



**Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters**  
**Executive Board Session**  
**October 30, 2007**

The Kansas State Federation of NARFE Chapters Executive Board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Gary E. Townson, Federation 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President.

Secretary Ek gave the invocation.

Acting President Townson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Ek completed roll call of Federation Officers and Chairmen.

Present: Gary E. Townson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and PAC Chair  
Elizabeth Bornman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Membership  
Carol R. Ek, Secretary  
Madelyn Brown, Treasurer  
Donald L. Cooper, Immediate Past President and Public Relations  
Thomas Raby, Area 1 Vice President  
T. J. Robinson, Area 1A Vice President  
Gale D. Beck, Area 2 Vice President and Kansas Training Coordinator  
L. James Gaskell, Area 2A Vice President  
W. Duane Evans, Area 3 Vice President  
John Lancaster, Area 4 Vice President  
Ronald Katt, Area 5 Vice President  
Robert Cranmer, Area 6 Vice President  
Betty L. Born, Legislative – State  
Mary E. Fritzsion, Service Officer  
James E. Dodd, NARFE-Net and Historian

Member: Lorraine Gaskell, Chapter 799, Chanute  
Harold Gottsch, Chapter 537, Salt City – Hutchinson, 2008 Convention Chair  
Bill Collins, Chapter 537, Salt City – Hutchinson, Chapter President  
Gene Algim, Chapter 537, Salt City – Hutchinson, Chapter Vice-President  
Clyde Woolfolk, Chapter 537, Salt City–Hutchinson, Convention Financial Chair

Not Present: John F. Surritte, Federation President  
Linda A. Surritte, Alzheimer's Chair  
Dixie Thomas, Editor

Following roll call, it was determined that a quorum was present under Kansas Bylaws – Article VI (Section 2).

1. **Minutes of June 20, 2007 and “Special Meeting” of August 28, 2007:** Secretary Ek made the motion that reading of the minutes be waived as copies have been distributed to all EB members, Chapter Presidents and Chapter Secretaries in advance of the meeting with one correction. Minutes of August 28, 2007, Item 2, Second Paragraph: Location of Sunflower Bank should be changed from Abilene to Junction City, Kansas.

2. **Advertisement Requested For 2008 Kansas Convention Program Book:** John Lancaster made a motion that the Federation purchase a full page ad (cost \$40) to be placed in the 2008 annual convention program book. This motion was seconded and approved with a unanimous “aye” vote. He will design and submit this advertisement to Chapter 537 convention hosts.
3. **2008 Convention, Host Chapter 537, Salt City, Hutchinson:** Copies of the proposed budget, letter of invitation from host chapter, and registration form were handed out to each member.

Harold Gottsch, 2008 Convention Chair, Bill Collins, Gene Algrim, Clyde Woolfolk, Chapter 537, Salt City, Hutchinson and John Lancaster, Area 4 Vice President.

Harold thanked John Lancaster for helping their chapter so much in assisting them with preparing plans to carry out the plans and programs to properly conduct business of the convention.

Plans are presently being made to get advertisement letters out to all chapters and other persons of interest who may wish to buy an ad.

Harold has selected an auctioneer for the Alzheimer’s auction. Chapter 138, Wichita, will be in charge of accepting and awarding door prizes. Chapter 1939, Ninnescah Valley, Kingman, will be handling the duties of Chaplain; Chapter 1794, Heart of America, McPherson, will be in charge of the Memorial Service. All chapters have agreed to handle these assignments.

The letter of invitation and registration forms were reviewed with the Executive Board. It was determined that April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, will be the cutoff date for both Convention and Hotel registration. Convention registration is to be returned to Clyde Woolfolk, Convention Financial Chair.

The proposed budget for the 2008 Annual Convention was reviewed with the Executive Board. Each line item was explained and questions were answered. Thomas Raby moved that the “Proposed” budget be approved as presented. The motion was seconded. Request was made to determine if further discussion was needed. There being none, a unanimous “aye” vote was given for approval of the budget.

4. **Kansas Policies and Procedures, Item 704, Federation Convention Registration at Convention (Page 10) (Revised from 6-20-07)**

The policy shall be changed to read: “Any person who attends any function of a convention including meals or Alzheimer’s auction will pay the registration fee.

Any member who volunteers for the hospitality room or acceptance of Alzheimer’s or door prize gifts only, will not need to pay the registration fee if they do not attend any other function of the convention.

