



OFFICERS and CHAIRS

President	Tom Huntzinger	785-749-2240
1 st Vice President	Roger Lemmons	785-840-9594
2 nd Vice President	Ken Rowen	785-842-8847
Secretary	Dianne Throop	785-841-1408
Treasurer	Clara Arnold	785-842-1680
Membership	Betty Scribner	785-865-8235
Service	Wanda Lyon	785-764-2210
Public Relations	Gordon Montney	785-760-0595
Newsletter	Wendy Hambly	913-845-0121
NARFE PAC	Val Romano	785-843-6858
NARFE Net Coor	Jim Turrentine	785-842-3674
Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Legislative Chair	John Surritte	785-856-0558
Sunshine	Reba Bryant	785-843-4407

KUDOS & THANK YOU'S TO:

- ☞ **Walt Aucott** for presenting NARFE information at USGS statewide meeting.
- ☞ **Linda and John Surritte** –3rd of 3 months of matching funds for Alzheimer's donations.
- ☞ **Elaine Seeman** for bringing a guest, Lenard Short, to the September meeting.
- ☞ **Chapter 378** for YTD Alzheimer donations of \$1668.

LEGISLATIVE

John Surritte

I maintain numerous resources for legislative and political information and email that information to members. If you do not wish to receive my emails, let me know, and I will "unsubscribe" you. To obtain that information, you can copy the source website address and arrange to receive it directly.

Concerning 2011 Chapter nominations, I am happy to report that the following officers and chairs are willing to serve in 2011: Wanda Lyon (Service Officer), Reba Bryant (Sunshine), John Scott (Alzheimer's), Betty Scribner (Membership), John Surritte (Legislative), Jim Turrentine (Net Coor.), Gordon Montney (Public Relations), Wendy Hambly (Newsletter). Officers on the ballot are: Tom Huntzinger (President), Roger Lemmons (1st VP), Dianne Throop (Secretary). Positions needing interested members are: 2nd VP, Treasurer, and NARFE PAC. [I encourage anyone interested in any office or chair to contact me so I can include your name in the nominations.](#)

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Reba Bryant

Please continue to let me know about illness, special birthdays, celebrations, or honors our members receive, so I can send an appropriate card.

Email: rebabryant@sbcglobal.net

OCTOBER 20th MEETING INFORMATION

Meet at Conroy's Pub. The program begins at noon, lunch (\$9) at 12:30, followed by a business meeting. The program is Judy Billings from the Lawrence Convention and Visitors Bureau. She will cover Lawrence's history and plans for using the Freedom's Frontier Grant dollars to enhance the efforts being made to make our National Heritage Area a visitors' mecca.

The November program covers Long Term Care insurance.

September 15th Meeting Recap

Matt Daigh of the Runsey-Yost Funeral Home and Crematory came to provide information and he delivered. He recommended advanced planning because knowing a loved one's wishes is helpful for surviving family members. Planning also alleviates overspending and provides peace of mind. The first step in advanced planning is providing the necessary information for the obituary. The second step is pre-financing. Pre-financing locks in current pricing, prevents not having enough funds later, and is transferable to other funeral homes should you relocate. Kansas regulations require pre-paid funds be trusted. This ensures the money is available even if the funeral home goes out of business and provides for growth of funds to protect against rising costs. You can preplan without financing. There are a number of options such as videos, a picture board, and a many choices between a traditional funeral to cremation.

Mr. Daigh also pointed out that cremation is usually less expensive than a funeral, that different cemeteries have different regulations, and that those considering donating their body to science should be aware of institutional regulations and have a backup plan in the event the institution does not accept a body because of a communicable disease, an amputation, obesity, or auto-accident.

He said most funeral homes accept transfers of prepaid plans, and recommends dealing with a family owned funeral home rather than a corporate owned one.

Contact Chapter President, Tom Hunzinger if interested in being part of a "Special Events" committee to plan a few Chapter events that differ from the usual monthly meeting format.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**Betty Scribner**

Welcome to new members JoAnn and Bill Handley, who attended the September meeting, and Pat Huntzinger.

Apologies to Elaine Seeman for the misspelling of her name in the September newsletter.

Consider Dues Withholding to pay your NARFE dues. It will save you 15%. Article on left.

On the recruitment front, Walt Aucott, Director of the USGS Science Center in Lawrence and Chapter 378 member, presented Chapter 378's "What is NARFE and Why Join" at the USGS statewide employee training workshop. Tom Huntzinger and I attended the USGS annual picnic and discussed NARFE membership with a number of current employees. Visits to other agencies are in the works. Email: elisabethscribner@yahoo.com

KANSAS FEDERATION**Jim Miller**

After receiving the NARFE Free State Chapter 378's September newsletter, Jim Miller, KS Federation State Legislative Chairman and President of Chapter 0002, emailed the following:

"The new NARFE national dues structure creates challenges galore for present members, but we trust, [the new dues structure] will make it more simple to recruit new members and retain them. The former system was a renewal disaster!

Ron Neis, Legislative Chair for Topeka Chapter 0002 and I visited the State House on September 1 to drop in on some staff members and sit in on committee meetings. The KPERS meeting was informative for several reasons, chief among those is KPERS members and NARFE members benefit from the state income tax exemption. Our best guess is the exemption and every exempt group will be under heavy fire in the 2011 and especially the 2012 legislative sessions. A select committee will conduct hearings and report their findings to the full session in 2012. Our concern as NARFE members has been to prevent "lifting" federal retirees ONLY from the exemptions, and we have been successful, to date. If opposition strategy (spell that AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY) changes course and seeks to remove ALL tax exemptions, except theirs, **we need to be proactive instead of reactive.**"

United Way of Douglas County needs volunteers to man "elections" at schools for children to vote. Call United Way at 785-843-6626 if interested.

