



**Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters**  
**Regular Session 59<sup>th</sup> Kansas Federation Convention**  
**Holiday Inn & Suites Overland Park, Kansas**  
**Monday, April 29, 2013**

The convention was called to order by President Cindy Renee` Blythe, at 8:33 a.m. in the Kansas Ballroom of the Holiday Inn & Suites, Overland Park, Kansas.

Invocation was given by Chaplain Judy Etter, Chapter 0621, Amelia Earhart-Atchison.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Donald Erickson Chapter 0366, Kaw Blue- Manhattan, led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Cindy Renee` Blythe introduced the Federation Board members.

President Cindy Renee` Blythe also introduced all dignitaries attending the convention which included Past Presidents: Jim Dodd, James (Jim) Miller, Don Cooper, John F. Surritte, Robert (Bob) Cranmer and Carol Ek, along with National Area 5 Vice-President Carol Ek and National Area 5 Alzheimer's Chair Janice Neuschafer. President Cindy Renee` Blythe also introduced our guest speaker, Jessica Klement, Director of Legislation, NARFE National Headquarters.

**Preliminary Credentials Report:** Louise Lloyd, Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission, gave the following preliminary credentials 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	9	50	8	23	0	1
1A	8	28	6	9	0	0
2	5	14	3	5	0	2
2A	4	9	2	5	1	1
3	11	32	7	12	0	0
4	9	27	6	9	0	1
5	5	7	1	1	1	3
6	6	9	1	2	1	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Chapters Registered</b>	27					<i>Not reported til Tuesday</i>

Louise Lloyd moved that the preliminary credentials report be approved. The motion was seconded by Don Erickson and approved by the voting delegates via voting card.

Parliamentarian, Gene Algrim, Chapter 0537, Hutchinson, determined that a quorum was present to conduct convention business according to Article IX, Section 5, Kansas Bylaws.

## **Convention Rules:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Don Erickson, Chapter 0366, Kaw Blue - Manhattan, Rules Chairman, provided the rules committee meeting report. A copy of the rules for the 2013 Kansas Federation Convention was placed at the head table for availability to all members.

Don Erickson read the rules approved by the committee. Don moved that the rules be accepted. The motion was seconded by Jim Dodd and approved by the voting delegates via voting card.

## **Minutes and Correspondence:**

Secretary Gwendolyn (Gwen) Ketter, Chapter 0002, Topeka, moved to waive the reading of the minutes because all minutes of meetings have been available for all members in advance of this meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the voting delegates via voting cards.

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

## **Jessica Klement, Director of Legislative Department, NARFE National Office**

Jessica Klement, NARFE's Legislative Director spoke to the Federation about Legislative issues that affect our members. Jessica has been with NARFE for one year and in this position for four months. Jessica has an extensive background on Capitol Hill and brings to NARFE a wealth of experience.

Main Talking Points were presented in a power point presentation that we might be able to get a link to:

### Frozen Furloughed Federal Employees

1. Pay freeze for three years
  - a. Freeze is a standalone bill and NARFE is targeting congressional members to change votes
  - b. 27 members have switched - 3 were Republicans
2. Sequestration/Furloughs
  - a. FAA - Congress acted quickly to resolve this matter once they saw it affected their air travel
  - b. EPA and National Park Service are next in line
3. Contributions by Federal Workers
  - a. 114 Billion in contributions have been made by Federal Workforce over 10 years

### Positives:

1. Phased Retirement Age
2. Transition to part time work
3. Hatch Act changes
4. Civilian flack for failure to continue federal work

### Proposals:

1. Budget
  - a. House delineated
  - b. Senate - No major affect to Federal workers
2. Presidential Budget
  - a. Switch to Chain CPI
    - i. Smaller Benefit

- ii Doesn't accurately reflect senior costs
- iii Assumes lower medical spending
- 3. Increase 1.2% cost of Retirement Benefits
- 4. 1% pay raise in 2014 for Federal Employees

On the Table:

- 1. Extending the pay freeze
- 2. Eliminating FERS matching funds
- 3. High 3 moved to High 5
- 4. Change in the FERS multiplier
- 5. FECA Reform
- 6. Postal Reform

This is only the 1<sup>st</sup> year of sequestration which is a 10 year program. Funding according to sequestration looking for another grand bargain. Chained CPI; most likely all Republicans and most Democrats will agree to this. There is no safeguard for lower incomes.

We need to utilize the Protect Americas Heartbeat program. Sarah is organizing a grass roots application due to NARFE needs and interests.

Jessica handed out a questionnaire for Protect Americas Heartbeat as well as some letters for us to sign. She will take them back to Washington DC and deliver them to Capitol Hill.

Convention took a 15 minute break 9:35 a.m.

### **Federation Officer Reports:**

#### ***Federation President –Cindy Renee' Blythe***

I set down to create my report and I started thinking about all the things that have taken place over this last year. Federal employees are working for the third year without any cost-of-living raise. Forget receiving performance awards, because they don't exist this year. The silver lining is that NARFE is still fighting to point out the importance of being a Federal employee.

During this past year, I attended the Executive Board meeting in June in McPherson where we had a two-day meeting to conduct training for newly elected members and the business of the Kansa Federation. This meeting continues to provide important exposure to newly elected Board members.

I next attended the Federation President's Meeting in Reno Nevada. I was able to discuss the differences in our leadership and learn from them first-hand what business practices work best for them. The Federation President's meeting is an excellent opportunity to directly interact with our National Officers. Carol, as Region V Vice-President, passes along our concerns, but looking them directly in the eye gives me the leverage of my message.

The October Executive Board meeting was held here at the Holiday Inn. This meeting is designed to work out the details for the convention. We toured the facilities and mapped out the final details.

I visited several chapters, presenting Distinguished Member awards during the chapter meeting of the Paola Charter. I traveled just down the road to Emporia and talked to the members about the Legislative program.

I next attended the National Convention in Reno, Nevada. Kansas was awarded a free registration to the National Legislative Training/Conference because we received the most points during the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the Advocacy in Action contest. As Janice reported earlier in her Alzheimer's report, we were also recognized as ranking number 5 in the Nation for Alzheimer's contributions. Overall the membership numbers in Kansas are small, so the ranking is something we can be proud of.

Kansas has been very successful utilizing the matching Funds program operated by the National Office. Junction City Chapter 0383 utilized matching funds to support member recruitment when they held a Membership Drive. Salina requested matching funds to be able to run advertisement in the local newspaper; each ad will be in the newspaper every Monday and will run for a year. The Federation Executive Board requested matching funds to allow for advertisements in both the Ft Riley Post and the Ft Leavenworth Lamp. Both ads will run for a 12 month period. Reaching a large number of potential members.

I traveled to Washington, DC to attend the National Legislative Training/Conference. I was joined at the conference by Louis Bornman Federation Legislative Chair, Gary Townson, Area 4 Vice President and Carol Ek, Region V Vice-President. The conference provided us the opportunity to travel to Capitol Hill and discuss our issues with the elected officials. Louis was able to set our schedule so that we visited with a staff member in each office. Although we were not able to speak directly with the Senators or Congressmen, we were able to address our issues with their staff and leave them with information for the Senator or Congressman.

The last Executive Board meeting was held in January, once again here at the host hotel. This meeting is to finalize the program, shore up meeting rooms and discuss the budget for the host chapter.

I have enjoyed meeting members and keeping the voice of the Federal Employee out front. It is important to maintain our vigilance, to stay in touch with our elected leaders, and to speak out for our concerns. As your President, I believe it is important to stay in touch with the membership and act in their best interest. I hope that I have been able to do just that.

I thank you for putting your trust in me.

Respectfully submitted

Cindy Renee' Blythe, President  
Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters

***Federation 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President and Public Relations Chair, Elizabeth Bornman***

I worked closely with the membership committee to outline a direction that the federation can help the chapters with a plan of action. We tried to incorporate the recommendations from the national membership Plan and suggestions from the Recruitment and Retention Journal. The NARFE website provided suggestions and samples to use for chapters to communicate with in their members and communities. Presently only 35% of the chapters have a Public Relation Chairperson. This needs to improve. The Area Vice Presidents were encouraged to provide recruitment material to chapters when they visit.

I submitted articles for the federation newsletter. I hope the President of your chapter is sharing the information not just my article but the other articles in the newsletter.

I visited several chapters in Area 1 this year. I spoke to members about the various methods of getting the word out about the organization. Most chapters in the state advertise in their local newspapers but a better job needs to be done on a continuous basis to help keep the word out about our organization. It's free and only takes a little of your time.

I mailed to each chapter in August copies of the Protect Americas Heartbeat Tool kit with samples for sending articles to local newspapers.

I attended the National Convention in Reno NV in Sept 2012.

There is currently minimal dollars in the federation budget for advertising and most chapters have another budgeted for public relations.

I looked at ways to advertise in the state. I am working on getting matching funds to run bus ads in the metro areas of Topeka, Wichita, Johnson County and the KC metro area. The same company does the advertising for all the transit companies in those areas. Contact me if you have ideas but don't have the funds. I can help get some funds for you. I looked at ways of advertising on vehicles with bumper decals. Of course it is money we need to spend maybe to recruit a few people. The estimated cost for 200 bumper stickers would be 77 cents apiece from an online company. I would like your opinion before continuing to pursue this direction and spending. I purchased magnetic signs to advertise on vehicles. I haven't heard if it has been of any benefit. It at least has our name out in the communities. They were given to Valley Falls, Topeka, Lawrence and my own chapter of Shawnee Mission.

The Topeka Chapter celebrated its 65th Birthday this year. They were able to get a news article in their local newspaper and their President Jim Miller appeared on their local TV station and talked about NARFE.

Again remember I have 2 display signs available for you and will send them at no charge to use for your recruiting table. It only takes a phone call with at least a one week notice.

On February 26, I sent a letter to 25 newspapers in the state and the KC metro to run in the editorial/opinion section of papers concerning the effect of the sequestration on the current workforce and the general public. It did appear in the Leavenworth Times.

