



Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters
Regular Session 57th Kansas Federation Convention
Courtyard By Marriott Convention Center, Junction City, Kansas
Monday, April 11, 2011

The convention was called to order by President Carol R. Ek, at 8:45 a.m. in the Cottonwood C Ballroom of Courtyard by Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Junction City, Kansas.

Invocation was given by Chaplain Otis Scroggins, Chapter 0383, Junction City.

Dixie Thomas, 1st Vice President, Chapter 0383, Junction City, led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Carol Ek introduced the Federation Board members, who were all present at the meeting.

President Carol Ek also introduced all dignitaries attending the convention: Barb Pretzer, National and Region V Alzheimer’s Coordinator; Chuck Timanus, Director of Public Relations; Past Presidents: Gale Beck, Jim Dodd, James (Jim) Miller, John Lancaster, Don Cooper, John Surritte, an Robert (Bob) Cranmer.

Preliminary Credential Report: Lannie Pender, Chapter 0383, Junction City, gave the following preliminary credential report:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Eligible D – A – L</i>	<i>Eligible Delegates</i>	<i>Registered D – A – L</i>	<i>Registered Delegates</i>	<i>Registered Alt. Del.</i>	<i>Proxy</i>
1	7	58	7	18	0	
1A	7	32	4	9	0	
2	6	14	4	7	0	
2A	5	11	3	4	0	
3	12	38	7	26	4	
4	9	32	3	10	0	
5	6	10	1	1	1	
6	7	9	3	2	1	
Totals	59	204	32	77	6	
Chapters Registered	31					<i>Not reported til Tuesday</i>

Lannie Pender moved that the preliminary credential reports be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

Parliamentarian, T.J. Robinson, Chapter 1160, determined that a quorum was present to conduct convention business according to Article IX, Section 5, Kansas Bylaws.

Convention Rules: T. J. Robinson, Chapter 1160, Rules Chairman, reported on the rules committee meeting. A copy of the rules was distributed to all members. T.J. Robinson read the rules approved by the committee and moved that they be accepted as the rules of the convention. The motion was seconded and approved.

Minutes and Correspondence: Secretary Louise Lloyd, Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission, moved that because all minutes of meetings have been mailed for availability of all members in advance of this meeting reading of the minutes be waived. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by show of voting cards.

We have received no correspondence to be read at this time.

Federation Officer Reports:

Federation President – Carol R. Ek

It doesn't seem that I began this job more than a month ago, and here another convention has rolled around and a new election is being held. I had every plan to be on that ballot again this year, but time and happenstance changes things. I really did not plan on ever being in the position I am now in and every day wonder if I made the right choice. Guess time will tell and I have every confidence that whoever the new Federation President will be will do as good or better job that I have done. I do feel we as a team have accomplished a lot

We had quite a change on the Executive Board which all proved to be challenging to say the least – all of it good. Of course, we missed a lot of the old faces and knowledge but we came up with new ideas and thoughts that we hope have been appreciated by the members throughout Kansas.

We really want to know how you feel about the changes we have incorporated into the convention program this year. This came through a lot of debate; listening to what members said on their prior year's evaluation sheets; while still staying within the foundations of the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. It isn't always as easy as saying let's make this change! We did hold a two day initial training and business meeting in McPherson on June 2-3 for the Executive Board members. This meeting was a big success and very helpful to everyone involved. The full time was very enlightening to old and new members alike and everyone appreciated the input.

Jim Miller and I attended the District 6 KASCOE (Kansas Association of FSA Employees) in Topeka, Kansas, on June the 19th at the invitation of the State President for that organization Brandon J. Wilson and the National President Myron Stroupe. We were given a table to distribute brochures and time to speak on the program to discuss NARFE programs and why active employees should become a part of our team. We have been asked to participate in their State Convention in Hays in September. This is a program that Gale Beck has been promoting for several years with the ASCS (FSA) offices.

We have now been asked to present a program to the Rural Mail Carriers convention to be held in Topeka, Kansas, on June 6th so I feel our message is beginning to get to some of the organizations where we haven't been able to visit with before.

Cindy Blythe, Gary Townson, Gale Beck and myself made a two day tour through the Southwest part of the State in October. We didn't get the results we wanted but we did get some new members and at least got our message out to some. We will be visiting that part of the State again but how and when depends on the outcome of this convention.

I have had the opportunity to attend many chapter meetings and special occasions throughout the State but not nearly as many as I would have liked. Weather was a big factor this year as you all know. Every one of these occasions was special. The food was always wonderful and the people I met along the way will be remembered fondly.

The Executive Board has established a program where officers of the Federation will be mentoring applicants for different positions on the board that they wish to learn to run for election in a future year.

Applicants will present their bios to the EB who will determine both the realistic action for approval and put the person in that position only if funds are determined available by the Federation Treasurer. We presently have approved Lorene Mumm to fill a position in this program for Federation Secretary. In my opinion, this is a very positive action taken by the board to keep our future secure.

I have visited with many of the Congressmen and Senator Moran on occasion – some visits were special NARFE related visits and some were “town hall” meetings. On each occasion I did take time to introduce myself and give my card to the representative asking for protection of our benefits. I have also asked for special meetings with all of our representatives for members of their constituents’. We did get special meetings with Kevin Yoder and Mike Pompeo. Several members from Congressman Yoder’s constituents’ met with his representative in Kansas City and I was privileged to attend with a group from Wichita at Congressman Pompeo’s office with the congressman. We must keep holding these meetings and stop the attack on federal employees. It’s up to every one of us to make these representatives realize that we have paid for our benefits and continue to pay for each and every one. Congressman Huelskamp does not understand and I will continue to ask him for more time and understanding of this issue. Congressman Pompeo did say that federal employees benefits was the last place he would cut but he would agree to that if necessary. This attack by the “new” Congressmen on federal employees must stop. The budget which has been proposed by the House Republicans adds up to \$375 billion in the next 10 years in federal employee and retirees benefits which should not fall on the shoulders of government employees. This is the clearest indication that federal workers and retirees pay the price for the budget situation.

