



KANSAS FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 50

JUNE-JULY 2006

JOHN F. SURRITTE
FEDERATION PRESIDENT

2006-2007 KANSAS FEDERATION OFFICERS ELECTED AT 52ND ANNUAL CONVENTION IN WICHITA, KANSAS



Photo by Dennis Grossnickle, Chapter 366

**BACK ROW: (L to R): NFVP Richard Thissen; Area 2A VP L. “Jim” Gaskell; Area 6 VP Robert Cranmer;
Area 2 VP Gale Beck; Federation 2nd VP Tom Raby; Federation 1st VP Gary Townson;
Area 1A VP T. J. Robinson.**

**FRONT ROW: (L to R): Area 4 VP John Lancaster; Area 3 VP W. Duane Evans; Area 1 VP Agnes
Shellhammer; Federation President John Surritte; Federation Secretary Carol R. Ek;
Federation Treasurer Madelyn Brown**

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PRESIDENT/FEDERAL LEGISLATION

John F. Surritte

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This is my first article as State President. I'm very happy to be in this position and am committed to, and looking forward to working with you.

We had a very productive and interesting State Convention in Wichita. Many thanks to Chapter President Gary Townson, John Lancaster and Sherwood Applegate and all of the folks from Wichita who worked so hard to make us feel welcome and for the professionalism they exhibited in making our convention a great event.

I want to also thank Federation Board members Helen Gallagher, Judy Grossnickle and Jerry Ketter for their service this past year and to new members TJ Robinson, W. Duane Evans, Tom Raby and Madelyn Brown for offering to serve this next year. I believe we have a very competent Board which will serve you well this upcoming year.

As we begin the new year, I would like to talk about what I and the Board think is important this year. We have our next Board meeting scheduled for June 7, 2006, but I think I'm safe in saying that we agree we need many more new members and that we need to get present members who do not attend regular chapter meetings more involved. We also need to get more participation on Federal Legislative issues. We now have all Senators and Representatives, except Rep. Tiahrt, co-sponsoring NARFE's Premium Conversion Legislation. All of you living in Rep. Tiahrt's District need to call, write or email him asking for his support. Our GPO/WEP repeal legislation does not look as promising, however we should not give up. Remember, the more we contact our Senators and Representatives, the more they know what we need to be economically secure. We're convinced more than ever that our legislative initiatives are needed by our members. Remember that they are not entitlements but are earned benefits.

We also are very proud of the funds we have raised for Alzheimer's over the past few years. We have raised over \$6 Million and are well on our way to our goal of \$7 Million by 2007. Please keep up the good work. This effort reflects very favorably on our organization and gets the attention of our Congressional delegation.

Finally, I look forward to working with all of you the next year. We have a very good organization and have a responsibility to make it stronger and better in the future.

Thanks for your help and cooperation.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/PAC COORDINATOR

Gary E. Townson

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Greetings from Wichita. My first official statement as 1st Vice President is a rousing "Thank You" to all the members of Chapter 138 for making the Convention such a smooth, enjoyable affair. I as Chapter President get the glory but the entire Convention Staff cheerfully did the work. Now that the Federation Convention is over, we need to start preparing for the National Convention in Albuquerque New Mexico. It's still not too late to decide to attend. The lodging situation seems a bit messed up but the folks at Headquarters are working on it to make this a non-item at the Convention.

The Kansas Federation didn't do as well in contributing to NARFE-PAC at the recent Convention. I have recently, however received numerous contributions in the mail. I record these contributions [so we have a record to refer to in the event of any questions] and then forward them to Headquarters. I can't stress too strongly the need for everyone to take part in contributing to our elected officials that support our needs. Those same funds go to the opponents of candidates that oppose the bills necessary to the membership of NARFE. I urge any Chapter without a NARFE-PAC chair to get one. I also beg you to make an appeal at EVERY Chapter function to collect funds for NARFE-PAC. I will repeat the fact that you can either send collected funds to me or you can send them directly to Headquarters. However you transmit those funds, do it for your own protection. I look forward to seeing lots of you in Albuquerque in September.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP

Thomas E. Raby

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Thanks to Chapter 138, Wichita, for hosting a great convention. I appreciate the confidence of all of you that think I should again be a Federation Officer. We all know that the 2nd VP carries a lot of weight, (I need to exercise more) but the membership chair is one of the most important positions in any chapter or federation. Even before the effective date of my new position, I received a chapter newsletter from #2164, Brown County. This was a very informative newsletter with a great report on the convention. Daryl Mona-

ghan is the Chapter President and the Newsletter Editor. I really appreciate getting chapter newsletters and info.

