

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

From the President:

Happy Spring! NARFE members continue to be a presence with the Congress in Washington, D.C. There were 291 contacts to Representatives on the last legislation. We need to keep informed and keep in contact with all legislators. Wayne is keeping us up to date and you will want to read his article in this issue of the *Bison*.

All your officers are doing a great job on your behalf and I hope you will come to the meetings and support them. The Annual Picnic and Fall Festival will be coming up as well as informative programs planned for our regular meetings.

Seven members from Chapter 27 will be attending the Kansas Federation Convention in Salina on April 22-24. Many nice items have been donated for the auction where the proceeds benefit Alzheimer's Research. Thanks to all who participated!

Diane Hall

Home phone: 913-651-1331

Cell phone: 913-704-8118

From the 1st VP—Membership:

Have you been on the NARFE Website lately? You can always get the most up to date information there regarding what Congress is doing that will affect Federal Employees, both active and retired.

You might also mention the website to

people that are eligible to join NARFE and encourage them to take a look and see what NARFE offers them for their membership fees.

The latest news on changes in:

- retirement benefits—Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS)—insurance and other benefits;
- information to help you make the best *pre*- and *post*-retirement choices;
- an award-winning monthly magazine;
- one-on-one access to a team of retirement benefits experts;
- and membership discounts for travel, financial services, insurance, moving and emergency services;
- membership also includes eligibility for scholarships and disaster relief funds.

Continue to pass the word about what NARFE can do for both active and retired federal employees!

Do you have e-mail capability? If so, I would like to send you your *BISON* via e-mail versus mailing it. We save approximately \$10.00 a year for each *BISON* we e-mail instead of snail-mail and we currently have 25 members that are getting the *BISON* via e-mail. If you will give

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.

me your e-mail address, I'll send your *BISON* via e-mail. My e-mail is fgast@kc.rr.com.

Fran Gast

From the 2nd VP—Programs:

May 3—Reports on Federation Convention.

June 7—TBA.

July—NO MEETING

Aug. 2—Annual Picnic, 6 p.m., Heritage Center.

Billie Oertel

From the 3rd VP—Service Officer

I was asked by one of our members how she might find out or review her Federal Group Life Insurance Policy. When looking up this information for her, I thought why not share this with you. Federal Group Life Insurance is filed with OPM (phone 1-888-767-6738). When you call this phone number, OPM customer service persons are able to access your Life Insurance records. OPM recommends that the best times to call are before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m. weekdays. I have had the best luck calling shortly after 7:00 a.m. on a Wednesday or Thursday.

Things to have available when talking to OPM:

- your name and date of birth,
- date retired,
- civil service ID number.

If you have questions please give me a call.

Dick Hall
913-651-1331

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.

If you have any extra sick or sympathy cards, we could use them. Bring them to the next meeting. Thank you.

Sick cards were sent to Eileen Sturgis and Grace "Cissy" Lewis. A 90th birthday card was sent to Grace "Cissy" Lewis

Marilyn Murray

IN MEMORIUM

Members

Edith Austill William Cook
Leonard "Pat" Meyer

Family Members

Robert Huhn, brother of Wilfred Huhn & Eleanor Sowder
Victoria Turner, daughter of Donna Vargas

From the Legislative Chair:

Some of the ideas being discussed concerning federal budget cuts and even being implemented can be vary scary to federal employees and retirees.

The Budget Reduction Committee has recommended a cut of ten billion dollars from the federal retirement program over the next ten years. These cuts, if enacted, could come from salary freezes, adjusting active employee's annuity contributions, computations, and increased service time and/or age requirements. Retirees could be affected by reduced or suspended COLA's, contributions to or changes in health and life insurance benefits. Or any combination of any or all of the above.

I don't expect to see any single sweeping proposal attacking federal employee or retiree earned benefits. But, I do expect what will be presented as small consistent take backs from what is considered the least vocal sub-groups

at the time.

What I consider an easy and excellent way to stay current on the fast changing political scene is via NARFE's "Government Electronic Messaging System" (GEMS). Emails are sent to participants as breaking and concerning events develop. To get on the mailing list and benefit from it, go to NARFE's web-site, www.narfe.org

If you don't have a computer, go to the library, a grandchild or a friend and try it. There is no better self-protection than current knowledge and action.

Wayne Stalaker

From the Alzheimer's Chair:

A Strategy to Fight Alzheimer's

A recent Associated Press article reported that the Obama administration called Alzheimer's "one of the most feared health conditions" as it issued a draft of a new national strategy to fight the rise in the mind-destroying disease. More than 5 million Americans already have Alzheimer's or similar dementia, a toll expected to reach up to 16 million by 2050—along with sky-rocketing medical and nursing home bills—because the population is aging so rapidly.

The government's top goal: find effective ways to treat Alzheimer's by 2025. Today treatments only temporarily ease symptoms. Scientists know that Alzheimer's brews for years before symptoms appear, but they are working to find better medications or at least stall the disease's emergence which has been frustratingly slow. It is clear that families need help right away to care for affected loved ones. As many as half of today's Alzheimer's sufferers haven't been formally diagnosed because of the stigma and misinformation.

I appreciate your continued support for Alzheimer's research.

Helen Stewart

Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and

effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated,

and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath

or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and

the persons or things to be seized."

Can a governmental official come to your house and search it? Can the official search your car or your brief case/purse? NO, not unless the search is supported by probable cause and the official shows you a warrant signed by a neutral magistrate or judge. Search and arrest warrants must be limited to the specific information supplied to the issuing court. Searches and seizures without a warrant are not considered unreasonable if one of the specifically established and well-delineated exceptions to the warrant requirement applies. For instance a minimal intrusion on people's privacy may be required when the need of the society is great.

Can a law officer detain you even momentarily without reasonable suspicion? As a general rule no. In a 1961 U.S. Supreme Court case Amendment IV became applicable to state governments by way of the Due Process Clause of Amendment XIV. This was applied in two U.S. Supreme Court cases: one from Michigan which allowed sobriety checkpoints and another a United States case which allowed immigration checkpoints.

Rae for the U.S.A.

From the PAC Officer:

When I first joined NARFE in Topeka around 2000, I didn't know about PAC. I was thinking that it had to do with the electronic



game called PACMAN. I soon learned differently. To be tangential for a moment, I do enjoy coming to the NARFE meetings where old colleagues enjoy getting together again. That's one thing

I miss about Topeka and seeing my old colleagues at those NARFE meetings. But NARFE is a PAC (Political Action Committee), formed to defend the Federal civilian work force and for those of us retired federal workers. We need to support PAC with our money and I will report on this more following the NARFE Federation Convention.

Dick Hall

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 26 9:15 a.m. Executive Committee meeting.
 May 2 1:30 p.m. Chapter meeting: Reports on the Federation Convention.
 May 31 9:15 a.m. Executive Committee meeting.
 June 7 1:30 p.m. Chapter meeting: TBA.

June No Executive Committee meeting.
 July **No Chapter Meeting.**
 July 26 9:15 a.m. Executive Committee meeting.
 Aug. 2 6:00 p.m. Annual Picnic
 Aug. 30 9:15 a.m. Executive Committee meeting.

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.



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