



Kaw Blue Communiqué

Volume No. 14 Issue No.3

Manhattan, KS Date: **September 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, October 15

Pam Maxwell

Blue Cross/BlueShield, Topeka

“Update on BC/BS”

Wednesday, November 19

Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute, KSU

“Kansas Cowboy — History & Poetry”

Wednesday, December 17

The Family Trio

(Daryl & Jean Campbell & Carol Cowan)

“Music & Songs”

HOT TOPICS!

- Fiscal year budget resolution passed the House & Senate, with NO CUTS in federal health or retirement benefits. But the next congress (2009/2010) and new President are likely to reform entitlement programs which could result in reductions to programs like our retirement.
- Congress approved a six month delay for reduction in Medicare’s Physician pay. The president vetoed the bill. Congress then overrode the veto. NARFE supports protecting the current Medicare fee-for-service program and the ability to select the physician of your choice.
- The House passed a provision that stops, for now, the practice of Defense Department Civilian Employees competing with private contracts for work. Does not affect existing public-private contract competitions, and excludes support contracts, but puts a moratorium on expanding the practice through Sep, 2011.
- House approved HR 5781. Federal employees would be eligible to take up to 4 weeks of paid paternal leave for the birth or adoption of a child and use unused sick leave for up to 4 more weeks.

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Robert L. Welfringer, Sr. (Member) born on April 28, 1928, died on June 7, 2008.

Mr. Norman T. Tornquist, (Member) born on February 25, 1929, died June 4, 2008.

Mr. Palmer M. Mellgren, (Member) born on December 19, 1912, died August 13, 2008.

Rest in peace.



**Vote
Nov 4th!**



EXECUTIVE BOARD 2009

Who will lead us in 2009? Are you willing to run for office? Our officers need to step down and let others assume the leadership roles.

President	Don Erickson - health reasons
1st VP	David Schafer
2nd VP	Mary Fritzon - serves as KS Fed President
Secretary	Ann Domsch
Treasurer	Dale Walters - has served for 6 years

Our nominating committee, Wilber Ringler (539-2014) Judy Grossnickle (537-2457) and Sandra Mathewson (776-5559) would like your help in compiling a list of possible candidates. The possible candidates will be contacted in September and October. If you are called please say, "Yes, I have the skills and I'm willing to be nominated."

KS FEDERATION CONVENTION, APRIL 26-28, 2009

Clarion Hotel, Manhattan

(By: Mary Fritzon
State Federation President)

Now is your time to step forward and offer to help our chapter host the next State Federation of NARFE Convention. This is our chance to enhance our Chapter's treasury. The Hutchinson Chapter did just that last April, 2008 when they netted \$2,828.31 for their treasury. We can do that also but we need lots of helpers to make it happen.

When Chuck Marr and/or Dave Schafer, our convention co-chairs, ask for your assistance, be ready to respond with a "yes" answer; better yet, volunteer your services. Its an opportunity to help make our State Convention in Manhattan one of the best ever.



ALHEIMER'S NOTES

(By: Elaine Liddell, Alzheimer's Chairman)

Alzheimer's Disease is so frightening! Reading one of the Alzheimer's Association brochures, the checklist of symptoms is:

1. Memory loss
2. Difficulty performing familiar tasks
3. Problems with language
4. Disorientation to time and place
5. Poor or decreased judgment
6. Problems with abstract thinking
7. Misplacing things
8. Changes in mood or behavior
9. Changes in personality
10. Loss of initiative

We all seem to have some of those symptoms, does that mean that Alzheimer's is setting in? Well, according to the brochure, normal aging causes many of these symptoms. Don't panic, see a doctor, early diagnosis is so important!

Thank you to all members who have supported the NARFE Alzheimer's research throughout the years. The donations from our Kaw-Blue (0366) Chapter for the live and silent auction at the Federation Convention in April raised \$517. That is just amazing! The total of all donations was a whopping \$4,123 from all the Kansas Chapters at the Convention.

As you know, we are hosting the 2009 Federation Convention in Manhattan next April, and we will be asking for your donations of new or antique items for the auction.

