



# Kaw Blue Communiqué

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Manhattan, KS Date December, 2011

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Ann Domsch	537-5147
1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Bill Fuller	776-6296
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Elaine Liddell	776-5559
Secretary	Shirley Delano	776-4845
Treasurer	Barbara Hackbart	494-2425
Past Pres.	Don Erickson	539-6004
News Editor	Judy Grossnickle	537-2457

## HOT TOPICS!

- Supercommittee failed!
- Sequestration cuts begin January, 2013.
- Hiring freeze, buyouts, early outs, layoffs, and furloughs likely in 2012.
- Senate failed to obtain the 60 votes required for passage of a plan to extend a partial payroll tax cut for an additional year.
- The House approved the Federal Workers' Compensation Modernization and Improvement Act, H.R. 2456. This bill provides a thoughtful approach to reforming federal workers' compensation laws.
- By December 31, Congress must tackle the payroll tax cut, the extension of the unemployment insurance and to adjust payments for doctors and other medical providers under Medicare.

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

(By: Elaine Liddell, Program Chairman)

**Please plan to attend your meeting.** We meet at RC McGraw's, 2317 Tuttle Creek Blvd. Lunch is served at 11:15AM.

### **Wednesday, January 18**

Cheryl Collins, Director  
Riley County Historical Museum  
"History of Jonny Kaw"



### **Wednesday, February 15**

Brian McNulty  
Opers Mgr, Tuttle Creek Lake  
"About Tuttle Creek Dam"



### **Wednesday, March 21**

Frank Arthur  
USDA Agricultural  
Research

"Insect Pests of Stored Products"



## **IN MEMORIAM**

Lerance C. (Bunny) Bolte (Member)  
Born December 25, 1932  
Died December 4, 2011  
We extend condolences to Cathy and  
the family.

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

(By: Ann Domsch, adomsch@ksu.edu)

Friends of NARFE, as I wind down as president of NARFE, the position I have held for 3 years. I want to thank you all for your support. We have gone through some tough budget times at the National level, but so far we have managed to hang on to our benefits. It takes a group of dedicated members to make telephone calls and to write letters and you have responded each time we ask you do to this. I want you to continue to do this for your next group of officers.

Each member of NARFE needs to share in the responsibilities of recruiting new members. We need to have a large group so that our National congress people will take notice when we speak. We do not want them to think they can run over us. We earned those benefits and we need to keep them!

Thank you again for your support. You are truly a great group to work with. L. Ann Domsch

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

(By: Dick McChesney, Chairman)

As we know, the Super Committee did not agree on reducing the federal budget by at least 1.2 trillion over the next ten years. Now across the board spending cuts, known as sequestration, will take place starting January 1, 2013. How will this affect us?

—Federal retirement, federal employee health benefit program and pay exempt.

(Continued in next column)

## **Legislative Report, cont from previous column.**

—Social Security, military retirement also protected.

—Medicare partially exempt.

—Discretionary spending not protected which certainly could affect federal employee job security.

A lot can happen before 2013. Legislation will be introduced to change the 2013 across the board spending cuts. No doubt, recommendations such as those made to the super committee by President Obama and legislators will be made. ( See Pages 8-12, December, 2011 NARFE magazine.) In addition, there is a Balance Budget Amendment Bill, H.J.,Res 1. If this became law, it would result in unprecedented cuts in federal programs. It would prevent payments of federal civilian and military retirement, social security, and a myriad of other cuts.

Dick Dunham and I thank each of you who sent the electronic letters and made telephone calls to our Congressional representatives and President Obama in 2011. Through your efforts, many others and National NARFE federal employee and retirement benefits have been protected through 2011. I am sure all who made these contacts in 2011 will continue and hopefully those who haven't will.

We encourage all who have Internet to sign up to receive NARFE Hotline and NARFE News Watch messages by e-mail. An easy way to do this, call toll free, 800 456-8410. Also, those not having Internet, can hear these messages by calling toll free 877 217-8234.

## OUR SERVICE OFFICER SAYS

(By: Don Erickson, Service Officer)

The NARFE Retirement Benefits Service Department was established to help individual NARFE members:

- Overcome delays and problems encountered in annuity and survivor benefit inquiries,
- Get prompt answers to their related questions, and
- Receive the benefits to which they are entitled by law and regulation.

Assistance with OPM contacts is a valuable service available to all NARFE members through local NARFE Service Centers, chapter service officers and the Retirement Benefits Service Department at NARFE Headquarters. The service program operates principally at the chapter level through personal contact between the service office and the individual member.

