



**Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters
Regular Executive Board Meeting
Downtown Ramada Inn, Topeka, Kansas
October 21, 2009**

The Federation Fall Executive Board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., at the Downtown Ramada Inn, Topeka, Kansas

James Gaskell, Area 2A Vice President, gave the invocation. Elizabeth Bornman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was made by the Federation Secretary:

Present: Robert Cranmer, President
Elizabeth Bornman, 1st Vice President / Membership Chair
Cindy Renee` Blythe, 2nd Vice President / Public Relations Chair
Carol R. Ek, Secretary / Editor
G. P. (Jerry) Ketter, Treasurer
John F. Surritte, Immediate Past President / Federal Legislation
Florence (Flo) Biehl, Area 1 Vice President
Eugene H. Harter, Area 1A Vice President
Gale D. Beck, Area 2 Vice President, Advisor, and Training Officer
L. James (Jim) Gaskell, Area 2A Vice President
Donald L. Cooper, Area 3 Vice President / PAC Chair
Ronald Katt, Area 5 Vice President
James F. Miller, State Legislative Chair
Janice A. Neuschafer, Alzheimer's Chair
James E. Dodd, Historian / NARFE Netter
Richard Thissen, Region V. Vice President

Guest: Jim Mitchell, 1st Vice President, Chapter 0383, Junction City, Chair for 2011 Convention; and, Dixie Thomas, Chapter 0383, Junction City, Co-Chair for 2011 Convention

Not Present: Peggy A. Hughes, Area 4 Vice President
Brenda Myers, Area 6 Vice President
Walter Germann, Service Officer

Minutes of June 3, Spring Executive Board Meeting:

Minutes of all meetings have been mailed for availability of all members in advance of this meeting. Carol Ek moved that reading of the minutes be waived. (Robert's Rules of Order, Page 343) The motion was seconded by John Surritte. Unanimous approval was given with an "aye" vote.

Convention Chairs Appointed

Roger Perry had accepted the position as Bylaws and General Resolutions; however, Roger has resigned so this position will need to be filled.

Duties of the Chairman of the Bylaws and General Resolutions were explained to the board when asking for names to be recommended.

The name Thomas Raby was placed before the board for consideration. President Cranmer stated that he would contact Mr. Raby for the possibility of filling the chairman position.

Review of 2010 Convention

James F. Miller and Maynard Cox, Convention Co-Chairs, were in attendance to review the preliminary budget, welcome letter, map showing location of convention center, and convention assigned committee chairs.

When reviewing the budget, it was noted that \$150 had been estimated for Banquet Entertainment when at our June Executive Board meeting it was determined that these expenses should not be a part of the convention budget. The determination on June 3 was based on the fact that the host chapter could have entertainment if they desired but it would be at the Chapters expense. Jim Miller, 2010 Convention Chair, ask that this determination be amended based on the fact that the Topeka Chapter had hosted many conventions and they believed it was an important part of the banquet. The Topeka members wanted to point out that the people who voted on the change had never hosted a convention and never would.

John Surritte moved that the Federation get their \$400 before any allowance be granted for entertainment. The motion was seconded and failed with five (2) in favor, three (3) not voting, and six (6) opposed. The motion was defeated with five (5) in favor and six (6) opposed.

Carol Ek moved to allow charges up to \$200 for entertainment expenses. The motion was seconded and approved with five (5) in favor, two (2) not voting, and four (4) opposed. The motion carried with seven (7) in favor and four (4) opposed. Kansas Convention Handbook Paragraph 106 (o) shall be amended.

The 2010 convention budget was unanimously approved as submitted.

The 2010 registration form was unanimously approved.

A walk through of the hotel was made with Lana Beseau-Johnson, Ramada Inn, tour guide.

Proposed Invitation to National Headquarters Representative

The decision was made by Headquarters that a headquarters representative would attend the convention every two years; or, the Federation could invite a representative if all expenses were paid by the Federation. 2010 is the off-year for Kansas. It was determined that **NO** headquarters representative would be asked to attend the 2010 convention.

Report from Junction City for 2011 Convention

Jim Mitchell, Chair for the 2011 Convention, reported that they believe all plans are coming along nicely and the members continue to be upbeat about hosting the convention.

Purchase of New Copy Machine for Secretary

The secretary has been looking at new copy machines and the one she would like to purchase is \$1800. It was determined that that was too high. It was determined that a copy machine would be approved at a cost not exceeding \$1,000. Carol will examine other avenues of purchase and get a copy machine within the allowed budget approved.

Reports

Robert Cranmer, President

Since our last meeting, I have visited seven chapters several of which were troubled chapters. Kingman Chapter 1933 and Coffeerville Chapter 2257 are in trouble because of lack of leaders. Parsons area is looking to start a new chapter. Eighteen members and potential members were present.

I attended the College of NARFE Knowledge in South Sioux City, Nebraska. The Kansas Federation had 35 members in attendance and a total of 235 from the seven states Region 5. National officers in attendance were: President Margaret Baptiste; Treasurer, Richard Ostergren; Director of Retirement Benefit Services, David Snell; Director of Public Relations, Chuck Timanus; National Alzheimer's Chair, Barb Pretzer; and, Region V Vice President, Richard Thissen.

Logan County Chapter 2032 will hold their 25th Anniversary on Thursday October 22, 2009, at Grainfield, Kansas. Custer 7th Cavalry, Hays Chapter 2050 will hold their 25th Anniversary on Friday, October 23, 2009 at Hays, Kansas.

Elizabeth Bornman, 1st Vice President and Membership

The President of the Kansas Federation has not requested my services during the past quarter. I have submitted an article for each of the Federation newsletters. I also attended CONK as a representative from my chapter. I also attended as first VP the Buffalo chapter annual picnic and spoke concerning membership at the federation level. Membership static's have been reported in the newsletter. No chapter has requested my assistance in

the arena of membership. Numbers continue to go down. I cannot stress enough of the importance of those who are not renewing and the lack of current federal employees' joining the chapters in our state. Dues withholding is not gaining in this state.

Cindy Renee' Blythe, 2nd Vice President and Public Relations

I have not been asked to perform any duties for the President. Robert knows that I am available and will assist him whenever requested to do so.

I am planning to attend the 25th Anniversary celebration for the Custer 7th Calvary Chapter in Hays on Friday. My status as a current federal employee precludes me from being able to attend the 25th celebration for the Logan County chapter. I am looking forward to being able to attend a few functions in my capacity as 2nd Vice President.

The NARFE banner has been traveling this last month. I sent the banners and display to Jim Gaskell for a couple NARFE chapter meetings, and then Gale Beck reserved them for use at the USDA and FSA convention in Salina. The last stop will be for Elizabeth Bornman for use at the Fort Leavenworth retiree seminar. To save on postage costs, Elizabeth will keep the banner and poster until it is requested again.

Carol Ek, Secretary and Editor

I have had the privilege of assisting with the preparation of mailing lists for the potential memberships in Parsons, Coffeyville and Independence. We did hold three meetings in the Southeastern corner of the State. We mailed out letters to 283 potential members from that area. We won't know the results of those letters for a few months yet. We did have a very good meeting at all three chapter sites but it did not meet the goals we had hoped for. We can only hope that the letters will gain some memberships. My chapter is still continuing to do real well keeping 25 members attending our meetings. I did enjoy attending CONK and meeting again with Margaret, Chuck and Richard and meeting David Snell. I did attend a town hall meeting with Jerry Moran, 1st District Representative; and, Todd Tiaht, 4th District Representative. I did feel sorry for Gary Townson who spent many hours getting Todd to hold a special meeting for the Chapter. 20 people showed up for the meeting and then talked about personal problems rather than the problems which affected NARFE. Todd really appreciated this because he didn't have to address the difficult issues. I do hope that when you have the opportunity to meet with your representatives you keep in mind what you have gone to the meeting to do.

Richard Thissen reemphasized how you should plan to meet your congressmen because they will take the entire time sympathizing and therefore evading the hard questions.

Jerry Ketter, Treasurer

We still have the CD at the Sunflower Bank in Junction City. It will mature February 2, 2010. The principal amount is \$2,597.76 at an interest rate of 2.716%.

In the checking account in Sabetha, we have \$5,266.69. That amount includes the October rebate from National. It also includes \$491.34 that we are holding from closed chapters. Our balance has been in the four to five thousand range much of the year. It did get a little boost when we received matching funds from National of \$916 but those have been used.

Florence (Flo) Biehl, Area 1 Vice President

Five from chapter 1162 attended the College of NARFE in South Sioux City. The Dues referendum did pass in Chapter 1162. I have submitted newsletter articles for the Federation newsletter. I have attended chapter meetings in Chapter 1162, Shawnee. I will be meeting with other chapters in the Area.

