



# KANSAS FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 44

JUNE-JULY 2005

**DONALD L. COOPER**  
FEDERATION PRESIDENT

## **2005-2006 KANSAS FEDERATION OFFICERS ELECTED AT 51ST ANNUAL CONVENTION KANSAS CITY, KANSAS**



(Photo by Dennis Grossnickle, Chapter 366)

**Back Row: L to R: Ron Katt, Area V VP; Jerry Ketter, Treasurer;**  
**Robert Cranmer, Area VI VP; Richard Thissen, National Regional FVP;**  
**Clyde Woolfolk, Area IV VP; Don Cooper, Federation President; John Surrutte, Federation 1st VP;**  
**Gary Townson, Federation 2nd VP; Gale Beck, Area 2 VP.**

**Front Row: Judy Grossnickle, Area III VP; Agnes Shellhammer, Area 1 VP;**  
**Judy Park, National Legislative Director; Carol Ek, Federation Secretary;**  
**Helen Gallagher, Area 1A VP.**

**PRESIDENT**

**Donald Cooper**

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Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters 51st Annual Convention is history. The Sunflower Chapter, with assistance of other NARFE members, provided a very good setting for a comfortable convention. 100% of the Kansas Chapter were represented. Thank you, Chapter 1160 for being excellent hosts. Thank you to the NARFE Members who attended and shared the fellowship of people who care about the future of Kansas NARFE. It was also great for Judy Park, Legislative Director of our National NARFE Office, to take time from her duties to attend the fellowship with the Kansas Federation of NARFE. Richard Thissen, Region V Field Vice President also added to the representation of NARFE. I'm certain that both have been reinforced with the knowledge that NARFE is the total membership. Chapter members are important. Let us demonstrate how important Chapters are. It is the members, doing the work at the Chapter level that is so vital.

I had the pleasure of attending the Nebraska Federation of NARFE Chapters Convention in Lincoln. During my presentation, I had the opportunity to express the importance of Chapters to National President Charles Fallis.

Your Delegates to the Convention elected the same Federation Officers to serve you another year. Thank you, members, for the opportunity to work for you again. Two of the Areas, I and IA, have new leaders. I extend my appreciation to Agnes Shellhammer, Shawnee Mission Chapter for being the Vice President of Area I. I extend that same appreciation to Helen Gallagher, Chapter 027, Buffalo Bill, Leavenworth for accepting the leadership of Area IA. I'm confident that the past Area VP's, Thomas Raby and Kay Crossley know that their former duties will be in good hands. One other change is that of Federation Membership Chair. Barbara Brownell served in that capacity for the past 4 years. She elected to not be a candidate for that appointment. Jim Miller, your Legislative (State) Chair, has also consented to serve you as Membership Chair. I want to thank all of you for your past year's efforts.

Looking toward the future, COMMITMENT, DEDICATION, and PRIORTIES all are import to how successful NARFE will be in Kansas. Alta McCluskey, Junction City, exemplifies all of those. Alta McCluskey was presented a Recognition Certificate for being a CHARTER MEMBER of Old Trooper Chapter 383 - during the Chapter's 50th Anniversary Observance. Fifty years of Commitment, Dedication and participation in NARFE activities is really great. Now, can we all renew our own commitment to place priorities to fulfill the needs of making certain of the strength and viability of NARFE.

Commitment includes providing strength to your Chapter. Some Chapters have experienced difficulty in securing Chapter Officers and Chairpersons. Chapters, act now. Appoint your Nomination Committee Now. Be prepared for your Chapter to have a slate of officers to carry on

your Chapter Leadership. Don't wait until this fall.

This caution leads into another subject - Membership. Your Federation Membership Chairperson, Jim Miller can help you with ideas on securing and retaining new members. (He was instrumental in securing a dozen new members at a recent convention). Each member knows of one or more persons who are eligible for NARFE membership. Ask those people to share in the commitment to protect their earned benefits. Let your Membership Chairperson know about what Agency you are retired with and of any meetings of those who are eligible for membership with NARFE. We need to share our Organization. We need the Membership numbers to cause the Congressional people to respond to the preservation of our EARNED BENEFITS.

