage rides, Historic Tours, River Walk, Good Food and Friendly People.

I'd like to challenge each chapter to ENCOURAGE members to recruit, perhaps one member a month. EQUIP members with information about NARFE so members can be retained. Reach out to those members that don't attend meetings by phone calls, post cards, or personal contact and check and see if meetings can be held closer to where they live twice a year.

Congratulations! Chapter 1995, Garden City will be holding a 25th Anniversary Celebration on October 11th. This chapter was organized in the fall of 1983 by US Postal Employees. Membership numbers have had a wide range over the years. Representatives from Region V and the Federation will be on hand to add to the festivities.

I'll be visiting chapters as time allows and you have time for me on your agenda. I'm always here to help.



Alzheimer's Chairperson

Janice A. Neuschafer

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Contributions to Alzheimer's Research as of the end of August totaled \$18,152.35. Of this amount \$3,143.00 was for Memorials. The State average per member as of the end of August was \$3.75. The 2008 goal is \$5.00 per member. Nationally, NARFE has now donated over \$7.5 million to Alzheimer's Research. We need to continue to help researchers find the cause and a cure.

Barb Pretzer, National Alzheimer's Chair, says "thanks" to the Kansas Federation for sending the Applebee's \$50 gift card to the National Convention raffle. We extend our thanks to the Shawnee Mission Chapter 1162 for providing this gift card in the name of the Kansas Federation. A total of \$5,766 was raised as a result of the raffle at the National Convention.

Forrest Holderman, a member of Buffalo Bill Chapter 27, Leavenworth, in May, 2008, gave his chapter a challenge. He said "give \$500 in donations for NARFE/Alzheimer's Research by the annual picnic (August 26) and I will give a check for \$200". Members donated \$731.65. Forrest gave a check for \$200 and raised the amount to \$931.65. This was a success for all. Over the years, Forrest has given his chapter a challenge in various amounts. He has already given a challenge for 2009.

John and Linda Surritte, members of the Freestate Chapter 378, Lawrence, challenged their chapter members saying they would match funds given for Alzheimer's Research for the months of July, August, and September. Chapter members contributed \$430.85. John and Linda wrote a check for \$430.85. This was a total of \$861.70.

These were very successful approaches for both the chapters and for Alzheimer's Research.

A new order form from the Alzheimer's Association will be included with my letter to Alzheimer's chapter chairpersons in October. New promotional materials include post-it notes, bookmarks, and table top posters. Items can be ordered directly from Chicago at no charge.



State Legislative

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It's "fairly" warm so normally it would be difficult to feel the cold chill of winter in late September. Normally. Not these tumultuous day!

On the national level, due to hundred of billions of dollars lost by greedy financial officers, the taxpayer (make that the ever gullible middle class taxpayer) will pay that bill. Don't be concerned about the bankers. Not only will they float gently down to their estates, they probably won't pay an extra dime. They have accountants to figure how to avoid paying their share of income taxes.

Banks have failed, several here in Kansas! The state of Kansas has requested a 2% **CUT** when State Agencies present their new budgets. Ron Richey is already sitting in on committee meetings, committee meetings who will sift through the dismal financial projections and very likely present ominous findings when the full Legislature convenes on January 12, 2009. Those findings may well have severe impact on federal retirees. So forget the past! That was then.... this is now! So where do we go from here?

THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR!

#ONE! Make it a point to attend "Open House" or campaign appearances by YOUR STATE AND Federal lawmakers. Ask questions, especially as to how the candidates will vote when (not if) adverse to federal retirees ONLY legislation is proposed.

#TWO! Contribute to NARFE PAC (those go only to federal lawmakers) and the sooner the better.

#THIRD! If you can, select the candidates of YOUR choice and offer to volunteer in their campaign. Simply put, the candidate of your choice is someone who has proven themselves to be a friend of federal retirees, and of course, a contributor to better government.

#FOURTH! Get out and Vote! If health issues prevent that, secure an absentee ballot, but please send it back! We hear this every other year but it has never been more true. This is the most important election in our nation's history! Don't miss YOUR chance to be a part of it!



NARFE Net / Historian

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Just a note to thank everyone who has sent in suggested changes or correction to the pages on the KSNARFE.org web site. This helps considerably in keeping the information current and with fewer errors.

If there is any information that you would like to be published on the web site that would be compatible to NARFE goals, please let me know.



National Active and Retired Employees Association
Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters

Carol R. Ek
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NARFE FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

October/November - 2008

Kansas NARFE Federation Newsletter

-----SEE FEDERATION PRESIDENT CHANGE NOTICE ON THE NEXT PAGE BELOW

Effective Immediately

Mary Fritzson

Has resigned from the Position of Federation President

Robert E. Cranmer has assumed the position of President with Elizabeth Bornman assuming the position of 1st Vice President