Do use the NARFE (both National and Federation websites) to learn new information; and the new “Protect America’s Heartbeat” website. Personally, my opinion only, I don’t believe the website “Protect America’s Heartbeat” is worth the \$75,000 we paid M & R (a public relations firm) to develop. As of Saturday morning, the site had 560 people on face book saying they liked it. When I was in Minnesota last week, one person thought only non-NARFE members were to go into that site, NARFE members should go through the NARFE home web page site.

Last, but definitely not least, is e-mail chapter 2363 which is supposedly the site-without boundaries. Headquarters established this site supposedly as a recruitment tool but are using it against typical chapters. If you go into the site, you will see the statement “all the same and more benefits by using this chapter” – while using the personnel you and I pay for as President, Secretary and to write the blog it supports. You can join this chapter for \$40 rather than the typical chapter cost of \$45 and you pay no chapter dues in subsequent years. You have direct access to headquarters personnel – who’s going to come to you or I to ask questions?

We are now told we can stop this at National convention – how do you stop something that has been in existence for a year and a half? Lots of questions – no answers that I have found yet.

Thank you for the opportunity of being the Federation President representing you and I will continue to be around.

Federation 1st Vice President Dixie Thomas

I met with the Executive Board in April and June last year. In October several members from Chapter 383 operated a booth at the Military Retiree Open House at Fort Riley, Kansas. Also in October, the Federation Board Meeting met at the Convention Center, Courtyard by Marriott, Junction City, Kansas, for the first convention preparation meeting. Since October, I along with members of Chapter 383, Jim Mitchell, Chapter president and convention co-chair and Carol Ek, Federation President have worked diligently to get ready for your convention.

When we started working on the convention in October, I remember a news article from NARFE that was titled “NARFE Applauds Kerry for Bill to Protect Federal Retirees from the 2011 Medicare Premium

Increase.” Recently, I’ve seen headlines such as “NARFE Disappointed by President’s Decision to Freeze Federal Worker Pay,” “NARFE Deplores Assaults on Federal Family in Fiscal Commission Report,” and NARFE Says Info on Federal Pay Presented at House Hearing Was ‘Grossly Misleading’.” I don’t have a punch line for this other than to say if we work on other things and don’t keep on top of our current issues, we go from applauding someone for their support to being “disappointed” or “deploring assaults” or a house hearing was “grossly misleading;” which to me represents the climate changing for the Federal employee. And for that, I’m glad I’m a member of NARFE.

Cindy Renee` Blythe, 2nd Vice President

During my tenure as 2nd Vice President, I performed all duties of my office as assigned by the President. I participated in all of the Executive Board meetings and submitted an article for the quarterly federation newsletter.

I traveled to Kingman, and along with President Carol Ek, Area 2 Vice President, Gale Beck, and Area 4 Vice President Gary Townson, met with prospective and current NARFE members in hopes of revitalizing Chapter 1939 Kingman.

I attended the National Convention for the first time, driving to Grand Rapids, Michigan with my the mother, the secretary of Chapter 2099, Osage City. We had a very enjoyable time and learned a lot. My next venture took me to the National Legislative Conference/Training in Washington. Gary Townson, Louis Bornman and I were able to meet with legislative aides in all of our Congressional offices.

I have really enjoyed my tenure as your 2nd Vice President and I look forward to continuing in any capacity that you, the members, see fit to allow.

Louise Lloyd, Secretary

As Secretary for the Federation, I have spent most of the year just trying to learn and work through the cycle of correspondence and reports that have been the duties of the Secretary. This included attending the June and October board meetings, and taking the minutes and disseminating those to the board members, Chapter Presidents and Secretaries. Also, the summer of 2010 was spent coordinating with the chapters and NARFE HQ with the help of the Area Vice Presidents and our President, Carol Ek, to ensure that all chapters were either represented by chapter delegates, or proxies were submitted so that they’re chapter could be represented and votes placed on their behalf by delegates who were attending from our state. We were successful in getting essentially 100% of our chapters represented at the National Convention.

In October a letter was sent to all chapter secretaries giving instructions on completing the form F-7, Chapter Officer Roster, and also enclosed forms to submit bylaws amendments. I kept track of submissions of the F-7 forms to ensure all chapters submitted the proper forms either on paper, or online and followed up with chapters when I had not gotten responses. Once all F-7’s were submitted, compiled updated rosters.

I also submitted articles for the Federation newsletters. With these articles I try to explain what documents I have sent out during that time frame, and what kind of responses were needed.

In December, I mailed the Convention packets to the Chapter Secretaries with all the convention materials. Separate letters were prepared for the Chapter Presidents, and board members to send out the Delegate At Large credential forms.

Then in January there were the proposed bylaws amendments to tranmit to all the chapters at least 60 days prior to convention. In January I also attended the meeting in Junction City regarding the convention.

In March and April have been very busy with responses from the chapters sending in the Delegate listings, memorial Listing, and Request to serve on committee listing, and Award listings, which were transmitted to the appropriate individuals. Corresponded with a number of chapters via e-mail with particular concern to be sure proxies were submitted if chapters would not have delegates attending, and to get the memorial listings from all chapters.

