



Kaw Blue Communiqué

Volume No. 15 Issue No. 2

Manhattan, KS Date: June, 2009

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Past Pres.	Don Erickson	539-6004
News Editor	Judy Grossnickle	537-2457

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

(By: Marjory Mortvedt, Program Chairman)

Please plan to attend your meeting. We meet at the Bamboo Buffet, 2304 Stagg Hill Road, Manhattan, KS, next to Briggs. Lunch is served at 11:15AM.

Wednesday, September 16
Doug Tippin
“Rural Schools in Riley County”

Wednesday, October 21
Pamela Maxwell
Federal Employee Program BC/BS
“What’s New This Year”

Wednesday, November 18
Barb Pretzer
NARFE’s National Alzheimer’s Chair
“Alzheimer’s Update”

**SUMMER VACATION
NO MEETINGS IN
JULY OR AUGUST**

Please say “YES” if asked to run for a chapter officer’s position!



**Kaw-Blue
Leg Nets 80
bucks for
Alzheimer’s
Research!**

ALHEIMER’S NOTES

(By Elaine Liddell, Alzheimer's Chairman)

Thank you to all who worked to make the Alzheimer’s auctions at the Kansas Federation Convention so successful; to those who donated, to the volunteers, and to everyone who bid. Our chapter raised \$905.00 from our donated items.

A special thank you to **Marjorie and Kenneth Osbourn** who donated the beautiful quilt that raised \$549.00 for Alzheimer’s. Kenny Osbourn drew the winning ticket for the quilt. . . and the winner was **Larry Morgan!** **Mary Fritzson** sold many, many chances on the quilt, and also the most advertisements for the Program Booklet. Way to go, Mary!

Thank you to **Dennis Grossnickle and Larry Morgan** for setting up a “photo studio” and for taking photos of convention attendees. The “Photography Studio” raised \$100.00 for Alzheimer’s Research.

The auctions and convention wouldn’t have been successful without the support, hard work and effort by the members of our chapter. We deserve the accolades we’ve received.

At our garage sale last fall, a plastic mannequin leg fell off the back of a truck. After several calls to the owners, Michael Cardella with collaboration from Kenny Osbourn and Helen Selvide the “leg lamp” was conceived to be an auction item at our convention.

Elaine Liddell

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(By: Dick McChesney, Chairman)

NARFE's primary goal is to maintain our current benefits and this is being achieved. Federal retirees have not had any reduction in benefits since 1992. Compare that to the private sector. Also, it emphasizes how diligent we must remain to maintain our earned benefits. That does not mean, we should not try to achieve benefits which we are also entitled to. Recently Social Security and Medicare trustees reported to Congress that Medicare "Part A" which pays hospital bills for some 40 million Americans, is expected to become insolvent in 2017. In addition Social Security trust fund will only pay benefits 75 cent on the dollar starting in 2037. Both of these projections are 2-4 years earlier than previously reported. While this report puts added pressure on Congress to cut spending on all entitlement programs, including federal civilian retirements, it may provide a vehicle in which to attach proposals to repeal or reform the Social Security Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). Some House and Senate leaders have held tentative talks on moving a Social Security reform bill as early as this Fall. Should this happen we must tell Congresswoman Jenkins and Senators Brownback and Roberts that it is imperative to correct these inequities in Social Security reform legislation. A good time to contact them will be during NARFE Advocacy Month, August through Labor Day which is the Summer recess for Congress, if not for Social Security reform legislation, but, for any issues and good rapport.

A suggestion: Join the Rapid Response Team and stay informed by receiving NARFE Legislative Hotline messages automatically by e-mail. See Page 14, June NARFE magazine for instructions.

CONVENTION 2009 REPORT

(By: Chuck Marr, Co-Chairman)

The Kansas NARFE Federation convention is now history. By all indications it was a success! A 'success' can be determined in a lot of ways and certainly this convention was successful by a number of measures.

First, it was a financial success. At this reporting we don't know exactly the amount since some proceeds can be kept by our local chapter and some are 'split' with the Federation but we certainly made some money that can be used to support chapter members attending national or regional events as well as other options that we can determine in the future. Second, the convention was a success in participation and attendance-bringing a good number of delegates to Manhattan. Our objective was to keep the costs reasonable to encourage participation and we had more participants in this convention than at several previous ones. Partly due to the excellent involvement of many of our local chapter members in supporting the convention. Finally, the convention was successful because a large number of our members were involved in assisting in a variety of ways. Our teamwork and organization was apparent.

Our convention raised a substantial amount for the Alzheimer's Research. Your donations to the auction were great! The Osbourn's quilt was spectacular (and we even had one of our chapter members win it!) The convention ran smoothly without any major 'glitches' and the Clarion staff were most helpful in accommodating our needs. The opening session, with the Ft Riley color guard, was first-class. The decorations were 'out of sight'. Your involvement in information and hospitality was appreciated by all. The Monday banquet was one that will be talked about for many years at future-with Patricia's piano music and Ron Wilson's performance. We even had a congratulatory note from National NARFE President Baptiste on that one!!

In a final wrap up, thanks to every one of you that assisted in large and small ways. It was a great three days for our chapter and we have a right to be proud of what we did! The Manhattan convention will be one to be remembered for a long time to come.

DUES REFERENDUM CALLED

(By: Judy Grossnickle)

Dues Referendum has been called by the National President, Margaret Baptiste. Many years ago our chapter was asked to vote on a Dues Referendum which increased our dues and offered several incentives to encourage a long term commitment to NARFE by offering the cheapest rate to those who elected to use dues withholding, and in ascending order for a three year renewal, two year renewal and a one year renewal. The more years you committed to, the cheaper the dues were. What this boils down to is a confusing accounting nightmare for everyone—National, Federation and Chapters. You could ask five members what their dues were and they could all truthfully answer with a different amount. Did I forget to mention that when you signed up, the rate is \$33.00 which includes your chapter dues for your first year membership?

At several national conventions a flat rate membership has been proposed and when the delegates voted it was narrowly voted down. Why? There are some chapters that have a chapter membership rate of \$36.00 per year which is in addition to the \$29.00 National dues. Those chapter with the high chapter dues, of course, don't want to have a flat across the board dues.

The Single Dues Structure would be \$40.00 across the board; for dues withholding this would be \$3.33 per month. The dues would be distributed as follows: \$9.00 rebated to the Chapter and \$4.00 rebated to the Federation

Right now our chapter dues are \$7.00 per member. But, if you are on dues withholding the chapter receives \$6.96 per year.

Under this proposal our dues for both National and Chapter would increase by \$4.00 per year or 70 cents per month for dues withholding. The accounting nightmare and recruiting nightmares would be over.

(Continued in next column)



Our chapter raised over \$6.00 per member for Alzheimer's Research.

So, with the Dues Referendum, here's our chance for every member to have a vote on this matter. Please attend the upcoming meetings or, if you are unable to attend the meetings send Ann Domsch your vote on the Single Dues Structure. Her mailing address is: 4024 Lindsey Dr, Manhattan, KS 66502. Her e-mail address is: adomsch@ksu.edu.

HOT TOPICS

- Medicare "Part A" expected to be insolvent by 2017. **Now is the time to write, call or visit your Congressional Representatives on the importance of WEP & GPO!**
 - Governmental Affairs Committee approved S.629—no offset to salary for retirees to rejoin the Federal workforce and S.469 to conform part time service under CSRS to the same as FERS.
 - Talk in Congress is rampant to tax workers and retirees on the health insurance premiums paid by their employers.
 - House approves H.R. 1256, to allow FERS employees to credit their unused sick leave towards their retirement.
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NARFE PAC

(Ann Murphy, PAC Chairman)

What is PAC? PAC is a separate, segregated fund of NARFE from voluntary contributions by members specifically for political purposes. The money is not commingled with other NARFE money and only the contributions given specifically for PAC are used for political purposes.

Why contribute to PAC? Our donations are used to elect congressional representatives who are sympathetic to our concerns and who support our legislative objectives.

How can I get a PAC pin? By contributing \$20.00 or more to the PAC fund.

**9th Biennial
COLLEGE OF NARFE KNOWLEDGE
South Sioux City, NE
August 24—26, 2009**



Come one, come all! Everyone is welcome to the College of NARFE Knowledge. The registration fee of \$60.00 includes meals on Monday evening, Tuesday afternoon and evening plus admission to all sessions. This is a guaranteed learning experience! The cost of the hotel nightly rate is a reasonable \$82.00 plus tax. The hotel sits right on the river so you may relax while watching the river run past. Sign up before August 15 to save a \$5.00 late fee.

Tuesday Luncheon choices are: Chicken Supreme, Lasagna or Burgundy Beef Tips. Tuesday Evening choices are: Chicken Marsala, Alaskan Halibut, or Bacon Wrapped Montreal Pork Chop.

To enroll send a check to: Richard Thissen, PO Box 485, Lake Ozark, MO 65049.

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MEMBERSHIP

(By Dave Schafer, 1st Vice President—Membership
539-7842; davideschafer@msn.com)

Welcome to new members Bonnie Dedonder, John R. Adams, Nova Chase, Mary Corah, Vesta Varga. To those receiving 2nd notices for membership renewal, if you convert to a “Dues Withheld-NARFE” status with OPM it would reduce renewal reminder expenses and save you a few dollars each year. If you want a form to convert your status, please give me a call.

If you would like to be a recruiter and receive a recruiter’s badge, contact me for some recruitment pamphlets that may help recruit your prospect.

MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD			
MONTH	GAIN	REINSTATED	LOSS
Mar-May	5	1	7
Memberships in peril: Apr-6; May-4			
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of 5/21/09: 288			



NARFE
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Chapter 366 President
Ann Domsch
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Manhattan, KS 66502

Forwarding Service Requested
Judy Grossnickle, Editor