



2011 OFFICERS and CHAIRS

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Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Legislative Chair	John Surritte	785-856-0558
Sunshine	Reba Bryant	785-843-4407

MARCH 16th MEETING INFORMATION

Meet at Conroy's Pub. Program begins at noon, lunch (\$10) at 12:30, followed by a business meeting. Jack Jewell of the Douglas County Historical Society and Watkins Museum will speak.

Roger Lemmons is open to suggestions for April's program. (wear some green)

FEBRUARY 16th MEETING RECAP

Tom Kern, of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, presented an interesting and informative economic overview of developments in both Douglas County and Lawrence. He described projects in progress and possibilities for future development. Two current projects are Berry Plastics, producer of thermal soft plastic cups, which require less energy to produce and are more easily recycled. Berry's new warehouse and printing area will create 400 new jobs. Plasticon, Lawrence's first new manufacturing since 2000, purchased an East Hills Industrial Park building and will produce sterile vials. KU's nationally ranked #2 pharmaceutical school has developed 30% of cancer drugs in use. Research at KU is generating numerous spin-off pharmaceutical companies locating in Lawrence.

Future economic development has Lawrence, Topeka, Manhattan, K State, Washburn U, and KU partnered to develop marketing strategies to attract businesses to the "I 70 Corridor." Companies want utilities in place, a trained workforce, and good transportation infrastructure. Other possible future projects include developing farmland on east K10; multi-story retail, parking, and apartments on 8th & Vermont; and the riverfront in north Lawrence.

The Chamber needs to do a better job of educating residents of the positive effects of economic development. It also needs to address two issues: a) Lawrence's high percentage of residents with Bachelor degrees, but low percentage of those with technical training, and Douglas County is the only county in Kansas with no community college affiliation, and b) Conflicting land use views.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters is preparing a **VOTERS GUIDE** that will include a Q/A listing. NARFE members can submit questions for this guide. The deadline for submitting questions for the VOTERS GUIDE is **March 23, 2011**.

VOTER EDUCATION COALITION FORUMS

A **School Board Forum** and a **City Commission Forum**, are tentatively scheduled for March 14th and March 16th. These will be evening events held at City Hall with Ann Gardner, reporter for Public TV and the Journal World, moderating. NARFE members can submit questions for these forums to Tom Huntzinger by March 2nd or at the latest March 3rd, as VEC's deadline is March 4th.

In addition, a **Candidate Fair** is planned for mid-morning Saturday, April 2nd, at Carnegie Library (9th & Vermont). Candidates will set up information booths and meet the public. Election day is April 5.

The City Hall events are awaiting Channel 6 taping crew's final confirmation. The Carnegie Library Fair needs final confirmation by the City who owns the Library. So it's close but still not final.

The Voter Education Coalition (VEC) is a non-partisan organization that includes 19 community organizations. Its mission is to promote civil dialogue and broad participation of citizens and candidates through community forums. More information about the organization and upcoming events can be found on Facebook or contact VEC co-chairs: Lucas Houk- 785-842-3627 or Pattie Johnston – 785-843-3833, ext. 115.

SUNSHINE CHAIR Reba Bryant

Happy birthday to Clara Arnold!!! She's a St. Patrick's Day girl. Please continue to let me know about illness, special birthdays, celebrations, or honors our members receive, so I can send an appropriate card. Email: rebabryant@sbcglobal.net

KANSAS FEDERATION CONVENTION

Sunday, April 10 at 2 pm –Tuesday, April 12, noon at the Courtyard by Marriot Convention Center, 310 Hammons Drive, Junction City, KS. Registration fee is \$11. To get the special room rate of \$84/night, **you must make room reservations by March 11, 2011, which is prior to the Chapter's March meeting.**

Any member may attend the Federation Convention, but **all Convention registration forms must be to Dianne Throop, Chapter Secretary, by the meeting on March 16th.** In addition to the 2 At-Large Delegates, Tom Huntzinger and John Surritte, the Chapter can have 5 more Delegates. Please consider being a delegate.

The Chapter has covered meals and registration fees for Delegates, in the past. Once registered, Dianne will issue you a pass, which you must present at the convention registration table. If you have questions, please contact Dianne by email at d.throop@sbcglobal.net or phone 785-841-1408.

Committee assignments are made prior to Convention. If you are interested in a Committee assignment submit an application through Dianne Throop.

The Chapter needs to have 1 Door Prize (\$10-15 value) and Alzheimer's Auction items (\$5 minimum) donated. If you are willing to provide an item, it must be new or of antique quality. Tickets for drawings will be available at next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Betty Scribner

Welcome new members Lee Ann Duver and Cheryl Travis who attended the February meeting.

The Chapter brochure has been printed and 100 have been placed in a Shawnee Mission IRS branch and the Lenexa National Archives and Records Agency. Both site visits were positive and led to contacts for health fairs and more possibilities for displaying NARFE materials.

The materials include the Chapter 378 brochure, applications with a list of area NARFE Chapters, the *10 Worst Mistakes a Federal Employee Can Make* brochure, NARFE magazines, and information on NARFE's accomplishments during the 111th Congress for both active and retired personnel. The information was placed in areas that will attract employees.

Future recruiting plans include distributing information locally and focusing on educating active federal employees about the possible dangers

to our benefits and the importance of NARFE. Plans also include continuing to visit agencies in Lawrence, Topeka, Manhattan, and Leavenworth. We are blitzing the agencies to inform active federal workers about NARFE with our 1000 brochures!