And finally working on the credentials listing, and keeping list of all attendees alphabetically, and if no responses were sent about committees, contacted the chapters to see what committees the members would like to serve on.

G. P. (Jerry) Ketter, Treasurer

As of April 9, 2011 we have a balance of \$6,501.77 in our checking account. We have \$3000.00 in CD's. That adds to make a total of \$9,501.77, the figure you see on the report.

This income and expense report shows a comparison for the last three years. You can see from that report that most of our income comes from the national rebates and the per capita paid by each chapter. The other income includes money received back from national for closed chapters, Matching funds for a membership promotion, interest from CD's and our ticket drawing income.

You can see from the expense comparison of the last three years income history that we are running along on pretty much the same level. This year we had the extra expense of the Legislative conference which is the difference in the miscellaneous amount. Federation aid to members attending the conference was \$ 2000 and that is a good portion of our deficit spending. National convention expense was higher and membership decline causes our per-capita income to be a little lower. The main cause of the difference in income is in National Rebates. With the convention earlier this year we have not received the March rebate which was included in last year's report.

Chuck Timanus, NARFE Director of Public Relations

Chuck Timanus, in his talk to the Federation stated "at a time we should be celebrating 90 years of service to the Federal community, we are facing trying times. Not the least - and certainly the heartbreaking element, is the loss of National Treasurer Charley Saylor". Following the loss of Charles Saylor, the NARFE Executive Board (NEB) at an emergency meeting voted unanimously to appoint Dick Thissen to fill out the rest of the Treasurer's term, and he took office April 4th. So then his position as Area V Regional Vice President became vacant, and the Federation Presidents in Region V had to elect someone to fill this vacancy. Carol Ek, our Federation President was elected, and thus can not be an officer on the federation board during that tenure.

Chuck explained that the Treasurer has a difficult job facing him. NARFE is not in a good financial position. Costs are rising and revenues are declining due to membership losses. NARFE is confident that the new dues structure will result in a better revenue stream, but they only took effect this year.

Chuck discussed other concerns for NARFE is what appears to be an orchestrated campaign to turn the general public against government employees. He mentioned that we all have read or heard stories about how well paid we are, and how much better our benefits are than those who worked in the private sector. Judy Park, NARFE Legislative Director at the 2006 National Convention, warned NARFE attendees that this was coming. Judy called it the "envy factor". Unfortunately, her prediction was correct, our earned benefits are in the cross-hairs for congressional budget cutters.

NARFE is fighting back with the campaign to Protect America's Heartbeat. NARFE is spreading the word about federal worker compensation, retirement benefits and annuities, and telling the story of how federal workers protect America's heartbeat through the critical services we provide. To assist NARFE in this

endeavor, NARFE employed a firm called M and R Strategic Services. They specialize in developing campaigns like ours, a campaign with multiple goals. But each day brings new, false attacks, so we don't have a moment to lose. Each member has received an appeal to help finance this. NARFE's goal is to raise \$1 million in the next 30 days for the campaign.

Chuck stated "America is in crisis". Like always, we will do our part, but we should not be deficit scapegoats." The federal community – employees and retirees – numbers less than five million, which is less than 2% of the population of our nation. Thus we are what some will call "low hanging fruit" – the first ones picked.

Chuck reminded us that we may be small in number, but we can be a mighty voice. "We have to work harder to protect our earned benefits while at the same time playing a major role in improving the general public's image of federal workers and retirees."

Legislative Representation is still job one for NARFE. It's why most people join NARFE. The bottom-line is all of us – whether you are working, retired or a survivor – we all face threats to our retirement, pay and health benefits. To make the cuts in federal spending that congress is seeking to make, proposals to lower federal civilian cost-of-living adjustment, delaying Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) COLA's until age 62 or reducing the employer matching contribution for the Thrift Savings Plan continue to receive consideration.

In March, Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina introduced Senate Bill 644 which would eliminate any defined benefit retirement plan for newly hired federal workers. New FERS workers would have to rely on their Thrift Savings Plan accounts and Social Security. This could seriously affect the government's ability to retain the talented personnel whose experience and expertise keep our citizens safe and secure and our country strong.

In addition, if there is no FERS annuity, then there would be no FERS survivor benefit. Under the Burr bill, future retirees and survivors would not be eligible to participate in the federal employees health benefits program. That's because under current law, retirees and survivors must be annuitants to receive health insurance under FEHBP.

We have a huge battle on our hands and need every NARFE member to tell their former and current co-workers who are not part of NARFE to sign up and join us in the fight. What would make our position less hazardous would be a bigger NARFE.

Calendar year 2010 was a good recruiting year for NARFE, over 22,000 new members signed up. However, over 22,000 members quit NARFE last year. These members left our chapters. Chapters must take the lead in retaining members, or we're going to continue to see the membership number fall at an alarming rate. And in addition to those who quit and left NARFE, there were over 8,500 deaths last year. Only 3 federations saw a positive gain in membership numbers.

A very important, if not most important job of every chapter must be to concentrate on retention of members. Fifty per cent of new members leave NARFE in the first three years. Each chapter needs to take action to retain members.

NARFE HQ is working with other federal employee organizations to attract new members. Last year NARFE formed a partnership with the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, and based on a joint mailing to their members in November, 1,000 new members were recruited.

Only about 15% of federal retirees and 1% of active federal employees are members of NARFE. That leaves a huge number of potential members out there that we need to sign up.

NARFE HQ has launched a Membership Growth Campaign by establishing two committees, one for recruitment and one for retention. It is hoped that the efforts of these committees will produce a well thought out, integrated approach to membership growth that will work well in our 54 federations.