NARFE NEWS**New National Officers**

The Newswatch email of September 7, 2010, announced the newly elected NARFE officers: "Joseph A. Beaudoin of Winchester, Va., was elected National President of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association in balloting Sept. 1, at the 31st Biennial NARFE National Convention in Grand Rapids, MI. He is the current National Vice President. Paul H. Carew of Pittsboro, N.C., was elected National Vice President. Elaine Hughes of Asheville, N.C., was elected National Secretary. Charles W. Saylor of Towson, Md., was elected National Treasurer. More than 1,000 delegates attended the Aug. 29-Sept. 2, convention. NARFE magazine's November issue will carry a full convention report."

The Global Email Message System Message reported NARFE dues will increase in 2011. The following letter from NARFE President, Margaret Baptiste announces NARFE dues increase for 2011.

From: National President

To: NEB, Federation Presidents, Chapter Presidents, NARFE Members

At our 2010 National Convention, NARFE delegates approved a dues increase. Here is the new dues structure for NATIONAL DUES:

- One year National Dues - \$40.00*
- Two years National Dues - \$72.00*
- Three years National Dues - \$102.00*

The above is for National Dues only. Chapters will continue to establish their dues and National will continue to collect those dues and remit them to the chapters.

Those members who are on dues withholding will receive a 15% reduction on National Dues.
Their annual dues will be \$34.00 plus chapter dues of record. Again, Chapters will continue to establish their dues and National will collect them and remit them to the chapters.

Finally, the National Executive Board (NEB) established a new First Year Membership Fee of \$45.00. Under our bylaws, "One-third (1/3) of the Membership Fee ... shall be returned to the Chapters in lieu of the first year's Chapter dues."

Implementation target date for these increases is 1 January, 2011.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to John Surritte (Oct. 29th). He didn't tell me how many candles.

ALZHEIMER'S FUND**John Scott**

Donations of \$86 for Alzheimer's research were collected at the September meeting. Chapter 378's YTD total donated to Alzheimer's is \$1668.

OCTOBER IS THE LAST MONTH TO MAKE JOHN OPEN HIS WALLET! October is the final month that the Surritte's, are matching your Alzheimer's donations up to a total \$500.

Get your **UPC Labels from BEST CHOICE products to Dianne Throop.** The company will provide \$30 for every 1000 labels submitted by the end of December. Make collecting a family affair!

SERVICE OFFICER**Wanda Lyon**

The 2010, 3rd quarter CPI-W average [August (214.205), July (213.898) and September (TBD)] is compared to the 2008 3rd quarter average (215.495) to determine the COLA for 2011. That comparison must be a + percentage. Currently it is -0.6%, so no COLA. See the FEDweek report pg 3. (785)764-2210 or lyonden@sunflower.com

PAY RAISE Still Undetermined**FEDWeek**

9/24/10: Among key issues for federal employees still unfinished is the January 2011 pay raise. The Senate Appropriations Committee has backed the 1.4 % increase that President Obama proposed early this year, putting the focus on a pending vote on a companion bill by the counterpart House committee. Passage of an amendment there to boost the raise, potentially to 1.9%, would keep alive prospects for a higher amount, but if such an amendment fails or is not even offered, the issue likely would be effectively settled. Meanwhile, an amendment to freeze federal pay also might be offered, reflecting continued controversy over federal pay levels as they compare with those of the private sector. OPM has said it will launch a review of the process by which salaries are compared, and the Federal Salary Council, a group of agency, union and outside pay experts, is due to meet in the weeks ahead to receive the latest numbers from the Labor Department on the pay gap, numbers that also are used to allocate raises among localities.

NET COORDINATOR**Jim Turrentine**

Go to www.narfe.org/chapter378 to view the Chapter's webpage. It is a work in progress, and we are open to suggestions. We thought it better to

open it for viewing and comment than to wait until all the tweaking was complete and we figured out how to get things to post the way we would like them to look. If you have suggestions for things you'd like to see on the Chapter website, please contact Wendy Hambly or me.

If you have a computer question, please email me. jim_turrentine@yahoo.com.

MEET the CANDIDATES UPDATE

NARFE has joined the local Voter Education Coalition (VEC). The membership consists of local businesses, non-profit organizations, and other organizations interested in political issues and candidates for elected office. They work with the League of Women Voters. The group is planning a 2-part candidate forum:

- > October 6th is a forum of candidates running for local legislative seats
- > October 11th is a forum of candidates running for the County Commission and State School Board

An experienced journalist will moderate both forums. The events will be open to the public and taped for later broadcast. Details will be in a news release soon, so watch the newspapers.

The VEC has no plans for candidate forums for national seats. Perhaps our Chapter will learn from the VEC and others on how to organize and conduct this type of event. Until that time, our Chapter will not plan on hosting a "Meet the Candidates" forum.

If you have questions, please contact me, Tom Huntzinger, at: tomhuntzinger@sunflower.com

MEMBERS TO DO LIST

- 1) Recruit someone for NARFE.
- 2) Sign up for Dues Withholding and save some money. Form available from Betty Scribner, Membership Chair.
- 3) Get to know your National and State candidates and share notices of upcoming events.
- 4) Use NARFE's Legislative Action Line to send your Congressmen an email to protect benefits.
- 5) Participate in the Chapter 378's Alzheimer's Fund Raisers. The Surritte's are offering matching funds. Save the UPC's from Best Choice labels for Alzheimer's Fund Raiser.
- 6) Volunteer for the "Special Events" committee.
- 7) Email your birthday to Wendy Hambly.