Training needs has been expressed by a goodly number of our Chapter members. We have an excellent Training Team, headed up by Gale Beck. That Committee is striving to make the future Training Seminars very worthwhile. The Training Team will be responding to training needs after CONK (August 29 thru September 1, 2005) . Areas II, IIA, V and VI have had Training Seminars. Areas I, IA, III & IV will need to get their needs planned soon. Remember seven person's schedules need to be considered, in addition to the Chapter schedules. This is a priority for early planning of date for the Training Seminar, who should be in attendance and laying the ground work for the importance of each Chapter to get their members to commit to that date. The Training Team is striving to do an excellent job of providing the training - now it is a high priority for the Area VP's and Chapter Officers to get your effective members committed to be at the Training Sessions.

CONK is another opportunity. This 7th Biennial Region V College of NARFE Knowledge is scheduled to be held Aug 29 thru Sep 1 at the Marina Inn, South Sioux City, Nebraska. Take action now. I would like to see all 46 Kansas Chapters to have one or more persons attending CONK. It is an opportunity to strengthen your Chapter. If you need information - contact me, Carol Ek or any of the Area VP's. Don't wait--determine who should attend from your Chapter and be proactive.

Commit, Communicate and Contribute to insuring the protection of Your Earned Benefits. Make it HIGH Priority - it pays (protect your purse).

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

**John F. Surritte**

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I would like to thank you for re-electing me to the office of First Vice-President at last month's State Convention. I have also agreed with President Cooper to serve as Federal Legislative Chair for another year. I believe if we support our National Headquarters we have a good opportunity to pass both of our legislative priorities, Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP repeal. However, it will take diligence on our part to let our

Congressional members know how important these issues are to our membership. An update on their support will follow later in this article.

We had the great pleasure of having MS Judy Park, NARFE Legislative Director, attend our Convention. Ms. Park is very experienced and competent in her position and gave the Legislative Committee a great briefing on where our issues stand with Congress and the Bush Administration. She also stated what we in Kansas need to do to get our legislative priorities passed into law. Her message is contact your federal representatives and let them know what you want and need. AND do it OVER and OVER and OVER... The telephone number you can use is 1-866-220-0044. The Capital Hill Switchboard will answer, direct you to your Senators' and respective Representative's office where you can ask for their support. Premium Conversion is Senate Bill 484 and House Bill 994. WEP/GPO Repeal is Senate Bill 619 and House Bill 147. Every Chapter President needs to make this number available to their members and ask them to call. Perhaps a good incentive, besides more money in their pockets, is public recognition at your next Chapter meeting.

In closing, below is who supports our Legislative Priorities and who needs more motivation.

S 484	S 619	HR 994	HR 147		
Sen. Brownback		NO	NO		
Sen. Roberts		NO	NO		
Rep. Moore				YES	YES
Rep. Moran				YES	YES
Rep. Tiahrt				NO	NO
Rep. Ryan				NO	NO

As you can see, we all have work to do to convince those saying NO to change their minds.

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/PAC COORDINATOR**

**Gary E. Townson**  
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Well, another Federation Convention is successfully behind us. It was great fun! Thanks again to Chapter 1160 for all the hard work that goes in to making a Convention a success.

As you know, my primary duty as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. is the NARFE-PAC. I was fortunate enough to commandeer a table right outside the meeting room to set up for collecting donations for PAC. The delegates at the Convention really came through! The week prior to our convention, the Missouri Federation held their Convention. **Richard Thissen** told me that Missouri had collected \$1070.00 for PAC at the Convention. He then went on to say that they also had a larger number of delegates in attendance. Once I announced the amount Missouri had collected, the Kansas competitiveness

came out and the Kansas Federation Delegates contributed a total of \$1125.00 for PAC. Great job Delegates! You are the backbone of NARFE Political influence on Capitol Hill.

Another piece of good news came out at the Convention. The National Executive Board is going to reconsider not hosting Legislative training in Washington. There was enough of an outcry from those of us 'back home' that they had to reevaluate the decision that had been announced at this year's Legislative Seminar. WE, THE VOLUNTEERS, THE DUES PAYING MEMBERS DO HAVE A VOICE IN HOW NARFE IS RUN. Don't ever think your one little voice doesn't count. Just like contacting our Legislators, they want and NEED your vote to stay in power.

**SECRETARY**

**Carol R. Ek**  
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The 51<sup>st</sup> annual NARFE convention is now but a memory. For all of you who couldn't make the trip you missed a wonderful three days. Kansas City Chapter 1160, Leavenworth Chapter 027 and their helpers got as much jammed into those three days as they possibly could. Minutes of the convention will be mailed to you soon along with the roster of new Federation officers for the year 2005-2006. 186 delegates and guests attended the convention with representation, including proxies, totaling 100% of the chapters.

Below you will note that the Area 1 and Area 1A Vice Presidents have changed for the coming year.

Membership Chair Barbara Brownell resigned effective June 1 with James F. Miller assuming the membership position. Barbara has done an outstanding job over the past four (4) years and we will miss her expertise.

Old Trooper, Chapter 0383, Junction City, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary having a charter member, Alta McCluskey, as guest of honor. Alta's address is 2104 McFarland Rd, Junction City, KS 66441-2822. If you have a minute, I think it would be really nice if you would just take a minute and send a letter of "Congratulations and Well Wishes" to Alta. She was so proud to be there and it was an honor being in her presence. Just think how many members we would have if we all had that kind of dedication.

President Jim Martin took this opportunity to announce that Junction City would be the site of the 2007 annual convention. They have a lovely new hotel and convention center. 2007 seems a long time away, but it will be here before we are ready I'm sure. Convention 2006 is in Wichita and plans have already begun.

**CHANGES:**

**Area 1 Vice President: Agnes T. Shellhammer, 6606 Lowell Ave, Shawnee Mission, KS 66202-3866, Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission, Telephone: 913-432-0091, No e-mail.**

**Area 1A Vice President: Helen M. Gallagher, 1703 Dakota Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048-1111, Chapter 027, Buffalo Bill – Leavenworth, Telephone 913-782-3138, E Mail: sadie1703@mail.lvnworth.com.**

**Area 1, Topeka Chapter 002, President Judy Shetter:** Correct e-mail address to **jashetter@sbcglobal.net.**

**TREASURER**

**Jerry Ketter  
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Congratulations to all those who provided a great Annual Federation Convention in Kansas City, Kansas.

I want to thank the delegates for allowing me to serve another year as your Federation Treasurer. This will be my fourth year serving as Treasurer.

Last year was a good year for the Federation as we finished in the black. Holding expenses within income was only accomplished by the executive board showing a lot of teamwork.

Edith and I wish each of you safe travel as you go to Memorial Day gatherings, alumni and family reunions and other summer activities.

**AREA 1 VICE PRESIDENT**

**Agnes Shellhammer  
6606 Lowell Ave Shawnee Mission KS 66202-3866  
913 432 0091**

Since I have been elected to the board for Area I, I thought you might like to know a little bit more about my background.

I was born 79 years ago on a farm near Gardner, Kansas and have lived in Johnson County all my life. I love to travel and have been to 43 of the 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska, 27 foreign countries on 4 continents. The mode of travel makes no difference to me, I like them all!

Now, I really did stay home to work at the Shawnee Mission Post Office, a job I dearly loved. My husband, Clyde, worked there also. I retired November 1, 1986 and joined Chapter 1162 NARFE shortly thereafter. I have been on our board for the past 10 years. I was 1st Vice President of the chapter for 1 1/2 years and then President for 4 years.

I plan to attend the June Federation Executive Board meeting and after that get some thoughts together on having a training session in Area 1.

Right now is a very busy time for me as Clyde has been having some more health problems and my brothers and I have had to put our oldest sister in a nursing home.

In spite of all this, I will try my best to fill the office and will visit with each chapter in Area 1.

**AREA 1A VICE PRESIDENT**

**Helen M. Gallagher  
1703 Dakota Street Leavenworth KS 66048-1111  
913 682 3138  
sadie1703@lvnworth.com**

Greetings from Leavenworth. It is my pleasure to be the 1A Area Vice President for the coming year. The Federation convention in Kansas City, KS was a great time to meet old acquaintances as well as getting acquainted with new members. I visited with Atchison Chapter 621 on May 17th. The Certificate of Appreciation for having contributed to Alzheimer's Research in excess of \$3.00 per member for 2004 was presented at that time. We had a great lunch. The guest speaker, Joan Lemke (NARFE member), gave a very informative talk about quilts. A visit is scheduled for Doniphan County on May 27th.

The color "beanie green" suits me at the present time, but with the help of the 1A chapters I will do my best to be of service to everyone. I had told the following story when I became Membership Chair/1st VP for Buffalo Bill Chapter 27: "This reminds me of my first job at Ft Leavenworth at Munson Army Hospital. I was brand new in the personnel section and had never worked for the military. At least once a week a Major would stop by and ask me off-the-wall questions to which I would reply, "I don't know, but I'll find out." He always received an answer from me with a few hours. This went on for about five weeks until one day he came in and asked me how to go about getting dog tags. I was so happy to finally be able to answer a question he had asked. I told him to go to the Veterinary Clinic (and take his dog with him). Would you believe that was the wrong answer! So, anyway, give me a chance and I promise this next year will be exciting for all of us.

**AREA II VICE PRESIDENT**

**Gale D. Beck  
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Thanks to Kansas City Chapter 1160 for hosting the Kansas NARFE Convention during the month of April.

They are to be congratulated for doing a great job. Some history on Chapter 1160. The original chapter organized in Kansas City was Chapter #20. Known as "Greater Kansas City". This chapter appears on the Kansas Charter issued 19th April 1954. In 1970 Chap-

ter #20 was divided into three chapters with Chapter #20 assigned to Kansas City, Missouri, #1160 to Kansas City, Kansas and Chapter 1162 to the Shawnee Mission area. With this split I am sure chapter members of #20 selected the chapter they wanted to be a part of, and where they lived had an influence on the chapter selection they made.

The roots of these three chapters date back to the early years of NARFE in Kansas.

Alzheimer's contributions were alive and well this past year for Area 2. Emporia contributed \$3.18 per member, Ottawa \$4.02 per member, Iola, \$3.95 per member, Tri River \$10.88 per member and Osage City \$10.89 per member and the state average was \$2.93 per member. Remember Alzheimer's contributions are now recorded on a Calendar year basis for Kansas.

Chapter's who do not meet during the summer months, be sure to keep your members informed on important Legislative issues. Senators and Congressman need to be contacted by chapter members on an "on going" basis as to how they feel on various legislative issues. Speaking of Legislation, do not forget "NARFE PAC". A form appears in each NARFE monthly magazine that can be used to mail in NARFE PAC Funds.

#### **AREA IIA VICE PRESIDENT**

**L. J. "Jim" Gaskell**  
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I am sorry that I did not get to attend more than just a part of the Sunday Afternoon Convention in Kansas City, KS. I did get to visit with a number of friends but certainly not all that I wanted to. I served as a member of the audit committee. When that committee's work was completed I had to leave. Many of you know my wife Lorraine and perhaps do not know she has had a very rough six months with various medical problems, some which are not solved as yet but she is improving.

I must thank my fellow NARFE friends from Area 2A for electing me to serve another year as their Area Vice-president. I will try to serve them to the best of my ability.

If any of you are reading this and have not contacted your Senators and Representative on the Premium Conversion bills and the Social Security Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision bills, I urge you to do it soon. E-mail works but a call to their office in Washington or your district office is better. But, please do your part to protect our benefits.

Also, think about one person you know that is eligible to be a NARFE member but is not. Talk to that person or let your chapter president know so he or another member of your chapter can make the contact. I believe we have people

out there who have never been invited to become a member of NARFE.

#### **AREA III VICE PRESIDENT**

**Judy Grossnickle**  
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First I would like to thank all the delegates who attended the Kansas Federation Convention in April in Kansas City. The facility was great except for the Committee meeting rooms on Sunday afternoon where the meeting committees competed to be heard over the other committee. I appreciated that my area was represented by 30 delegates/delegates at large or by proxies. We also had 3 visitors in attendance. The delegates re-elected me to the position of Area 3 Vice President. And I thank them with the reminder that a new Area 3, Vice President will have to be elected for the 2006/2007 term. I am looking forward to visiting all the chapters in my area again this year.

I already had the privilege of attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Old Trooper Chapter, Chapter 0383, Junction City. The most noteworthy VIP in attendance was a charter member. She was one of the founding mothers of the chapter, Alta McCluskey. Now, that's dedication and great retention. Congratulations to the Junction City Chapter and to Alta, too!

If NARFE were the sea, then we are in ebb tide because our membership is decreasing by approximately 1,000 members per month. One of the members of my chapter and area reported that he attended the Membership Committee Meeting. He, in his report to me stated, "**Dues withholding ... the answer to retention!**" I thought this was a great quote, however, I don't know to whom to credit it. I hope like, the sea, that our membership will turn around and become flood tide.

In our Legislative Committee Meeting, Judy Park reiterated frequently that to impress our legislators we need to have high membership numbers. In our legislator's minds membership equates to voters. Without membership numbers it will be harder to persuade our legislators to back and vote for the issues near and dear to our hearts and to NARFE.

Here's hoping that you will be on the crest of our flood tide with new members, dues withholding, life memberships and honorary memberships.

**AREA IV VICE PRESIDENT**

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Convention Over; What a great reception we had. Thanks Kansas City. I wish to convey my thanks to the Area IV Delegates for their confidence in me and having me to continue the reign of Area Vice President for 2005/2006 Convention Year. I will attempt to reflect the mission of the Federation again.

I have been working on some new members for the local Chapter. Two Chapter Members at Kingman are now living in our area and wanted to attend our Chapter Meetings. I am working on paper work for Transfers for a Lady from Kansas City who was never a Local Member there. Another Couple from Missouri Chapter # 19.

I've had contact with President Cooper in regard to a training session which I hope to be able to have in the fall. More information will be coming in regard to this program.

**AREA V VICE PRESIDENT**

Ronald Katt  
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All six Chapters from Area V were represented at the 51<sup>st</sup> State Federation Convention April 24-26, 2005, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kansas City, Kansas. Two Chapters were by delegate and four Chapters by proxy. Members attending the convention included: Donald Sigman, Chapter 2291, Colby and William and Joyce Beougher, Herb and Deloris Steinike and Ron and Karol Katt, Chapter 2032, Oakley.

The 52<sup>nd</sup> State Federation Convention is scheduled for April 23-25, 2006, at the Airport Hilton Hotel, Wichita, Kansas. Mark your calendars now for attendance.

Membership remains a main concern for NARFE. In 2004, Area V membership decreased 2.5 percent. Even though the total Area membership decreased three Chapters did experience an increase Chapter 2050, Hays 3.17 percent; Chapter 2085, Stockton 7.32 percent and Chapter 2032, Oakley 9.53 percent. The strength of NARFE lies in our members. A small goal that would reap big numbers would be for

each member to sign up one new member in 2005.

We in Area V extend a message for a healthy, safe, fun and rewarding summer for NARFE.

**AREA VI VICE PRESIDENT**

Bob Cranmer  
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The Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters 51st Annual Convention, April 24-26, 2005, is history. My wife Carla and I had the pleasure of representing Area 6 at the Federation Convention.

Congratulations to the re-elected Officers of the Federation, and to the two new Area Vice Presidents. Agnes Shellhammer, Area 1 VP and Helen Gallagher, Area 1A VP.

Last week was a busy week with visits to: Chapter 1996, Scott City, on Tuesday evening, Chapter 1873, Dodge City, on Wednesday, and Chapter 1709, Great Bend, on Thursday. A report on the convention was given to all.

Every 5 years Ness County holds an Old Settlers' Reunion. This year will be the 125th Anniversary, June 2-4, 2005. This will be another opportunity to do a little recruiting.

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Jim Miller  
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My first suggestion to NARFE members and officers is to inform members who drop their NARFE membership because of the dues increase. **DON'T DO IT ! Especially in KS, where the dollars saved in the KS income tax exemption, in ONE YEAR, would pay a**

***Life membership for most of our members and potential members.***

Second suggestion, if they won't renew for a Life membership, convert them to the money saving Dues Withholding. That benefit is also a selling point to those potential members and our best hope to retain it is to retain a healthy membership base. Numbers count in the Topeka State House, and in Washington, D.C.

Third suggestion (and don't worry, this column won't replace the Ten Commandments with the Ten Suggestions, not yet anyway ) take every opportunity to " sell " NARFE, and have applications close at hand in case we meet a prospective member . **MAKE SURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER IS ON THE APPLICATION!**

Prospects include your letter carrier, city and rural,

especially those who plan to retire in a few months. The annual fee for retired new members = \$ 33.00 a year dues. For a CFE (Current Federal Employee) if they sign on for the three year option= \$ 20.00 a year dues! Bargain!

I'm not new to recruiting, but I am new to this post. Barbara Brownell, immediate past Chair has provided a lot of material, information, and help. The NARFE traveling display case can be available for special events, i.e. conventions, training , community shows. Let us know when you want to utilize it, and give enough lead time to order NARFE recruiting applications and information. The Federation Board will meet on June 2nd( in Emporia ) and a hot topic on the agenda will be membership and the drop in membership, in KS and national. We're seeking ideas, especially those that have proven to be effective.

I have been invited to speak to several chapters and I'll coordinate those with the Area Vice-Presidents. I do make one request. Invite either a member who has not been attending or invite a prospective member to your meeting. One chapter request was " You come visit us and build a fire under some people." I was reminded of the speaker who tried out his speech on his elderly friend. He gave the trial speech and asked " What do you think? Too long? Too short? Should I put a little fire in it? " His friend's response was " Put the whole thing in the fire! " Looks like a long, hot summer!

#### **STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR**

**Jim Miller**  
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When the KS Legislature adjourned on April 28, we had hoped we could breathe easier until January 2006.

The only agenda item left was to formally close the session in early May, deliver the proposed added funding for education to the KS Supreme Court justices, run it up the flagpole and see if any of the justices would salute that specially drafted " solution." That was then, this is now, and it seems the only people who were pleased with the Public Schools Finance Plan.... were the legislators who crafted it.

As of May 13 (a Friday in case you haven't checked) several possibilities existed. One is for the justices to approve the plan as a temporary, stop gap solution and request more funds in the next budget. Two- send it back as being no plan at all , reconvene the legislators and require them to devise a plan that is more acceptable to more people. (That alternative poses the greatest

immediate threat to our federal annuity benefit.) Three- the justices toss up their hands and wait until the 2006 session, then stop requesting and start demanding action. In the interim, if you know your KS legislator, stay in touch with them, and if you see them snarling as they head back to Topeka, try to cheer them up a little? They may be easier to deal with when they have to spend part of their vacation in Topeka!

#### **SERVICE OFFICER**

**Jodine A. Elwick**  
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#### **Greetings from your State Service Officer:**

An excellent State NARFE Convention has been wrapped up and I wish to extend my "Thanks" to the Kansas City Chapter for their hospitality. The Convention was well attended, it was educational, and fun. I will be continuing as your State Service Officer for the next year.

My training session on Benefits and Services had fourteen in attendance, some of who will be serving as your Service Officer. It was an enjoyable session. I cannot stress the importance of the Service Officer to your Chapter since that individual can be very helpful to your membership, as well as a good recruiter for Federal employees and retirees who are not members.

During our training session, one of the persons told about her experience with her on-line drugs. She received her prescription and noticed that all of the pills were not all the same. Concerned, she took her prescription to her druggist and asked him to check the pills and sure enough they were not the same and certainly could have caused problems. She not only received one prescription that had two kinds of pills, but two. My advice to you is to check your prescriptions closely when you receive them and, if in doubt, have your pharmacist check them for you.

Legislation is still an important item as there are items pending that affect our benefits, particularly the fact that Health Savings Account are still on the table and for which NARFE is not in favor. Call your Senator and your Representative and let them know your need their help in keeping these plans from our FEHBP. Read your NARFE magazine and newsletters as these will keep you informed on pending legislation.

C.O.N.K. is the training session to be held in South Sioux City, Nebraska for all NARFE members. This program teaches all about NARFE and provides training for our members to serve as officers for your Chapters as well as help those who are officers to better serve.

Remember, if I can be of help, you can reach me by phone or E-Mail. Phone: (316) 722-9022. E-Mail: rdjae@aol.com. If you call and I don't answer, leave a message and I will return your call.

**KANSAS ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR**

**Linda A. Surritte**  
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The KS Federation State Convention was a great success for Alzheimer's research. The live auction raised \$1,454.00 and the silent auction raised \$1,012.30 for a total of \$2,466.30. The drawing for the Quilt, donated by Jefferson County Chapter 2231, raised \$1,890 and another drawing for an original artwork donated by our Regional VP's wife, Ruth Thisen, raised another \$150. All of this adds up to \$4,506.30. **Thank you** to everyone who donated or bought auction items and to everyone who bought and sold the drawing tickets. Also, I would like to extend a personal **thank you** to those who helped with these activities at the convention. It took a lot of volunteers to make this a success.

I went to a Tri River Chapter 2098 meeting and presented our guest auctioneer, Bobby Penn, with a **certificate of appreciation** since he was not at our regular convention awards ceremony. Since Mr. Penn is a current federal employee, I also presented him with a one year gift membership!

As you may be aware, the tracking 'credit' for each auction item goes to the chapter that donates the item. Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission, donated items that sold for a total of \$466 which was the greatest chapter auction donation amount. **Thanks**, 1162! I will be sending a complete listing by chapter to your Alzheimer's Chairs in early July.

Congratulations to Darline Laws of Chapter 2098, Tri-River, who won the quilt and Elizabeth Smith, also of Chapter 2098, who won the artwork.

In calendar year 2004, we raised a total of \$2.93 per member. **Thank you** again for your 2004 contributions. At the Alzheimer's committee meeting, members voted on a goal for 2005 of \$3.25 per member. This is a challenge, but doable. **Thanks** to the committee members for your attendance and input.

*"Gratitude is merely the secret hope of further favors."*

--Francois de La Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680)  
What can I say? I guess it's the truth...

**KANSAS NARFE NET/HISTORIAN**

**Jim Dodd**  
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I wish to thank everyone for all the sympathy cards and e-mails concerning the death of My Aunt. She was 95 years old and the next to last person in her generation of the family.

I have received some photos of the KS NARFE convention from Jean Nickell and hope to have them posted to the KSNARFE.org web site by the time this newsletter is published.

Thanks go to those who have sent me their new e-mail addresses. It certainly helps in keeping the KS NARFE net list current. Be sure to also let NARFE HQ know of your e-mail changes also.

*Jim Dodd*

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I unusually enjoyed this convention in that it was my first convention. First as Immediate Past President, that is, and it sure is different from being the President. I can say that I think we have a "keeper" in there now.

As Editor and Immediate Past President, I have had the opportunity to visit "Out Back" for a couple of training sessions. It was nice to renew old acquaintances in Western Kansas.

I also was pleased to be invited to Junction City for their Chapter's 50th anniversary. We had the opportunity to meet Alta McCluskey who is a Charter member of this 50 year chapter. Can you imagine, a Charter member !

I would especially like to express my congratulations to Judy Grossnickle for the outstanding "Area 3" newsletter that she has started. This newsletter is one of the best pieces of NARFE work that I have seen.

Thanks, Judy!

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For College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) information and registration forms see your Area Vice President OR any Federation Officer. This is a unique opportunity to meet with NARFE members from other states and learn more about what is happening in and around NARFE. We all have the same goal—Protect our Benefits!

God Bless America!