Plans are being made to write a letter encouraging Chapter 378 members to attend the monthly meetings. Last year, the meetings averaged 19 attendees per meeting. It is important to attract members, as there are many jobs to be accomplished to keep the chapter active. There are also many members who have abilities and time to assist with these jobs but they may not be aware of how important their presence can be to the meetings. We also understand that it just may not be part of their life to attend the meetings and we sincerely appreciate the fact there are many retired federal workers who are willing to be members of NARFE. A membership application is available online at www.narfe.org or contact me at 785/843-7481 or Email: elisabethscribner@yahoo.com

HEADS UP

1) NARFE Legislative Update #748, 2/12/11

a) **Fight Back by Telephone:** All NARFE members can leverage the March 8th congressional visits of fellow NARFE members by planning a toll free call to their Congressional delegation on March 8th. Page 10 of the March NARFE magazine provides a **CUT AND SAVE feature** with complete information including a toll free number to reach U.S. Capital switchboard to reach your representative and senators and a list of things to say to the congressmen. March 8th has been designated as the day to contact your congressmen and express your concerns about the attacks on our benefits. Attendees of the NARFE Legislative Training course will be visiting Capital Hill on March 8th and NARFE is urging members to call their congressmen that same day. **Check your MARCH NARFE MAGAZINE for complete information and the "Cut and Save" on pg. 10.**

b) NARFE is launching an aggressive national campaign: "**Protect America's Heartbeat.**" Visit www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org, to send NARFE's message to your congressional delegation, one Representative and both Senators. Other content will also become available soon.

2) **TAX HOTLINE** established by the Office of Personnel Management in response to high call volume. Retirees can call to change the federal tax

withholding on their monthly annuity payments. The number is **800-307-8298**. Dave Snell, Retirement Benefits, dsnell@narfe.org

3) **“NARFE Responds to Attacks on Federal Workers and Retirees!”** Check the March issue of NARFE Magazine, pg 38, for a special message from NARFE President, Joseph A. Beaudoin.

4) Quarterly News for NARFE Leaders Vol, 8 No. 1, January 2011, pg 3: *Some NARFE members may receive a letter from the U.S. Treasury urging them to sign up for either **Direct Deposit or Direct Express**. A provision of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 required the Treasury Department to stop issuing paper checks to federal beneficiaries.*

The Direct Deposit method has been available for many years, but more recently the Treasury Department launched the Direct Express program. This program, originally available only to individuals receiving Social Security and SSI benefits who did not have bank accounts, is now available to federal annuitants. The Direct Express program features an account into which benefits are deposited, and a Debit Master Card is issued. To have access to the deposited benefit payments, the individual uses the Debit Master Cards at ATMs to withdraw cash and to pay bills.

The handwriting is on the wall—soon, all recipients of federal benefits will be required to either have their benefits sent by Direct Deposit or use the Direct Express card.

5) The **NARFE Congressional Directory** for the 112th Congress will be available in late March or early April. The NARFE magazine will include an order form.

6) **Web Gems: Official web sites of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate**, www.house.gov and www.senate.gov, provide facts about the chamber and act as gateways to many other web sites. (A list of Senate office suites, at http://www.senate.gov/general/resources/pdf/senators_phone_list.pdf List of Senators, providing mailing address, phone number and web form: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?OrderBy=state&Sort=ASC

\$1000 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Details in *MARCH NARFE MAGAZINE* pg 45-46. Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and stepchildren of current NARFE members are eligible. Application deadline is April 30, 2011.

LEGISLATIVE

John Surritte

The NARFE Kansas Federation hired a public relations and lobbying organization and is developing aggressive strategies for a meeting with representatives Yoder and Jenkins. The Federation requests the Chapter identify members to attend these meetings when scheduled. A copy of “Talking Points,” items NARFE wants to bring to the attention of the Congressmen, is available on line. Contact Tom Huntzinger if interested.

tomhuntzinger@sunflower.com

SPECIAL EVENT SUGGESTION

Elaine Seeman and Roger Lemmons of the Special Events Committee will investigate the possibility of hosting an evening “anniversary celebrations” for both NARFE’s 90th and Kansas’ 150th. The event may provide an opportunity to not only have current Chapter 378 members get together, but include potential NARFE members who are active or retired federal employees.

If you have suggestions/ideas for this event or know of potential members to contact, please notify Elaine (785-331-2280) or Roger (785-840-9594).

ALZHEIMER’S FUND

John Scott

Bring items for the State Convention Alzheimer’s auctions, to the March 16th meeting. Items should be new or of antique quality and have a minimum value of \$5. One of the delegates will deliver them to the Kansas Federation Convention. Last year, the Chapter’s donated items brought \$125 at the auctions.

CHECK YOUR MARCH NARFE MAGAZINE

In addition to contact information for your congressmen pg. 10, Life Membership application pg. 36, and Scholarship Application pg. 45-46, the MARCH NARFE MAGAZINE announces a *Members Only online Retirement Calculator and Financial Planning eSeminar*. Pg. 39.

KUDOS & THANK YOU’S TO:

- ★ **Betty Scribner** for providing information to potential NARFE members for any area chapter.
- ★ **Bob Duver** for having his wife join NARFE.
- ★ **Cheryl Travis** new member volunteering to assist Betty in recruiting efforts.
- ★ **Clara Arnold** for continuing as treasurer while the Chapter tries to fill the position.
- ★ **Beverly Kipp** for bringing new member Cheryl Travis to the February meeting.

---Report deserving members to Wendy Hambly---