I'll be sending a letter to the Area VP's to ask them how we want to handle the "chunks" of M-112's and M-114's that we have sent them in the past. I'm the Membership Chair of my chapter. I use the NARFE website for most of my report usage and save a few trees. While not an expert, I've learned a few things that make use of these reports more effective. I'm willing to travel to an area to share these things with a group. I can also E-mail sample letters that I use to contact dropped members, new members and prospective members. Let me know if you are interested.

A short report is a good report; more next time????

SECRETARY

Carol R. Ek

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The NARFE State Convention is over for another year. We did have a good turnout with one hundred fifty four (154) delegates registered, and nine (9) guests. Seventeen (17) chapters were represented by proxies. All forty six (46) chapters were represented for voting.

Once again, we had a very good convention. Compliments go to Wichita Chapter 138 for hosting the convention and for making sure everyone was well taken care of.

The 2007 State Convention will be held April 29 through May 1 in Junction City at a new Hotel and Convention Center. Put those dates on your calendar and plan to attend. Guaranteed good fellowship.

Your new officers for the 2006/2007 year are:

President: **John F. Surritte**, Chapter 378, Lawrence

1st VP: **Gary E. Townson**, Chapter 138, Wichita

2nd VP: **Thomas E. Raby**, Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission

Secretary: **Carol R. Ek**, Chapter 1794, Heart of America, McPherson

Treasurer: **Madelyn Brown**, Chapter 383, Old Trooper, Junction City

Immediate Past President: **Donald L. Cooper**, Chapter 366, Kaw-Blue, Manhattan

Area 1 VP: **Agnes T. Shellhammer**, Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission

Area 1A VP: **Theodore J. Robinson**, Chapter 1160,

Sunflower, Kansas City

Area 2 VP: **Gale D. Beck**, Chapter 2077, Iola

Area 2A VP: **L. Jim Gaskell**, Chapter 799, Chanute

Area 3 VP: **W. Duane Evans**, Chapter 280, Salina

Area 4 VP: **John Lancaster**, Chapter 138, Wichita

Area 5 VP: **Ronald Katt**, Chapter 2032, Logan County, Oakley

Area 6 VP: **Robert Cranmer**, Chapter 1709, Golden Belt, Great Bend

The full listing, including names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail information will be mailed to you during the coming week with the minutes of the convention.

National Convention forms should have been received by each Chapter President last week.

Please find the form C/06-2, "Designation of Chapter Voting Representative, Delegates, Alternates, or Proxy." This is the form you need to submit to list all delegates and alternates to the convention. You do need to list the "Voting Representative" for your Chapter along with all delegates attending. Both the Chapter President and the Chapter Secretary need to sign the form. Send the white and green copies directly to Headquarters, retain the pink copy for your files, the yellow copy to me at 907 Sycamore Place, McPherson, KS 67460-5804, and the gold copy to your voting representative.

If you are NOT sending a delegate to convention, please sign and date the form and mail the entire form to me. You probably know right now whether anyone from your Chapter is attending. If no one is, send that form right now before you put it back somewhere to do later. I will assign a proxy for your Chapter vote at National Convention. Your vote could be the determining factor on how our organization continues operation and is important – so please take care of this right now.

"The secret of being happy is not to do what you like, but to like what you do."

TREASURER

Madelyn Brown

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Thank you to all members for the confidence to elect me as your Treasurer. I hope I live up to you expectations.

Board members, please send your vouchers immediately, with appropriate documents attached.