Finally, I got a press release in our Kansas City newspaper about NARFE and this convention

### ***Gwendolyn Ketter, Secretary***

As Secretary for the Federation the duties I carried out this past year were a learning experience. I was blessed with the fact that Federation Convention Liaison Secretary, Lorene Mumm (from the Amelia Earhart chapter in Atchison) did most of the convention related duties including the correspondence with the chapters, and receipt of all the delegates listing, memorial listing, committee assignments, and award requests. Also included preparing the credential books for the registration table, which is a lot of detail and time consuming. I want to extend my sincere thanks to her for all she has done this year. Lorene as well as Louise Lloyd coached and helped me to learn the functions and expectations of the office of Secretary Kansas Federation NARFE. I worked with a few of the convention committee assignments, but Lorene handled the bulk of the convention items that in the past was handled by the secretary.

Newsletter - This year, I worked with President Cindy Renee' Blythe on the newsletter. I did print and disseminate the June, September and December newsletters. However, Cindy Renee' Blythe our Federation President served as the "editor" which worked great. We mailed the newsletter to all chapter presidents without an email address, but emailed the newsletter to chapter secretaries and presidents with an email address. Our Federation webmaster Jim Dodd, has been notifying all members that have provided an email, that the newsletter is available on the website, along with a link to the newsletter, as that is easier for people with dial up internet to access.

In October a letter was sent to all chapter secretaries giving instructions on completing the form F-7, Chapter Officer Roster, along with a copy of the forms to submit bylaws amendments. I received notices from National that a few of our chapters have no email access. One or two changes were submitted recently, I

received HQ notice on one, but not the other chapter. So I would encourage all the chapters to use the online reporting format as it's an easier system now, and provides much better info for the federation secretary, but I would ask that you email the federation secretary and president that you submitted a change so that they know a change was made. Hopefully when the timeframe comes around again later this year for entry of the F-7 forms again, HQ will have worked out the notification glitch.

In October I attended the Executive Board meeting held in Overland Park at the Holiday Inn and Suites – site of the 2013 Kansas Federation State Convention. In January I attended the meeting in Overland Park at the Holiday Inn and Suites, site of 2013 Kansas Federation Convention regarding the convention.

**National Convention**– NARFE National Convention was held in August, Louise had advised all chapter presidents to be on the lookout for the mailing from NARFE HQ of the National Convention package of registration materials, but in particular, the Convention **form C-12 -2, Designation of Chapter Voting Representative, Delegates, Alternates, or Proxy**. Last National convention, a lot of chapters said they didn't receive the form, so Louise had to request NARFE HQ to resend the forms. Each chapter is entitled to 1 vote for each 50 members or fraction thereof and we wanted to be sure Kansas voice was heard.

As the form name says, the chapter having delegates attending the convention, needed to complete the form and mail the appropriate two copies to HQ, along with a copy to the federation secretary. If no one from the chapter was to attend, then it was very important for chapter to allow for designation of a proxy to vote on their behalf. In this case, the chapter should just fill in their Chapter no, and the Chapter President or Secretary signed and dated the form, the sent all copies of the form to the federation secretary. The proxy designation was left blank unless the chapter had a specific person in mind to carry the proxy. I worked with the Federation President Cindy Renee' Blythe to be sure the proxy was assigned to one of the Kansas NARFE members who attended the convention. When we exhausted our Kansas designees, Cindy worked with Carol Ek to ensure that all proxy votes were carried to the National Convention floor. Notification was sent to the designated person and the local chapter. I attended the National Convention as a proud representative for the Kansas Federation along with President Cindy Renee' Blythe, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Elizabeth Bornman, Area 1 VP Louis Bornman, Alzheimer's Chairperson Janice Neuschafer, Region 5 VP Carol EK, Madeline Brown, Lana Pender, and Richard Diller

The past year I did attend the June and October executive board meetings as well as the January meeting with 2013 State Convention host chapter Overland Park. I wrote and disseminated the minutes to the board members and all presidents and chapter secretaries.

### ***G. P. (Jerry) Ketter, Treasurer***

This year was a year of change. Last year the audit committee recommended changing the fiscal year to a set time period. Our fiscal year is from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

When you start a new time frame you of course have a different bank balance. To show the differences the best I could, I produced two columns for this transitional year. The first column shows the year as starting from the end of convention last year. This column allows me to use the ending balance that I showed you at last year's convention as this year's beginning balance. Our balance April 1 was not previously shown but I hoped to make it proved correct because we end with the same balance March 31 of this year.

Another change the Executive Board made was changing our bank account to NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union. This credit union allows Federations a higher interest rate on our checking account than we could get on our CD. Individuals can also belong to this credit union but they are required to meet certain requirements that are waived for Federations. In July of this year we changed from The Morrill and Janes Bank in Sabetha to NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union in Alexandria, Virginia. One requirement of NARFE Premier Federal Credit Union is that we have a savings account and that is why you see \$5.00 at the bottom of my report. The rest of our balance is in our checking account.

Our income and expenses for 2013 were balanced. This is unusual in a year with National Convention expenses.

You can see from the report that we are running along fairly even with previous years. We are in relatively good shape but our decreasing membership is always a worry.

Moved by Jerry and seconded by Pat Daly to accept all Officer Reports as given - approved by the voting delegates via voting cards.

### **Report of Audit Committee**

Gary Kilgore, Area 2A Vice-President, Chairman of the Audit Committee presented the following report. The Audit Committee conducted the audit of the Kansas Federation Treasurer records for the period from April 01, 2012 to March 31, 2013.

