



Kaw Blue Communiqué

Volume No. 14 Issue No. 4

Manhattan, KS **Date: December, 2008**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Don Erickson	539-6004
1 st VP	David Schafer	539-7842
2 nd VP	Mary Fritzon	494-2389
Secretary	Ann Domsch	537-5147
Treasurer	Dale Walters	539-4970
Past Pres.	Sandra Mathewson	776-0401
News Editor	Judy Grossnickle	537-2457

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

(By: Mary Fritzon, 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, January 21
Doug Tipper
Retired MHS Teacher
“Indian Tribes of Kansas”

Wednesday, February 18
Don Hedden
Director of Sleep Apnea
“Sleep Apnea”

Wednesday, March 18
Tauna Spain or Steve Reitan
Manhattan Job Corps
“History of Manhattan Job Corps”

HOT TOPICS!

- The House of Representatives passed H.R. 1108 that allows Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) employees to credit their unused sick leave toward retirement. (*This is one of NARFE's Legislative Goals*)
- 2008 National NARFE Convention ends Honorary Membership for those members 85 years old with 20 years of NARFE membership.
- National NARFE improves web site. Visit it today at www.narfe.org!
- COLAs for 2009: 5.8% for CSRS retirees, 4.8 % for FERS retirees over age 62 and 3.9% for Current Federal Employees (CFE). (Note: Calculations vary depending on pay system.)

Successful Garage Benefit Sale



The garage sale held on October 4 netted \$385.00 for NARFE-Alzheimer's Research. Thanks to all who donated, and to all who worked to price, set up, sell, and pack up the leftovers. A special thank you to Bernadine & Harold Eichman, Kay & Mike Cardella and Sandy Mathewson--our sale could not have happened without them!



and



EXECUTIVE BOARD 2009

At the November meeting the following slate of officers were elected to serve our chapter in 2009:

President	Ann Domsch
VP (Membership)	David Schafer
VP (Programs)	Marjory Mortvedt
Secretary	Pam Van Horn
Treasurer	Louise Schultes

On behalf of the nominating committee and the chapter these willing, dedicated persons are congratulated on their nomination, their election and foremost their willingness to serve our chapter. We are confident that their leadership will enhance our chapter.

ALHEIMER'S NOTES

(By: Elaine Liddell, Alzheimer's Chairman)

Kenneth and Marjory Osbourn donated a quilt to our Kaw-Blue Chapter as a fundraiser for NARFE, Alzheimer's Research. The quilt pattern is Minnesota Chain, 96x96 inches, primarily blue and cream colored blocks. This is a beautiful quilt--really a work of art!!

Members will be selling chances on the quilt for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. You can also obtain chances at the next meeting or by calling Elaine Liddell, 776-5559. All proceeds will be donated to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research. Drawing for the quilt will be at the Kansas Federation Convention, April 26-28, 2009.

TRAVELING BOOTH

(Don Cooper, Area 3A Vice President)

The NARFE booth at the Senior Fair 2008, hosted by the North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging, at the Salina Bicentennial Center, on September 23, was great exposure of NARFE's opportunities and an excellent way to recruit eligible NARFE members as there were an estimated 700 persons attending this one (1) day event. It was rewarding to be able to provide individuals with materials relating to NARFE membership. It was also great to provide people with the NARFE Booklet, F-100, Be Prepared for Life's Events. It was pointed out that the organized record of the items needed to have on hand for a person who was incapacitated or a person who died and the survivor needed a list of records to process benefits. (*Editor's note: If you haven't already completed or updated your copy lately, please take a few minutes to do so soon!*) I wish to express my thanks to Mary and Harold Fritzson; Barb Pretzer and Al Schmaderer for their time and talent at the NARFE Information/Recruitment Booth. I believe a lot of good was done with our presence at the fair.

KS FEDERATION CONVENTION,

APRIL 26-28, 2009

Clarion Hotel, Manhattan

(By: Chuck Marr, Co Chairman, 2009 Convention)

Plans are progressing for the 55th Annual Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters here in Manhattan April 26-28, 2009. Delegates from throughout Kansas will be here and we need your help to make them feel welcome to the Little Apple and to make the convention run smoothly. There are some things that you can do now as well as at the time of the convention.

1. **Volunteer your Time:** First of all, block your calendars to be available Sunday afternoon (April 26) through noon Tuesday (April 28). We would like to get all chapter members involved in assisting in some way. Some of the tasks last for only a short time so you might be able to help on several tasks. Committee chairs will be contacting you to help, so please say YES!

2. **Alzheimer Auction:** A significant part of the convention is a live and a silent auction to benefit Alzheimer research. You can help by donating merchandise, handmade items, crafts, prepared foods, etc to be included in the auction. The merchandise needs to be new so if you know a merchant that might donate some items or if you receive some birthday or Christmas gifts in duplicate, save them to donate to the auction. Handmade items are always a big hit so start sewing, knitting, quilting, painting, hammering, canning, baking (not quite yet!), or preparing items to donate.

3. **Program Ads:** The program booklet for the convention will contain ads from other NARFE chapters and businesses that may benefit from contact with NARFE members. Barb Pretzer has done an excellent job of contacting some major local businesses but you can help by identifying more. If you know of a local business that relies on you for business, ask them if they would contribute by placing an ad in the program booklet (or make a cash donation to our chapter). Ads can be business card size, half page or full page and we can design the ad with information that they provide. Barb or Dave Schafer can provide you with prices for various sized ads and can follow up after you make the initial contact. Your personal contact with them, however, is the first step to 'making the sale'.

