



The Shawnee Signal
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National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
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www.narfe-chapter1162.org

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President's News – Louise Lloyd

As I begin to write this article, the Kansas Federation convention is now over. The convention was hosted beautifully by the Salina NARFE chapter. The convention was very well organized, and had such a great turnout of their members helping at the convention. The seven members from our chapter who attended the convention were very observant of various aspects of this convention as we are the hosts for the April 2013 convention. I am hopeful that our chapter can put together a memorable convention for next year, and make everyone enjoy their visit to our area.

Bob Steinert, who does such an outstanding job as webmaster for our chapter website, has created a special page on the website for articles and information related to the Federation Convention, so I encourage you to visit the website to view this information. Also, our webmaster is constantly working to improve our website, trying to attract more visitors to our website, so special thanks to Bob Steinert for all the great work he does.

Election of officers was held at the convention, and several new officers were elected. Cindy Renee Blythe will continue as Federation President, and the 1st and only active employee to serve as a Federation President. Elizabeth Bornman, our chapter Secretary and Service Officer was elected as 1st Vice-President. Gwen Ketter from the Topeka chapter will take over the duties as Secretary. Louis Bornman, 1st Vice-President and Legislative Chair of our chapter was elected as Area 1 Vice-President. I want to thank Flo Biehl, our Immediate Past President, who has served as Area 1 Vice-President for the past two years.

At the convention, our special guest speaker was Paul Carew, NARFE National Vice-President. Paul was not able to attend the convention in person, but was able to communicate with us fortunately using SKYPE technology. Paul's remarks can be seen in their entirety on our chapter website. Overall, Paul's message was about the urgency of growing our NARFE membership, as well as retaining our existing NARFE members. Paul stated that "One would think the threats to the benefits of current and retired federal employees would be an attention getter sooner or later. Our message is, and always has been, that NARFE is the one Association dedicated to Fighting to protect our benefits".

Unfortunately our membership numbers continue to decrease. Our strength as an organization is greater when our membership numbers are greater. Paul stressed that "The best way to recruit new members is through personal contact" either in person or at minimum by phone." However, this is not just a job for the NARFE chapter officers, or Membership chair, but is something that all NARFE members can be involved in. If you know of other retired or active federal employees, I encourage you to reach out to them and let them know about NARFE, and the importance of being a NARFE member. The dues we pay is really minimal when you consider that our organization is the only organization fighting to protect your benefits.

Legislative News - NARFE Kansas Federation Convention – Louis Bornman 1st Vice-President, Legislative Chair

I was privileged to attend the NARFE Kansas Federation convention in Salina, KS 22-24 April, 2012. I found the Sunday legislative session and congressional discussion very informative. We had three representatives from the Kansas House of Representatives and a Staff member from U.S. Congressman Tim Huelskamp's Salina office present to talk briefly about what was going on at the state and national levels and to take questions/comments from the delegates present. Highlights of the state discussions included concerns about the budget. Among the issues addressed were educational funding and the high level of funding provided to the rest of the state from the higher population centers like Johnson County and Wichita; State Tax reforms and the exemption for federal retirement pensions; KS State employee pension plan changes; elimination of the state income tax and changing to a state sales tax. Most of these issues are still in flux and have not been finalized however we were able to relay our concerns that some of these changes would adversely affect federal retirees and encourage people to leave the state or not retire in Kansas to avoid serious tax increases. The state legislators seemed well aware of such impacts and had no desire to make such changes as may affect federal retirement pensions.

Congressman Huelskamp's staff member stated that the congressman had not voted for the house approved budget plan (The Path to Prosperity). I congratulated the Congressman because that budget plan and its attack on federal employee pay and benefits is a great example of mathematical illiteracy in America. It is bad enough that the US ranks 24th among nations of the world in the practical application of math skills without the US House of Representatives exemplifying that. It is a disservice to their positions, the people they serve and the nation. In their attack they compare the average income of American workers to the median income of Federal workers. These two measures are derived from completely different processes and do not correlate at all. They cannot be directly compared with each other. I guess Congress thinks the American public is too ignorant to understand the difference. Every Congressman who voted for that plan should be embarrassed and humiliated, especially Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins of the second district of Kansas as she is a CPA.

In Memoriam

Robert Craig

Welcome New Member

James Klemp

Sunshine Committee:

Contact Don Faidley if you know of any members who may be sick.

Future Meeting Dates/Activities:

May 22nd, Chapter meeting, 1:30 p.m. Overland Park Lutheran Church, 79th and Lowell.

June 8th, Executive Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

June 13th, Social Luncheon at Ryan's, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091.

June 26th, Luncheon meeting at Perkin's Restaurant, 87th & Nieman, from 11:45-2:15. We can order from the menu and the bill will be given individually which will not include tips." Program: Master Gardener

July 11th - Social Luncheon at Ryan's, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091.

July – No regular chapter meeting is scheduled for July.

August 8th, Social Luncheon at Ryan's, 1:00 p.m. RSVP Agnes Shellhammer, 913-432-0091