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; Louis Bornman, Area 1 Vice-President; Auditor – Norman Christensen, Chapter 1995, Garden City and Assistant Auditor – Sylvia Riepen, Chapter 2099, Osage City.

Gary Kilgore moved that the audit report be accepted. Motion was seconded by Pat Daly, and motion passed unanimously by the voting delegates via voting card.

### **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: Christina Wolfe, Chapter 1162, Area 1; Peggy Coder, Chapter 0621, Area 1A; Doris Erickson, Chapter 0792, Area 2A; Richard McChesney, Chapter 0366, Area 3; Phil Mathews, Chapter 0537, Area 4; Deloris Steinike, Chapter 2032, Area 5; Charles Waknitz, Chapter 1995, Area 6.

The nominating committee submitted the following persons to fill the elected positions: Cindy Renee' Blythe, President, Chapter 2099; Elizabeth Bornman, Chapter 1162 for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; John Rodgers, Chapter 0366 for 2nd Vice-President; Gwen Ketter, Chapter 002, for Secretary; and G. P. (Jerry) Ketter, Treasurer, Chapter 1948; and have determined that each is qualified to fill the position and nominated them for the positions.

President Blythe called for nominations for each position from the floor. President, none;

Moved by Jim Miller, Second by Ethel Jenkins to elect Cindy Renee' Blythe President by acclamation. Motion passed unanimously by the voting delegates via voting card.

President Blythe then continued to call for nomination from the floor.  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, none; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, none; Secretary, none; Treasurer, none.

Moved by Darrell Monaghan and second by Lois Carlson to accept slate of nominees submitted by committee. Motion passed unanimously by the voting delegates via voting card vote.

Convention took a 10 minute break at 10:20

## **Area Vice-President Reports**

### ***Area 1, Louis Bornman***

I have noticed during my visits around April that the smaller chapters seem to do better at having a higher percentage of members attend meetings than the larger chapters and that most chapters seem to have their meetings associated with a noon time meal. Several of the chapters (my own included) have held meetings on a weekend with a breakfast or lunch and a guest speaker program and have had some limited success in attracting members to turn out. However the biggest challenges still remain getting recent retirees and active employees to turn out for meetings and events. Attracting current employees to join NARFE also is a major challenge. As the Federation 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President is my wife and has been tasked with looking into things we can do for public relations and membership, we have purchased several magnetic door signs that I mount on my car doors and we have loaned out several sets to other chapters to advertise NARFE to the community and try to generate some questions and interest in the organization. Many people and Federal Employees do not know we exist or what we do. No one has stopped me yet and asked about the organization but I will continue to advertise at every opportunity. As a suggestion to all chapters; you might want to consider going by your local Congressman or Senator's office and leaving them with some NARFE business cards for local chapter members and a small NARFE poster or chapter meeting flyer to let them know who you are and when you meet. This is also a good opportunity to let them know that NARFE also offers assistance to federal retirees who are members through the NARFE service officer program for help in dealing with OPM and other Federal agencies concerning retirement issues. This might put you on more friendly terms with those congressional staff members who have to deal with federal retirees who come to them with complaints concerning their federal retirement. It is also a subtle and roundabout way to reach and recruit new members.

I printed post cards addressed to our Congressman and Senators for our chapter based upon information from the NAARFE Legislative Action website and at one meeting all members present signed those cards and we mailed them the next day. I also provided those post cards to the other chapters in Area 1 who did the same. That post card was posted on our chapter and the Federation Website for a while. Another alternative that was provided to me by the Tri-River Chapter was to take that same type of information and print it up as a petition. Then they had all the chapter members at one of their meeting sign the petition and mailed it in. This is a much more cost effective approach requiring less printing and postage and allows you to collect a lot of signatures at one time. I recommend you try it in your chapters soon.

### ***Area 1A, Judy Etter***

This has been a tough year for NARFE membership. We lost many members—most because of death, but in area 1A we lost 39 for nonrenewal. I feel quite a few of these are because they are under a family member's care and the family member does not consider NARFE important. We all need to tell our family members that as long as we are getting an annuity, membership in NARFE is vital. We also need to remind our family members of the assistance our service officers can give them when we do die.

I visited all my chapters, although the weather in February did not make it easy. Four chapters are doing well and two are trying to get back on their feet. Doniphan County Chapter 2136 has elected a new president and secretary-treasurer. George Jorgensen, who was president for many years and active in many other organizations as well, is now in a nursing home. The chapter has one new member and is going to change its meeting day to earlier in the month in the hope that more members will not have other appointments and will be able to attend. Kansas City Chapter 1160 is still a work in progress. Byron Nichols has been trying to hold

the chapter together. T. J. Robinson, former president, resigned from the chapter due to health reasons and Laverne Robinson, who was vice president, has also had health problems. A member has come forward in the last week and said she will serve as president. Last month the chapter had a program and there were nine members present, the most for a regular meeting in several years. The location is still an issue, but currently we need to keep the chapter active. In December I sent a survey to 150 members in the Kansas City area and asked questions about time and place of meeting, whether the member would hold an office, what kinds of programs they would like to have, etc. I received 38 back and half of those who returned them said their health did not permit them to attend. Time will tell.

I attended a Congress to Kansas meeting with Lynn Jenkins in September. At the end of the meeting, after I had voiced my concerns (I was the only attendee who was not a Republican bigwig in Leavenworth County) and had been verbally attacked by one of them, Rep. Jenkins took both my hands in hers and said I was just scared. Well, she is not waiting for news of her husband's furlough to come through (the date has been changed several times). I did notice, however, that when Congress might have been inconvenienced by a wait at the airport so they could all go home for a week, the furloughs in the FAA have been resolved.

Hopefully next year will be better for all of us and we will not live under a cloud of whether our medical coverage will change, whether retirement contributions for current Federal employees will be increased (or FERS, which does not offer much of a retirement, will be abolished), whether sick leave policies will be changed, whether medical coverage contributions will increase, whether Social Security will change, etc. Time will tell.

#### ***Area 2, Sylvia Riepen (interim Area VP)***

As you all know Area 2 lost its right hand when Gale Beck passed away. Gale was a big part of Area 2, Kansas and National NARFE support and business. President Blythe appointed me to fill out the position until elections at State Convention.

Gale had visited all of the chapters once and only missed visiting 2 chapters twice this past year. The Area maintained a steady membership. Ottawa chapter will merge with another chapter to maintain their membership since they don't have people who want to hold offices at this time. Like everywhere else, Area 2 had an aging membership and must attempt to replace with younger members.

Osage City recruited two new members this past year.

#### ***Area 2A, Gary Kilgore***

I would like to report that everything is great in 2A and for the most part it is. The Pittsburg chapter is re-organizing with a new President and Secretary. A survey was sent to all members and found that four meetings per year were desired. Many members are not able to attend meetings.

The Coffeyville Chapter has not had a meeting in several years. Leadership in Chapter is happy with that.

The Chanute, Ft Scott and Independence Chapters continue to carry their load and remain active.

All chapters strive to keep members active. We continue to get older and slower...but that's good.

### ***Area 3, Harold Klaege***

I was able to visit 4 of my chapters and Abilene twice.

Chapter 1933 Tri-County – I worked with the past president to set up a meeting and find a new location. No one responded that they would attend the meeting. Meeting was cancelled. The new VP needs to work with the chapter to have it merge with another chapter.

Chapter 2137 Chisholm Trail, Abilene – I worked with the chapter to maintain the chapter. They are meeting every other month and have streamlined the chapter officers and duties.

Area 3 experienced the loss of 27 members this year, due to death. Only one Chapter, Tri-County did not experience a loss due to death.

### ***Area 4, Gary Townson***

It seems like every year is extremely busy for me personally, legislatively and serving as an Area Vice President. I have attended at least two chapter meetings for every Chapter in my Area and have participated in all scheduled Federation Executive Board meetings. I attended and graduated from the Kansas Men's Leadership Series which educates and involves men from all over Kansas to be politically and socially active. Several members of the 2012 class were elected to State or Local offices last November. I attended several fundraisers to benefit candidates for Local, State or National positions. I served as Campaign Treasurer for a candidate for County Sheriff. When the Kansas State GOP Convention was held last January, I attended all the sessions of it and was able to have some good conversations with both U. S. Senators, all four Members of the U. S. House of Representatives. I also had the opportunity to visit with Governor Brownback, Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, Atty. Gen. Derek Schmidt, and State Treasurer Ron Estes, numerous members of the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives and some of their staff members. I was truly dismayed that not one other member of NARFE took advantage of this opportunity to personally express their concerns to these people. In March I attended the NARFE Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. I returned to Washington earlier this month on behalf of the National Association of Postal Supervisors. We cover many of the same issues.

Every one of us uses the telephone and could call the local offices of our Representative, and Senators Roberts and Moran from time to time. Elected officials have, as one of their prime goals, getting reelected. If they offend their constituents, they might lose votes. For that reason they must listen when voters talk to them. If Gary speaks to them, they say 'That's nice. I'll keep your thoughts in mind if that matter should come up for a vote.' If Gary and 150 other voters talk to them about the same situation they think 'Whoa! There are a lot of voters concerned over this situation!' When a phone call, e-mail or letter arrives at their office, it is logged. The legislator does not have the time to read every message so their staff compiles the results & submits this information. You do not need to be a "Subject Matter Expert" to make a phone call. You only need to know that a proposed bill would help or hurt your situation. For example your Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) supposedly reflects the amount you can purchase with a certain amount of money. The President's budget proposal and the Committees in Congress working on the Federal Budget are considering changing the way they figure the Cost of Living. They propose going to a 'chained Consumer Price Index' (referred to as CPI-W) to calculate your cost of living. Space does not permit me to adequately explain this but it will make your spendable dollars worth less. A simple call to the Congressman/woman's office saying something like "Please ask Representative (name) to oppose the Chained CPI" would generate a vote on the telephone log. They ask your name and address so one person can't "stuff the ballot box" with calls but they will not challenge you as to why you feel the way you do. Please get involved.

Thank You for trusting me to serve NARFE.