Remember that all that you do with this annual convention will not only benefit our chapter but also assist NARFE in supporting Alzheimer research which is a major focus of the annual convention.



**Mark your calendar to
attend the Convention,
April 26—28!**

PAST PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(By Donald B. Erickson)

I wish to thank all the members of the Kaw Blue Chapter 366 for the support that I received the past two years as president. Without your cooperation and hard work our organization would not have been as viable as it has been. Each person and committee performs a vital role in the operation of the chapter and in keeping everyone informed about the purpose of NARFE.

I especially want to thank Dave Schafer, Vice President, for filling in for me when I was not able to preside and for his leadership of the membership committee. The excellent programs that Vice President Mary Fritzson lined up for each of our meetings were outstanding and very informative.

The other officers who support the president include Ann Domsch, Secretary, Dale Walters, Treasurer who is also responsible for our luncheons, Sandra Mathewson, Past President, Michael Cardella Jr., Newsletter Editor for several years, Judy Grossnickle Newsletter Editor since July, 2008, Don Cooper, who acts as our Chaplin for each meeting, and Sharon Davies who is responsible for the chapter roster and mailing list.

Elaine Liddell, Alzheimer's & Sunshine Committee, has done an outstanding job collecting funds for Alzheimer's research and sending get well and sympathy cards to members and their families. She reported in the September, 2008 newsletter that \$517 was raised at the Federation Convention last April, and she is asking for your donations of new or antique items for the auction at the 2009 convention which we are hosting.

The Calling Committee, chaired by Al Schmaderer, has done an excellent job reminding each member of the meeting and the program that will be presented. Every organization benefits by having greeters who make the members feel welcome at each meeting. Shirley Delano has been the chairperson for this committee.

Ann Domsch has been in charge of public relations and has submitted numerous articles in the newspaper concerning the activities of our chapter. Dick McChesney and Bill Phillips have kept our members up to date concerning federal and state legislation which affects NARFE.

I wish to thank Ed Call and Al Schmaderer, Service Officers, for their support and help to the families who have lost loved ones.

Chuck Marr and Dave Schafer deserve our gratitude for accepting the responsibility for the 2009 Federation Convention. They are doing an excellent job, but they will need a lot of help from volunteers to complete our chapter's commitment to the state federation.

I have enjoyed my term as president and will continue to support Kaw Blue 366.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

(By Dick McChesney, Legislative Chairman)

NARFE is the only association dedicated to safeguarding and improving the earned rights and benefits of America's retired federal employees. A team of government professionals in Washington tracks congressional action and agency proposals that affect your federal retirement and active employee benefits. NARFE Legislative Department works simultaneously to preserve and enhance civil service annuity and health care benefits.

Some of NARFE's legislative accomplishments during the 110th Congress (07 & 08) and prior congressional sessions include :

- Prevented reductions in federal civilian retirement benefits.
- Fended off cuts to Medicare and Social Security programs.
- Protected annual cost of living adjustments (COLA's).
- Brought about Federal Long Term Care Insurance for active and retired federal employees.
- Developed the framework for the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS)
- Excluded our annuity payments from Kansas income taxes.

Next year's COLA's is the highest since 1982. The retirement COLA becomes effective December 1, 2008 and will be reflected in the January, 2009 annuity payments. The full amount is 5.8% for CSRS retirees and 4.8 % for FERS retirees over age 62.

House passed H.R. 1108 on FERS sick leave and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). If this would become law, it would allow FERS employees to credit their unused sick leave toward their retirement. The House bill would allow FERS employees retiring in the next 3 years to credit 75% of their sick leave to retirement years of service. Those retiring after 3 years would have all their sick leave credited. The cost of sick leave retirement credit would be offset by a revenue generating proposal in the bill.

In addition to the sick leave provision, the bill would improve the TSP by automatically enrolling federal employees when they are first hired and beginning immediately earning employer matching funds. Also, employees would be eligible to select either a Roth or regular TSP account.

**National Legislative Training
Conference in Arlington, VA
March 7-10, 2009**

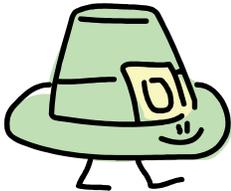
HONORARY MEMBERSHIP ENDS!

(By Mary E. Fritzson)

Early on the delegates approved a resolution calling for discontinuing Honorary Membership and to replace it with a new “Distinguished Membership category. Effective immediately, current Honorary Members will continue their status including the waiver of national dues. Future members who reach age 85 with 20 years of NARFE membership will continue to pay national and chapter dues and be awarded a “Distinguished Member” pin and membership card, if requested.

Our records show the following members have received Honorary Member status: Glenn M. Busset, Evelyn A. Davis, Cecil L. Eystone, Louise Ferguson, Verne G. Kuhn, and Nelva H. Wilcox.

March Events



March 17

and



March 8

MEMBERSHIP

(Dave Schafer, 1st Vice President—Membership)

Welcome to new members Robert Rousser, Mary Harwell and Jim Phelps. We're glad that Geneva Denholm, Donald Koeltzow, and Ralph Titus have been reinstated.

How to Recruit new members:

- Approach prospects in a sincere, honest manner.
- Follow up with prospects.
- Listen to your prospects' needs & wants.
- Be persistent yet respectful.

MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD

MONTH	GAIN	REINSTATED	LOSS
SEP-NOV	3	3	4

Memberships in peril: 3 (second arrears notice sent)

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of 11/18/08: **287**



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Chapter 366 President
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Forwarding Service Requested
Judy Grossnickle, Editor