John Lancaster moved that this change be approved. The motion was seconded. Request was made to determine if further discussion was needed. There being none, a unanimous “aye” vote was given for approval of the budget.

5. **2007-2008 Training Programs:** Gale Beck, Kansas Training Officer

Gale handed out papers summarizing the past three training seminars and upcoming training plans for Areas 4, 5 and 6. Robert Cranmer, Area 6 Vice President; and, Ronald Katt, Area 5 Vice President agreed that the Area 5 and 6 training seminar shall be combined at Hays, Kansas. John Lancaster, Area 4 Vice President, confirmed that the Area 4 training seminar shall be held in Wichita.

Richard Thissen, Region V Vice President, suggested that we may plan a 50% Public Relations and 50% Recruitment Seminar in the same meeting. By doing that, we may be able to get matching funds.

Richard also stated that “he is passing out a compliment to Kansas; and, that he will be including statement of excellent training held in Kansas at the National Executive Board Meeting.

A discussion was held relating to not only using training seminars in the Western Kansas, but also including a revitalization meeting at the same time. Discussion was held with the possibility of going a day early to assist Chapters with contacting potential members then trying to get those members to attend the meeting to learn about NARFE to become members. We find more and more that many potential eligible members have never heard of NARFE and what we do.

Acting President Townson tabled this matter until this afternoon.

6. **Request from Barb Pretzer, National Alzheimer’s Chair:** Barb Pretzer has requested each Federation for a donation of either \$50 or a gift to be raffled with a value of at least \$50 at the National NARFE Convention in Louisville.

Elizabeth Bornman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and President of Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission, ask that the Federation allow Chapter 1162 to submit a \$50 donation in the name of the Federation for the Alzheimer’s booth at the National Convention. As President, she was certain her members would be proud to contribute this gift. She will present this at her next regular meeting to affirm this decision. Carol Ek moved that we allow Chapter 1162 to provide this gift. The motion was seconded. There being no further discussion, a unanimous “aye” vote was given for approval.

7. **Break Taken For Tour of Hotel and Lunch**

The meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

8. **Discussion Resumed on Needs for Assistance in Troubled Chapters and Training Seminars – Gary Townson, Acting President and Gale Beck, Area 2 Vice President and Training Officer**

Training seminars were planned in Hays, Kansas, on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, beginning at 9:00 a.m., Areas 5 and 6; and, Wichita, Kansas, on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, beginning at 9:00 a.m., Area 4.

Several scenarios were discussed on problems which are occurring in Chapters, not limited to small Chapters. These are problems with recruitment of new members; electing officers; appointment of chair people; funds available and how these funds should be used to make sure every member is getting information from their chapter; and, several other problems. The main one being set forth at this time is the recruitment of new members and getting officers to serve for the Chapters.

Acting President Gary appointed Donald Cooper, Immediate Past President, to lead a “Task Force” comprised of the Area Vice-Presidents and Elizabeth Bornman to come up with what action they believe needs taken to handle the problem. Don has agreed to work with them and report back prior to the next Executive Board meeting.

9. **IRS 2007 Tax Filing for Federation and Chapters – Madelyn Brown, Treasurer**

Madelyn briefly discussed the IRS Tax Filing provision and convinced the EB members that with the assistance of a member from her Chapter who is a tax accountant – all forms will be filed accurately. She will be available to assist other Chapters, if needed.

10. **Treasurer’s Report and Estimated Cost of Preparing Training Seminar Books – Madelyn Brown, Treasurer**

The treasurer’s report was provided to each member for review accompanied with an estimate of the cost to complete the book for training given to each member attending the training seminars.

To meet expenses to date, \$2,500 was taken from the CD on file at the Sunflower Bank, Junction City leaving the balance available in the bank account of \$1,700.21. We do still have a \$2,500 CD on file with the Sunflower Bank.

Madelyn did contact all members who might have vouchers for expenses outstanding before determining the amount of the CD to be cashed.

A motion was made by Jim Gaskell, to accept the Treasurer’s Report as filed. This motion was seconded. Question was asked for discussion. There being none, the treasurer’s report were approved by unanimous “aye” vote.

**11. Per Capita Dues and Request for One Time Voluntary Chapter Contribution To Maintain Viability of Federation – Tom Raby, Area 1 Vice President and Jim Gaskell, Area 2A Vice President**

Jim Gaskell, Area 2A Vice President, discussed a needed increase in per capita taxes. He was reminded that the only way this could be done was through resolution and adoption at the annual State convention.

