

THE BISON
BUFFALO BILL CHAPTER 27
NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

When: Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Doors open at 5:15 p.m.

Where: Heritage Center, 109 Delaware

Cost: \$12.00 for Members & Guests

MENU

Fried Chicken and Brisket
Potato Salad, Pasta Salad and Cole Slaw
Assorted Desserts
Hot Rolls and Butter
Coffee and Iced Tea

Note: There is a ramp that makes the Heritage Center handicap-accessible. Also, plenty of free parking.

There will be drawings for gift certificates and door prizes.

**NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED WITHOUT A
RESERVATION!!! SIGN UP NOW!!!**

Reservations: Eileen Sturgis
538 McDonald Rd.,
Leavenworth, KS 66048

For more information, phone: 682-5847.

Cut-off Date: July 31, 2011

Reservations are made when check or cash is submitted. If check is made out to NARFE, it will be cashed AFTER the dinner; if made out to Eileen Sturgis, it will be cashed right away, so you will receive your cancelled check faster.

Please include, on a separate piece of paper, the name(s) of member(s) and guest(s). Also indicate that check is for Annual Picnic.

Thank You!!! See you there!! Eileen Sturgis

From the President:

Greetings to NARFE Members! We had a wonderful meeting in June with Walter Germann, Federation Service Officer, from Junction City, talking about the paperwork necessary for changes to your status. We need to know about what to do upon death, change of beneficiary, and other forms that need to go to OPM. See Dick Hall's Service Officer report on page 2.

Members discussed some options about publicity and getting the truth out about Active and Retired Federal Employees' earned benefits. Many opportunities are provided to send information directly to our Congressional members and the President. As most of you know, we need to join together to alert Congress about current proposed legislation and the impact on lives of Federal employees. We need to share information with others to encourage them to become members and attend meetings to keep informed on the latest proposals—both state and national. We hope to have a speaker educating us on legislative issues and how to respond in the future.

Come to the Annual Picnic and meet other active and retired federal employees while enjoying talking to old friends and make new ones. Good food and door prizes are provided. See you in August!

Diane Hall

Home phone: 913-651-1331

Cell phone: 913-704-8118

From the 1st VP—Membership:

The following information was taken from the May 2011 Recruiting & Retention Journal:

“Membership is Everyone’s Job! Recruiting can be the most challenging part of developing and maintaining an organization, and it is one of NARFE’s top priorities. NARFE depends upon interested and involved members for its recruitment success, realizing that each

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 Jerry Moran, 612 Kansas Ave, 66603 (785) 233-2503, www.moran.senate.gov. Sen Pat Roberts, 444 SE Quincy, Rm 392, 66683, (785) 295-2745, www.roberts.senate.gov; Rep. Lynn Jenkins, R-2nd Dist., 3550 SW Fifth St., 66601, (785) 234-5966. **NARFE member toll free line to Congress members:** 1-866-220-0044. **Kansas State (by Dist. at Statehouse, Topeka 66612, telephone (785) 296 + ext.):** Sen Tom Holland, R-3rd, 181 East, ext. 7372, tom.holland@senate.state.ks.gov; Sen Kelly Kultala, D-5th, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 7357, kelly.kultala@senate.state.ks.gov; Rep Owen Donohoe, R-39th, L27 Docking Building, ext. 7682, owen.donohoe@house.state.ks.gov; Rep Melanie Meier, D-40th, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 7630, melanie.meier@house.state.ks.us. Rep. Jana Goodman, D-41st, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 6014, jana.goodman@house.ks.gov; Rep Connie O'Brien, R-42nd, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 7656, connie.obrien@house.ks.gov. **State legislators hot line:** 1-800-432-3924.

new member brings fresh ideas and differing perspectives on how to realize organizational objectives.”

“Know What NARFE Stands For. If you don’t have a solid understanding of your organization’s goals, activities and purpose, how will you sell NARFE to your prospective members?”

“What is NARFE’s purpose? NARFE’s mission statement reads: ‘To support legislation beneficial to current and potential federal annuitants and to oppose legislation contrary to their interests. To promote the general welfare of current and potential federal annuitants by advising them with respect to their rights under retirement laws and regulations. To cooperate with other organizations and associations in furtherance of these general objectives.’”

Please help bring new members to NARFE. We need to recruit more members and have all our members contact their congressional representatives and the media to say that we are willing to do our part in sacrificing, but we refuse to be the only group targeted and made scapegoats.

Thank you for your assistance in identifying individuals who are eligible for membership and inviting them to our meetings.

Fran Gast

From the 2nd VP—Programs:

July—No Meeting.

Aug. 4—Annual Picnic at 6 p.m. See page 1.

Sept. 1—Lee & Judith Newman, Fire & Safety for your home.

Oct. 6—Gary Townsend, hopefully.

Nov. 3—Fall Festival at 11:30 a.m.

Dec. 1—To be announced. See November *Bison*.

Billie Oertel

From the 3rd VP—Service Officer

Our guest speaker in June was Walt Germann. As Federation Service Officer he assists local service officers and NARFE chapter members with questions about paperwork necessary during changes that need to be made. He recommended a pamphlet called *Be Prepared for Life’s Events*. This pamphlet, he feels, is the most comprehensive document detailing specific information needed for Federal retirees. Buffalo Bill chapter is attempting to provide its active members with this literature. If you are interested in receiving one, you can pick one up at any NARFE meeting.

During his presentation, he gave examples of working with people filing for death benefits, change of beneficiaries, and other unique circumstances. He has offered

to help with questions about paperwork in the event of changes that need to be filed with OPM.

Please contact me with questions you or a friend might have regarding Federal retirement. You do not have to be a NARFE member to receive assistance.

Dick Hall

From the Sunshine Officer:

If you know of members who are hospitalized or ill at home let me know and I will send cards. We would also like to recognize wedding anniversaries and need your help by furnishing us with that information. Please call me at 351-3386. Thank you.

Sick cards were sent to Eileen Sturgis and Rozwell Perkins. A birthday card was sent to Eileen Gallagher for her 90th birthday.

Marilyn Murray

IN MEMORIUM

Members

Katherine Boughton
Michael Heintzelman
Bessie Staten

Family Member

Joseph Knight, brother of Marilyn Murray

From the Legislative Chair:

We Are In A Hole!

Our country continues to operate without a budget. In order to avoid going over our \$14.3 trillion debt limit* which was reached in May, Treasury Secretary Geithner, began to borrow money from our solvent federal employees’ annuity trust fund (Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund). NARFE President Beaudoin noted that the fund is strong enough to save the nation from bankruptcy. That is true only until August when according to the latest computation that fund will be empty. At that time our fund will be like the Social Security Fund with a so-called ‘lockbox’ filled with nothing but IOUs! When or if that money is put back into our fund, it will be paid back with dollars that are worth less because of increased inflation. We do not know what the chance is of getting it refilled from the general fund. This cannot be defended and neither can we continue to dig the government spending hole deeper.

* Do not confuse the debt limit with the national unfunded liability debt which is over \$200 trillion.

The federal government does not make any money; they borrow it, tax it out of the economy, or print it. It is against the law for individuals to print and spend money and when government does it, inflation is the result. For instance the U.S. Energy Information Administration said the average retail price per gallon for gas in January 2009 was \$1.83 but 2¼ years later it was \$3.44—an 84% increase. Inflation is a hidden tax on citizens.

Should we increase the debt limit and continue to borrow or should we discontinue the runaway spending that causes the debt? When more taxes are levied the job creators and entrepreneurs leave the country and find a place where it is less expensive to run a business. This hurts our economy and causes yet more unemployment.

To continue to borrow money to fund programs is to admit that the federal government is running a Ponzi scheme. Good ole' Bernie Madoff got life in prison for his Ponzi scheme which is a financial 'pyramid' operation in which new amounts of money from new investors are needed to pay off the old investors. This is what happened to the Social Security Fund some years ago; and after Treasury Secretary Geithner gets done dipping his hands into our annuity trust fund we will soon be singing the same tune. This is why most in the non-retired generation do not anticipate they will collect payments from their trust retirement fund and they would like to have the system changed.

At the end of May neither the Senate nor the President had put forward a plan to save or strengthen Medicare and it had been 761 days since they should have passed a budget. The House of Representatives opposed the President's Medicare plan partially because a panel of 15 unelected bureaucrats would decide how much, or how little, Medicare will pay doctors and which services Medicare will, or will not, pay doctors to provide for their patients. The House of Representatives' budget plan ensures that there will be no change to Medicare for those who are now 55 or older.**

The U.S. Treasury reports the national debt limit in January 2009 was \$10.6 trillion and 2¼ years later was over \$14 trillion meaning that, "We have accumulated national debt at a rate *more than 27 times as fast as during the rest of our entire nation's history.*" Since we have reached the debt limit and are out of money it seems like common sense to cut spending for programs which have no basis in the Constitution.

** <http://budget.house.gov/fy2012budget/>

Donna Gillett

From the Alzheimer's Chair:

Forrest Holdeman attended our June meeting and spoke about his family's history of Alzheimer's. He stressed the importance of contributing to NARFE/

Current Holidays and the Constitution

In Robert Beardsley's June 4 *Leavenworth Times* newspaper column he promoted pride in our country by giving a short background on the season's national holidays. They are Memorial Day (remember when we called it Decoration Day?), Flag Day, June 14 to honor the "Flag's Birthday", and July 4th when the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence announcing their separation from Great Britain and the beginning of the United States in 1776. It was written almost wholly by Thomas Jefferson. The opening paragraphs state the idea of government based on the theory of natural rights from God.

The Constitution of the United States was agreed to by the people and amounts to a contract that the federal government will operate within the rules and the people will support it. It was signed in 1787. The first 10 Amendments are called the Bill of Rights and were added within two years to make a stronger guarantee of individual rights.

Our Constitution sets down the fundamental principles of government in this nation and is our law. Our founders gave the Constitution a *rigid* meaning in that it had superior sanction to ordinary laws of the land and is subject to a gradual process of amendment. This document will continue to serve our country well if we remember the price that was paid for it, study the founding documents, and respect and carry out the words written in it.

Rae for the U.S.A.

Alzheimer's Research to help end this dreadful disease.

As you all remember, Forrest has given us a **\$2200** challenge by picnic time which is coming up real soon in August. We didn't meet our challenge last year so let's try our best to make it this year. Forrest said he would donate \$100 for the research, \$100 if we have 5 members (or whomever) to donate \$100 each (and we have 6!) and lastly, \$150 if we raise the \$2200. Folks, we only need **\$546.26** so let's make this challenge a "hot one" this year. To you members who live out of town we accept donations—we need your help. Just send your donations to me at 1703 Dakota St, Leavenworth, KS 66048.

Make out checks to: **NARFE/Alzheimer's Research**

As we go to press there have been 12 Blessings Tax received amounting to \$157.05. This has also been added to our challenge.

PAAD: Pennies Against Alzheimer's Disease. We have received 1,017 pennies since picnic time last year. This has also been added to our challenge. The penny jar is always on the main table. Pennies do add up so if you are unable to contribute anything higher we are more than happy for those pennies. Every cent counts!

There are books for sale at the monthly meetings. Paperbacks are 25 cents and the large, like-new books are \$1.00. If you have books at home and want to get rid of them please bring to our meetings to sell. I'll be more than happy to pick them up. Give me a call at 682-3138.

Helen Gallagher

**Start every day with a smile and
get it over with.
W. C. Fields**



*Anniversary
Congratulations!*

**65 years
Betty & Warren Reed**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 23	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.	Sept. 1	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: Speakers Lee & Judith Newman, Home Fire & Safety.
July	No Meeting		Sept. 29	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.
July 28	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.	Oct. 6	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: Gary Townsend
Aug. 4	6 p.m.	Chapter meeting: Annual Picnic	Oct. 27	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.
Aug. 25	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.	Nov. 3	11:30 a.m.	Fall Festival. Details in Nov. <i>Bison</i> .

NOTE: Chapter meetings are held in the **Heritage Center, 109 Delaware** at 1:30 p.m.

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
1107 Wildwood
Leavenworth, KS 66048

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*God Bless
Our
Troops!*