



Kansas NARFE News

From Your Federation Officers

April - June 2018



Federation President's Message

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Greetings from your new Federation President!

I am honored that, at the last Convention in Wichita, you elected me as your next President. I pray that I will have the courage and energy to lead this Federation to meet your expectations. I also appreciate my wife, Linda, for standing by my side while I embark on this endeavor.

First, I thank the Executive Board members for their dedication and support of the Federation and me. I also have several appointed positions to fill; especially, Alzheimer's and Membership chairpersons; so, I hope that someone will have the courage, skill and ability to respond with a positive "Yes!"

Second, the Federation Board has much to do. We are in the process of revising our policies, procedures and handbooks to reflect our new way of doing business; voting procedures and voluntary chapter membership. Thanks to the members serving these committees.

Third, we need to recruit new members. Hopefully, a few of these new members will be encouraged by NARFE's actions and become leaders in a chapter, and eventually, in the Federation. Did you know that 1/3 of a new member's first year dues (\$13.33) (1/3 of \$40), comes back to the chapter? This assumes that the chapter number is noted on the new member application. Maybe your chapter or an individual could consider gifting that first-year membership to the applicant. After a new member receives the NARFE magazine for a year and reads about the benefits, they should be moved to renew their membership!



2018-2020 Kansas Federation Officers

Front Row: Gary Kilgore, Sylvia M. Riepen, Cindy Renee' Blythe, Carol Ek, Elizabeth Bornman, Judy Grossnickle.

Back Row: Gene Algrim, Norman Christensen, Rita Dawson, Peggy Coder, Ron Katt, Gwen Ketter, John Ourada, Louis Bornman, Judy Etter.



1st Vice-President

Elizabeth Bornman
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Another good Kansas Federation Convention has been completed. I thought it went well this year for only a day and a half. Allot was accomplished. I'm looking forward to the new format next year as a Conference versus a Convention. Please ensure that all chapter members know that changes are coming. We still need everyone's support to make the Kansas Federation succeed in the future. Just like chapters, the federation needs volunteers to fill vacancies. Please support our new President in filling those vacancies. We will work hard to keep everyone informed of the pending changes to our bylaws and conference format. I'm looking forward to great New Year for our federation.

I will be attending the National Conference in August so I will report back to you in our next newsletter.

The Office of Personnel management appeared to have mixed results processing retirement claims. The backlog is still about two months, with about 8,000 federal employees retiring each month. Representatives C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) introduced the RECOVER Act (Reducing the Effects of the Cyberattack on OPM Victims Emergency Response Act), HR-576, to provide free lifetime identity protection coverage to current, former and prospective federal employees and contractors whose Social Security numbers were compromised by OPM data breaches in 2015. The data breaches affected nearly 22 million current and former federal employees, job applicants, and their family members. Currently, OPM is only required to provide the identity protection coverage to affected individuals through fiscal year 2026. If passed, the Norton-Ruppersberger bill will require OPM to provide the coverage for the remainder of the life of the affected individuals. The personal records stolen by hackers have no shelf life so the identity theft protection offered to the victims should not expire either.



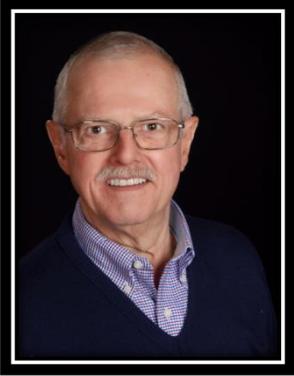
Treasurer
Peggy Coder
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Effingham, KS 66023-4105
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Sheryl Gulley was the winner of the 50/50 drawing at our last Convention. The Federation took in \$540.00 in the drawing with Sheryl receiving \$270.00. Congratulations! Thank you to everyone that bought tickets and supported the drawing.

The Federation Treasury has a healthy balance as of 3/31/18 of \$12,342.94 plus \$10,000.00 in a Shared Certificate.

I was elected to serve as your treasurer for another 2 years. Thank you for your support.

Thank you, Cindy Renee Blythe, for your support the last 2 years and only the best for you in your future. I know you will always support NARFE.



Area 1 Vice-President & National Legislative Chair

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The following is a list of candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives for the State of Kansas. I highly recommend you review the list of candidates for your congressional district and visit their websites. Attend town hall meetings and candidate forums to get to know these candidates so you are prepared to vote in the August 7, 2018, primary elections. Make sure you are registered to vote in your county so you will be eligible to vote and above all; **VOTE!** Review your current Congressman's voting record in the NARFE magazine and if you are not happy with the way your congressman is voting on NARFE issues maybe you should consider voting for someone else who will support NARFE issues. **NO ONE CARES ABOUT YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFITS MORE THAN YOU!**

U.S. House of Representatives: (Terms are 2 years in length)

District 1:

Roger "Doc" Marshall (R) Has been in office since: 2017
No Democrat has currently registered.