Unusual high costs (due to increased travel costs; out of State meeting where President was asked to attend; training seminars; work with troubled chapters, increased cost of postage and supplies) this year it was necessary to cash a portion of our emergency CD. Because of this several members of the Executive Board have not turned in vouchers for approved expenses.

Jim made a motion to ask Chapters to make a “voluntary” one time cash donation based on fifty cents (.50) per member along with the required \$1.00 per capita taxes to be paid by December 31, 2007. This notice to be included by the treasurer with the required “per capita” tax notice. This motion was seconded. Question asked for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion was approved with an “aye” vote.

**12. State Income Tax on TSP Withdrawals – Betty Born, State Legislative Chair**

Betty reported that withdrawal of TSP funds does not fall into the same category as federal retiree annuities when income is determined for Kansas Income Tax. These withdrawals are treated the same by both Federal and State income tax guides. This will be covered in it’s entirety in the November – December federation newsletter.

**13. Reports**

*John F. Surritte, Federation President*

Since our last EB meeting in June:

- a. I’ve conducted the Lawrence chapter meetings as President of Chapter 378.
- b. I had the opportunity to attend the National Federation President’s meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.
- c. I attended the College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) along with thirty-eight (38) other Kansans, in South Sioux City, Nebraska.
- d. I invited our National President, Margaret Baptiste, to attend our 2008 Kansas State Convention in Hutchinson. Hopefully, the Vice-President’s resignation will not keep her from attending. If she cannot attend, I have asked Richard (Vice-President Thissen) to ask Chuck Timanus. I believe Chuck could help our members come up with strategies to increase our State membership.
- e. Coordinated the August National Lobby month with our Board Members and Chapters. As a result, Senator Brownback has agreed to sponsor Premium Conversion Legislation.
- f. Conducted the first of the pre-convention meetings with Hutchinson Chapter 537 and our area IV Vice-President John Lancaster. Other EB members attending

were Carol R. Ek, Federation Secretary; Madelyn Brown, Federation Treasurer; and Linda Surritte, Federation Alzheimer's Chair. Members from the Hutchinson Chapter in attendance were: Harold Gottsch, Convention Chair; Bill Collins, Chapter President; Gene Algrim, Credential Committee Chair; Clyde Woolfolk, Convention Financial Chair; and Ken Rose, Member.

g. Participated in training seminars for Areas 1 & 1A; 2 and 2A; and 3.

***Gary E. Townson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President***

The June board meeting found me unable to attend as I was in Columbia, Missouri, fulfilling my duties at my part time job.

I was honored by Regional VP Thissen by being asked to conduct a PAC training session the latter part of August at the College of NARFE (CONK). For those of you that were not able to attend, the record setting 221 attendees were divided into three groups and each group attended all three training sessions. I, therefore, was privileged to see every one in attendance at some time during CONK.

The following week there was a scheduling mix-up and Jim Miller was unable to be at the Buffalo Bill Chapter in Leavenworth to present their program. I went up and met with them, spoke about NARFE PAC and collected some funds for PAC.

September 18, I attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Chapter 621 in Atchison, KS.

Due to the illness of my wife, I was unable to assist in the training seminar in Iola on October 3. I did, however, attend and participate in the training seminars in Clay Center on October 12; and, in Kansas City on October 15.

On October 10, I attended the Salt City Chapter 537 meeting in Hutchinson and spoke with one of Congressman Jerry Moran's aides.

Due to President Surritte's absence, I conducted the October Federation Board Meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> in Hutchinson, Kansas.

I now have the third quarter of the 2007-2008 congressional cycle NARFE/PAC reports. I am pleased to report that Kansas has maintained its position as the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 SIX of the FORTY SIX 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 Chapters to donate to Alzheimer's or other causes. We don't sell pins or anything else. We collect contributions for the survival of our benefits. If someone contributes at least \$20.00, we recognize them by awarding 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? As board

members, we must lead by example. 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 maximum PAC contribution allowable per calendar year). HAVE YOU? From 1/1/2007 to 9/30/2007, Kansas has had 213 contributors, contributing \$3,639.50.

***Elizabeth Bornman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Membership***

During the last month, I have trained at three (3) sessions in Area 1 and 1A; Areas 2 and 2A; and Area 3. I felt this was beneficial to me and the audience. I felt I needed more time. I received the Membership Plan from National. I will use it as a template to develop one for the State for 2008 and beyond. I promised I would draft a template for the chapters to use. I got the feeling from the training sessions very few have one in place and don't have any direction. They also don't budget for recruitment. I attended a retirement day at Fort Leavenworth with Tom Raby, Area 1 Vice President; and, T. J. Robinson, Area 1A Vice-President. We met a lot of potential members both retired and current. I will be going to Ft. Scott in November to help them with their member's goals and recruitment. I also attended the College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) for Region 5.

***Donald Cooper, Immediate Past President and Public Relations Officer***

The NARFE displays owned by the Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters are not being requested very much. If we are to put NARFE before the people, we must display the name.

I attended the Leavenworth Chapter 27 summer picnic. It is always good to be with the NARFE members at that occasion.

I've spent a good deal of time in preparation for the NARFE Training Seminars. I've worked on converting the October 1, 2006 OPM releases which shows the number of annuitants earning annuities in each Zip code. Since there are 850 zip codes to be sorted by Kansas NARFE Chapters, then by area; this has taken me some time. I have quite a few more to go.

I assisted Federation Secretary, Carol Ek, and Area 6 Vice President, Robert Cranmer, with the NARFE Display and the KASCOE annual Convention, held in Great Bend on September 28 and 29. I believe it was successful.

I attended the Iola training seminar on October 3. Spencer Ambler arranged a wonderful meeting facility at the Iola Community College.

I participated in the Seminar held October 12 at Clay Center. The Clay Center Chapter had two current federal employees participating in the seminar held at the Methodist Church. Area 3 had another member attending from Tri-County Chapter 1933. We should all be urging current federal employees to that advantage of the "incentive" membership rates. Remember, those special rates will be **discontinued December 31, 2007.**

I participated in the Area 1 and Area 1A training held October 15 in Kansas City, Kansas. I was impressed that a Kansas City Chapter member had two guests who were not members. Hopefully she will get them both to become members soon.

Ulysses Chapter, 2086, is in trouble. Kay Klien passed away and they are experiencing difficulty getting someone to step up to fill the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer vacancy. I have been working with Federation Secretary, Carol Ek, and Area 6 Vice President, Robert Cranmer, to help this Chapter to overcome the vacancy and to bolster the membership. The Chapter has 14 current members. OPM as of October, 2006, indicates 128 annuitants in those ZIP code addresses. If the CRF potential is counted, there should be no reason to consider closing that NARFE Chapter.

As our National NARFE President Margaret Baptiste has stated – it is every member's duty to be active at the job of Public Relations for making NARFE the best it can be.

***Carol R. Ek, Secretary***

Being the tour master for Helen Gallagher, Leavenworth; Flo Biehl, Shawnee Mission; and, Betty Born, Topeka to attend the College of NARFE in South Sioux City, Nebraska, was again one of the highlights of my year. We had a wonderful time and learned a lot through Richard's excellent teachers. I was very pleased to serve as the leader for the Secretary session. Our Federation Secretaries are such a great bunch of people and they each put in their two or three cents which makes it a real joy.

I finished the books for the Kansas training seminars and hope for each of you who attended really appreciated the material your trainers submitted. There is a lot of good information contained in them. We have completed training for areas 1 and 1A; 2 and 2A; and 3. Areas 4, 5 and 6 will be held in March. I do hope we have a better turnout.

I will be mailing the "Annual 2008 Convention Data" approximately December 27, 2007. This will contain all of the forms to register for convention; report forms for your chapter, credentials; resolutions, etc. This will be mailed to both the President and Secretary. I will update my letters to be mailed to the new members as F-7's are returned for each chapter. Hopefully all 2008 officers will be getting the mailing. Be certain to remind your members that the forms need to be returned by the date shown therein.

I did attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Atchison, Chapter 621. They had a lovely celebration with approximately thirty (30) in attendance.

Donald Cooper, Robert Cranmer, and I held a membership recruitment drive during the Annual KASCOE (Kansas Association of Farm Service Agency Employees) Convention. We did gain eight (8) new memberships. One was a gift membership. I came away with the feeling that when they learn our objective and goals, current members will join.

***Madelyn Brown, Treasurer***

Madelyn presented a very complete report of what is happening with Federation Funds. The federation is low with funds to keep all vouchers paid to date. I am doing the best I can with the funds available. Per capita statements have not been mailed yet and will not be until after the November 30<sup>th</sup> membership report. Per capita dues must be paid within 30 days after receipt. The Federation will be in much better shape following that collection.

