



Kaw Blue Communiqué

Volume No. 2 | Issue No. 4

Manhattan, KS Date Dec 16, 2016

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Clifford Spaeth	785-539-1363
1st VP	Ann Murphy	785-539-2056
2nd VP	Elaine Liddell	785-776-5559
Secretary	Chuck Marr	785-539-6825
Treasurer	Barbara Hackbart	785-494-2425
Past Pres	Ann Domsch	785-537-5147
News Editor	Judy Grossnickle	785-537-2457

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Clifford Spaeth, 539-1363)

2016 is drawing to a close and I want to thank those who chose to serve as officers, newsletter editors, committee chairpersons, callers, committee members and active members of Kaw-Blue Chapter 0366. It is extremely helpful that many contribute to workings of this chapter and we look forward to an even better 2017.

Following is a quote from NARFE, October 2016 edition, page 62, "At the 34th Biennial NARFE National Convention in Reno, NV, August 28-September 1, delegates removed a requirement that all members of the association must belong to a chapter. The resolution calling for chapter membership to be optional received 68.78 percent of the votes in electronic balloting, more than the two-thirds required to pass."

This vote was contrary to the recommendation of the executive board of Chapter 0366. However, we can and must survive and grow stronger as the result of this action. We hope that all of you will voluntarily choose to maintain your chapter membership when you pay your dues in the future. We can all continue to benefit from the sharing that takes place at our chapter meetings.

I wish all of you a very blessed Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

(By: Elaine Liddell, Program Chairman)

January 18, 2017

Jeremy Lies,
Nelson Poultry Farms,
Poultry Business

February 15, 2017

Doug Tippin,
History of Kansas

March 15, 2017

Fred Stork,
US Postal Service,
Preparing for USPS Flint Hills Breadbasket
Food Drive



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(By: John Drach, Legislative Committee Chairman)

As a reminder, the 2016 Federal Benefits Open Season began November 14th, and ends Monday, December 12th. This is an opportunity for federal retirees and survivors to enroll in or make changes within the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) and the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Program (FEDVIP). If you have not done so, take a look at the Self-Plus-One option. OPM reports the Self-Plus-One option has amassed more than 540,000 beneficiaries in its first year, accounting for more than half of the eligible federal employees and retirees.

As a matter of information, a total of 75 organizations sent a letter to lawmakers recently asking them to find a solution to the sharp expected increase in Medicare Part B premiums that was forecast in the 2016 Medicare Trustees report. The letter cited a figure from the report suggesting that premiums could rise by as much as 23%. This, coupled with the announcement of a small COLA means that retirees could be facing a difficult situation.



**Happy
New Year!**

ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE

(Ann Domsch, Alzheimer's Committee Chair,
537-5147)

The Alzheimer's Association and MedicAlert Foundation International have formed an alliance to improve the safety of individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia. MedicAlert plus Alzheimer's Association Safe Return is a 24-hour nationwide emergency response service for individuals with Alzheimer's or a related dementia who wander or have a medical emergency.

How MedicAlert+Alzheimer's works

If an individual with Alzheimer's or a related dementia wanders and becomes lost, caregivers can call the 24 hour emergency response line (1-800-625-3780) to report it. A community support network will be activated, including local Alzheimer's Association chapters and law enforcement agencies, to help reunite the family member or caregiver with the person who wandered. With this enhanced service, critical medical information will be provided to emergency responders when needed.

MedicAlert = Safe Return Features

- One identification product (bracelet or necklace) that serves two purposes. It provides emergency medical information and assists in the event of a wandering incident.
- The member's personal health record lists medical conditions, medications and allergies and can be updated 24 hours a day through a

Continued on the next page

private online account or by calling the toll free number during business hours.

- A national database that includes a member's photo and emergency contact information to help reunite the lost person with his or her caregivers
- The MedicAlert + Safe Return hotline activates the resources of law enforcement, medical professionals and local chapter staff to assist the member when an incident either wandering or medical emergency occurs.

For safety and peace of mind enroll in MedicAlert + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return today! Call 1-800-572-8566 to visit medicalert.org/safereturn.

Kansas Alzheimer's Report to date

Contributions for Area 3:

Salina- \$2,581.75 , \$18.18 per member

Manhattan – \$2,055.50, \$8.75 per member

Junction City – \$1,150.44, \$6.12 per member

Belleville – \$150.50, \$3.86 per member

Clay Center – \$10.50, \$0.40 per member

Abilene – \$113.50, \$3.55 per member



IN MEMORIUM

Our sympathy is extended to the families, friends and co-workers of the following deceased members:

Cecil Eyestone, Member



MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD			
MONTH	GAIN	REINSTATED	LOSS
Sep–Dec	1	3	4
Memberships in peril: 9			
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of Dec, 217			

Our 2017 Officers:

President	Cliff Spaeth
V-P Recruitment	Ann Murphy
V-P Programs	Elaine Liddell
Secretary	Chuck Marr
Treasurer	Barb Hackbart
Service Officer	Catherine Bolte

MEMBERSHIP

(By: Dick McChesney for Membership 785 537-8302.)

What do you say when someone asks, "What are the benefits of NARFE membership?" When considering the value of membership, it is important to recognize that the member is not making a donation toward the organization. They are investing in it and expecting a return. We need to be able to state the outcome the member is expecting and how NARFE can help them achieve it.

Instead of saying, members get advise, we need to say, they get dependable advise from NARFE's own federal benefits specialists when benefits may change. Retirement annuities, health insurance, life insurance, and other benefits are subject to change.

Instead of saying, members get the monthly magazine, say NARFE members receive and in-depth reporting on federal

news. The magazine is a most reliable source of news, data and advice for federal workers and retirees.

Instead of saying, members can access the NARFE Legislative Action. Say, as a NARFE member, you receive the very latest legislation which may affect you and give you a quick link to reach your members of Congress.

Then say, to clinch the deal -- NARFE is the only membership organization solely dedicated to protecting and preserving the benefits of ALL federal workers and retirees.

As I am not a candidate for a 2017 chapter office, I thank all members for the opportunity to serve and especially the membership committee members.



Forwarding Service Requested
Judy Grossnickle, Editor