

John Surritte, President and National Legislative Coordinator: Here we are at my favorite time of the year. I LOVE THE HOLIDAYS, ALWAYS HAVE SINCE I CAN REMEMBER. I would like to give you update on what we've accomplished this year.

We have done a wonderful job on raising funds for Alzheimer's Research. I am continually amazed and pleased on how our members do raising funds to get rid of this terrible disease. I know most of us are on a fixed income, so I greatly appreciate the efforts the Chapters do to raise money to eliminate Alzheimer's. My wife, Linda, says we are the best in Region 5 and in the top 10 Nationwide. This, to me, reflects what the Holidays are truly about, helping those less fortunate than ourselves. THANKS.

On the Legislative front, we now have Representatives Boyda, Moran and Moore on our side. These three folks have supported us on every initiative our organization has championed. Only Representative Tiaht, 4th District, has remained a holdout, and even he has begun a dialogue with Gary Townson, Wichita Chapter President and Federation 1st Vice-President, so I remain hopeful. Both Senators Brownback and Roberts, support Premium Conversion. Senator Brownback became a supporter after our last newsletter. I know this is because of your efforts in the Chapters. I really appreciate what you have done.

Finally, the news is not as good on growing and retaining our membership. You and I need to contact every federal retiree and active employee we know and explain to them what NARFE does to protect their futures. We then need to ask them to join and put them on dues withholding. According to my OPM annuity statement, I pay less than \$3.00 per month to belong to NARFE. This is a small price to pay to protect my retirement. I hope you agree.

Our Area Vice-President, Jim Gaskell, from Southeast Kansas is going to submit a resolution at our 2008 Convention in Hutchinson to raise our per-capita dues from \$1.00 per member to \$1.50 per member. This increase is needed to support the activities we do in the Federation to support our Chapters. For example this year we sent members to the NARFE National legislative conference. This resulted in most of our Congressional folks supporting us as mentioned above. We also attended the National State President's meeting to get our HQ to better support our Chapters. This resulted in a nationwide effort to better organize HQ to make NARFE more effective in the 21st Century. We supported 39 Kansans from our Chapters to attend the CONK. This gave our present and future leaders the training they need to make their Chapters stronger and more effective in convincing our Congressional members to support those initiatives which will make our retirements more secure. Finally, Federation Board members have trained our Chapters in Areas 1,1A, 2, 2A and 3 this fall. We will train the remaining Chapters this coming March. Of course this costs money and has depleted the Federation's Treasury. Of the seven States in our Region, we are tied for last with on how much our members contribute to the Federation. Secretary EK recently asked for your support of an increase to \$1.50. I hope you support this resolution. Our Lawrence Chapter, at our November meeting, voted to send the Federation our \$.50 per member for this year even though the Resolution has not been approved State-wide.

Finally, our Chapter in Lawrence, which Linda and I belong to, recently elected their officers and appointed members for our committees for 2008. The Chapter took a new tack this year and implemented shared responsibilities. What this means is we have more than one person to handle many positions. This means that folks who have to miss a meeting will have someone to replace them so the Chapter can remain effective. It also means that we have a better chance to train and develop our leaders of the future. If you have not done this, you might want to implement shared responsibilities in the future.

In closing, Linda and I wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and a Great Happy Holiday season. May you and yours be safe and healthy this coming year. I am looking forward to seeing you April 27 –29, 2008 at the State Convention in Hutchinson. Hope you will come and make NARFE even better in our great state.

Gary Townson, 1st Vice President: I have been on the road quite a lot this last Quarter. On September 6, I attended the meeting of Chapter 27 in Leavenworth and gave a presentation concerning NARFE/PAC. September 18 I was in Atchison KS to join in Chapter 621's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration.