### ***Area 5, Ronald Katt***

Area V is located in the northwest corner of Kansas, bordered by Nebraska on the north and Colorado on the west. The Area consists of 18 counties 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 153 chapter members. The largest chapter, Stockton, has 35 members and the smallest Oakley has 13 members. During this last year the area lost 19 or 11% of its membership due to non-renewals and death. Even with the overall area loss in members, Chapter 2291 Colby did increase their membership by 2 for a 9.5% gain. I completed 8 chapter visits this year.

No chapter publishes a newsletter. All six chapters do have a NARFE/Netter in their chapter. 4 Chapters are represented at this convention, 3 by proxy and 1, Chapter 2032 Oakley, by delegate.

Special activities this past year included Chapter 2053 Oberlin holding their annual 3 day garage sale in May to raise money for Alzheimer's Research and a recruiting meeting for new members in Atwood Jun 9<sup>th</sup>. The garage sale again proved to be successful for the chapter.

I will close my report by recognizing three loyal convention attendees from Chapter 2032 Oakley. Herb and Deloris Steinike and Karol Katt. They have been and continue to be dedicated convention workers for NARFE from Area V.

### ***Area 6, Vacant***

Ron Katt moved to accept all Area Vice-President reports as presented. Motion was seconded by Don Cooper – Motion passed unanimously by the voting delegates via voting card vote.

### **Alzheimer's Live Auction Results**

Janice Neuschafer reported that \$2,181 had been raised from the live Alzheimer's Auction. This represented a \$ 1,219 decrease over the prior year's auction. Janice also announced that there were still tomato plants available for sale.

Elizabeth Bornman reported that there were no lost and found items turned in - she was working with management on a breakfast buffet to speed up the service.

Louis Bornman handed out 18 door prizes.

**The Caucuses were moved to before lunch - recess to caucuses at 11:13 a.m.**

The convention recessed for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

## **2013 Memorial Service**

Memorial Service was presented by Chairman Don Faidley. Carol EK presented the memorial for Gale Beck, past Federation President from 1988 to 1994 and Area 2 Vice-President, who passed away this year. Each Area Vice-President read the names of members from their respected area who passed away during the past year. They then placed a Sunflower into a vase as a reminder of those who dedicated their service to the American people as federal employees.

The totals for the memorial listing were: Area 1 (62); Area 1A (44); Area 2 (13); Area 2A (9); Area 3 (27); Area 4 (42); Area 5 (2); Area 6 (8). The total number of Kansas NARFE members who passed away within the twelve months prior to convention was 207.

## **Carol Ek, Region V Vice- President**

NARFE is facing a unique and difficult challenge with congress being so difficult to work with. Our constituency is strong; the work we are doing on membership is strong. Keeping up with time the national office is assisting the OPM in getting their house in order. We still can't get OPM to give us names for recruiting members. The NARFE IT department is working on changes to OAM data information. OAM action on membership is updated daily, only the reports are available on a monthly basis. Use the OAM for the most current information.

Retirement Benefits - Fed Benefit Service Department - David Snell is still the head- call for question, support and services.

Elizabeth Bornman received an award for Service Officer from NARFE National Office. Elizabeth was nominated for her work by her Chapter.

Financially - NARFE is looking good. Richard Thiessen is getting us back on solid ground. We are \$7000 in the black. They had to rebuild part of HQ office building due to earthquake. There are new elevators. IT department may need a new server-they will either buy or lease server space. There is an ongoing discussion underway on this issue.

I want to hold training for the OAM module in the future. Please go online and make sure your email address is updated and kept updated. This enables national to disseminate information in a timely manner. Only 24% of chapter have and email address on file. The magazine and newsletters we receive are great but the information may be obsolete by the time we receive. Protect Americas Heartbeat disseminates information through email. Pat Roberts's office demands you to use his site only.

There is a Configuration Advisory Board - with one representative from each region to offer suggestions and update to the website. Bonita Cunningham of North Dakota is the Region V representative. You can reach her at [richbon20@cox.net](mailto:richbon20@cox.net).

The 2018 National Convention will have video streaming so members can view actual activity during the convention while not being able to actually attend. This will offer members ability to vote and serve as a representative from home.

Technology is playing a major role in membership drive. Notifying potential members via email. If you send me their email address, Recruitment Department will notify via the address. They are having great success with this type of recruitment as well as addressing former members whose membership has lapsed.

Make sure to order the F135 - New member application. Do not use the old one any longer.

## **Bylaws and General Resolutions Report- Gene Algrim, Parliamentarian**

The Bylaws and General Resolutions committee was called to order at 4:15 pm in the Shawnee Room at the Holiday Inn & Suites Overland Park. Roger Lemmons, Chapter 0378, moved to keep the Bylaws as written. Motion seconded and approved.

Elizabeth Smith Chapter 2098 moved to accept the courtesy Resolution as written. Motion was seconded and approved by the Committee.

Some discussion was held on how a Bylaw could be changed. With no further business to bring before the Committee, meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Members of the Rules Committee present were - Flo Biehl, Etta Buckles, Bonita Lages, Byron Nichols, Linda Ourada, Elizabeth Smith, Harold Staufford, and Roger Lemmons. There were three guests present.

Moved by Gene Algrim and seconded by Roger Lemmons to accept the committee report - Motion passed unanimously by the voting delegates via voting card vote.