With the increase in prices of supplies, gasoline, and everything else, I believe it is a good possibility that per-capita dues must be increased to meet the needs for the Federation expenses.

Expense date from June 20<sup>th</sup> – October 30, 2007

Income from National Rebates, Money from CD, Convention Proceeds . . . . . \$6,551.84

Expenses

Honorarium's	300.00	
Mileage	3014.02	
Meals	229.51	
Lodging	1103.73	
Office Supplies	1482.93	
Postage	488.04	
CONK Registration Refunds	\$2,160	
President's Trip (Parking)	27	
Other Expenses	<u>597.65</u>	
		\$ 9,402.88

Balance Available \$ 1,700.21

***Thomas E. Raby, Area 1 Vice President***

Since our last regular meeting, I have visited all chapters in "Area 1". I have also visited the Bannister Road Complex in Kansas City with T. J. Robinson, Area 1A Vice President. We recruited four (4) more members (at least) during this visit.

Jane and I attended the record breaking College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) in South Sioux City. I also, attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting/celebration at the Atchison Chapter 621.

I believe that I clicked on the wrong file when I forwarded an article to Dixie for the September Federation Newsletter so I'm writing the real article here:

"There have been travels to chapters during the last quarter, however, have not forwarded vouchers for travel expenses. Starting in November, my plan is to make sure that

visitations are made to each chapter. Telephone and email communication is a continuous effort to give support when needed.

I attended the College of NARFE Knowledge along with four members of the Sunflower Chapter 1160. Members from Leavenworth "Buffalo Bill" Chapter 27; Atchison Chapter 621; and, Brown County Chapter 2164, were in attendance.

On September 18, 2007, Atchison Chapter 621 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell Restaurant in Atchison, Kansas. National Field Vice President, Region V, Richard Thissen, presented the 50 year certificate signed both National President Margaret Baptiste and National Field Vice President, Richard Thissen, to President Eugene Harter. Attendees present included Kansas Federation President Surritte; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Townson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bornman; Secretary Ek; Immediate Past President Cooper; Area Vice-President's and Leavenworth Chapter President Delores Vossmer.

Federation Training for Area 1 and Area 1A was conducted in Kansas City, Kansas, on October 15, 2007, at the Hanlon Community Center. Number of persons present, including presenters, totaled 39.

Kansas Federation was invited to attend on October 27<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Retiree Appreciation Day, which took place in the new Command and General Staff "Lewis & Clark" building at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. A booth for recruiting and information was set up and manned by 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Elizabeth Bornman, Area 1 VP Tom Raby and Area 1A VP Robinson. The number of persons attending was the largest group that has participated. Active employees, retired and potential retirees were presented with information handouts and numerous questions were fielded.

***T. J. Robinson, Area 1A Vice President [No Report]***

***Gale D. Beck, Area 2 Vice President***

Four chapters have been visited since the Federation Executive Board Meeting in June. Chapters visited have been: Emporia Chapter 364; Ottawa Chapter 785; Iola Chapter 2077; and, Osage County Chapter 2099. One chapter remains to be visited, Tri River Chapter 2098. It is scheduled for a visit in November.

Six NARFE members from Area 2 attended the College of NARFE Knowledge at South Sioux City, Nebraska, August 26<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>. Four members attended from Tri River Chapter 2098; and, two from Iola Chapter 2077.

Jackson George a long time NARFE member of the Emporia Chapter 384 and past Area 2 Vice President died recently at San Antonio, Texas.

NARFE TRAINING has been on the high priority list since the Federation Convention at Junction City last April. Coordination of training sites was made with Area Vice Presidents of Area 1 and 1A; 2 and 2A; and, 3. Instructors were asked to prepare handout materials and make the materials available to Carol Ek, Federation Secretary, in a timely

manner so that it could be reproduced and assembled. It was assembled in the same format as it was to be presented to those in attendance at the seminars. Areas who still need to be scheduled for seminars are Area 4, Area 5 and Area 6. It is hoped that seminars can be scheduled for these areas during the month of March, 2008.

***Jim Gaskell, Area 2A Vice President***

The primary activity in Area 2A is the merging of NARFE Fredonia Chapter 2100 with the Chanute Chapter 799. All steps have been completed except the final report to our National NARFE headquarters. Chapter 2100 is transferring 13 members to the Chanute chapter. Extensive efforts by members of our Kansas Federation of Chapters were made to save this chapter but it was still not able to find the leadership needed to continue.