October 10 found me in Hutchinson to attend the meeting of Chapter 537. One purpose of the visit was to meet with Congressman Jerry Moran's (R 3rd Dist.) Aide who was at the meeting. Next I traveled to Clay Center on 10/11 and Kansas City KS on 10/13 to participate in Federation training for local Chapters. On October 30th the Federation Board Meeting was held in Hutchinson. Since President Surritte was on vacation, I conducted the Board Meeting. November 9 Congresswoman Nancy Boyda (D 2nd Dist.) had a fundraiser in Shawnee KS. (Shawnee is in the 1st Congressional District.) Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi was scheduled make a special appearance. I contacted NARFE Headquarters concerning obtaining some PAC funds for her. I was notified that Headquarters had approved \$1000.00 for her campaign. Protocol dictated NARFE make an appearance at the event. I was unable to locate anyone from her Congressional District planning to attend. I decided to drive to Shawnee so we would have someone there. Tom Raby also attended. Tom is from the 1st Dist. and I am from the 4th Dist. Congress held a Friday afternoon session requiring votes on important items. Both Nancy Boyda and Nancy Pelosi remained in Washington and only appeared at the fundraiser via a telephone hook-up.

I now have the Third Quarter of the 2007 – 2008 Congressional Cycle NARFE/PAC reports. I am pleased to report that Kansas has maintained it's position as the 10th largest contributor to NARFE/PAC in the Nation. Kansas is also #1 in Region V which includes the states of Missouri and Minnesota! Unfortunately only 6 of the 46 Kansas Chapters contributed **ANYTHING** to PAC during the quarter that ran from June 30 through September 30, 2007. That is sad. It is wonderful for the Chapters to collect funds to contribute to Alzheimer's research but if we don't contribute to PAC First, there may not be any Chapters to give to Alzheimer or other causes. We don't sell pins or anything else. We collect contributions for the defense of our benefits. If someone contributes at least \$20.00, we recognize them by giving them a PAC pin. Many areas collect donations in the three figure category. [And I don't mean two figures behind the decimal point.] How much are your Federal Benefits worth to you? If you have already contributed to NARFE/PAC, Thank You. There is nothing to stop you from contributing again (unless you have already contributed the \$5,000.00 maximum PAC contribution allowable per calendar year.) **HAVE YOU?**

During my semi-Annual visit with my pulmonologist, I confirmed what I already knew. My lung function is diminishing. There is nothing that can be done to reverse or retard the decline. So far, the Dr. hasn't suggested my going on oxygen but commented that my strength and endurance are definitely losing ground. I will stay active with NARFE and the National Association of Postal Supervisors as long as I physically can. This will be our 9th Thanksgiving since my cancerous lung was removed so this season holds a special meaning for us.

I wish all of you the most Blessed Christmas Season ever.
Never forget what we are celebrating.

Elizabeth Bornman, 2nd Vice President: Since the last newsletter I completed three sessions on Membership at the Back to Basics Training. I attended with Area I, VP Tom Raby and Area 1A, T.J. Robinson the retiree Day at Fort Leavenworth, KS. It was well attended. We visited with about 100 potential members from the metropolitan area. I visited on 20 November the Fort Scott chapter and spoke with them about Recruiting and Retention. Problems with membership are affecting all chapters regardless of size. All the chapters need to develop a Membership Plan and budget for recruitment which is lacking in almost all chapters. I hope to provide a boiler plate to all chapters to implement in the chapters for 2008 by the end of January.

Carol Ek, Secretary: November 1st, 2007, I mailed the annual letter asking for return of forms F-7 and F-3A by December 15, 2007, if possible. This letter was mailed to every Chapter President, every Chapter Secretary, and all members of the Federation Executive Board. I have received a few F-7's however am a long way from 100%. If you have elected your officer's for the 2008 year, please ask the Secretary to send the F-7 as soon as possible.

Every convention we hear complaints about the manner in which the Federation Executive Board takes action on different matters. This is the time you can make your wishes known by submitting a resolution asking for review of that problem which you believe exists. The Kansas Federation Bylaws have been made

available to anyone who wishes a copy. To request a change, submit form F-3A to the Federation Secretary by December 15th. You may submit your form F-3A through email or with the paper form. I would like to have them by December 15th because I have to reproduce them and have them mailed to every Chapter 60 days prior to convention.

This year's annual Kansas State Convention is being held in Hutchinson, Kansas, at the Grand Prairie Hotel, April 27th through April 29th, 2008. Salt City Chapter 537, Hutchinson, Kansas, is busy making plans for the convention. The hotel is very nice and prices are right, so come to Hutchinson and enjoy the convention, site see at the Comosphere and Space Center, the Salt Mines and other places of interest in Hutchinson. Anyone attending the convention as a "guest" will not be charged a registration fee. All meals and other expenses will be paid with their registration. "Guests" are any persons attending who are not members; is not a Delegate at Large, Delegate; or Alternate Delegate.