District 2:

Lynn Jenkins (R) * Retiring in 2018. Has been in office since: 2009

2nd District Candidates:

- Vernon Fields (R) ~ Basehor City Councilman, Retired Treatment Counselor/Nurse, Army Veteran
- Steve Fitzgerald (R) ~ State Senator, Ex-Leavenworth School Board Member, Retired Army Officer
- Kevin Jones (R) ~ State Representative, Pastor, Iraq War Veteran
- Doug Mays (R) ~ Ex-State House Speaker, Ex-State Securities Commission, Ex-Topeka City Councilman
- Dennis Pyle (R) ~ State Senator, Farmer, Ex-State Representative
- Tyler Tannahill (R) ~ Insurance Agency Owner, Iraq/Afghanistan War Veteran
- Caryn Tyson (R) ~ State Senator, Software Engineer, Ex-State Representative
- Steve Watkins (R) ~ Defense Contractor, Afghanistan War Veteran, Ex-Iditarod Dog Sled Racer
- Paul Davis (D) ~ Attorney, Ex-State House Minority Leader
- Kelly Standley (D) ~ Minister, Business Analyst, Graduate Student

District 3:

Kevin Yoder (R) Has been in office since: 2011

3rd District Candidates:

Sharice Davids (D) ~ Attorney, Ex-White House Fellow

Reggie Marselus (D) ~ Retired Electrical Worker, Labor Union Activist

Mike McCamon (D) ~ Communications Consultant

Tom Niermann (D) ~ Teacher

Jay Sidie (D) ~ Businessman, Ex-Commodities Trader

Brent Welder (D) ~ Attorney, Ex-Political Organizer, Sanders Campaign Activist

Sylvia Williams (D) ~ Retired Banker

Chris Clemmons (Libertarian) ~ Teacher

District 4:

Ron Estes (R) Has been in office since: 2017

4th District Candidates:

Laura Lombard (D) ~ International Business Consultant

James Thompson (D) ~ Attorney, Army Veteran



Area 1A Vice-President

Judy Etter

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Happy summer to you all. I would have liked to have had a spring though—we went from the second-coldest April on record to the second hottest May.

I think most attendees would agree that our last convention was a success and we now look forward to our first conference next year in Manhattan. Even though we were only in Park City for 2 days we managed to conduct all of our business, both the live and silent auctions, the banquet, and the elections with time to spare. I think we were all surprised.

The polls are now open for voting in the first one-member/one-vote election for NARFE National Officers. Please try to inform yourself on the candidates and what they have to say. From someone who is familiar with the National office, it takes a long time to become familiar with the workings of Washington D.C. Also, please do not vote to accept all the resolutions or reject all the resolutions: become familiar with the issues. Also, I will ask that you vote **for** preferential voting. Officers must be elected by a 2/3 majority. If no one gets that percentage on the first ballot, a second election will be held in which you will rank candidates. Preferential voting is explained in detail on the NARFE website but, if preferential voting does not pass it will cost NARFE much money to keep holding elections and delay officers assuming office.

As Chaplain for the Federation, I would like to remind chapter presidents and secretaries to keep track of your members who pass away so that you can notify your Area Vice-President the end of March 2019. Even though there is a category on the OAM for deaths, if the spouse of the deceased member assumes the loved one's membership, the surviving spouse's name shows as deceased. At least one chapter had to call the surviving spouse to ask the first name of the deceased member because he had transferred into the chapter from a closed chapter and been unable to attend meetings so that no one knew him.



Area 2 Vice-President

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Since returning from the Annual Federation Convention, I have visited each chapter in Area 2. At each meeting, we discussed the importance of the members voting during the 2018 National Elections. It will be interesting to see how successful the voting process is thought to be. There are several concerns that members have voiced regarding the accuracy of the whole process. During the Federation President's meetings, concern was voiced about how other organizations managed this process. I belong to a few agriculture and financial organizations that have been conducting mailing polling for several years and each organization sends two envelopes for voting use; one envelope is to keep the ballot secret while the second is the actual mailing envelope. Why NARFE was able to follow another process for those members using the mail option is beyond me.

Plans are already underway for the 2019 Federation Conference. Exactly what the program will be is still being looked at, but I'm sure we can look forward to an interesting time in Manhattan.

Most chapters don't meet during the summer months, but that doesn't mean that we still can't beat the bushes for new members. All of us enjoy going to our local county fair and there are ways to get the NARFE name out for the public to see. Try putting a float or just a car in the parade with the NARFE banner displayed. If the parade route is not too long, have a couple members walk along and throw candy. Take plenty of new member forms along for those interested people. If it isn't too expensive and your fair has a vendor building or tent, inquire about setting up an information booth. One or two new members can make a difference!!



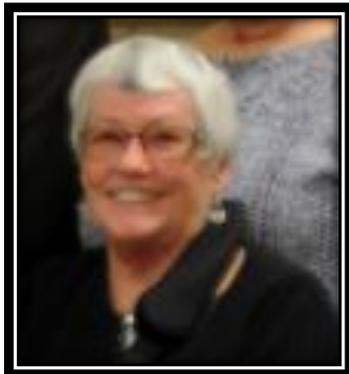
Area 2A Vice-President

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The current high temperature appears to affect NARFE members in Area 2A (that is Southeast KS). There is lack of energy and desire. Attendance at meetings is affected and the new method of voting is less than clear and the feeling of "who cares" is often stated.

I have visited all Chapters that have had a meeting and reviewed our Federation Conference. Lots of time was spent at each Chapter regarding the voting process. Our best source of information is the NARFE Magazine. Many members do not understand why they are told how to vote on some issues.

The good news is that Area 2A will have an Area meeting this fall and have invited our Federation President to be our speaker. Looking forward to President John joining us.



Area 3 Vice-President

Judy Grossnickle
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Our Federation held its last convention on April 23-24 in Wichita, KS. Because Carol Ek is not seeking re-election to the Region V Vice-President position, Cindy Renee' Blythe is running to become our Region V Vice-President. That had the domino effect of leaving the presidency of our Federation vacant. John Ourada was elected Federation President and I was elected as Area 3 Vice-President.

Those of you who've been around for a long time may remember that I stepped down from this position in 2007. It was true then and it is true now that serving as Area 3 Vice-President was the most rewarding and fun job I've ever held in NARFE. I hope that you will assist me in my efforts to exceed my previous job and to live up to the outstanding job that John Ourada performed.

I hope that you all voted in the 1st "One member, one vote" election. Our future is in our hands and the vote will determine the path of NARFE in the future.

My husband, Dennis, and I plan on attending the 1st NARFE FEDcon in August at Jacksonville, Florida. I'll fill you in on what happened and what we learned once we get home.

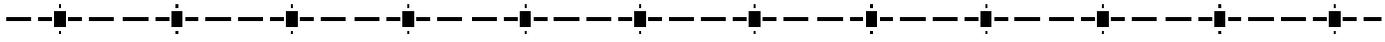
I'm looking forward to visiting each chapter in Area 3 where I'll meet new people and renew old friendships.



Area 5 Vice-President

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NARFE members working together can have a fun and financially rewarding Chapter experience hosting the Federation Annual Conference. It is not too early to start the research process for a suitable site for the April 26-27, 2021 Conference. Basic site and hotel general and physical requirements would be 40-50 lodging rooms, wheel chair and handicap accessible rooms, and conference rooms to accommodate up to 150 classroom style seating. NARFE members having access to a suitable facility are encouraged to put together a bid for presentation to the Time and Place Committee at the 2019 Annual Conference scheduled for April 29-30, 2019 in the Four Points by Sheraton, Manhattan, KS. If assistance with bidding consideration is needed, Federation Officers are always available for guidance.





Temporary Alzheimer's Chair

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Alzheimer's disease (the most common form of irreversible dementia) is fatal – killing nerve cells and tissue in the brain, affecting an individual's ability to remember, think and plan. As the disease advances, the brain shrinks dramatically due to cell death. Individuals lose their ability to communicate, recognize family and friends, and care for themselves. Nearly one in every three seniors who dies each year has Alzheimer's or another dementia. It kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

We are all at risk to develop the disease. *We need to keep our brain is as fit as our body.* Currently there is no way to prevent, cure or even slow Alzheimer's.



On May 31st Governor Jeff Colyer signed a proclamation designating June as Alzheimer's Brain and Awareness Month in Kansas.

Pictured on the far left is Cindy Miller, Dementia Care Specialist with the Topeka Alzheimer's Association and five caregivers (*including myself and husband Ron*). Let's honor the strength, passion and endurance of the more than 5.7 million Americans living with the disease (including an estimated 200,000 under the age of 65) and their 16.1 million caregivers. This year the cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementia's is projected to total \$277 billion. As baby boomers age, we will experience a 'tsunami' of Alzheimer diagnosis.