## **Courtesy Resolution, Gene Algrim, Chair, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee**

A general convention resolution was introduced to the committee membership by the chairperson. The general convention resolution was approved by the Bylaws Committee and was signed by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chair and was presented to Louise Lloyd, President of the Shawnee Mission Chapter 1162 and Elizabeth & Louis Bornman Convention Co-Chair.

## **Membership Report - Judy Etter, Lorene Mumm**

2012 was not a good year for NARFE membership in the state of Kansas. We started 2012 with 4,383 members and ended with 4,066 members, a difference of 317. At that rate of loss, the Kansas Federation will cease to exist in less than 15 years.

There are approximately 24,000 active and retired Federal employees in the state of Kansas. That means only about 17% of those eligible actually belong.

Three chapters ended the year with no change in membership. Thirty-six chapters finished the year with fewer members and of those 19 chapters lost about 10% or more of their membership. Six chapters gained in the number of members. However, those six chapters - Free State (Lawrence) with nine, Amelia Earhart (Atchison) with two, Independence with two High Plains (Dodge City) with two, Colby with two and Osage County (Osage City) with one only accounted for a total membership gain of 18.

We asked the executive committee for and received matching funds from NARFE headquarters to run an ad in The Leavenworth Lamp (Ft Leavenworth) and The Post (Fort Riley) newspapers once a month. These newspapers are free to all who work on the installations and come out once a week. Our ads will run once a month for 10 months (the price went up while we were waiting for the funds). The thousands of individuals who work at these locations come from many surrounding towns. Sample is listed below:



We could not find any other newspapers on Federal reservations in the state of Kansas.

There was one super-recruiter, Elizabeth Scribner of the Free State (Lawrence) chapter who recruited seven new members.

### **Area Delegate Caucuses**

President Cindy Renee' Blythe announced the following individuals were elected as Area Vice-Presidents:

Area 1	Louis Bornman, Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission, returning
Area 1A	Judy Etter, Chapter 0621, Atchison, returning
Area 2	Sylvia Riepen, Chapter, Chapter 2099 Osage City
Area 2A	Gary L. Kilgore, Chapter 0799, Chanute, returning
Area 3	John Ourada, Chapter 0280, Salina
Area 4	Gary E. Townson, Chapter 0138, Wichita, returning
Area 5	Ronald Katt, Chapter 2032, Logan County, returning
Area 6	No Area VP elected.

President Blythe asked newly elected officers to stand and be recognized, as many of the members were not acquainted with all of them.

### **State legislative Committee - Jim Miller**

If you think you are a Leader, look back once in a while to see if anyone is following!

The Kansa House and Senate adjourned on Friday march 12th and except for select committee meetings will not meet again until May 8th. Both groups left a large assortment of bills to be acted on but the: Gorilla in the House (and the Senate) is the "Tax Bill". Will the 6.3% sales tax continue or will it sunset (as voted for when passed two years ago) on June13th. With every legislator in the state scrambling for more revenue, prediction here is the 6.3% becomes semi-permanent simply because the state coffers will run dry without it. Those coffers may run dry anyway when taxpayers discover the real cost of the trickle down income tax cuts passed with Governor Brownback's urgings. Tax deductions gained by home ownership including mortgage deductions are on the table as are a host of previously eligible charitable deductions.

The income tax exemption already in place for state and federal retirees, oddly, has been questioned by individual legislators. Odd because, if the intent of the governor is to eliminate income taxes, we and seven other tax exempt groups are already there!

Select and on-call committees scheduled meetings starting April 22-26. Senate Ways and Means meet Monday April 29-May 3, with the Omnibus Bill discussed May 1 and 2.

Nothing is ever certain about retaining our benefit until the gavel sounds. The Speaker of the House wants to hold this session to 80 days. Considering the number of bills to be taken care of, final sine die may be closer to May 30.

As usual, even with a physical health problem limiting his activities, Ron Richey, Topeka Chapter 0002, did a superb job in representing NARFE and our concerns.

## **Legislative Chair 2013 Federation Convention Report – Louis G. Bornman, Jr.**

### **Monitoring activities via email and Facebook.**

Since I was appointed as the National Legislative Chair for the Federation I have signed up for the email newsletters from all four of our US Congressmen and our two Senators. Each time I receive one of those I review them to see what the Congressman or Senator has been up to, what he has voted on or what is scheduled to be voted on. I also look to see if he has included a schedule of any planned town hall meetings or other visits by his office staff within his district. I always try to then forward those emails on to all of the Federation Officers, Area Vice Presidents, Chapter Presidents and Legislative Chairs, and the Region V Vice President with words of encouragement for them to go to those meetings with members of their respective chapters or to other events they may hear about to represent themselves, their fellow retirees, active federal employees and NARFE. I am also on Facebook with all of our Congressmen and Senators and find that to be an almost daily chore to monitor what is going on, where they have been, who they are meeting with and what actions they are proposing and taking. I find that to be more informative and timely than their email newsletters. And I frequently add comments to our legislators Facebook postings. I also get to see who else is commenting on their postings and get the sensing of the broad spectrum of views on the actions of Congress. While many are supportive of the positions and votes that they take, many also are not and use the venue of Facebook to let their legislator and others know how they feel. And the exchanges can become lively.