Only two additional training seminars will be held on "Back to the Basics and You". One will be held in Hays, Kansas, March 07, 2008, where members from Area 5 and 6 will be in attendance. One will be held in Wichita, Kansas, March 14, 2008, for members of Area 4. Always keep in mind that anyone can attend these seminars. You do not have to be a member, or a member from that area. All are welcome. We certainly have not had the attendance we would like to have even though the seminars are very well planned and material is new to many. It's your choice to learn about NARFE, it's the Federation's obligation to make sure the information is made available for you – so do try to attend at least one of the seminars.

At the last Federation Executive Board meeting held October 30, 2007, the Executive Board approved a motion asking for a one-time "VOLUNTARY" fifty cents (.50) donation to the Federation from each Chapter based on the number of members in that Chapter. This motion came about because of the shortage of funds in the Federation treasury. It was understood that some Chapters may be able to make this donation while others would not. Federation expenses have increased as everything else has increased. Hotel rooms, supplies and postage has increased noticeably causing a shortage of funds for the Treasurer.

Kansas has one of the lowest per capita tax rates in the Nation which has worked before but I am sure you may be looking for a resolution, at convention, to increase our per capita tax for future years.

We are presently working with two Chapters who have requested assistance because they are in trouble getting new members and officers. If you feel you are in this area, please contact either John Surritte or myself so we can get you on the list to see if there is something we can do for you. This is a job that is assigned to the Federation President, Federation Secretary and the Area Vice President. If one of us is not available to do the foot work on that Chapter, another Executive Board Member may be assigned but guaranteed one of us will be there to help you out. Region V Vice President Richard Thissen is working on a plan hopefully to get us some funds to help pay the expenses of this type of program along with the training seminar program. Richard has been very complimentary of our "Training Seminars" and has participated in each one.

At your next meeting, ask your members to write down names, addresses, and telephone numbers of people who they know would be eligible members. Make up a membership packet of a copy to the NARFE magazine; the pamphlet "Pop Quiz"; application for membership; a brochure "What Is NARFE"; and any other information you believe would be of interest to that person to encourage them to become a member. Call them on the telephone to visit with them about NARFE – make a date for coffee or lunch and visit with them about NARFE. Many of our potential members just really don't know what NARFE is doing for them. The brochure "What Is NARFE" is a four page document suggested by Gale Beck which has become a much requested document. I do have a supply of those or can make them at your request. It is available by email if you wish to take a look at it and copy the number you need yourself. We will even assist you in making those telephone calls if you request that assistance.

I did have the opportunity to attend the 50th Anniversary for Atchison, Chapter 621 which was organized September 03, 1957. Chapter members had a very nice party with several Federation Officers and Region V Vice President, Richard Thissen, in attendance. "Thank you Atchison for your hospitality and staying alive for 50 years.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Ottawa Chapter 785 meeting to discuss "What Is Needed to Keep the Chapter Active" and to gain new members. The Chapter had a very good turn out of members and one current employee who will be joining. They did get new officers elected following our meeting

and will be working on recruitment with a new outlook.

I do hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and Only the Best for the Coming Year.

Madelyn Brown, Federation Treasurer: In December I will be sending the Official Notice of Per Capita Statement out. As usual the per capita will be \$1.00 per member less the Honorary Members. The total number of members for each chapter will be as of November 30, 2007. At the Executive Board Meeting held in Hutchinson on October 30, 2007 we voted to ask each chapter for a donation of \$.50 for each member. The Federation is struggling to continue paying for the training seminars, travel visit to the chapter, and board meetings. The Federation has not asked for a raise in the Per Capita since 2001. This donation will be above the regular Per Capita.

Donald Cooper, Immediate Past President: I've asked this before - **what's your comfort Zone?** We all have a comfort zone-whether we are aware of it or not! The more I learn of what NARFE really means to the civilian Federal Worker, the more nervous I become. When I look at the number of people who are eligible to be members of NARFE and **then** look at the number of people who are NARFE members - there's something wrong with the picture. We, as members of NARFE aren't listening to our National President Margaret Baptiste. She is urging us to communicate & display public Relations.