All but one chapter has been visited since our Federation Convention in April. I am stressing that each chapter make a concentrated effort to fill all the elected and appointed offices in the coming year. I believe that by expanding the number of people serving in each chapter will result with more active members and help prepare them for higher offices in years to come.

I also made a strong bid to get each chapter to send at least three officers and other members to take part in the NARFE training session we had on October 3. Not all chapters were able to reach this goal, but we did have good attendance at this excellent training session. Our members expressed appreciation for the effort of our training personnel.

***W. Duane Gaskell, Area 3 Vice President [No Report]***

***John Lancaster, Area 4 Vice President***

Since the last Board meeting, the following chapters in Area IV have been visited along with other items delineated below:

- July 9 Visited with Chapter 1794 at their meeting where they held election of officers for 2007-2008.
- July 18 Attended meeting of Chapter 1939 in Kingman.
- August 8 Attended regular chapter meeting of Chapter 537.
- August 27-29 Attended CONK at South Sioux City, NE. Drove up with Vice President Townson and James Miller, President of Chapter 2, Topeka.
- September 18 Attended Chapter meeting of Chapter 138.
- October 1 Attended Chapter 138 Social
- October 10 Attended Chapter meeting of Chapter 537 with Vice President Townson.

October 19-21 Attended a convention in Des Moines and had a nice visit and dinner with former Region V, NFVP prior to the convention and they send their regards and again said that Kansas was the best Federation they had in Region V. We had lunch with Lewis Taylor a member of Chapter 138 who is now living in Des Moines.

Memorial services for Jackson George, former Area 2 Vice President, will be held in Lebo on November 21 at 10:00 a.m. Jackson died in San Antonio on September 10.

For those who knew Arlo Hagge, Former National Field Vice President for Region V; Arlo will be celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 1. If anyone who knows him wants to send him a card, I have his address.

Secretary Ek and I attended a convention planning meeting in Hutchinson on July 24 and I met with President Surritte and the Hutchinson personnel on August 22.

Training for Area IV which was scheduled for October 10, 2007, was cancelled and tentatively rescheduled for a time in March.

***Ronald Katt, Area V Vice President***

Visited Chapter 2050, Hays, regular meeting 9-12-07. Chapter agreed to host "Back to Basic" training tentatively planned for March, 2008.

Visited via telephone with Chapter President of Chapter 1991, Goodland, regarding Chapter member attendance at "Back to Basic" training tentatively planned for March, 2008.

Plan to visit Chapter 1991 Goodland regular meeting 12-05-07.

***Robert Cranmer, Area VI Vice President***

Thought for the day – "Never take a sleeping pill and a laxative the same night."

All of the chapters in Area 6 take a recess from meeting during the summer. Starting in September, I have been busy.

I visited Scott City Chapter 1996 on September 11. There were eight (8) members and guests present. President Betty Latoush announced the program for October 9, 2007, was to be Pam Maxwell, Federal Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas. Chapter 1996 will invite all of the Federal employees and retirees in their area to attend.

I visited Garden City Chapter 1995 on September 13, 2007. There were twelve (12) members and guests present.

NARFE operated a booth at the KASCOE State Convention in Great Bend, September 28 and 29, 2007. Carol Ek, Don Cooper and I worked the booth. We signed up seven (7)

new CFE members and presented one (1) gift membership for one year. Four new members were from Area 6. It was great fun working with Carol and Don.

Thursday, October 4, Carla and I attended the AARP summit in Hays. They had a lot of good Medical Advice for Senior Citizens. One thing that was pointed out was: "Listen to your body". It will tell you when something is wrong. NARFE meetings could use more programs about health.

Tuesday, October 9, I attended the Scott City Chapter 1996 meeting. Pam Maxwell was the speaker. Nineteen (19) members and guests were present. Two new members were signed up.

Wednesday, October 10, I visited the Dodge City Chapter 1873. They are looking for help in recruiting officers.

Thursday, October 11, I visited the Great Bend Chapter 1709. They always have a good program. This one was about the Barton County Courthouse and some of the ghost stories. Twenty (20) members and guests were present. President Sharon appointed a nomination committee for the next year. The same board members were talked into running again.