Eugene Harter, Area 1A Vice President

Since the Federation convention, I have visited all six chapters in Area 1A. When meeting with the Area 1A chapters, I have been sharing some of the highlights of the State convention; discussing the National Executive Board's upcoming referendum on the creation of a single dues structure for NARFE; and, encouraged the chapters to participate or assist another participating chapter in "NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month". In the chapter visitations I have also encouraged members and especially officers to attend the College of NARFE Knowledge.

On August 20, Brown County Chapter 2164 hosted an informational meeting with Barb Pretzer, NARFE's National and Region V Chairwoman. As usual Barb did a super job. Five (5) surrounding NARFE chapters were also in attendance.

On August 26th the Jackson County NARFE Chapter 2215 of Area 1 hosted a Grassroots meeting with U. S. House Representative Lynn Jenkins. In cooperation with Chapter 2215, I urged all five (5) in Area 1A that are in Lynn Jenkins district to attend this meeting. The chapters from Area 1A in attendance were Leavenworth 027, Atchison 0621, Nemaha County 1948, and Doniphan County 2136. Those attending from Area 1 were Jefferson County 2231 and of course Jackson County 2215. I felt the meeting was definitely worthwhile if for no other reason than to let her know we are out here and we have concerns that we wish her to be concerned and helpful with on our behalf.

On August 24-26, my wife Sally and I attended the Region V, 9th Biennial College of NARFE Knowledge. As usual Mr. Thissen did a superb job of organizing this educational and enjoyable event. With 235 attendees you might say it was his biggest and best to date.

I submitted columns to the NARFE Federation newsletter.

I am working with Elizabeth and Louis Bornman, Flo Biehl and others with the Ft. Leavenworth Retiree Appreciation Day on October 31st.

Gale Beck, Area 2 Vice President and Training Officer

Chapters visited: Emporia 384 (twice); Tri-River 2098; Iola 2077; Ottawa Chapter 785 will be visited November 17th; and, Osage County Chapter 2099, yet to be scheduled.

Participated in training and recruitment seminars with Robert Cranmer, President; Carol Ek, Secretary; and Jim Gaskell, Area 2A Vice President in rejuvenating Independence Chapter 1763; meeting with the Coffeyville Chapter 2257; and meeting to possibly reorganize a NARFE Chapter in the Parsons area. I also assisted in securing names of potential members for this area.

Submitted articles for the Federation newsletter.

Coordinated efforts to provide a NARFE booth at the USDA/FSA National Convention at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, August 12-15, 2009. The Tennessee NARFE Federation had not been aware of the upcoming convention or that those attending from USDA/FSA Agencies were Federal Employees and eligible to join NARFE. In addition to coordinating the Tennessee Federation; contacting the USDA/FSA (FSA employees' organization known as NASCOE) and their authorizing a NARFE Booth at the national convention. Joan and I attend two days of the convention and provided some input to the Tennessee NARFE Federation on the eligibility of these Federal Employees being eligible to join NARFE. It is known that some did join but how many not known.

Joan and I attended the "College of NARFE" at South Sioux City, Nebraska, August 24-26. This was the 9th one I have attended. Sylvia Riepen, Secretary/Treasurer, of the Osage County Chapter 2099 rode with us to and from the CONK. This was her first. Note: She took shorthand notes of all the meetings she attended.

Plans have been made to have the NARFE booth at the USDA/FSA State Convention in Salina, Kansas, October 23 at the Ramada Inn. Joan and I will be there with the booth and NARFE supplies and hand out material. Don Cooper, Area 3 Vice President will be there and NARFE members of the Salina NARFE Chapter will provide support for the booth. I have been invited to be on their USDA/FSA program during the morning session. Due to this commitment we will be unable to attend the 25th Anniversaries of the Hays and Oakley chapters.

L. James (Jim) Gaskell, Area 2A Vice President

I had the privilege to visit four of my five NARFE chapters since our State Federation Convention in April. I am pleased with the Bourbon County (Ft. Scott) Chapter and their new officers. Several new members recruited from the joint Federation and chapter efforts are involved in that chapter's operation.

