



Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters
Opening Session 59th Annual Convention Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters
Holiday Inn & Suites Overland Park, Kansas
Sunday April 28, 2013

The opening session of the 59th Kansas Federation Convention was called to order at 6:52 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, 2013, in the Kansas Ballroom of the Holiday Inn & Suites Overland Park, Kansas, by President Cindy Renee` Blythe.

The American GI Forum- KC Metro presented the colors. This group is made up of Hispanic Veterans who gave their time and energy to furthering our freedoms.

Invocation was given by Judy Etter, Kansas Federation Chaplin.

Donald Erickson, 2nd Vice-President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Blythe tuned the floor over to Elizabeth Bornman, 1st Vice-President, to introduce Jerry Cook, President Overland Park Convention and Visitors Bureau. Jerry Cook gave a "Welcome to the City" on behalf of Mayor Carl Gerlach. Jerry did a very cordial "welcome" to the city. Jerry also acknowledged and thanked all the convention chair persons from the Overland Park chapter.

President Cindy Renee` Blythe introduced the elected officers seated at the head table which included 1st Vice-President, Elizabeth Bornman, 2nd Vice-President Don Erickson, Secretary, Gwen Ketter and Treasurer, Jerry Ketter.

President Blythe introduced all dignitaries attending the convention: Jessica Klement, Director of Legislation, NARFE National Office; Janice Neuschafer, Region V Alzheimer's Chair; Past Presidents: James F. Miller, John F. Surritte, Donald Cooper, James E. Dodd, Robert Cranmer and Carol Ek.

President Blythe introduced Janice Neuschafer, who spoke on the current happenings in Alzheimer's and how our monies are being used in research. Janice reported that the Kansas Federation ranked in fifth place in total donations from 54 Federations at the National Convention and currently ranks sixth. The final total for 2012 contributions to NARFE Alzheimer's Research from Kansas chapters was \$22,956.70 for an average of \$5.43 per member as of December 31, 2012. The goal of \$5.50 per member will remain in place for 2013.

There have been donations totaling \$4,335.67 so far this year, with \$2,572 coming from memorial contributions. Janice encouraged us to visit with Funeral Directors to place information about Alzheimer's Research donations in their establishments. At National Convention it was announced that the 10 million dollar goal had been met, so NARFE raised their goal to 11 million dollars towards Alzheimer's Research.

Judy gave an update on Barb Pretzer who is still battling Cancer. Barb has begun chemo again. She was off from February 6th to see if it was the chemo or cancer that was causing her pain. She returned to chemo on the 21st of April. The chemo is leaving her quite ill. It is recommended that people contact her via email. Her email address is: bpretzer@ksu.edu. Mailing address: 4817 Rockridge Court Manhattan, KS 66503.

Janice Neuschafer, who also serves as the Kansas Alzheimer's Chair, explained how the Alzheimer's Live and Silent Auction would be handled. The Silent Auction began at 3:00 pm in the Douglas Room and the Live Auction will begin at 7:30 pm in the Kansas Ballroom.

Don Cooper – PAC Chair gave his first report; up to the convention as of April 28th, Kansas had donated \$1,867 with 55 members donating or \$33.95 per member. Kansas ranked 3rd in Region 5 for the amount of donations and 4th in amount per member.

Door prizes were given before the session closed. Two prizes were awarded to registered guests with Gene Algrim and Don Erickson winning the one night stay at the Holiday Inn & Suites.

With no other business to handle during this session, the convention recessed until 8:30 a.m., Monday, April 28, 2013.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gwendolyn Ketter

Secretary, Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters