

August 20, 2008
MEDIA RELEASE

The Topeka, Kansas, chapter (No. 2) of National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) announces completion of its 2009 "Living In Retirement" calendar. It was developed as a fundraiser for Alzheimer's Research. NARFE members nationwide have embraced Alzheimer's research as a program since 1986, and have contributed well over \$7.5 million toward this effort.

Alzheimer's disease affects, or will soon affect, in some way, nearly everyone in this country. It has now become the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. It affects one out of every eight Americans over age 65.

Searching for a way to continue its meaningful contributions to the Alzheimer's cause, the Topeka NARFE chapter decided to make for sale a 2009 calendar. So, starting in March of this year, production began, and will be unveiled August 22 at the regular chapter meeting. The calendar is patterned after a similar one featured in the English comedy movie "Calendar Girls," which was made in 2003. The movie is a story of ordinary members of the Women's Institute, a prim and proper local ladies' club, whose members decided they needed a more compelling way to raise money for a new charity. In their own creative way, they turned to their traditional annual calendar and gave it a very untraditional twist. Behind the usual pictures of baked goods, the apple pressing and flower arrangements were the women – in racy attire. It is a terrifically entertaining comedy, one that inspired our 2009 calendar.

All eleven of the calendar's models are NARFE Chapter 2 women federal retirees, ranging in age from 59 to 86, shown in tastefully suggestive costumes, obviously enjoying retirement in their own ways. The two gentlemen who joined the ladies for the calendar cover picture are dressed in tuxedos; one is the chapter's president and the other is its service officer.

The professional photographer (a Chapter 2 member) is also pictured, on the back cover. Her services were contributed without compensation for this project, as were those of her friend, another commercial photographer, who produced the cover and December group photos.

The calendar is a triumph of hard work, sacrifice and joy, and is something it is hoped will provide usefulness and entertainment for persons who own it. It may be purchased for \$15.00 from almost any NARFE member; at Beauchamp Gallery Frame Shop, 3113 SW Huntoon in Topeka; by calling (785) 272-1154; by email at calendar09@cox.net; or by mail at P.O. Box 4294, Topeka, KS 66604-4294. By mail, there is a shipping and handling charge of \$3.95 for one calendar and an additional \$1.00 for each up to four calendars; call for S&H charge for more than four.

Prepared by: Betty Born
NARFE Chapter 2 First Vice-President
(785) 272-1154