Bob Cranmer, Carol Ek, Gale Beck and I held three days of meetings in an effort to recruit persons to strengthen the Independence and Coffeyville NARFE Chapters. We also had a meeting in Parsons to determine if there is sufficient interest to start a new chapter in Labette County.

In spite of a large mailing to active and retired federal persons, we did not draw many new people. At Independence, we did have some NARFE members who had not attended that chapters meeting in the past and showed some interest in getting involved. We did get one new member, the wife of a present member.

At Parsons, our second day of meetings, we mustered a good crowd with some existing members and several prospective members. At the end of the meeting, we had several people indicate they wanted to be NARFE members and have a chapter organized in Parsons. Those new memberships' applications have not been processed yet so difficult to measure the success of the future for a Parsons chapter. Jane Beachner who is backing this new chapter has sent follow-up letters to those in attendance and other prospects. I have also contacted a number of the prospective members by letters.

The meeting in Coffeyville had limited success. One NARFE member from Chautauqua County who is a member at Independence did attend the Thursday meeting because of a conflict in scheduling. We discussed the options with the Coffeyville members about trying to continue with their present members or if they would prefer to merge their chapter into the Independence chapter. No decision was made on that day and as of October 20 there is still no decision. Carl Grigsby, President, told me that he will visit with the members again before making a decision.

Donald L. Cooper, Area 3 Vice President and PAC Chair

I attended the 9th Biennial College of NARFE Knowledge held in South Sioux City, Nebraska.

I attended the Buffalo Bill, Chapter 0027, annual picnic at Leavenworth, Kansas.

I attended the chapter meeting at Clay Center, Chapter 1998.

I attended the Tri-County Chapter 1933 meeting in Herington on September 3rd, Old Trooper Chapter 383 meeting at Junction City September 10th; Kaw-Blue Chapter 366 on September 16 at Manhattan; Chisholm Trail Chapter 2137 at Abilene on September 17; Chapter 280 at Salina on September 18; and Chapter 739 at Concordia on September 19th. I had scheduled Black Squirrel, Chapter 1947, but had to cancel due to surgery.

I attended the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, pre-retirement seminar in Hutchinson on September 25th to assist Ken Rose, 1st Vice President Chapter 0537, with a message about NARFE membership benefits.

Kansas retirees have contributed \$4,368 to NARFE-PAC during the period of 1/01/09 to 9/30/09. I have received additional contributions since 9/30/09 that are not counted in the afore reported amount. I urge all of the Kansas Federal Retirees to continue to make contributions to NARFE/PAC. Kansas ranks first in NARFE Region V for NARFE/PAC Contributions.

Ronald Katt, Area V Vice President

Contacted each chapter regarding “NARFE Grass Roots Advocacy Month” and 2009 NARFE Dues Referendum encouraging them to take an active role in these NARFE Functions.

Followed up with each Chapter regarding their member participation in “NARFE Grass Roots Advocacy Month”. In turn, reported the Chapter’s reported participation to the Federation Federal Legislative Chair.

Continued to work with Chapter 2032, Logan County; and Chapter 2050, Hays, in planning their 25th Anniversary celebrations scheduled for October 22 in Grainfield and October 23 in Hays. Chapter 2053, Oberlin is not having a 25th celebration; however, a representative from the Chapter is planning on attending the Logan County celebration in Grainfield.

Brenda Myers, Area VI Vice President

Please excuse me from the meeting as Audi (my grand daughter) needed someone to fly to Houston with her on October 21.

A July visit to Ulysses found four members in attendance. The Dues Referendum was discussed, other reports were given. September visits to Scott City, Dodge City and Garden City were made. Again the Dues question was the important thing on the agendas. REMEMBER TO MAIL THOSE BALLOTS BEFORE DECEMBER 8TH. Information from the CONK meeting was given to the Presidents for their records.

Information from CONK was mailed to Great Bend and our Federation President reported on current things happening in Kansas at their meeting. Garden City members enjoyed a potluck at President Brenda Myers house in Holcomb in September. (They meet same day and time as Great Bend) Art Brown from Dodge City and Alice Frey from Ulysses joined us for the noon meal and for some NARFE updates.

As Area VP, I used the email on the NARFE web site to write to Congressmen and thanked them for their support during the year to fulfill the Grass Roots request.

The M-112 in September had no negative things for Garden City 1995 or Ulysses 2086; however, there were no positive things to report. Scott City has gained one new member recruited by Robert Cranmer.