Everyone agrees that we need to advertise more, but more funding is needed to pay for it. Each NARFE member needs to be a walking advertisement for NARFE. And that is what public relations is, advertising. The basic difference is, simply put, advertising costs money and public relations can be free.

What message does NARFE have for federal employees? It's that NARFE is the only organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing their retirement security. And to help us fight this fight, they need to join us.

This seems so simple to most of us. However, we don't seem to be making our case to thousands of federal employees and retirees.

NARFE has spent money on advertising, but it hasn't resulted in many new members. Advertising is so expensive. Now advertising is being concentrated in the Washington D.C. area as that is where the large concentration of active federal employees work.

NARFE is trying to move into the 21st century, and is making progress. NARFE now offers an alternative to traditional chapter membership, and an online chapter has been formed using Headquarters staff and officers who are NARFE members. This chapter is a pilot project to evaluate what works for an online chapter and what doesn't. The idea is to share experiences with federations and urge them to establish their own online chapters. These chapters should not be a threat to traditional chapters,.

In addition, NARFE is working to make more extensive use of Facebook, Twitter and GEMS to recruit and retain members.

Also, another appointed committee is at work. At last year's National convention, delegates voted to require the national president to appoint a committee, one member from each region, to take a look at NARFE's bylaws. This group is to look at the bylaws to determine what change should be made to make NARFE work more efficiently. Because of this committee's work, chapters and federations have been asked to refrain from submitting bylaws resolutions to the 2010 National convention. Delegates at the 2012 convention will have a chance to act on any committee recommendations.

Report of Audit Committee

Brenda Myers, Area VI Vice President, Chairman of the Audit Committee presented the following report. The Audit Committee conducted an audit of the State Federation Treasurer records for the period from April 26, 2010 to April 10, 2011.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally acceptable accounting practices. Selected testing of certain records was made to determine the reliability of the total records maintained by the Treasurer. Based on the testing it was determined that the records were sufficiently reliable. The committee found that the records were current, neat, easy to understand, all accounts balanced, bank statements reconciled and all questions were readily answered by the Treasurer. Members of the Audit committee were: Judy Etter, Area 1A Vice President; Gary Kilgore, Area 2A Vice President; Auditor – Norman Christensen, Chapter 1995, Garden City and Assistant Auditor – Richard McChesney, Chapter 0366, Manhattan.

Brenda Myers moved that the audit report be accepted. Motion was seconded, and motion passed.

Report of Nomination Committee

Bob Cranmer, Immediate Past President and Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the report of the committee. Members of the committee were: Alice Frey, Chapter 2086, Area 6; Deloris Steinike, Chapter 2032, Area 5; John Lancaster, Chapter 0138, Area 4; Donald Erickson, Chapter 0366, Area 3; Doris Ericson, Chapter 0792, Area 2A; Jean Nickell, Chapter 2098, Area 2; Lorene Mumm, Chapter 0621, Area 1A; and Agnes Shellhammer, Chapter 1162, Area 1.

The nominating committee interviewed the following persons to fill the elected positions: Cindy Renee' Blythe, President, Chapter 2099 ; Dixie Thomas, 1st Vice President, Chapter 0383, Old Trooper, Ann Murphy, 2nd Vice President, Chapter 0366; Louise Lloyd, Secretary, Chapter 1162; and G. P. (Jerry) Ketter, Treasurer, Chapter 1948; and have determined that each is qualified to fill the position and nominates them for the positions interviewed for.

President Ek called for nominations for each position from the floor. President, none; 1st Vice President, none; 2nd Vice President, none; Secretary, none; Treasurer, none.

President Ek declared that all the positions: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer were not contested. President Ek declared that offices were not contested and all members presented on the slate of nominees are elected by acclamation.

Following a morning break, President Ek, asked newly elected Vice President, Ann Murphy to stand and be recognized, as many of the members were not acquainted with her.

Area Vice President Reports

Area I, Florence (Flo) Biehl

It's been a pleasure to serve as Area I Vice President. I visited all of the chapters in my area two times. Each chapter is different but all are healthy and doing well. They are all committed NARFE members working to preserve and enhance our earned benefits. I attended all Executive Board meetings. Newsletter articles were submitted for the Federation newsletter.

Area 1A, Judy Etter

It has been a pleasure to be an area Vice President this year. I have met lots of nice people and know that NARFE is in good hands. Chapter members seem to enjoy each other's company and work together well. I've learned a lot about NARFE but I also realize there is a lot I do not know.

I have been to Leavenworth chapter 0027 three times and to Doniphan County chapter 2136 three times. I have been to Kansas City chapter 1160 twice and to The Pony Express chapter 1948 at their meetings in Wetmore and Sabetha (they like to travel). I only made it to Brown County chapter 2164 once, but next month is coming. I attended every Atchison chapter 0621 meeting but the one that occurred on the day we had an executive board meeting in Junction City. When I returned home that evening I was informed I was now chapter president. So much for not attending meetings.

I attended a town hall meeting Rep. Lynn Jenkins held in Atchison last September where I actually was able to speak one on one with her and discuss issues that were important then, such as paying for rate increases in Medicare when Social Security recipients did not have to. I also attended a town hall meeting Rep Jenkins and Sen. Jerry Moran held in Oskaloosa in January. Rep. Jenkins was leaving as I arrived because she had to catch a plane in KC, but Sen. Moran listened as I reminded him that the Federal Government is always making Federal employees and retirees pawns in the game of balancing the budget. I also talked to several people about joining NARFE while at this meeting. I have spent several hours on the telephone waiting to talk to Rep. Jenkins when she has held a telephonic town hall meeting. However, each one only lasts an hour and I have never been close enough to the front of the queue to speak to her.