Make others aware of what NARFE can do - that no other organization can do.
NARFE is looking out for our **earned benefits.**

The end of the calendar year signals an opportunity to start a new year with Chapter Leaders who are eager to let others know what NARFE can do for them. It is my hope that every Kansas NARFE Chapter will have a Public Relations Officer appointed. Then, I would like to know that each Chapter Public Relations Officer has a copy of NARFE Public Relations Handbook FH-9 (10/05). It would also be wonderful, if the Public Relations Officer would be certain that all of the Chapter Officers knew what terrific information can be found in FH-9 (10/05).

The end of the Calendar Year also signals the end of a great incentive opportunity for the Currently Employed Federal Employee. The special CFE membership rates of 1 year \$25, 2 Years \$45 and 3 years \$60 will **end** on December 31, 2007. After December 31st, starting January 1, 2008, CFE membership will be \$33.

Kansas NARFE Chapters - start off the new year with sharing your opportunities with a lot of newly signed up CFE s. Seek them, tell them and ask them to take advantage of sharing in membership with you in their (and Your) organization.

It is my hope that your Comfort Zone will be sharing NARFE.

Call, write, or e-mail me to reserve the NARFE displays. (785) 537-1676,
5846 Tuttle Cove Rd., Manhattan, KS 66503-8432 or cooper@flinthills.com

Gale D. Beck, Advisory Officer and AREA 2 Vice-President: The past two months have been busy months with Training being developed for Kansas and the visitation of chapters in Area 2. Chapters visited since the last Federation Newsletter was printed are; the Ottawa chapter #785, October 16th followed by the visitation of the Osage City Chapter #2099, October 26th. and Tri-River Chapter November 13th. The Iola Chapter #2077 was visited the first Monday in November. Since that time a follow up has been made of Chapter #785, at the Ottawa Chapters Regular November meeting. A special emphasis was placed on Membership and Membership Recruitment with Don Cooper, Past Federation President/Public Relations Officer and Carol Ek, Federation Secretary and myself attending their November meeting. Purpose of attendance was to promote membership potential, why Federal Employees, Retirees and spouses need to be members of NARFE and the potential for new members in the Ottawa Area. Thanks to Don and Carol for taking of their time to attend this chapter meeting just prior to Thanksgiving.

The Training (Seminar) schedule was developed and a seminar was held at Iola, at the Community College on October 3rd. This was a consolidated seminar including Area 2 and Area 2A. Jim Gaskell's Area

2A's Chapters joined Area 2 in their attendance at Iola. Area 3, Training Seminar was held at Clay Center, Friday, October 12, hosted by Duane Evans, Area 3 Vice President and his chapters. Area 1 and 1A hosted a training seminar in Kansas City on Monday, October 15th. with Thomas E. Raby, Area 1 VP and T. J. Robinson. 1A VP coordinate the hosting of the seminar. This complete the training seminars until next March, when a seminar will be held March 7th. in Northwest Kansas at Hays, Ks. and in Area 4, the Wichita Area on March 14th.

Chapters and Chapter Members who do not attend or participate in these Seminars are missing out on a valuable experience, not only in learning more about NARFE but meeting old friends and making new ones. We are never too old to learn. Henry Ford once said: "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether that happens at twenty or ninety. Anyone who keeps on learning not only remains young but becomes constantly more valuable, regardless of physical capacity" Lets all keep on learning and sharpening our skills.

Thomas E. Raby, Area 1 Vice-President: Well, it's been a busy fall. In October we had Area 1/Area 1A training in Kansas City, KS. Chapter 1160 did their usual great job in hosting this event. Gale Beck and the other Federation Officers put together a great program. The trip to Hutchinson for the Executive Board meeting was a good experience. The 2008 Federation Convention promises to be another event that we'll all remember. However, Jane and I got there early on Monday and the Salt Museum was closed. This forces us to spend more time there next April.