Sometimes when you delay sending you misplace or destroy the receipts. If the receipts are not attached, I may not pay you for that particular expense. I will work hard to keep the expenses of the Federation down.

Effective May 15th the Federation Board travel vouchers are to be sent to me. My name and address is on the voucher and at the start of this article. Also your mileage has increased to .30 cents per mile. That also became effective May 15th.

AREA 1 VICE PRESIDENT

Agnes Shellhammer

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The Wichita Chapter hosted the best Federation Convention I have ever attended. Just everything was nice. Area 1 re-elected me as their Vice President, though I don't know why as I didn't do a very good job. I'll try to do better this year. We have finally received some much need rain in Johnson County and now it is cold. Oh Well, It's Kansas. If all goes as planned I will be in Emporia on June 7 for the Federation Board Meeting.

AREA 1A VICE PRESIDENT

Theodore "T.J." Robinson

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Greetings to the entire Kansas Federation and congratulations to all the newly elected and re-elected officers. The following year will be a challenge to us all and it is definitely established with me to assist in any manner possible to accomplish our goals.

It is vital to all that we are cognizant of the fact that our membership is rapidly depleting. In order for our organization (NARFE) to be effective in and for those we represent, we must be strong with member numbers. We must remember too, those Current Federal Employees that are recruited, we must find a way to include them with a place and time to meet, welcome, inform and share our chapter's commitments, proposals and actions. There are multitudes of Federal Retirees and Current Federal Employees who are unaware of the fact that NARFE is the only organization in existence today, which has their interest and welfare in our design and settled purpose.

It will definitely be a treat for me to come together with longstanding friends and associates again, to work, communicate and assist in any way possible

and then too, support whatever efforts that are chosen for the undertaking. There will be much more to impart in the future, so in the meanwhile, may you all have good health and many blessings.

AREA II VICE PRESIDENT

Gale D. Beck

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The Federation Convention has come and gone. Area 2 had representation from three of the five chapters. Emporia, Iola and Tri-River had Chapter members in attendance, with Tri-River having a total of seven (7) in attendance. Congratulations Tri-River. Osage City and Ottawa were represented by proxy. I hope that all (5) chapters will make a concerted effort to have several in attendance next year when the State Convention will be at Junction City. Those of you who do not attend, miss out on a lot of information, meeting with other NARFE members and learning what is going on within NARFE that affects "you".

You are never too old to learn. I urge Chapter Presidents make highlights that appear in this Federation Newsletter available to your membership. You and your Secretary are the only two who receive this newsletter, so "the buck stops with you". I hope it is not DOA.

When I received the email announcement from John Lancaster, Federation Newsletter Editor the articles were due, I thought that I had no comments to make except those that appear above; however while out weed eating the yard this morning, I got several ideas for comments. I hope that while I was weed eating I did not clip off to many of Joan's flowers, but so what, with this nice wet weather they should come back, maybe.

Let's address membership for a minute. How many members in your chapter have asked someone to join NARFE in the past year? How many members in your chapter have membership applications on hand, and material that tell what NARFE has done for them? How about the article on Page 9 of the May NARFE Magazine, written by Charles Fallis, NARFE President, has that been reproduced and made available as a handout to potential members in your community? If your answer and the answer of your members is none or zero, then you are like the car that has its motor running, but the driver has forgot to put it in gear. You are

going no place and neither is your chapter. Perhaps that statement is wrong, you and your chapter are going someplace, but it is probably down hill with fewer and fewer members.

Recruitment of new members is hard work. After all the working employee you ask, thinks he or she has all the answers, after all they probably belong to the organization that helps protect their benefits while working, but they forget about the flip side, that is the retirement side. Just ask them what their organization did when Cola's were dropped for the year 1985?

What did their organization do for the years, first quarter of 1994, 1995 and 1996, when Cola's were delayed and it was suppose to have been permanent. If it had not been for NARFE it would have been permanent when they retired or do retire. They could have shared that loss along with the rest of us. Where was their organization when the above mentioned cuts came about? Were they working with NARFE to recoup those benefits? "NARFE is working to protect our promised and earned benefits. Are our NARFE members working to keep NARFE alive and well, or have most of our retirees and still working Federal Employees gone on vacation when it comes to working to protect our promised and earned benefits? When asking someone to join NARFE they should be exposed to these issues. Don't you think????