Cindy Renee Blythe, Diane Hall, and I manned a booth at the Fort Leavenworth Retiree Day in October. I hope as this mess continues, those current workers and eligible retirees remember us and join a NARFE chapter somewhere. We need to make sure lawmakers in Washington realize what freezing Federal salaries and annuities will do to the economy of this country, especially in areas that have a large Federal employee base, like Leavenworth and Junction City. Also, as the Government grows with the healthcare bill and who knows what else, more workers will be needed, not fewer. We have done more with less for a number of years—it can't continue.

Area 2, Gale D. Beck

1. Chapters Visited:

Tri-River Chapter #2098, Tuesday June 8

Emporia Chapter # 0384, Tuesday, July 12

Iola Chapter #2077, Monday, July 8 and October 4th

Ottawa Chapter #0785, March 16, 2011

2. Provided Guidance to the Arkansas Federation of NARFE in Preparing a NARFE Display “Booth” at the USDA/FSA Annual Convention at Little Rock, Arkansas, August 4 through 6th. Some 500 in attendance. Space for the booth was provided at the Convention at no cost. Joan and I attended the convention. When the Arkansas NARFE Federation advised of the planned Convention, appeared to not be aware that a National Convention was being held in their state, at Little Rock, and those attending were FSA County Office Federal Employees, Eligible to join NARFE Members (Comment) New Secretary, President). Joan and I attended the NARFE National Convention at Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 29 -31, September 1-2, both of us carrying Proxies for three Kansas Chapters: Sunflower Chapter, (1160), Brown County Chapter, (2164), Iowa Chapter, (2077); Pittsburg Chapter, (0550); Solomon Valley (Stockton) (2085); Garden City, (1995).

**Each chapter was contacted before the Convention and asked to provide information how they wanted us to cast their votes.

***Communications: After the National Convention, each of the chapters was mailed NARFE Daily Bulletins, plus a cover letter and other information.

3. Provided “Roll-Over” information to some 27 NARFE members, by e-mail from the weekly reports submitted by NARFE and Richard Thissen NFVP. Done on regular basis.
4. October 15th and 16th, Assisted President Carol Ek, and 2nd VP Cindy Renee` Blythe with information prior to those dates and participated in the visitation to Area IV, Chapter 1939, Ninnescah Valley Chapter, (Kingman Area)
5. Visited Chapter 785, Ottawa, February of this year, plus Iola Chapter.
6. Emails and comments from the President of the Tennessee Federation, since they hosted a NARFE booth in 2010 for USDA/FSA. National Convention. They were impressed at the time with the Kansas Handout and I understand that Tennessee is now updating and using a format similar to the Kansas Benefits handout.

Area 2A, Gary Kilgore

This completes my 1st year as Area 2A Vice-President. I have visited all chapters except one. All chapters are active and excited about NARFE except one.

In this year of NARFE's 90th Anniversary, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the following: Chapter 550, Pittsburg; Chapter 0792, Bourbon County, Fort Scott; and Chapter 0799, Chanute.

It is difficult to recruit new members and that is a concern. But each chapter has a core of great members that support NARFE and enjoy chapter meetings, all but one.

In addition to the the 3 chapters cited above, Area 2A includes Chapter 1763, Independence, and Chapter 2257 Coffeyville.

Area 3, Donald Cooper

There are 8 chapters in Area 3 with 585 members.

The area has 46 new members.

There were 14 deaths.

52 members were dropped.

There were 4 renewals.

Number of delegates attending are 8 Delegates at Large, and 28 Delegates

There were 3 members who attended the last national convention.

I made 17 chapter visits.

There were 5 dignitaries who attended Area 3 meetings.

Area 4, Gary Townson

I have visited all of the Chapters in my Area at least once and most of them several times. In addition to attending all of my home Chapter's Meetings and their Board meetings, I attended Salt City Chapter 537 (Hutchinson KS) three times, Heart of America Chapter 1794 (McPherson KS) three times, Cowley County Chapter 757 (Winfield KS) once and made a two day recruiting/resuscitation trip to NINNESCAH VALLEY Chapter 1939 (Kingman KS).

I arranged, scheduled and moderated the roundtable discussion of candidates for the 4th Kansas District to the U.S. Congress. All the Chapters in the 4th District were invited to attend. Both Democratic and three of the Republican candidates participated. (The winning candidate from each party was at our meeting.)

I participated in twenty three political events [Rallies, Debates, Parades, etc.] sometimes by my self and other times with other NARFE Members. Although I attended these activities as a private citizen and not in any official NARFE capacity, I made sure the candidates were aware of the presence of NARFE and the need to represent Federal employees, both active and retired.

I attended Kansas Days activities in Topeka and personally met with and visited with both our current Senators, all four of our Members of the United States House of Representatives, Governor Brownback, Lt. Governor Colyer and numerous State Senators & members of the Kansas House of representatives.

Since the first of the year I have attended three Town Hall meetings and a private meeting with Congressman Mike Pompeo. The Wichita Chapter had a 30 minute private meeting with the Congressman. We had 14 members in a meeting room with a capacity of 10. [I love a crowd!] I scheduled meetings with the offices of both Senators and all four Members of the House for two meetings each. During March I attended both the NARFE Legislative training Conference and the National Association of Postal Supervisors' Legislative Training Seminar. The reports on NARFE's visits to DC are included at a separate time during the Convention. Since returning home I have been in communication with all our Federal Legislators as well as several State lawmakers.

