



## THE BISON BUFFALO BILL CHAPTER 27

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



### **From the President:**

I wish all NARFE Buffalo Bill Chapter 27 members, their spouses, and families a Happy & Healthy New Year 2008. I hope to see as many as possible attending our monthly NARFE meetings. We all need to work on bringing in active and retired members that we come in contact with, and encourage them to be part of our chapter.

We should all be responsible in contacting our senators and representatives, letting them know what legislative programs they should be pushing through the 111th Congress this coming election year. We need to be alert and listen to what the candidates running for public offices stand for, and what they say they will do after they get into the office. Let your conscience be your guide when voting for our public officials.

I want to thank all our officers, committee members and helpers for making 2007 a successful year for our NARFE organization.

1st VP/Membership—Wayne Stalnaker. Thank you for all your work on membership, attending the Federation Convention and other work shops, and keeping the members informed. I hope your back operation was successful and you are on the mend and will be able to attend our February meeting.

2nd VP/Program—Billie Oertel. Thank you for the interesting programs you had for our meetings this past year. All were super and I think everyone enjoyed the Christmas program, Claudette Walker's character of Elizabeth Taylor.

3rd VP/Service Officer & Chaplain (outgoing)—Delores Vargas. Thank you for all the work preparing the *Bison*, meeting its deadlines, and all the answers and work on service calls to our members, and for serving as Chaplain at our meetings. We are sorry you've had to give up these duties due to family illness. We do appreciate that you will continue as editor of the *Bison*.

3rd VP/Service Officer & Chaplain—Rita Sundet. Thank you, Rita, for volunteering to serve in this office. I appreciate your support and look forward to working with you the next two years.

Secretary—Eileen Sturgis. Thank you for all the letters and reports you do for our chapter, public relations duties, submitting newspaper articles after each of our meetings and events, and all the many hours you spend—such as collecting money, typing the list of names for our August Annual picnic and the Christmas dinner.

Treasurer (outgoing)—Jean Cooney. Thank you for keeping everything going: the bills paid, our finances straight, reports done in a timely manner, and our CD, which is now giving us more interest than we received in previous years.

Treasurer—Ross Perkins. Welcome aboard and thank you for volunteering. I know you have been an officer in the American Legion and Federal Prison Club and probably many other clubs I'm not aware of and we feel very fortunate to have you help our organization.

Alzheimer's Chair—Helen Gallagher. Thank you for all your volunteering whenever the need arises. You have been very good in collecting for Alzheimer's, having the "can" available at our meetings, the sale of used books, and the "Blessings Tax", which brought in an unbelievable amount.

Auditor—Elsie Zuburg. Thank you for volunteering to audit our books and helping out.

Email Correspondence—Jim Schmidt. Thank you for sending the monthly "Meeting Reminders" and other Email notices, as needed. We appreciate your efforts.

Historian—Betty Reed. Thank you for keeping our History Scrapbook up-to-date and also for keeping us informed on Medicare and hospitalization changes. We appreciate your expertise. I want to thank you and Warren for your donation of \$100.00 toward our Christmas Program.

Legislation/PAC—Forrest and Janette Holdeman. Thank you both for helping out with PAC and keeping us informed on the changes with Legislation. I'm sorry you won't be able to continue on this committee. I was glad you were able to attend the Legislative Convention in Bethesda, MD in March 2007 and thank you for attending the Federation Convention.

Media Tech—Sy Nyhart. Thank you for all your help with the speaker system at the meetings and hopeful for your continued support.

Parliamentarian—Betty Phillips. Thank you for keeping me in line on the correct procedures in asking members to vote, etc. I appreciate all your help in setting up for the meetings, in

**Do you need to contact a congressman? Below are the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses where they can be reached.**

**LEGISLATORS' Topeka Address / Phone:** **Federal:** Sen Sam Brownback, 612 Kansas Ave, 66603 (785) 233-2503, [sam\\_brownback@brownback.senate.gov](mailto:sam_brownback@brownback.senate.gov). Sen Pat Roberts, 444 SE Quincy, Rm 392, 66683, (785) 295-2745, [roberts.senate.gov](mailto:roberts.senate.gov); Rep. Nancy Boyda, D-2nd Dist., 510 SW 10th Ave, 66612, (785) 234-8111, <http://www.house.gov/boyda/>. **Kansas State (by Dist. at Statehouse, Topeka 66612, telephone (785) 296 + ext.):** Sen Roger Pine, R-3rd, 143 North, ext. 7372, [pine@senate.state.ks.us](mailto:pine@senate.state.ks.us); Sen Mark Gilstrap, D-5th, 138 North, ext. 7357, [gilstrap@senate.state.ks.us](mailto:gilstrap@senate.state.ks.us); Rep Owen Donohoe, R-39th, 110 South, ext. 7682, [donohoe@house.state.ks.us](mailto:donohoe@house.state.ks.us); Rep Candy Ruff, D-40th, 278 West, ext. 7647, [ruff@house.state.ks.us](mailto:ruff@house.state.ks.us); Rep Marti Crow, D-41st, 284 West, ext. 7673, [crow@house.state.ks.us](mailto:crow@house.state.ks.us); Rep Kenny Wilk, R-42nd, 426 South, ext. 7660, [wilk@house.state.ks.us](mailto:wilk@house.state.ks.us). **State legislators hot line:** 1-800-432-3924.

the kitchen, bringing ice, helping fold and putting the stickers on the *Bison*—aren't you glad you have a "bossy sister"?

Social Chair—Vi Donovan. Thank you for all your help, being here before the meetings, afterwards cleaning up, and all the many years you have helped.

Sunshine Chair—Marilyn Murray. Thank you for the many cards you have sent out, especially to those who have been sick and are unable to get out for the meetings, and for keeping the members informed at each meeting.

Ways & Means Chair & Greeters—Esther Schmeckel and Bill Aaron. Thank you both for helping at every meeting, we need your smiling faces to start off our meetings. Bill, I also want to thank you for helping setup the chairs, making coffee and whatever I need help doing, I appreciate your kindness— are you sorry your sister volunteered for another two years?

Candidate Forum Helper—Donna Gillett. I will include Dewey, he helped last year with writing letters to our senators and representatives, and I'm sure he will help Donna on the forum for this election year. Thank you both for your participation and keeping us clear and on the right path with NARFE activities.

Christmas Party Chair—Shirley Kawaoka and Diane Schatte. Thank you for the beautiful table decorations and to the ones who helped make it come alive, including Billie Oertel, Jean Cooney and Betty Phillips. Thanks to Helen Gallagher and Bill Aaron for selling chances on the restaurant gift certificates purchased by NARFE. We appreciate Mama Mia's donation of a \$25.00 gift certificate solicited by Billie Oertel, and thanks to Marilyn & Don Murray and Doris & Ross Perkins for the door prizes,

Thanks Joe Kolb for making arrangements to use the Federal Prison Club for our Annual August picnic and to all who helped decorate.

Since this is an election year we need to send in our contributions for PAC. Our Federation is asking each of us to try and contribute \$20.00. In the past we have given 15% to PAC from our monthly ticket sales, but we will no longer be able to contribute in this fashion. Federation PAC Chairman tells us contributions should only be sent in to him with individual members' name. We will still have our monthly ticket sales, but it will go only to our chapter and Alzheimer's.

I am asking for a volunteer PAC/Legislative Chairman for the coming two years to replace Forrest and Janette Holdeman who have resigned. Thank you all for your support.

*Dolores A Vossmer*

**From the 1st Vice-Chair—Membership:**

If the old adage about time flying when having fun is true, I must be one of the happiest people around. It seems like just last week Delores told me that I had failed to submit an article for the November *Bison*.

Have you ever considered why you are a member of NARFE? Is it for the monthly socializing with former coworkers or associates? Possibly you benefit by discussing and learning of the many local issues and opportunities introduced to mem-

bers via our monthly guest speakers? Maybe you are politically minded and enjoy staying current on active federal employee and retiree benefits being considered by lawmakers? Do you enjoy participating in state and national events and the diversity of interests shared? Possibly you just feel good about helping support an organization that works diligently to protect the benefits that you have earned? Have you ever wondered or asked a non-member why they choose NOT to be a member?

I believe many beneficiaries often forget that the benefits we enjoy today are available only because of the hard work of those who preceded us. The COLA's that federal retirees receive did not just happen without efforts. Likewise survivor and health benefits, long term care, vision and dental insurance for annuitants all required a lot of effort from a lot of people. Those who remember not having access to these benefits are generally the most appreciative of them.

Of our approximately 470 members we have 52 honorary members. Those are members who have held consistent membership for at least 20 years and are over 85 years of age. Our chapter holds bragging rights to having 32 life members. Life members in many cases have paid several hundreds of dollars to secure a lifetime membership. That is 18% of our members who are long time supporters of NARFE and are truly appreciative and proud of the benefits they have helped obtain for us all. We also have over 350 members who rarely, if ever, attend monthly meetings but are well aware of the benefits of supporting NARFE. All members, at whatever level of participation, are appreciated and vital to the continued improvement and protection of all active and retiree benefits. Thank you all for supporting NARFE.

*Wayne Stalnaker*

**From the 2nd Vice-Chair—Program:**

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I want everyone to have a great 2008.

**February 7th**—Memorial Service for deceased members during 2007.

**March 6th**—To be announced at the February meeting.

*Billie Oertel*

**From the Service Officer:**

In the event of a loss in the family and you need help getting in touch with OPM about the annuity, health and life insurance, please contact Rita Sundet at 682-6043.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Members**

Charles Biczak

Daniel Cooley

Louise Ostlund

**Family Members**

Mary Boyer, sister of Leonard Boyer & John Boyer

Ralph Dickson, brother of Dixie Dickson & Betty Lou Nakata

Charles Hall, brother-in-law of Verlin (Frances) Tompkins

Stan Inkman, husband of Greta Inkman

If you know of members who are hospitalized or ill at home, Marilyn Murray will send cards. Please call her at 351-3386. Thank you.

Rita Sundet

**Corrections to In Memorium in November 2007 *Bison***

Please accept my apology for misspelled names and wrong information. Should have been as follows:

Nellie Bretz  
 Mary Lingenfelter, sister of Eileen Quinley  
 Marvin Boyd, father of Boni Lages

Delores Vargas, Editor

**From the Treasurer:**

**Beginning Balance, 4 Dec 07, Checking Acct: \$ 1,653.91**

**Receipts:**

Christmas Dinner (132 reservations @ \$12)	1,536.00
Donations from members	49.00
Raffle at Christmas Party	268.00

**Total Receipts \$ 1,853.00**

**Disbursements:**

Flower Garden for Christmas Dinner, live poinsettias	139.15
Program (Claudette Walker)	250.00
City of Leavenworth (includes hall rental, \$135, dinner \$1,188, Tax & Gratuity \$181.76)	1,504.76

NARFE labels (*Bison* mailing) 10.00

**Total Disbursements: \$ 1,903.91**

**Ending Balance \$ 1,603.00**

As of 31 Dec 07, savings account: \$ 1,312.30

Certificate: \$ 1,041.39 (maturity date 4 Feb 08)

There are no monies due PAC or ALZ (all proceeds have been distributed to the respective chapter and federation coordinators).

**Memo Information for Christmas Party:**

Income from 132 dinner reservations @ \$12 \$ 1,536.00

**Expenses:**

LV Community Center Hall	135.00
Dinner	1,188.00
* Entertainment (Claudette Walker)	250.00
** Table Prizes (live poinsettias)	139.15
*** Attendance prizes of \$100 (4 @ \$25)	100.00

This money came from the monthly income from the Ways & Means at Chapter meetings.

Amount used from the treasury 339.15

**Total Disbursements: \$ 1,903.91**

**Ending Balance, 31 Dec 07 \$ 1,603.00**

The wine and refreshments were donated by a member.

Jean Cooney, Outgoing Treasurer

**Alzheimer's Report:**

The January 2008 issue of *Woman's Day* had an article about several myths regarding Alzheimer's.

"1. *You can't do anything to reduce your risk.* Age is the biggest risk factor, but you can reduce the odds by exercising, staying socially connected, and continuing to use your mind and learn new things as you age. Eating a heart-healthy diet that's low in fat and cholesterol and rich in produce and omega-3 fatty acids may also help.

"2. *If my parents had Alzheimer's I'm going to get it.* Only a few hundred families around the world carry certain genes that guarantee the development of Alzheimer's.

"3. *If I start misplacing my keys and wallet frequently, I'm doomed.* It's normal to become a little forgetful as you age. If you have Alzheimer's, you'll make major mistakes, such as reintroducing yourself to someone you just met a minute ago or getting lost in your neighborhood.

"Maria C. Carrillo, Ph.D., director of medical and scientific relations at the Alzheimer's Association in Chicago states, 'We're on the cusp of major breakthroughs. In three to four years, we may have a treatment for Alzheimer's that, will slow down the progression of the disease dramatically.'"

At our Federation Convention last year our Alzheimer's goal for each member was set at \$4.00. Our chapter's total for 2007 was \$1,690.74. Of that amount \$606 was made at the convention (quilt and items donated by members for the Silent Auction), Forrest Holderman's \$200 challenge, picnic raffle \$65, and the Blessings Tax made \$437.10. We also had donations at monthly meetings. We really worked to meet our goal this year. This is the closest we have come to reaching our goal, BUT, we were about \$200 short. I do want to thank those members who so faithfully give each month and I want to thank those who gave to the Blessings Tax (by the way, I didn't dream up this idea, it came from the Federation):

Margaret Arring, Jack & Mary Angello, Robert & Jane Arevelo, Louis Aull, Katherine Boughton, Virginia Brown, Lois Clark, Mary Clary, Jean Cooney, Pat & Edith Downey, D. F. Gillett, Diane & Dick Hall, Alene Hamm, Betty Heintzleman, Faye Hlasney, Greta Inkman, Sherma Johnston, Janette Labee, Bonie & Bill Lages, Nellie LaMont, Sandra McMahan, Ethel Meredith, Dorothy Medill, Marilyn & Don Murray, Sy Nyhart, Billie Oertel, Eileen & Vernon Quinley, Betty Reed, Bill Strobel, Eileen Sturgis, Rita Sundet, Norma Tarr, Dolores & John Vossmer and Halene White.

Please continue to help Alzheimer's. Happy New Year to everyone.

Helen Gallagher

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## *Anniversary Congratulations*

**60 years**

Wilbur (Bill) and Geraldine Elcock

**50 years**

William and Bonie Lages



“Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 TLB

***Take time this Valentines Day to tell your family and friends that you love them!***

### ***Calendar of Coming Events***

Feb. 7	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: Memorial Service for 2007 deceased members.	March 27	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.
Feb. 28	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.	April 3	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: TBA
March 6	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: To Be Announced at Feb. meeting.	April 24	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.
			May 1	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: TBA
			May 29	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.

**NOTE:** Chapter meetings are held in the Lincoln Room, MidAmerican Bank & Trust.

Executive Committee Meetings are held at the Leavenworth Public Library the last Thursday of each month at 9:15 a.m.

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED  
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
1002 N. Broadway  
Leavenworth, KS 66048

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
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*God Bless  
Our  
Troops!*