The Osage City Chapter #2099 celebrated their 20th Anniversary Friday evening, May 19 at the Lamont Hill Restaurant. The Chapter was organized April 11, 1986 with 10 individuals becoming members at the Osage City Senior Center, at Osage City, Ks. Two of the original members were recognized at this anniversary, Doris J. Anderson and Evelyn E. Riley. They were recognized for their contributions to the chapter, and the community. Several newer members were also recognized for their recent contributions to the community. Both Doris and Evelyn continue to contribute much to the chapter and to the community.

Other chapter members in Area 2 who attended to help in the celebration were; Ottawa Chapter #785 and Chapter #2099 Tri-River Chapter of the Paola Area. State and Area Officers in attendance who assisted in the celebration were; Don Cooper, Immediate Past Federation President; Jim Miller, Past Federation President & current State Legislative Chairman, and his wife Irene; John Lancaster, Past Federation President, State Newsletter Editor and his wife, Jane, Gale Beck, Area 2 Vice President and his wife Joan.

Cindy Blythe Chapter President conducted the meeting and recognized many chapter members in at-

tendance in addition to seeing that the Anniversary Cake was cut and served. "Thanks to Chapter #2099" for a great celebration. We will be looking forward to your 25th. Gale D. Beck, Area 2 Vice President.

AREA IIA VICE PRESIDENT

L. J. "Jim" Gaskell

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Is your Chapter a "healthy Chapter" or one headed to the "Rest Home" sometime in the future? I hope most chapters will be able to say "We are Healthy".

The health of a Chapter depends greatly on the leadership of the Chapter Officers and appointed Committee Chairs. One of those Committees I want to stress this month is the Membership Chairman. In smaller Chapters, the Membership chair is the only member of that committee and if so, will be pretty busy taking care of the needed business of membership.

Retention of existing members is one of the keys to a healthy Chapter. When the Membership chair receives the M-112 on the changes in Chapter membership he or she needs to be aware of any drops or second notices to members because of non-payment of dues. The chair needs to take immediate action to determine why this person has not continued their membership. It could be a serious illness that has caused them to be unable to renew. By visiting with that person one can learn if that person has just forgotten to renew or if they have a concern about what the NARFE organization or Chapter has done to dissatisfy them. Sometimes small things can cause big problems in the eyes of a member. Try to answer any questions they may have and discuss what they believe needs to be done to solve their problem. Perhaps it is the cost of writing a check for \$30 or more dollars is the problem. Suggest the Dues Withholding plan where they do not have to pay ahead but have it paid monthly through the withholding plan. Show them how they can even save a few dollars by going to Dues Withholding. If you get them switched over this person will probably be a member as long as they are alive. As a rule, it is easier to retain a member than to recruit a new one!

Next time I hope to write about recruiting members and how that helps keep a NARFE Chapter healthy!

AREA III VICE PRESIDENT

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It is difficult to write a report or Area 3 activities since my activities have been restricted to Chapter 280.

Judy Grossnickle did a great job. I have no intention to do better than what she did but I will work to further NARFE.

I joined NARFE after retirement. Three former work associates invited me to join but it was the membership chairman, Mike Ahern, who got me to do it by handing me an application and telling me to send it in. I have served for four years as the Chapter secretary and in December accepted the challenge to serve as Chapter President. I have attended four State Federation conventions. These have been informative and enjoyable. To associate with such dedicated people has been a positive experience.

AREA IV VICE PRESIDENT/EDITOR

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On behalf of Chapter 138, we wish to thank all the delegates, Delegates at large, alternates, members who attended the convention in April. We apologize for having the hail attack the cars in the lot. Mine was there also and, yes, I have also have some dents. I and Sherwood Applegate, the Convention Co-Chair, both have house damage. My roof and his roof, siding, gutters and outbuilding.