Every member of NARFE owes it to themselves and their family to establish a connection with U. S. Senators, your member of the U. S. House of Representatives, your Kansas Senator and Member of the Kansas House. The U S Congress can have a serious negative impact on your annuity, COLA & Health Benefits. If they start doing something, it is too late to begin establishing a rapport with them. The Kansas Congress can also hurt our annuities. You should **NEVER** expect others to look out for you.

Area 5, Ronald Katt

Area V consists of 18 counties in the northwest corner of Kansas, divided into six (6) chapters: Chapter 1991, Goodland; Chapter 2032, Oakley; Chapter 2050, Hays; Chapter 2053, Oberlin; Chapter 2085, Stockton; and, Chapter 2291, Colby. The Area has 188 members out of a potential 746 with a 25.2% membership. The largest Chapter, Hays, has 55 members and the smallest Oakley has 14 members. Area V had a net increase of three (3) members the past year for a little over 1.5 % gain.

Three chapters Colby, Hays and Stockton do publish a newsletter. All six chapters do have a NARFE/Netter in their chapter.

All chapters are represented at this convention, (5) by proxy, and 2032 by delegate.

I made ten (10) chapter visits this year.

Special chapter activities this past year included an Area V meeting in October in celebration of Chapter 2085 Stockton's 25th Anniversary. The presence of our Region V Vice President, State Federation President and State Federation Past President made Chapter members feel very special in celebrating this anniversary.

I will close my report with a positive for NARFE. Last convention I reported that 2053 Oberlin went from an inactive, on the edge of closing, to an active 71.43% increase in membership chapter. I am happy to report the chapter is still doing well and have experienced another 13% increase in membership. In addition, the chapter is planning two major projects for 2011, that being a 3 day garage sale, May 6, 7, and 8 to raise money for Alzheimer's Research and a recruiting meeting for new members in Atwood in September.

Area 6, Brenda Myers

Area VI has approximately 168 members.

- Chapter 1709, Great Bend 61
- Chapter 1873, Dodge City 40 (With one new member.)
- Chapter 1995, Garden City24 (One Distinguished Member Honored)
- Chapter 1996, Scott City 34
- Chapter 2086, Ulysses 9

Not much growth but the chapters are maintaining most members.

Three of the five chapters were represented at this Convention.

Alice Frey, President 2086 served on the Nominating Committee.

Donna Christensen, Secretary/Treasurer. 1995, attended Alzheimer's Committee

Norman Christensen, Service Officer, 1995, Served as Head Auditor

Carla Cranmer, Member 1709 participated in the Standing Rules Committee

Bob Cranmer, 1709, Immediate Past President, Chaired Nominating Committee and meeting with the candidates for Federation Office.

Visits were made to four of the chapters. Weather prevented me from attending a meeting at Great Bend.

My work at Wiley and Holcomb Elementary Schools has kept me from keeping in touch with chapters on a regular basis so that is why I will not continue in this position.

Alzheimer's Live Auction Results

Janice Neuschafer reported that \$1,365.50 had been raised from the live Alzheimer's Auction. This represented a \$100.50 increase over the prior year's auction. Janice also announced that there were still tomato plants available for sale. In addition, on the silent auction items, the minimum bid was being reduced from \$5.00 to \$2.00.

PAC Report

Don Cooper reported for the 2009-2010 year Kansas had 1,132 donors to NARFE PAC contributing \$23,565.60. Of this amount, \$2,000 was disbursed for Lynn Jenkins. Don reported that NARFE PAC is administered at the national level, and looks at everything from a national perspective. Don explained that a state will not necessarily see the same amount NARFE PAC contributions come back to their state as the state may have contributed. NARFE will determine if candidates are supportive of NARFE issues, and funds will be used to support those who support our position. Also, some of the funding must go for direct mailing. Don reported that at the NARFE PAC table, a total of \$1,307 had been contributed thus far, with \$605 having been contributed today.

Announcements

Jim Mitchell as Convention Chairperson, acknowledged those from the host chapter, Old Trooper, Junction City, Chapter 0383 and thanked them for their help and support for the convention. Jim also thanked all other individuals who helped with the convention.

Door Prize drawing – A door prize drawing was held prior to breaking from lunch.

The convention recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

2011 Memorial Service

President Ek introduced the Memorial Service Chairman, 1st Vice-President Dixie Thomas. Dixie then introduced Otis Scroggins, Chapter 0383, Junction City, to present the invocation for the Memorial Service.

The Area Vice-Presidents were seated at the head table, and each Area Vice read the names of the deceased members for their respective areas. Jim Mitchell, Convention Chairman was asked to place a yellow rose after the names of the deceased were read for each area. All chapter members from each Area were asked to stand and remain standing while names of the departed members were read. The number of deceased for each area included: Area 1, 60 members; Area 1A, 43 members; Area 2, 13 members; Area 2A, 6 members; Area 3, 13 members; Area 4, 29 members; Area 5, 6 members; and Area 6, 6 members. There were a total of 176 deaths recorded for the 2010-2011 year.

Benediction was given by 1st Vice-President, Dixie Thomas, Chapter 0383, Topeka.