### **Meetings with legislators locally.**

On several occasions throughout the year I have attended town hall meetings held by my own Congressman, Kevin Yoder, and have personally spoken to him about the issues NARFE has with the course that congressional legislation is taking and its direct impact on federal employees, retirees, and the people we are serving. When he has talked to veterans about improving veterans benefits I have told him that the proposed cuts to the federal workforce will not support that because congress will be reducing the very workforce that is required to provide and administer those enhanced services he is proposing. Our chapter president, Louise Lloyd, my wife Elizabeth, myself and several other members of our chapter have personally gone to the offices of Senators Roberts and Moran here in our area and talked with their local staff on NARFE issues and provided them with written information from the NARFE “Protect America’s Heartbeat Toolkit” to reinforce and supplement what we have talked about. Elizabeth and I also attended a joint town hall meeting with Congressman Yoder and both Senators Roberts and Moran. I provided a detailed report of that meeting to the National Headquarters, Federation Officers, Chapter Presidents and Legislative Chairs. I hope that they passed that information along to you and that many of you were able and took the time to view the meeting video online. While I hope that my efforts to keep you informed about upcoming town hall meetings in your areas is useful I have not heard from many of you of any meetings you have attended or the results of those meetings. Therefore I have little data upon which to gage their utility or usefulness of those efforts or our impact on our legislators.

### **National Legislative Conference.**

In March I attended the National Legislative Conference with Federation President Cindy Blythe and Area 4 Vice President Gary Townson. We spent two days in training meetings absorbing information about the current Congress and legislative actions that are proposed that will directly impact Federal Employee and Retiree pay and benefits. On the last day we traveled to Capitol Hill and met with the staff of each of our Kansas Congressmen and both Senators. I filed a detailed report with National Headquarters, the Federation, and my Chapter. That report can be viewed on the Chapter 1162 website. Because of our dedicated legislative

activities last year especially at the 2012 Federation Convention Legislative session we earned enough points to win the Advocacy In Action competition for the first half of 2012 which paid for Cindy Blythe's National Legislative Conference fee this year.

### **Responses to NARFE GEMS Messages and Action Alerts.**

NARFE Headquarters puts out emails weekly many times asking us to use their legislative action center website to send urgent emails to our Congressmen and Senators About hot issues that are being discussed and/or voted on in the House or the Senate. Our response as a state has not been very stellar. In November and December those requests garnered just over 50 emails from all of Kansas. We must do better than that if we are to have any hope if changing the sentiment in congress.

### **My personal comments on the current situation and what we must do.**

We continue to be under attack by members of Congress and now even the President has thrown us under the bus. Most of the attacks come from those with a far right point of view. The only way we can affect change in the direction of these issues is through our individual and collective actions to personally engage our legislators directly and as frequently as possible. You need to look at some of the email newsletters that they send out. Senator Moran in particular includes a detailed listing of every individual and organization who parade through his office every week. Most weeks there are a near constant stream of them and most come asking for something. Your input can and does make a difference. And your silence is taken as consent that what they are doing is the right thing to do. Only when you let them hear otherwise will they even consider changing their point of view. Therefore I strongly encourage you to use the NARFE national website's legislative action center to continually contact our legislators on actions that hurt federal active and retired federal employees.

I hate to say it but if you are not electronically connected today you are going to be left in the dust of the past. Swept under the rug and forgotten. If you don't have a computer, you should. If you can't buy one and learn how to use it, go to your local public library and see if they can help you. Or go to your local community college and see if they have free classes for seniors that you can take to learn how to use email and Facebook. When you came in today you were asked to sign the petitions to your Congressman and Senators. If you have not done so please do so that we can mail them after this conference to show that we as a group can come together and try to affect change.

### **PAC Report - Don Cooper**

Linda Surritte is in the outer space at the station to take additional PAC contributions. Ann and Dick were there this morning.

We ended up so far this convention we have raised \$1,200 in PAC donations. Carol Ek told me that \$740 was the amount collected at the Missouri NARFE Convention.

Moved by Don Cooper and seconded that we accept Committee Reports. Motion passed unanimously by the voting delegates via voting card vote.

**Sponsors and Vendors were recognized - 10 door prizes were given before the session closed.**

The convention recessed until 6:30 p.m.

### **Convention Reconvened at 6:30 p.m.**

The convention reconvened at 6:30 p.m. with the Invocation given by the State Federation Chaplain Judy Etter, Chapter 0621. Members were entertained during dinner by the Yackety Sax Quartet.

Drawing was held for the Federation Raffle. Winner was Monica Kastens, Topeka Chapter 0002, who won \$625.00. Congratulations Monica!!

President Blythe acknowledged all those attending a Federation Convention for the first time

A special award was given to Ron Richey, Topeka Chapter 0002, for his work in Topeka in keeping us updated on what is happening at the state legislature.

Carol Ek, Region V Vice-President and a Past Federation President, conducted installation of the newly elected Kansas Federation 2013-2014 officers.

Elizabeth Bornman, Convention Co-Chair, acknowledged and thanked all those individuals who had helped on committees for the convention. President Blythe thanked the Shawnee Mission Chapter members for all their efforts hosting the Federation Convention.

Convention recessed until 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Gwendolyn Keller*

Secretary, Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters