



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



From the President:

I hope all NARFE Buffalo Bill Chapter 27 members have had a Happy Easter season and are looking forward to a summer full of work, play and enjoying fun with your family and friends.

At our last meeting we had available letters to our Senators and Representative in Kansas urging them to sponsor or bring to the floor for passage during this 100th Congress—issues affecting Federal retirees.

For other members who were unable to attend the meeting, I am asking you to send letters or emails to your Senators and Representative in your own area regarding the issues beneficial for Federal retirees.

The following information will be helpful to write your letters or emails.

To your Senators:

S.206—This bill has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee which oversees Social Security issues in Senate. It was introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) in which she asserted “it’s time to give our nation’s public servants the full retirement in which they have earned and deserve.”

S.773—Premium Conversion legislation was introduced by Sen. John Warner (R-VA) and would allow civilian and military retirees to pay monthly health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis. Enactment requires changing the tax code and accomplishing this task would mean an annual federal tax savings of hundreds of dollars.

To your Representatives:

HR.82—Introduced by Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) would repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Program (WEP). These two provisions of the Social Security Act can reduce the SS benefit of certain public sec-

tor retirees, including retired federal employees, “Social Security Fairness Act of 2007”.

HR.1110—This legislation was introduced by Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA). The Davis bill would amend the tax code to allow federal civilian and military retirees, as well as active duty military employees to pay their health insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis as active federal civilian employees already do.

In addition to writing letters and emailing your congressman, please remember to send money for the Legislative Political Action Committee. A suggestion in the April *NARFE* magazine was \$15 or \$20; or whatever one is able to afford.

Our Kansas State Convention is coming up at the end of April and Chapter 27 will be represented by your President, 1st VP Wayne Stalnaker, 3rd VP Billie Oertel, Alzheimer's Chair Helen Gallagher, Parliamentarian Betty Phillips, Legislative Chairman Forrest Holdeman and a new NARFE member, Agnes Vossmer-Meza.

I need everyone to think about how they might be able to contribute to our NARFE organization—I invite you to contribute your expertise in working on or with the nominating committee and/or volunteering for an office in NARFE this coming year. Our President and Treasurer Offices will be vacant. Please try to attend our meetings and donate your services to keep our Chapter alive. I have enjoyed my time as President, but the calendar tells me coming this September, I will have reached 81 years and I believe it's time to step aside and let a

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. Sen Pat Roberts, 444 SE Quincy, Rm 392, 66683, (785) 295-2745, 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; Sen Mark Gilstrap, D-5th, 138 North, ext. 7357, gilstrap@senate.state.ks.us; Rep Owen Donohoe, R-39th, 110 South, ext. 7682, donohoe@house.state.ks.us; Rep Candy Ruff, D-40th, 278 West, ext. 7647, ruff@house.state.ks.us; Rep Marti Crow, D-41st, 284 West, ext. 7673, crow@house.state.ks.us; Rep Kenny Wilk, R-42nd, 426 South, ext. 7660, wilk@house.state.ks.us. **State legislators hot line:** 1-800-432-3924.

younger candidate come forward.

Have a wonderful summer. Remember this is a wonderful country we're living in—it may not be perfect, but we are far better off than most people in this world. We all need to appreciate having worked for the Federal government—everyone needs to get out and VOTE, keep honest people in Congress and our Public Offices, stand up for what you believe in and get involved. God Bless America!

Dolores A Vossmer

Help us, please!

Are you celebrating a wedding anniversary? If so, please let us know, so that we can acknowledge it in the Bison. For those who are celebrating 50 years or more, we will forward the information on to NARFE magazine. They publish wedding anniversaries including chapter number and state.

We have no way of knowing your anniversaries unless they are published in the Times or someone passes on the information, which, sad

From the 1st Vice-Chair—Membership:

Here it is again, almost time for our state convention. It will be interesting to hear and share ideas with members across the state.

I am sure we will hear more discussion concerning member recruitment & retention, uniform dues, one member-one vote and probably mandatory chapter membership at our state convention. I heard a lot of opinions at the National Convention in Albuquerque concerning these issues and I have considered many options.

Uniform dues, I feel is mandatory. But, I do not support distributing funds to each and every chapter equally based on member count. I feel some formula rewarding the federations and chapters based on recruitment efforts and successes would be more appropriate.

I want to encourage Kansas to put forth a proposal on uniform dues that will obtain the support necessary for passage at the next national convention. The other issues probably need a bit more

time to develop.

Regarding member recruiting, I plan to place an information booth at the Leavenworth County Fair in Tonganoxie in August of this year. There are a significant number of federal employees and retirees in the county. I feel this will be an excellent location to educate the federal family on the benefits and necessity of NARFE for their future financial security. Consider contributing some time to this effort and help our chapter and organization grow and gain strength. More discussion coming on this project at the May meeting.

Wayne Stalnaker

From the 2nd Vice-Chair—Program:

May—Mikey Stafford from Master Gardeners, will give us some tips and ideas for our flowers and gardens. I know I need plenty of advice.

June—Lawyer Ron Bates will be our speaker. He is going to enlighten us about wills, living wills, estate planning, etc.

July—**NO MEETING.**

August—Annual Picnic. More info on this at a later date.

Have a great summer!

Billie Oertel

From the Service Officer:

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.

With a chapter membership of approximately 490, it is important that we be able to meet needs as they arise. Please contact me when you are aware of the passing of one of our members, their spouse, or a family member at 682-3925. It is easy to miss someone and that is not a good thing. I appreciate your help in this area.

Billie Oertel, Program Chair, has an interesting and informative program for us at our June meeting and I want to encourage you to make every effort to attend. It is so important for us, as senior citizens, to make sure our affairs are in order for our loved ones. In the past year I've helped family members who have been left with loved ones affairs not completely in order and seen how difficult it is for them.

Delores Vargas



*Anniversary
Congratulations*

65 years

Lucian & Carmen Gabrick

PERKS OF BEING OVER 60

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. No one expects you to run anywhere.
3. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
4. Things you buy now won't wear out.
5. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
6. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
7. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.

Calendar of Coming Events

May 3	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: Mikey Stafford, from Master Gardeners	June 28	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting
May 31	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting	JULY	NO MEETING	
June 7	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: Ron Bates, lawyer, Wills, Estate Planning, etc.	July 26	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting
			Aug. 2	TBA	Annual Picnic; details TBA.
			Aug. 30	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
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Leavenworth, KS 66048

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*God Bless
Our
Troops!*