Bylaws and General Resolutions Report

Cindy Renee` Blythe, Chairperson, for bylaws and general resolutions committee reported that the following eleven (11) appointed committee members were in attendance at committee meeting on Sunday: Al Schmaderer Chapter 0366, Manhattan, Jane Lancaster, Chapter 0138 Wichita, Carole Blixt, Chapter 0383 Junction City, Byron Nichols, Chapter 1162 Kansas City, Bill Collins, Chapter 0537 Hutchinson, Jim Miller, Chapter 0002 Topeka, Fran Gast, Chapter 0027 Leavenworth, Elizabeth Smith, Chapter 2098 Osawatomie, Flo Biehl, Chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission, Harold Klaege, Chapter 0280 Salina, and Tom Huntzinger, Chapter 0378 Lawrence.

The proposed Bylaws Amendments were read by the Chairperson. There were two (2) proposed changes to Kansas Bylaws and one (1) for recommendation to a National Bylaw.

Amendment #1 addressed a change to the amount of per Capita currently being collected from the Chapters. This amendment was submitted by Chapter 0138, Wichita. The specific change proposed: Kansas Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1, change the words : “One dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50)” in line two to read “One dollar (\$1.00). If adopted Section 1 would state: The revenues shall be derived from the payment by each of a Per-Capita assessment of one dollar (\$1.00) per member listed on Form 110 or similar report issued by NARFE headquarter as of November 30 each year, with the exception of honorary members, National Only, and Non-Voting Life Members.

All chapter Presidents, Secretaries and Federation board members received the proposed amendment by postal mailing from Federation Secretary Louise Lloyd by January 8, 2011; that meets the 60 day mailing requirement. **The committee recommended approval of this amendment.** Glenda Failing seconded the motion.

John Surritte, Chapter 0378, asked for the Treasurer’s opinion as to the effect this would have. Treasurer Jerry Ketter felt it would be best to postpone this decision for one year to see how the funding under the changed dues structure affected the funding, and proposed that the motion be tabled for one year. John Lancaster, Chapter 0138, who authored the proposed amendment said based on his analysis of the dues increase, that the Federation would realize an increase in funding from the funding sent back from National. Jim Gaskell (Chapter 0799), Tom Huntzinger (chapter 0378) and Barb Pretzer (Chapter 0366) all spoke in favor of keeping funding as it is. Barb recommended that the Federation should send our President to the Federation President’s meeting in Reno this summer, therefore, need to have sufficient funds to allow that. Fran Gast (Chapter 321) and John Ourada (Chapter 0280) spoke in favor of decreasing the dues. Bob Cranmer, Immediate Past President, spoke in favor of keeping the funding as is, as many of the board members currently have to pay for many of their own expenses. And he indicated that we need to have sufficient funding to send individuals to CONK, and the Federation President’s Conference.

Jerry Ketter moved that we lay this amendment proposal on the table til next convention. Motion seconded by Brenda Myers. Gene Algrim, Chapter 0537, “Called for the question”. Motion seconded. Vote taken and motion “calling for the question” was approved by 2/3 majority. Thus no further discussion on the motion to lay on the table.

President asked for vote on Jerry Ketter’s proposed motion to “lay this decision on the table until next convention, which had been seconded. Vote resulted in tie, so President Ek was asked for her vote on this proposed amendment. President Ek voted against the motion, so motion to lay on the table was defeated, which meant that a decision on the original proposed bylaws amendment will be voted on today.

Vote taken on main motion, the proposed bylaw amendment to decrease per capita dues from \$1.50 to \$1.00. 36 voted to approve the proposed amendment, 76 voted against the proposed amendment, thus motion defeated by more then 2/3 of majority vote.

Amendment #2 addressed a change to the method of voting for Per Capita changes. This amendment was submitted by Chapter 0138, Wichita. The specific change proposed: Kansas Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1 – Add the words “Section 1b. Any change in the amount of per capita assessment to the chapter will be done by paper ballot at the convention.” Renumber Section 1 to Section 1a. Add Section 1b.

All chapter Presidents, Secretaries and Federation board members received the proposed amendment by postal mailing from Federation Secretary Louise Lloyd by January 8, 2011; that meets the 60 day mailing requirement. **The committee recommended approval of this amendment.** John Lancaster seconded the motion.

Gary Townson, chapter 138 and John Lancaster (chapter 138), who had authored the proposed amendment spoke in favor of the amendment, and John Surritte (chapter 0378) spoke against the amendment. John Lancaster “Called for the question.” President Carol Ek asked for the vote on the “Call for the question” motion. Based on a show of voting cards, it was determined that at least 2/3 majority were in favor of the motion, thus stopping debate on the motion.

President Carol Ek, asked for a vote on the main motion “do ballot vote for a change in per capita dues.” Based on a show of voting cards, 2/3 majority was observed as voting in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Amendment #3 addressed a change to the method of seating arrangements at the National Convention. This amendment was also submitted by Chapter 0138, Wichita. The specific change proposed: **National Bylaws/Standing Rules, Rule 1, Organization of the Convention, Paragraph 3** change to read: “Delegates, Alternates, Visitors and Guests shall be seated in the section marked for their regions.”

All chapter Presidents, Secretaries and Federation board members received the proposed amendment by postal mailing from Federation Secretary Louise Lloyd by January 8, 2011; that meets the 60 day mailing requirement. **The committee recommended this amendment be forwarded to NARFE Headquarters for approval.** Jim Miller, Chapter 002, seconded the motion.

President Carol Ek asked for a vote on the proposed amendment to change the method of seating arrangements at the National Convention. Based on a show of voting cards, 2/3 majority was observed as voting in favor of the motion. Motion passed and proposed will be sent to NARFE Headquarters for approval.

Area Delegate Caucuses

President Ek instructed members to break into Area Caucuses to elect 2011-2012 Area Vice Presidents and to discuss Area members’ recommendations for the betterment of NARFE.