Inquiries of the service office should be limited to general matters, such as steps to take upon an annuitant's death, delay in the processing of claims for benefits, etc. Inquiries of a highly technical nature (e.g., "How was my annuity calculated?") should be directed first to OPM. If an adequate response is not received, the inquiry should be referred to the RETIREMENT BENEFITS SERVICE DEPARTMENT, NARFE, 606 N. WASHINGTON, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-1914. The telephone number is 703-838-7760.

If you, another member, or a eligible prospective member has a question or an issue, I'm here to help you or them to find the answers.

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### \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP TO JORDAN SALAVA

Jordan Salava, May, 2011 graduate of Manhattan High School, son on Jack and Sandy, received one of the six scholarships awarded in our district. He is using his \$1,000 scholarship to attend Independence Community College in Independence, KS. Jordan was on the 4.0 honor roll through high school while receiving several academic honors as well as being involved in sports. He hopes to pursue a career in Wildlife Biology working for the U.S. government.

Congratulations to Jordan and his parents, Jack and Sandy!

## ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE

(By: Michael & Kay Cardella, Alzheimer's Chairman,  
785-539-3448 e-mail: milinscol@Gmail.com)

On August 16th, Barbara Pretzer, our National Alzheimer's Chairman issued a challenge to our chapter. She challenged, "I would like to challenge my NARFE 0366 members to raise \$6.00 by December 21, with individual donations to NARFE Alzheimer's Research directed to my my challenge. These donations would be above and beyond the normal collections made at our meeting. **If the challenge is met, I will personally contribute another \$200.00** before December 31st."

The Kaw Blue members accepted this challenge and made plans to generate the needed funds. Kay and Mike Cardella donated a special Kansas State mail box, a large wood Kokopellia and a blue bird house. Door prize tickets were sold at one dollar each or six tickets for five dollars. Sales have been brisk and individuals started sending checks. Two checks were for one hundred dollars each. Other members made cash donations of five, ten and twenty dollars. We would like to thank our membership for all the support they have shown. Barb came through with her \$200.00 donation just in time to be counted into this years Alzheimer's donation total of \$2,056.34 to date so far.

Our pennies for Alzheimer's continue to roll in and Bernadine Eichman will take your pennies and add to the collection. We all thank Bernadine for her assistance. The special Best Choice labels are still being accepted. We need about 500 more to complete our required 1,000.

Thank you for your contributions. We're working to find a cure for Alzheimer's in our near future.

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### **Fight Memory Loss...With Your Feet!**

Put your keys down only to forget where you set them? Just 40 minutes 3 days a week can help prevent and even reverse memory loss and other effects of aging. That's because moderate exercise increases BDNF, a protein associated with improved memory and learning. Plus, exercise can actually increase brain volume, while nonexercisers experience a shrinkage—a contributing factor in memory loss and Alzheimer's disease. **What is the percentage of Alzheimer's cases linked to too little physical activity? 21%**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

(By: Bill Fuller, Vice President for Membership)

Congratulations! A big “thank you” to the members of the Kaw Blue NARFE Chapter for rolling up your sleeves and becoming involved in the “NARFE Membership Recruitment Event” conducted during October and November.

More than three dozen prospective members were contacted and provided information on the benefits of membership. Seventeen prospects accepted the invitation to a complementary buffet and participation in a meeting of our chapter. While the event has already resulted in 2 new members and one transfer, a number of others are expected. We welcome Betty Unterberger, Carla Wikoff, and Janice Fuller to our chapter.

As Vice-President for Membership, I requested financial matching funds to help

<b>MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD</b>			
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>GAIN</b>	<b>REINSTATED</b>	<b>LOSS</b>
Oct–Dec	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
Memberships in peril: 9			
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of Dec 8 : 259</b>			

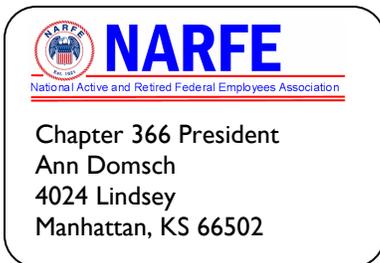
cover expenses including printing and meals for prospective members at our membership recruitment event. The check for \$210.00 they sent us was very helpful and greatly appreciated.

It is important we make every month “Membership Month”! I suggest each of us work continuously to both recruit new members and retain current members. A large and strong team is essential as we work to protect our earned benefits in these challenging financial times facing our nation.

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## **Recruit Now!**

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Forwarding Service Requested  
Judy Grossnickle, Editor