I sent letters to those with notices in each chapter encouraging them to send in dues or reinstate. I had asked Chapter Presidents if it was O.K. with them for me to send the letter and they agreed. Dues withholding flyers were also included. A welcome letter to the new member also with the flyer was sent. Friday, September 18, I received a phone call for that member’s NARFE number to put on the application for dues withholding. Be persistent and get the information out there. Members will appreciate that contact. I’ll check each month now for each Chapters’ status and send letters if necessary.

Congratulations to Kansas for being second in the nation in Alzheimer's contributions to research.

James F. Miller, State Legislative

The Kansas Legislature will not convene until January 11, 2010, but during the break, several committees have held meetings. Their discussion and recommendations will be given to the Legislature as a whole after January 11. Hearings will be conducted and NARFE (Topeka Chapter members) will attempt to cover as many of those as possible. Same advice to NARFE members around the state. If you don't know your state Senator and Representative, it's never too late to make contact. After the sessions begin and votes are taken that could change our benefits ... will be too late.

We have all heard the bad news on the state budget. There will be a steady stream of organization and departments who have had dramatic budget cuts, speaking before the committees and asking for additional funding and consideration. NARFE won't be among them unless a recommendation is brought up to (1) eliminate the tax benefit, or (2) lift federal retirees only from the groups in that package. The most effective way to defeat those proposals is to take them on in committee before they are brought to the floor. When I learn the names and districts of members of key committees, I'll pass those on for NARFE members who live in those districts. Say a kind word to our legislators while we still can. We may not feel the same way by the end of April!

Janice Neuschafer, Alzheimer's Chair

As of September 30, 2009, Kansas chapters have collected \$25,491.24 which averages \$5.38 per member. The goal for 2009 is \$5.25.

The Alzheimer's Association operates on a fiscal year calendar. For the period of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, a total of \$691,657 was donated by NARFE. Kansas ranked #2 in the nation with total contribution of \$37,848. Region V ranked #2 of the ten regions.

As of August 31, 2009, our national contributions were over \$8.2 million.

I attended the College of NARFE Knowledge August 24-26 in South Sioux City, NE. All sessions were very informative. Barb Pretzer arranged a Monday afternoon reception for five of the seven Region V Alzheimer's Federation Chairpersons in attendance with Margaret Baptiste, our National President. It was a great opportunity to meet Ms. Baptiste and other Alzheimer's Federation Chairpersons in Region V.

In the November NARFE magazine there is a picture of Betty Born, Chapter 0002, Topeka, presenting an oversized check of \$4,422 for Alzheimer's Research to Barb Pretzer and myself. The contribution from Chapter 0002 resulted from the production and sale of the 2009 "Calendar Girls" calendar.

I've been invited to speak about Alzheimer's at two chapters in November - Leavenworth and Abilene.

James E. Dodd, NARFE Net and Historian

The KS Net e-mail address list I passed out has the 333 names that have not been returned from the last KS net message mailing.

The full KS NARFE net has 626 names listed. I have made some of the corrections noted on the previous list. The national Kansas NARFE e-mail list has 756 names.

I am changing the hyperlinks below the “hit counter” on the home page of the KSNARFE.org web site to numbered (click here) item to make them easier to find.

I have added a line #47 to take you to the NARFE GEMS membership data page. This bypasses the member number and date of birth to access your records to change or add information including your e-mail address.

On item #48, I have added a link to the OPM web site FEHBP 2010 premium rates on PDF pages.

John F. Surritte, Immediate Past President / Federal Legislative

I have spent all of my NARFE time since our last Bard meeting working with our Areas and Chapters in order to maintain a dialogue with our Senators and Representatives on those issues which affect our membership and other Federal Employees and Retirees. We still have both Senators and all Representatives co-sponsoring premium conversion and all Representatives supporting GPO/WEP Repeal. This is good. We still do not have Health Care Reform which means Medicare premiums and Health Insurance will continue to grow faster than the rate of inflation. This is bad.

The Health Care debate has kept me very busy. The amount of misinformation has been mind boggling. I’m not sure whether the misinformation is because of ignorance or on purpose, but I do know it has caused a lot of anxiety among our members and other retirees.

I sincerely appreciate the active role most of our AVP’s have taken to keep their members informed and involved. I hope those AVP’s I have not formally heard from are also involved.

Carol R. Ek

Federation Secretary