I attended a reception for Representative, Nancy Boyda, in Shawnee. Gary Townson came all the way from Wichita to make sure NARFE was well represented. It was a memorial event, even though Ms. Boyda was tied up in DC. The other attendees, and staff, made it a learning experience. This shows the need for our NARFE/PAC contributions, and our continued contact with elected officials. T. J. Robinson, Area 1A VP, and myself returned to the Bannister complex in October. We again dealt with the old "bargaining unit" questions. We're educating the CFE's, one or two at a time. We will return again in March or April of '08

We had a great Thanksgiving. Hope everyone did, also.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jim Gaskell, Area 2A Vice-President: **Loss of Fredonia Chapter:** After struggling a couple years, the Fredonia NARFE Chapter, 2100 has been merged into the Chanute Chapter 0799 after the Fredonia Chapter membership requested this action. We will miss having a NARFE Chapter located in Fredonia but the Chanute Chapter will continue to serve that area.

Resolution to be offered: At the October meeting of our Federation in Hutchinson I stated that I plan to offer a resolution to increase the per member payment that chapters send to our treasurer at the beginning of each calendar year. I hope you will join me in preparing our chapter members on why an increase is needed. We need to be able to show them how our Federation is working for them and why the increase is needed. Some rationale for asking them to vote to approve this resolution follows: Our Federation Treasurer, Madelyn Brown, has advised us that Federation funds are getting low as of October 30 of this year. Her report shows that we have a \$2,500 CD and a \$1,700.21 balance in the bank. As a Federation we have spent funds for NARFE training this year but the training was needed. We need to provide NARFE training in the western half of Kansas this coming spring.

Part of the problem is that costs have continued to rise for the Federation just as they have for each of us. Income for the Federation is down due in part from a decrease in Kansas NARFE membership dues. As number decrease, the total dollars received by the Federation from the \$1.00 per member dues also decreases. With fewer dollars to work with it means the Federation will need to either reduce activities now used to support chapters or find a way to increase our annual income.

The major costs of the Federation are travel, including mileage costs related to chapter visits; training and NARFE officers meetings and lodging; and office supplies, including postage and duplication of materials.

I am asking my chapters to send in an extra fifty cents per chapter member for this coming year to help offset the fund crunch we are in. I hope each AREA VP will join me in making this request and explain why

the federation needs more money to continue our business of serving chapters in Kansas.

Duane Evans, Area 3 Vice President: Thanks to the 2007 chapter officers who have made 2007 a successful year.

We reached the 7 million dollar goal for Alzheimer's and now have a new goal of 8 million dollars. This is a tremendous accomplishment for our organization.

In October I attended the Abilene Chapter meeting and participated in their 20th anniversary. Four of the original charter members were at the meeting and were recognized as such. A cake was decorated signifying this occasion. After pictures were taken of charter members and the cake, the cake was served to member.

I attended the Herington Chapter meeting. They have a close knit group that enjoys being together. A slate of 2008 chapter officers were presented by the Chapter President and approved by the members. Three new chapter members were recognized by the President and they introduced themselves. One of these new members, Mrs. Duncan, agreed to be the chapter secretary for next year.

I attended the Junction City chapter meeting. One hundred and six members and guests attended. Tables were decorated using the Thanksgiving theme. A Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative reviewed the 2008 program changes and costs.

I attended the Marysville chapter meeting and installed their 2008 chapter officers. The group was small but it was fun to meet with them. I reviewed my trip to Alaska this summer with them. Four or five members had been to Alaska before so it was fun to hear what they had seen compare to what I had.

I attended the Belleville chapter meeting November 17 and installed their 2008 chapter officers. While there I talked about why we want to be members of NARFE and read our mission statement. It was a fun experience. In addition I told members of our 2003 trip to New Orleans, St. Augustine Florida, Kitty Hawk, George Town, York Town and other points of interest. December 17, 2003 was the 100 year anniversary of the Wright Brothers first air flight. It was a wonderful experience. On December 17, 2003 they were unsuccessful to get the replica to fly. This was a rainy day. I think that the fabric used to cover the wings, etc. became wet hence drastically increasing the weight of the air plane so that the engine speed and draft was not enough to get it air borne.

John Lancaster, Area 4 Vice-President: As the weather finally turns cool, we can put on more clothes or find someone to help us keep warm. Friends can be forever!

