



**2011 OFFICERS and CHAIRS**

|                                |                |              |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| President                      | Tom Huntzinger | 785-766-6717 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | Roger Lemmons  | 785-840-9594 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President | Elaine Seeman  | 785-331-2280 |
| Secretary                      | Dianne Throop  | 785-841-1408 |
| Treasurer                      | Cheryl Travis  | 785-841-1616 |
| Membership                     | Betty Scribner | 785-865-8235 |
| Service                        | Wanda Lyon     | 785-764-2210 |
| Public Relations               | Cheryl Bowman  | 785-979-1568 |
| Newsletter                     | Wendy Hambly   | 913-845-0121 |
| NARFE PAC                      | Linda Surritte | 785-856-0558 |
| NARFE Net Coor                 | Leonard Short  | 785-840-8401 |
| Alzheimer's Chair              | John Scott     | 785-542-3510 |
| Legislative Chair              | John Surritte  | 785-856-0558 |
| Sunshine                       | Sandy Nease    | 785-843-3378 |

**KUDOS & THANK YOU'S TO:**

Cheryl Travis for sponsoring the September 19<sup>th</sup> "Picnic Meeting."

**NARFE NEWSWATCH Sept. 11, 2012**

CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD in the October issue of NARFE magazine includes the Association's "Congressional Scorecard," an analysis of how members of the 112th Congress voted on issues important to federal employees and retirees. This is the 16th edition of the scorecard, which NARFE publishes every two years prior to congressional elections. Watch for your copy of the October issue of NARFE magazine in your mailbox soon, or check NARFE's Legislative Action Center at: <http://capwiz.com/narfe/keyvotes.xc/?lvl=C>.

**NARFE ON FACEBOOK National Hdqtrs**

August 31, 2012 email from NARFE National Headquarters: Throughout the summer, members like you have been talking to elected officials and candidates at forums, town halls and campaign events about the importance of federal workers and the America Counts on Us campaign. In an effort to spread our message to an even larger audience, we've created the America Counts on Us Facebook page. Click [here](#) to "Like" America Counts on Us on Facebook and learn more about America Counts on Us events.

If you have any questions about Facebook, please contact Ashley Smith at [asmith@mrss.com](mailto:asmith@mrss.com) or Jessica Klement in NARFE's legislative department at [jklement@narfe.org](mailto:jklement@narfe.org).

Thank you for your commitment to NARFE and to protecting the earned pay and benefits of federal workers and retirees!

**SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING - R. LEMMONS**

The September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting is a picnic at the Chipperfield Club House hosted by Cheyl Travis. Come and enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, ice tea, and a chance to visit with NARFE members. Invite a potential member or bring a spouse! The picnic begins at 11:30 with lunch at noon.

The clubhouse is located west of the old Sears store at 2745 Chipperfield.



For October's program, I hope to have several health insurance providers to review and discuss their plan changes for 2013.

November's meeting is moved up one week so it doesn't interfere with Thanksgiving plans. So mark your calendars for a NARFE Chapter 378 meeting on November 14, 2012.

**AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING RECAP**

Robert Baker, Resources Development Director, of Tenants to Home Owners (TtH), an organization which helps people of moderate to low income go from paying rent to homeowners. Mr. Baker began by reminding us of the 18% fixed mortgage rates of the late 70's and early 80's. He went on to say that Lawrence is of the highest home cost areas. Even with the 13% decrease experienced in the recession, home values were still average. The average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment is \$750.

TtH is able to offer lower cost housing (\$20,000-50,000 less) because it holds the value of lots in trust. Baker stated that both the decline in middle class income in Lawrence and the movement to suppress retirement income make the case for providing affordable housing. TtH is currently working on a project, Prairie Wind, to

build energy efficient 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes. Another project still in the planning stages is for senior housing and will provide 50 rentals for low income, disabled seniors. The handicap accessible, 1000 sq ft cottages with back porches that lead to an oval track and rain and flower gardens, and vegetable garden plots. The leases would be long term with short-term notice so the seniors would have stability with the flexibility to move quickly if they needed to do so. Baker explained that it is a long process.

Saturday First Time Homeowner Workshops are free and held 9:30 to 1:30 on Sept. 8, , and Nov. 10, 2012, and Jan. 12 and Mar. 9, 2013.

A fundraiser supporting affordable housing is planned for September 30, 2012. It is a silent auction at the Castle Tea Room, 1307 Massachusetts St. from 2-4pm. For more information call 785-842-5494 or email Robert Baker at [Rbakerth@gmail.com](mailto:Rbakerth@gmail.com). The website for Tenants to Homeowners is [www.tenants-to-homeowners.org](http://www.tenants-to-homeowners.org)

## LEGISLATIVE

JOHN SURRITTE

*NARFE Legislative Hotline – August 3, 2012*

### **#4 Congressional Votes Posted on NARFE Legislative Action Center**

*Prior to publication in the October issue of NARFE magazine, five House floor votes and four Senate floor votes have been identified as important to NARFE members. To learn how your congressional delegation voted on these measures, and to track votes dating back to 2003, visit our Legislative Action Center at:*

<http://capwiz.com/narfe/keyvotes.xc/?lvl=C>.

**NARFE Legislative Hotline (24/7): 877-217-8234**  
**U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 866-220-0044**

## ALZHEIMER'S

John Scott

Linda and John Surritte are matching your Alzheimer's donations so you can double your Alzheimer's donations in September and October. Chapter 378 donations received in August equaled \$63. The YTD total is \$352.70.

*Harry Johns, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, praised NARFE members for donating nearly \$10 million to the Alzheimer's Association since 1985. He also said, "What I want you to realize is, in the world of Alzheimer's research, you are leaders of what has occurred in research over that time period." NARFE helped to*

*bring about the creation of the National Alzheimer's Plan.*

NARFE's new fund raising goal for 2014 is to reach a grand total of \$11 million since 1985.

## MEMBERSHIP

Betty Scribner

Welcome to our new members, Andrew Tuttle and Gary Tanner.

Have you, as a federal employee, truly considered the importance of your paycheck or monthly pension? As a busy employee or retiree, it is important to tune in to the political Congressional atmosphere even though it may seem irritating when the newspapers portray us as 'fat cats.' NARFE is the only organization totally dedicated to the rights and benefits of current and retired federal employees. NARFE not only concentrates on protecting our benefits, but also on publicizing our value to all citizens.

You may ask yourself, "What can I do at the chapter level to protect my benefits?" First, there is strength in numbers and each of us has an obligation to explain NARFE to our current and former co-workers and strongly encourage them to join. Members are always the livelihood of any organization. Second, retain those members we have recruited by checking in with them occasionally, making sure they are receiving the NARFE magazine, and encouraging them to sign up for the dues withholding option if they are retired. Third, sign up for the dues withholding option ourselves.

Kansas NARFE has a total of 4,277 members. Of this number, only 293 are active federal employees – there are many more who work in Kansas federal agencies who are eligible. While our chapter's membership increased by 8%, there are still many more federal workers and retirees who need to hear the NARFE story and become a part of the voice on Capitol Hill. We are the key to our recruiting success!

BettyScribner, 785-865-8235 or

\*email: [scribner@sunflower.com](mailto:scribner@sunflower.com).

\***Note:** This is a new email address.

## MEDICARE PART B AND THE FEHBP

**QUESTION:** *I am a NARFE member, age 66, who is thinking of retiring in 2014. I understand that NARFE advises retirees to keep their Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) in retirement, along with Medicare Parts A and B.*

Please explain the advantage of enrolling in Medicare Part B when I plan to carry the FEHBP into retirement. **ANSWER:** As you might imagine, this is a question that NARFE members who are approaching retirement frequently ask the Association's federal benefits specialists. With regard to Medicare Part B, please read the document on the NARFE website that thoroughly explains the relationship between Medicare and the FEHBP. It is available to NARFE members at [www.narfe.org/member/articles.cfm?ID=383](http://www.narfe.org/member/articles.cfm?ID=383). You must log in to the website as a NARFE member to access this document. It is important to know how your particular plan in the FEHBP coordinates with Medicare Part B. For example, if you had a Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) plan along with Medicare Part A and Part B, you would have little, if any, out-of-pocket expenses. BC/BS would waive your calendar-year deductibles, your co-pays and your coinsurance amounts. You would have to continue paying your full BC/BS premiums and full Medicare Part B premiums, which are \$99.90 per month in 2012. You will need to look at your medical expenses and see whether you will have more than \$1,200 out-of-pocket expenses each year (\$99.90 x 12 months). If you do, you probably would want to pick up Part B. You are not required to enroll in Part B immediately – you may enroll during any General Enrollment Period, which is held January-March of each year. HOWEVER, if you don't pick up Part B at your first enrollment opportunity, you will be charged a 10 percent penalty for each 12 months that you aren't enrolled. It may make financial sense to wait a few years until you enroll. However, if you wait too many years, you might not be able to afford it. Individuals who are still working at the age of 65 and are enrolled in the FEHBP have a special opportunity to enroll in Medicare Part B. Your initial opportunity to enroll in Part B will be eight months after your retirement date without penalty.

#### **NARFE NATIONAL CONVENTION**

From the NARFE Website:

*Members of the NARFE National Executive Board were elected for two-year terms at the Association's 32nd Biennial National Convention.*

*Joseph A. Beaudoin of Winchester, VA; re-elected National President.*

*Paul H. Carew of Arlington, VA; reelected National Vice President.*

*Elaine C. Hughes of Asheville, NC; elected National Secretary.*

*Richard G. Thissen of Lake Ozark, MO; elected National Treasurer.*

#### **Regional Vice Presidents elected were:**

*Region I, Arthur G. Pike, Mapleton, ME;*

*Region II, Evelyn Kirby, Chester, MD;*

*Region III, Donald Stewart, Coral Gables, FL;*

*Region IV, Paul E. Johnson, Wadesville, IN;*

*Region V, Carol R. Ek, McPherson, KS;*

*Region VI, Jerome S. Smith, Tyler, TX;*

*Region VII, Frank Impinna, Highlands Ranch, CO;*

*Region VIII, Helen L. Zajac of Vallejo, CA;*

*Region IX, Lanny, G. Ross of Bremerton, WA;*

*Region X, William F. Martin of Bumpass, VA;*

#### **Some By-Law Revisions:**

Resolution 12-02 Defeated—defined restrictions in use of dues.

Resolution 12-04 Defeated. New membership category—\$10 spousal membership.

Resolution 12-21 Defeated, resulting in endorsing NARFE EChapters as legitimate chapters.

Resolution 12-17 Approved, resulting in the inclusion of a monthly “best-practices” column in the NARFE Magazine.

NARFE's 2014 National Convention is August 24-28 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, FL.

The Grand Sierra Hotel, Reno, NV, is the site of the NARFE National Convention on August 28-September 1, 2016. The Convention room rate is \$79 per night and will be honored for 3 days prior to convention and 3 days following the convention.

#### **SUNSHINE CHAIR**

**Sandy Nease**

Please let me know about illness, special birthdays, celebrations, or honors our members receive, so I can send an appropriate card. I sent a sympathy card to Les Beuglin and his wife Jean. Les' mother passed away. She was 104.

[sandynease@gmail.com](mailto:sandynease@gmail.com) or 785-979-5481)

#### **SERVICE OFFICER**

**Wanda Lyons**

July, the first month of the measurement quarter, marks the third consecutive month of slight declines in consumer prices. With 2 months remaining in the measurement period, the cost of living adjustment for social security, military retirement, and federal civil service retirement rests at 1.0 percent.