As Editor, this is a publication that is supposed to pass information on to the chapters. Due to the cost of duplicating and mailing it, we send it to the Chapter President, Secretary and Newsletter editor if there is one. As communicators, the Federation expects these officers to pass along the information which it contains to their members. Most of it is pertinent and is of value to the members.

I have contacted, or will be contacting, the Chapter Presidents in Area IV within the week. There are a couple of ideas we can discuss to possibly help NARFE.

My special thanks go out to **Clyde Woolfolk**, from the Hutchinson Chapter who has served so well during the last 6 years (in spite of some health problems). Thanks, **Clyde!**

AREA V VICE PRESIDENT

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Summer seems to be here in Area V and it is getting warm and still very dry.

The 2006 State Convention in Wichita is now over and even though I was unable to attend it was a very successful convention. Representing Area V in Wichita were Helen Shubert, Chapter 2050, Hays, Bill and Joyce Beougher and Herb and Deloris Steinike, Chapter 2032, Oakley. Even though other NARFE members were unable to attend, each Chapter was represented by delegate or proxy.

I was elected to represent Area V again this year and I look forward to working with the Area Chapters, NARFE State officers, and all Area V NARFE members. We will strive to make 2006-2007 a year of growth and dedication to the goals of NARFE.

AREA VI VICE PRESIDENT

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The 52nd Annual Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters Convention is history. Area VI had 2 Chapters, Great Bend Chapter 1709, and Ulysses Chapter 2086, in attendance. Three DAL's and 3 delegates attended. Congratulations to Wichita Chapter 138 for hosting a great convention.

Welcome to everyone on the Federation Executive Board. Junction City Chapter 383 will host the 2007 KS NARFE Convention April 29-May 1, 2007, at Courtyard by Marriott Hotel & Convention Center.

I have visited 3 chapters since the convention. Scott City Chapter 1996, Dodge City Chapter 1873, and Great Bend Chapter 1709. Most of Area VI chapters do not meet during the summer months. The next Federation Executive Board meeting will be held June 7, 2006 at Emporia.

STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

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State Legislative Wrap Up. The KS Legislature has adjourned until May 25. They'll reconvene that day for a Sine die?

Unless the Governor vetoes someone's pet bull, or bill as the case may be, they'll adjourn for the rest of 2006. Our benefit was left alone, but in the name of boosting the Kansas economy, the legislators did offer some great giveaways to the wealthiest individuals and corporations. The giveaways included elimination of property taxes on new business machinery and equipment; franchise fees paid by cable TV and telecommunications firms; property tax on new infrastructure of the same firms, and the plan to phase out the estate tax. I don't know about you but when billionaires Bill Gates and Warren Buffet state that the estate tax is fair and should be retained, I have to ask the billionaires and gazillionaires...HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH ?

It's a question that we should be asking our legislators because in 2007 and 2008, they'll be scrambling for new sources of income and we'll be the ever handy targets again. When the legislature gives away with one hand this year, logic dictates will have to be found somewhere else. Perhaps the voters will decide on November 7th!

SERVICE OFFICER

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Greetings from your State Service Officer:

Summer is here, although the calendar says its still spring. We appreciated the rain that we had earlier this month. I know not all areas have had sufficient rain to date, but we hope you will still receive sufficient rain.

I am still helping folks, answering questions about insurance, benefits and submitting death claims. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need assistance.

One of the main thrusts at present is Premium Conversion. Each and everyone of us needs to contact our Congressmen, requesting that they vote for this bill as it will allow us to pay for our health insurance with pre-tax dollars. This will put additional money in our pocket and provide us the same benefits that employed people receive. The House bill is H-994 and the Senate bill is 454. Remember you can call your Senator and Representative on the internet, by phone or by post card. Only through your voice will they know of your desires.

This is a short article and I would like to close with, "It's true that we don't know what we've got until we lose it, but it's also true that we don't know what we've been missing until it arrives."