Wednesday, October 17, I visited Ulysses Chapter 2086. There were six (6) members and guests in attendance. Secretary/Treasurer Kay Klein brought up the subject on disbanding the chapter for lack of members. It was tabled for a year to see if more members could be recruited.

Thursday, I received a phone call from President Alice Frey that her Secretary/Treasurer Kay Klein had collapsed and died that morning. What a shock! Kay had been taking care of her husband who has had cancer for the last several years.

Members in Area 6 would like to combine training with Area 5 in Hays. A member questioned me on why we need training. Maybe we need to change the name from training to something like Area Summit. How do we get through to the membership that we all need more knowledge about NARFE?

I have driven about 1,300 miles for NARFE during the last couple of months.

***Mary E. Fritzson, Service Officer***

Since being appointed State Federation Service Officer in mid-September, 2007, I have attended and participated in three area training meetings. These meetings were held at Iola on October 3; Clay Center on October 12; and, at Kansas City on October 15. My only disappointment has been the low attendance at these meetings and especially the chapter service officer position.

The service officer position in each chapter is such an important position and has a lot to do with recruitment and retention of NARFE members.

The health benefits “open season” extends from November 13 through December 11, 2007. The Blue Cross/Blue Shield program, the most popular among NARFE members will have a considerable increase in rates for 2008. The single rate will increase \$10.51 per month while the family rate will increase \$23.49 per month. The deductible has gone up considerably too and affects those retirees under age 65 and without Part B. Medicare coverage. Also, Part B Medicare rates increase from \$93.50 to \$96.40 per month.

The cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2008 for Federal annuitants has been announced at 2.3 percent, the lowest increase in four years. This increase will be reflected in annuity payments received in early January. Health benefits rate changes for 2008 will be reflected in annuity payment received in early February, 2008.

Area Vice Presidents are urged to check with chapter presidents to determine if there is a current FH-10, Service Officer Guide, document dated January, 2007, available for reference and use by the chapter service officer. If not available, make sure a copy is ordered (limit of two copies per chapter) and made available to the person with service officer responsibilities.

***Betty L. Born, State Legislative Officer***

Since the Kansas Legislature is not in regular session, there is not a lot to report at this time. Ron Richey, the Topeka chapter legislative chair, and I have been monitoring two sessions of Interim Tax Committee meetings. So far, the most significant information from these meetings is that there is not as much money available as there was at this time last year.

This at the same time the Kansas Health Policy Authority is gearing-up to consider various Medicaid changes as part of the broader recommendations the agency will make to the Legislature in 2008, in keeping with the 36-page-to-do list from 2007 Legislature health care reform plan. On November 1 (Thursday of this week), the Kansas Health Policy Authority will go before the governor to recommend changes to both Medicaid and Health Wave, which cover the health care costs of low-income children, pregnant women, those with disabilities and frail elderly. These matters will be at the core of the discussion on November 1 and again in January when the Legislature reconvenes. The agency won't make specific recommendations about Medicaid, but much of what is suggested can or does apply to Medicaid.

There have already been expressed some concerns that the upcoming election year will prove fruitless for any meaningful legislation, as most political candidates instinctively shy away from coming on too strongly about controversial issues. The most palatable notion seems to be that nobody should be in a rush to push through a giant reform, but rather heads should get together and come up with some possible solutions. Looks like it will take some time.

Starting yesterday, various other interim committees have been scheduled to meet. The tentative agenda for the Special Committee on Assessment and Taxation on November 14 and 15 covers several topics, from corporation income tax shelters and withholding sales taxes, property taxes and relief for storm-damaged property.

Another big controversy is the governor's rejection of a state permit for construction of the \$3.5 billion expansion of a coal-fired power plant in Western Kansas, near Holcomb. The rejection was based on concerns about emission of carbon dioxide, which is a pollutant not specifically regulated by the state or federal government. Proponents of two coal-fired generators in western Kansas are lining up support in the Legislature, hoping to overturn the rejection.

Unless something that might be deleterious financially to NARFE members evolves from these discussions, I believe there is nothing we need to be concerned about at this time.

**Kansas Income Tax Requirements** – Because of my research experience with the issue of Kansas income tax requirements for Federal retirees' withdrawals from their Thrift Savings Plans, President Surritte asked me to report to this board today.

Sometime in June of this year, I received a telephone call from a retired Wichita NARFE member saying that Chris Farrell, the Legislative Director at National Headquarters, had referred her to me when she called him about a question she had concerning Kansas income tax requirements for federal retirees' withdrawals from their Thrift Savings Plans. To be specific, she was indignant that she had been required by her tax preparer to pay such tax for 2006, and believed that was in error, that, indeed, TSP withdrawals were just like the Federal annuities, on which retirees are not required to pay Kansas income tax.

I immediately called my trusted CPA for clarification, the result of which was that subsequently I received from him a copy of a letter dated March 28, 2006, from Jim Weisgerber, a Tax Specialist Attorney for the Kansas Department of Revenue. As you can see in the copy of his letter that I prepared for each of you, Mr. Weisgerber states that Kansas law requires that the Federal retiree's income tax obligation on TSP withdrawals is the same for Kansas income tax purposes as it is for Federal income tax purposes. After calling the retiree who had the question, I then sent her a copy of the letter and also one to Chris Farrell. That was several weeks ago, and to date, I have heard nothing further from either of them.

Before making this report, I called Mr. Weisgerber to inquire about the possibility of there having been any changes since March 28, 2006, to which he replied that there had not been. I also requested from him a letter stating the governing law(s) for this information, believing we should have it in order to have complete knowledge for the record. I requested that he get this for me before our meeting today. Unfortunately, I have not received it, and do not know if and when I will – or if, indeed it is necessary; I trust his knowledge and veracity.

Because this question has arisen in at least one other situation, I am guessing it might come up again, and I recommend that Mr. Weisgerber's report be conveyed to all of our chapters, to ensure that none of our members are uncertain about handling the TSP withdrawals on their Kansas income tax reports.

***James E. Dodd, NARFE NET/Historian Report***

I have revised the KS NARFE net members email lists. All of the email addresses that were returned as invalid three or more times have been deleted. Of the 602 addresses on the Kansas list, 221 were deleted as invalid.

All of the deleted addresses were screened against the latest NARFE HQ email list. 122 of these invalid addresses were also on the National list. The balance of the addresses deleted from the KS list had no email address listed on the National list.

The rest of the email addresses on the Kansas list did match the HQ list.

The Kansas part of the National list has 607 names, since 122 of these are invalid, the Kansas part of the National list has at least 20% invalid email addresses.

There are 221 email addresses on the National list that are not on the Kansas list. I am considering sending an email to just these NARFE members to see if they wish to be added to the KS NARFE net list. Hopefully, they would not consider this a “spam” message. Also, that would let us know how many of these addresses are valid.

When visiting KS NARFE Chapters, it would be helpful if the chapter members who want to be on the KS NET, but are not receiving the messages would give the Area VP their correct email addresses.

Also, everyone should be encouraged to check the members data section NARFE HQ web site, [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and insure that their latest correct e-mail address is listed.

I have been adding more chapter newsletters and other information to the KS NARFE.org website as historical records.

***Dixie Thomas, Editor***

Every other month approximately 135 – 140 newsletters are mailed primarily to State and local chapter officers. Lately the newsletter was mailed later than preferred. I would like to just mention the process in preparing the newsletter. Newsletter input is requested around the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month with a suspense date of 10 days later. Usually this leaves 10 days to prepare the letter, have printed and get mailed prior to the end of the month. If delays occur in receiving the newsletter information, in the past, mailing was delayed. For the first 10 days of the month, I have other commitments and work on the newsletter as time permits. This causes further delays. So, please get your newsletter input to me 10 days after requested. Later may result in your information being left out of the newsletter or delays as experienced in the past.

***Linda A Surritte, Alzheimer’s Chair***

Year-to-Date, through end of September, KS contributions - \$19,650.96 (\$3.94 per member) Our goal for 2007 is \$4.00 per member or \$19,948.

Primary Year To Date impacts were Junction City Chapter 383 “Bingo” donation of \$5,850, and Tri-River Chapter 2098 of \$1,120.

In a letter dated September 27<sup>th</sup>, Barb Pretzer has again asked for each Federation to “contribute at least one item with a minimum value of \$50 for an Alzheimer’s fundraising drawing at the National Convention. I believe we have two main options: 1) provide a gift certificate as we did last time; or, b) purchase an item valued at \$50 or more and bring it to the convention.

FYI, the chapter and our federation DO NOT receive “contribution tracking credit for this donation”.

**Next Meeting:** Pre-Convention meeting to be held April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Carol R. Ek  
Secretary, Kansas State Federation of NARFE Chapters