The convention was reconvened at 3:30 p.m. 1st Vice-President Dixie Thomas announced the following individuals were elected as Area Vice Presidents:

Area 1	Florence Biehl, Chapter 1162, Shawnee, returning
Area 1A	Judy Etter, Chapter 0621, Atchison, returning
Area 2	Gale D. Beck, Chapter 2077, Iola, returning
Area 2A	Gary L. Kilgore, Chapter 0799, Chanute, returning
Area 3	Donald L. Cooper, Chapter 0366, Kaw Blue – Manhattan, returning
Area 4	Gary E. Townson, Chapter 0138, Wichita, returning
Area 5	Ronald Katt, Chapter 2032, Logan County, returning
Area 6	Robert (Bob) Cranmer, Chapter 1995, Garden City, elected

District Director Representing Senator Jerry Moran Introduced to Convention Members

President Carol Ek introduced Elizabeth Patton, District Director from Senator Moran’s Topeka office which covers 22 counties. Ms Patton indicated that Senator Moran has offices in the state including offices in Olathe, Wichita, and Hays, Kansas. Ms. Patton encouraged everyone to contact Senator’s Moran’s local offices if any assistance is needed. She also indicated that there is a weekly newsletter issued every Monday night, and to contact her if anyone wanted to be added to the list of names to receive the newsletter via weekly e-mails. Ms. Patton announced the committee assignments for Senator Moran which include: Housing and Urban Affairs; Appropriations Committee, Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and the Committee on Aging.

Legislative Reports - State Legislative and National Legislative

State: Jim Miller reported that the Kansas Legislature adjourned on April 1, 2011 and will return on April 27. They will receive the latest reports of finances /tax revenues on April 15-18. The House Appropriations Committee meets April 18-20; the Senate Ways and Means Committee meets April 20-22. They will work on their budget projections and when the entire legislature returns on April 27, the House and the Senate have to concur on the budget. The state of Kansas does not have the luxury of borrowing money, as does the federal government. The 90 days for the Legislature are scheduled to end May 11, 2011.

As of today, April 12, no proposed bill has been submitted to strip federal retirees only of the exemption for KS income tax. To quote NARFE Federal Legislative Chairman Gary Townson, CAUTION is the watchword as recommendations can be presented, no discussion, and a vote taken either UP or DOWN. If you haven't contacted your Senator and Representative of your interest in retaining that benefit; if you haven't spoken about your solid reasons for and the contributions you make to your church and or community organizations that enhance the quality of life for your fellow Kansans, don't let another day pass before relating that message ! We served well as federal employees and we continue to serve as federal retirees. Thank you for your continued volunteer service as a retired federal employee, and for your support and membership in NARFE, the ONLY organization in Washington, D.C., representing all active and retired federal employees.

Federal: Gary Townson indicated that he had previously provided a complete report on the National Legislative Conference to the Federation President and Secretary. Gary mentioned that at the Legislative Conference, Dan Adcock, Legislator Director for NARFE indicated that the indexing of COLA's could happen, and if this occurs the COLA's will be smaller. Gary reported that the 112th Congress has the largest class of new congressmen in 40 years. Gary also reported Social Security will be in a crisis situation by 2017. Gary also reported that Sarah Holsteen, from NARFE Headquarters had spoken and said that handwritten notes to Congressmen is best if you have the time, and that it's best to send correspondence to local offices. Gary also cautioned not to overcontact a congressman's office, that all phone calls are recorded, so if you have corresponded on an issue, do not continue to call repeatedly on the same issue. Telephone calls and e-mails can be effective in short timeframes. When possible attend town hall meetings and get to know the staffers, as they are the ones who write the position papers. Gary recommended you be polite and be persistent.

Gary reported that the Kansas attendees at the Conference that included Cindy Renee` Blythe, and Louis Bornman of Chapter 1162, met with aides from each of the 4 congressional offices for Kansas. The better meetings were with Congressman Pompeo's and Jenkins staff members.

The convention recessed until 6:30 p.m.

Convention Reconvened

The convention reconvened at 6:30 p.m. with Invocation given by the Chaplain, Otis Scroggins. After a lovely dinner, members and guests were entertained by Harold Williams from Herington Kansas .

Certificates honoring chapters celebrating their 50th anniversaries were presented by President Carol Ek, assisted by National Officer Chuck Timanus, to the following chapters: Chapter 550, Pittsburg; Chapter 739 Crossroads of America; Chapter 757 Cowley County; Chapter 785, Ottawa; Chapter 792 Bourbon County; and Chapter 799 Chanute.

President Ek, assisted by National officer Chuck Timanus, presented a certificate of Merit for Elizabeth (Betty) Scribner of Chapter 0378 Freestate, Lawrence, for her design and distribution of a recruiting pamphlet for the chapter and her follow through in requesting and receiving a matching funds match from NARFE HQ. Tom Huntzinger accepted the certificate on behalf of Betty.

Drawing was held for the Federation Raffle. Winners were: Rob Heller, Chapter 739 Crossroads of America, \$250; Diane Brown, Chapter 0138, Wichita, \$100; and Lila Williams, Chapter 0027, Buffalo Bill, \$50.

James F. Miller, Past Federation President, conducted installation of 2011-2012 elected officers.

Area 6 Vice President, Brenda Myers, on behalf of the Federation Board members, presented President Carok Ek an Angel, and gift certificate in appreciation of her dedication and leadership to the NARFE Federation.

Jim Mitchell, Convention Co-Chair, acknowledged and thanked all those individuals who had helped on committees for the convention.

Convention recessed until 8:30, Tuesday, April 12th, 2011.

Louise Lloyd
Secretary