KANSAS ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

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The Live and Silent Auctions at our April Federation Convention were a great success. Please extend a "thank you" to all those who contributed items and to those who purchased items at the convention. We collected a total of \$2,869.50 for Alzheimer's Research.

The members of Jefferson County Chapter 2231 donated a number of items included in a basket that was also used as a fundraiser at the convention. This drawing raised a total of \$307. Thank you Chapter 2231!

Through the end of April, we have collected \$6,993.87, which is \$1.36 per member. The Alzheimer's Committee at the convention set our Federation goal for 2006 at \$3.30 per member. Thank you for your continued support.

Contribution checks should now be made out to "NARFE / Alzheimer's Research". This is a slight change to the 'payable' we have previously used. Adding the word 'Research' was done to highlight the fact that the money will go to research. Checks made out to "NARFE / Alzheimer's" or "Alzheimer's / NARFE" will be accepted just as before, but we should phase in this change over time. Thanks for your cooperation.

If you have internet access, the regular monthly contribution submission form is available on the KS NARFE website (ksnarfe.org) as option # 32.

If you have any questions or needs related to our Alzheimer's fundraising, please contact me. Quotation:

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

--Anonymous

NARFE NETTER / HISTORIAN

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I have added some updates to the KSNARFE.org web site. At item #2 on the home page a complete listing of the new Federation board from KS Secretary Carol EK is posted. At item #13, I have added approx. 325 photos taken at the KS NARFE convention in Wichita. The page has been changed to "archive" format to preserve the previous photos and

also to make downloading the photos faster. 219 of the photos are from KS Federation convention photographer Dennis Grossnickle.

At item #14, the latest Chapter 1160 and 383 newsletters have been posted.

A new Kansas weather page has been added at item #20. There are 6 "weather stations" opened on the page from various cities in Kansas. The page is updated hourly. I hope you find it useful.

A new Kansas NARFE forms page has been added at item #40. Additional forms will be added as they are requested by Kansas NARFE members.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT/ PUBLIC RELATIONS
Donald Cooper
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PAST PRESIDENT: As your Immediate Past President, I find myself thinking of all of those things I would like to have seen accomplished during the last term as President. BUT, the Federation of NARFE Chapters is a on-going team effort. We all have our part to play in this continuing effort to collectively go forward with renewed determination to do our best at **PROTECTING OUR EARNED BENEFITS**. It's our opportunity to swell our ranks, be better informed, better equipped, very determined, and ready for an exciting year.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Public relations is essential for the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees. It is important for promoting membership and the NARFE message. It is important for the increased understanding and support of NARFE's legislative agenda. It helps to shape the public perception of federal retirees and current federal workers. And, public relations helps to increase awareness of the significant community service contributions being made by NARFE volunteers throughout the U.S. and around the world.

In partnership, working together, and with open lines of communication, NARFE's public relations network can be strengthened and it can achieve great things.

As with the other appointive committees, the public relations committee is an essential link in the federation and chapter organization. It is the link between what others know about NARFE and what NARFE chapters are doing. This constructive communications may take on a printed form, an oral form, a visual form or other forms. What we accomplish must be accurately conveyed to others. What others read about us in the local newspaper, what others hear

us say of what we are doing and many other means of communications are important.

Check your paper for how up to date information is being read. One chapter was listed in the local paper, Organizations of the community as meeting on the correct date, BUT the location of the meeting place was several years old (the restaurant had been torn down!) and the contact person had not been in that position for nine years.

It is my hope that we will all strive to keep our public relations in top form.

The **NARFE** table top **display kit** and the new **ZAP NARFE display** are both being stored at my place. It is very simple to secure the use of those good visual aids. They are both in durable mailing cases. They are easy to mail. **SO, call me at (785) 537-1676. OR write me at 5846 Tuttle Cove Rd., Manhattan, KS 66503-8432. OR, send me an e-mail request at cooper@flinthills.com. Plan, now, for the use of the visual display at your public functions, meetings, fairs, etc. Get your request in soon, before others reserve *your dates*.**

Keep on communicating.



President Surritte and Immediate Past President Cooper