The chapters in Area IV are starting up again after the summer hiatus and will be discussing what can be done to the benefit of NARFE. During the Summer I have visited with the chapters that were meeting and have attempted to offer words of encouragement to the members so that they would run for an elected office in the chapters. I believe that the chapters that have one year terms will have officers in place. In fact, two have already elected their slate for the upcoming year. Remind your members that it is a privilege to work for NARFE, not just another job.

Training has been confirmed for March 14, 2008 in Wichita. Get a car or two full of members, come to a mini convention and meet the other people in Area IV, and have a good meal and learn a little. More information will be forthcoming to Area IV chapters.

Congratulations to several members of Chapter 138 for having represented NARFE at a recent WFEA retirement seminar in Wichita. We were able to get the information about NARFE out to two sessions of the seminar. The chapter also gave away 2 free memberships at each session.

Hutchinson has been working on their convention planning and will have assistance from most of the other chapters in Area IV for parts in the convention. Congratulations on a team effort. Keep April 27-29, 2008 open to attend the convention at the Grand Prairie in Hutchinson. With the mention of expenses at the last Federation Board Meeting, this may be an interesting convention. National President Baptiste will be asked to be in attendance. We may not get her, but she will be invited and would be very welcome.

Confucius say: "When a man's knowledge is sufficient to attain, and his virtue is not sufficient to enable him to hold, whatever he may have gained, he will lose again."

Confucius also say: "Man who eat many prunes get good run for money."

Ron Katt, Area 5 Vice-President: Chapter members in Area V and VI are invited to "Back to Basics and You" training seminar March 7, 2008 in Hays, Kansas. Federation officers, committee chairs and Region V, NFVP Richard G. Thissen will conduct the training. The training will be from 9:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. with registration starting at 8:45 a.m. Details as to training facility location and registration fee will be forthcoming in a later newsletter. In the meantime Chapter members are encouraged to mark your calendar for March 7, 2008, to be in Hays, Kansas spending an informative and fun day with NARFE friends.

Chapters are electing officers and making committee appointments for 2008. Chapters should have received a letter from Federation Secretary asking that Chapter Officer Roster, Form F-7, be submitted by December 15, 2007. It is of utmost importance that Chapters meet the filing requirement for form F-7.

Area V.P. attended Chapter 1991, Goodland, regular meeting December 5, 2007. Chapter member attendance at training seminar in Hays, Kansas, March 7, 2008, was encouraged. Wishing you all Happy Holidays!

Robert Cranmer, Area 6 Vice-President: It has been a busy past 2 months. I visited Scott City Chapter 1996 on October 9, Dodge City Chapter 1873 on Oct. 10, and Great Bend Chapter 1709 on October 11. I then visited Chapter 2086, Ulysses, on October 17th. I am sorry to report that Chapter 2086 Secretary Kay Klein passed away the next day.

I then attended the Kansas Federation Executive Board Meeting on October 30.

I also attended Kascoe State Convention in Great Bend on Sept. 28. Carol, Don and I signed up 7 new members. The good part is 4 of them are in Area 6.

The Federation is short of funds for area training. The FEB is asking for a one time donation from all of the Chapters of .50 cents per member. This would put a hardship on the small Chapters. They are struggling to make ends now. Raising their dues could lose members. The Federation might have to look elsewhere for funds.

Now is the time for election of Chapter Officers for next year. Please fill out the Chapter F-7 that you received from Sec. Carol Ek, with the new officers, and send it to Carol and your Area VP a copy.

Area 6 will hold a training seminar on March 8, 2008 at Hays, Kansas along with Area 5. "Back to Basics and you 2" is for all Chapter Officers and members. Chapter 2050 Custer 7th Cavalry will host the seminar.

Betty Born, Legislative (State): Due to the time of year (annual holidays and the upcoming 2008 elections), matters before the Kansas Legislature are probably more complicated now than at most other times. However, the legislature is presently faced with many problems caused by undocumented immigrants. One major one is Medicaid for their prenatal care, which is made most difficult by two facts: 1) All babies born in the U.S. are automatically U.S. citizens and 2) undocumented immigrants are not entitled to Medicaid except for emergency services. So, who will pay the doctors, hospitals, laboratories and drug dispensers in these circumstances is pretty uncertain and, therefore, so is availability.

Another problem for the state now is what to do about the production of energy. A major issue is a controversial decision made October 18 by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to deny a permit for a 1,400 megawatt expansion of the coal-fired electric plant in the Southwest Kansas community of Holcomb.

The air-quality permit sought by Sunflower Electric Power Corp. and its business partners was withheld by KDHE on grounds the expanded power plant would release 11 million tons of carbon dioxide annually into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a key greenhouse gas. Sunflower appealed to KDHE, but the issue is likely to be litigated.

Then, there are proposed ethanol and biodiesel industries and their pros and cons, which are being debated.

Another highly debated issue on which the legislature is being asked to take necessary action is to make it easier for counties and cities to merge governments in order to reduce taxpayer costs and facilitate operations.

The legislature does, indeed, have heavy-duty work ahead, but as of now, there seems to be no direct problem for NARFE.

The following is a report I was asked to submit for this newsletter by Acting President Gary Townson at the board meeting in Hutchinson on October 30.

In response to a Wichita NARFE member's question about whether or not we retired federal annuitants are required to pay income tax to the State of Kansas on Thrift Savings Plan distributions, I referred the question to my Certified Public Accountant, who then sent me a copy of an earlier response to that question by a Kansas Department of Revenue Tax Specialist Attorney. In pertinent part, his letter reads:

"...Kansas law requires the use of federal adjusted gross income as the starting point for computing the Kansas income tax. In the absence of a specific modification, those items which are subject to federal tax will be subject to Kansas tax and those items which are exempt from federal tax will be exempt from Kansas tax. Since Kansas law does not provide a specific modification for withdrawals from Thrift Savings Plans, those withdrawals would be accorded the same treatment for Kansas income tax purposes as they are for federal income tax purposes."

I believe the above paragraph is self-explanatory and says that, indeed, we must pay Kansas income tax on TSP withdrawals.

Mary Fritzson Service Officer: Since assuming the State Federation Service Officer position I have participated in area training meetings in Iola, Clay Center and Kansas City. I also attended my first Executive Board meeting in Hutchinson on October 30. I'm impressed with the 2008 State Convention site in Hutchinson and hope to see a good turn out there in late April.

The next cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be 2.3 percent and will be reflected in January annuity payments. Those annuitants enrolled in Blue Cross/Blue Shield program will see a sizeable increase in their 2008 rates. Also, those annuitants age 65 and older and enrolled in Part B will see their rates for 2008 increase from \$3.0 to \$96.40.

I continue to work on questions and problems referred to me and appreciate the confidence placed in me. Recently I became aware of two of my chapter members (I had recruited them) who were in arrears on dues. After I contacted each of them – one by telephone and the other one in person – both of them are continuing their membership. I'm a firm believer in membership retention and try to make this a priority project.

Linda Surritte, Alzheimer's (State): Through the end of October, Kansas chapters have collected \$21,812.18, which is \$4.37 per member for calendar year 2007. This total exceeds our goal of \$4.00 per member! A big part of this achievement is due to CH 383 Junction City's "Eagle's Bingo" contribution of \$5,850.00 (!) earlier this year. Without that amount, the federation total dollars per member is \$3.20.

Tri-River CH 2098 had their annual chapter auction in September and raised \$1,120. This is a great fundraiser and they say it is a lot of fun for them, too. Many of you have used the "Foodless Food Sale" and the "Blessings Tax" fundraisers that we distributed earlier. They seemed to make it a little more fun for some to make a contribution. If anyone needs copies of these, just contact me. Thanks to all of you for your support.

I've changed my email Address--

Old Address: lapavlov@hotmail.com

New Address: la.surritte@gmail.com

Please use "NARFE" or "Alzheimer's" in the subject line if you contact me by email. I will still be checking the old address for a while but will transition to the new over time.

Have a great holiday season. I wish you all good health and happiness for the New Year.

Jim Dodd, NARFE NETTER/Historian: Thanks' to everyone who sent in their new e-mail addresses to help keep the KS NARFE net list current.

I have updated the KS NARFE.org web site with the latest M-110 membership report information; however any chapters we have recently lost due to closing will not show up at this time. The

consolidations should be included in the next HQ 110 update.

At the suggestion of Bob Steinert, Chapter 1162, their newsletter editor and maintainer of the www.narfe-chapter1162.org web site, I have included a "test" text only version of the KS Federation newsletter. (The following will work on any PDF newsletter, but will read everything including all notes!)

As Bob has suggested, NARFE members can save a copy of any PDF version of a newsletter to their computer hard drive, and then have the Adobe PDF reader "VOICE" read the newsletter to them. It is an "interesting" way to listen to the newsletter. Most versions of Adobe PDF reader will work. After you go off line from the Internet, open the newsletter from the location you saved it. Your Adobe PDF reader should open. To have the "voice" read the newsletter to you, on the Adobe task bar, click on VIEW. Then select "Read out Loud". The frame probably will close, so click on VIEW again and select "Read to End". Then just sit back and listen to the newsletter! Just a "fun" way to get your NARFE information. (Note: The above won't work if you don't save the newsletter to a file on your computer since the online newsletters are "write protected".)

Best wishes for a GREAT HOLIDAY season for everyone.

Dixie Thomas, Editor: I was terrified when I found out my new computer would not accept some of my old programs to include addresses for the State and Chapter newsletters. But the more I work with Windows Vista, I really do think changes are for the better. Hopefully the "bugs" are working out and the two future newsletters I am responsible for will be without problems.

I wish all of you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



**NARFE-PAC
CONTRIBUTIONS**
Period 1/1/2007 to 9/30/2007
THIRD QUARTER 2007-2008 CYCLE

	NATIONAL		
STATE		# Contributors	AMOUNT
1 CA		637	\$ 18,160.00
2 VA		315	\$ 10,970.90
3 TX		341	\$ 812.93
4 FL		249	7,185.00

4	FL	249	\$ 7,185.00
5	MD	220	\$ 7,078.00
6	WA	222	\$ 6,760.00
7	PA	247	\$ 5,591.50
8	AZ	158	\$ 4,373.40
9	NC	137	\$ 3,643.68
10	KS	213	\$ 3,639.50
11	GA	160	\$ 3,635.00
12	OH	139	\$ 3,576.50
13	IL	137	\$ 3,530.00
14	NY	147	\$ 3,422.80
15	MO	122	\$ 3,323.00
16	TN	118	\$ 3,209.00
17	IN	125	\$ 2,964.15
18	IA	120	\$ 2,920.00
19	MN	109	\$ 2,896.00
20	MI	92	\$ 2,611.00
21	AL	106	\$ 2,320.00
22	OK	101	\$ 2,231.00
23	CO	66	\$ 2,221.00
24	NJ	94	\$ 2,215.00
25	NV	76	\$ 2,045.00
26	OR	64	\$ 1,964.00
27	MA	81	\$ 1,851.80
28	KY	77	\$ 1,796.00
29	WI	71	\$ 1,744.45
30	WV	55	\$ 1,541.25
31	SC	56	\$ 1,510.00
32	HI	66	\$ 1,430.00
33	ID	61	\$ 1,399.00
34	ND	68	\$ 1,396.62
35	MS	45	\$ 1,315.00
36	LA	49	\$ 1,115.00
37	NM	38	\$ 1,109.00
38	AR	62	\$ 1,065.00

39	DC		29	\$	
					981.00
40	NE		44	\$	
					980.00
41	SD		32	\$	
					760.00
42	DE		43	\$	
					733.00
43	NH		22	\$	
					535.00
44	MT		16	\$	
					520.00
45	UT		14	\$	
					440.00
46	ME		15	\$	
					390.00
47	CT		13	\$	
					355.00
48	AK		9	\$	
					280.00
49	MISC	includes overseas	5	\$	
					265.00
50	PR		19	\$	
					208.00
51	RI		8	\$	
					205.00
52	VT		8	\$	
					185.00
53	WY		4	\$	
					110.00
54	GU		0	\$	-
55	JP		0	\$	-
56	PI		0	\$	-
57	RP		0	\$	-
58	VI		0	\$	-
					\$
	TOTAL		5525		145,518.48