With an executive order signed June 1st by Gov. Colyer, Kansas became the 50th state to work toward establishing a plan to address current and future effects of Alzheimer's on those who have the disease as well as the organizations and family members who provide care and services for them. The task force comprised of approximately 20 members will submit a report and recommendations to the state legislature and governor by January 14, 2019.

I believe you can still access the very insightful 60 Minute segment on-line about **How Alzheimer's Affects a Couple Over Ten Years**, which aired while we were at the NARFE Convention (April 22, 2018).

Thanks Kansas NARFE members for continuing to be the bright light in this dark fight in your chapter, community, and at convention. Combined the 2018 silent and live auctions at convention garnered \$3,645.



Immediate Past Federation President

***Cindy Renee` Blythe
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Thru the years of my government service, like many of you, I encountered supervisors and team leaders that were good and some that weren't. I was always under the opinion that one of the traits that made the good ones good was the fact that they were willing to accept responsibility for their actions and took the knocks when things didn't turn out exactly as planned.

Well that's what has happened to me. When the last Annual Federation Convention was closed and all the files were being put away, I discovered that I had made a grievous error when producing the Alzheimer's Awards. Joanne Miller provided me the two-page data that I used to print the award certificates and, in my haste, to get them printed before I left for the convention missed three awardees listed on the last page.

So, I'm owning up to my mistake and asking the Oakley Chapter #2032, Garden City Chapter #1995 and Ulysses Chapter #2086 to forgive me. Their certificates have been mailed and things have been put to right.

I hope you all cast your vote for the National Officers of your choice. With the acceptance of one-member-one-vote and optional chapter membership, all Federations must follow the lead of National Office and begin conducting their elections in a similar fashion. Now just how Kansas will accomplish that is still being discussed, but the one thing we know for certain is that the election of officers next year must be finalized before the annual conference. Those positions up for election in 2019 will be the 1st Vice-President and the Secretary. Since we have optional chapter membership, any Kansas member may seek office. There will be no nominations accepted during the annual conference, so if a person does not notify either the Nominating Chair, or turn their name into a Federation Officer, and get their name on the ballot, they won't be considered for an office.

Typically, the Nominating Chair duties are assigned to the Immediate Past Federation President. In our case that would be me; however, if my bid for Region V Vice-President is successful, then Carol Ek becomes the Immediate Past President.

The timing of the voting has to be just right. All members, and I mean all members, must be given the opportunity to vote, the votes must be counted, and any run-offs must be re-voted on before the next annual conference in April 2019. So, you can see how we are already working on a short deadline. Thankfully, we are only looking at electing two officers so this will be our "Guiney-pig" election. If you know of someone, or if you, who would a good officer, please contact me with their/your name so that I can make the initial contact.

Everyone is always interested in knowing how Kansas did with the Alzheimer's contributions from the Federation Convention auctions. The table below represents the amounts raised from each Area that furnished items for the auctions.

Area	Chapter	Amount
1	Topeka #0002	\$466.00
	Lawrence #0378	\$190.00
	Shawnee Mission #1162	\$447.00
	Jefferson County #2231	\$ 37.00
1A	Amelia Earhart – Atchison #0621	\$358.00
	Sunflower – Kansas City #1160	\$ 64.00
2	Emporia #0384	\$165.00
	Osage City #2099	\$241.00
2A	Bourbon County #0792	\$ 31.00
	Chanute #0799	\$ 96.00
3	Salina #0280	\$346.00
	Kaw Blue – Manhattan #0366	\$255.00
	Old Trooper – Junction City #0383	\$ 21.00
	Clay Center #1998	\$ 15.00
4	Wichita #0138	\$400.00
	Salt City – Hutchinson #0537	\$109.00
5	Logan County #2032	\$246.00
6	Garden City #1995	\$158.00

The themed baskets were a huge success!! Over the years, the silent auction grew so much that it became impossible to manage. I guess that's a good thing, but it also had some serious drawbacks. Each year, more and more items were left with no bids and the host chapters were responsible for disposing of those items. Adding the rule for 'themed baskets' eliminated that situation.

I want to thank the members of Kansas NARFE for supporting me as your Federation President from 2011 – 2018. Besides fully enjoying the experience, I learned more than I can say. I hope that I handled sticky situations with tact and caring. If I didn't, then please accept my apologies. I'm hoping to continue gaining knowledge and leadership opportunities by becoming Region V Vice-President. If not, then I'll be the best Immediate Past President that I can be. Don't forget me – now that I've joined the retired ranks, I have more 'free' time and would enjoy being invited to your chapter!!!!

Cindy