Early plan is to have the NARFE Garage sale on Saturday, October 4, from 8:00-1:00 at 701 Canfield, Manhattan (776-5559). Thank you for your donations of good useable items for resale. Clothes need to be new, or next to new, same with shoes (last garage sale a pair of shoes had a \$5.00 bill inside, and that was nice)!

Please keep saving the Best Choice labels--takes lots of labels to get to 1,000 when they can be redeemed.

Elaine Liddell
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Manhattan, KS 66502
785-776-5559
new e-mail:
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PRESIDENTS'S CORNER

(By: Donald B. Erickson)

Kaw Blue 366 will host the next State NARFE Convention, April 26-28, 2009 at the Clarion Hotel, Manhattan. It may seem like a long time from now, but time will pass very fast and it will be here before we know it. This will be our chance to show all NARFE members in the state that we have an excellent active chapter.

Chuck Marr and Dave Schafer are co-chairmen and will need everyone to help. They do not know everyone's special talents; therefore, I am asking you to contact either one of them or one of the officers about your willingness to help with one or more of the following committees. The more people who volunteer will enhance each committee assignment and insure the future success of the conference.

The state convention will need about 16 committees. Chuck and Dave are in the process of developing each committee and determining when they need to be organizing to do their tasks. Some will need to start soon, and others will not need to start until next spring. Specific duties for each committee will be provided to each chairperson and anyone else who wants them. Following are some of the committees and their tasks:

Financial Officer - all convention deposits and expenditures will be accounted for in a separate account.

Credentials Committee - One person must have served on this committee in the preceding year and will compile a final count of all registrants.

Registration Committee - This committee will prepare for a smooth registration of members, guests, and visitors attending the convention.

Decoration Committee - There should be 4 - 6 people to develop centerpieces for the head table and each individual table and act as a host and hostesses to make sure each person is provided proper seating for the banquet.

Host and Hostess - This committee should assist attendees in finding meeting rooms and making them feel welcome at the convention.

Information Committee - One or two persons who are familiar with the hotel and city to direct visitors to places of interest.

Printing Committee - This committee will develop a professionally prepared book for each participant, program tickets, and other forms used by the delegates.

Publicity Committee - Provide information to local newspapers, radio and TV about program and speakers.

Hospitality Committee - Plan with the chairpersons, sponsors and hotel catering service menus and locations for each break.

Chaplain - This person will lead prayers at appropriate times and can be a member of any chapter.

Sergeant of Arms - A minimum of three (3) or one for each door to be secured.

Memorial Service Committee - This committee will work with the federation secretary and shall be non-denominational.

Convention Timekeeper - This person shall have a watch or clock with a second hand available to time applicable reports.

Please volunteer at our September 17 meeting and respond enthusiastically with your help when Chuck or Dave come calling.

Use your time and talent for a good cause —
**VOLUNTER TO BE A CHAPTER OFFICER
AND FOR KS FED 2009 CONVENTION!**

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

(By Dick McChesney, Legislative Chairman)

Nothing is more important to our security than receiving, maintaining and obtaining financial and fringe benefits. This is true from the first day as a federal employee until death as a CSRS or FERS annuitant and survivor annuitant. Naturally, this is the reason NARFE exists and why not only membership, but, active participation is vital. The national NARFE legislative department personnel monitor Congress, Office of Personnel Management and others to protect our earned benefits and seeking legislation to correct inequities. As an active NARFE member, here is what we need to do:

- Read and understand the 4-6 pages Legislative Report in every monthly NARFE magazine.
- Attend your Chapter meetings. We try to bring you the latest information. Become a member of the Chapter legislative committee. Be available to help with any needed legislative action.
- Visit, contact and attend meetings of our Congressional representatives to reinforce NARFE goals.
- If not already, sign up to receive the nearly weekly GEMS NARFE Legislative Report by e-mail. To do this either call 1-877-217-8234 or enroll online. Just follow these easy steps:
 1. Using your internet browser go to <http://www.narfe.org>.
 2. On the NARFE home page select "membership tools" then select "join GEMS and update your record".

You will need to enter your member id (ID # from (continued on page 4, column 1)



continued from page 3, column 2, LEGISLATIVE MATTERS) the label of your NARFE magazine).

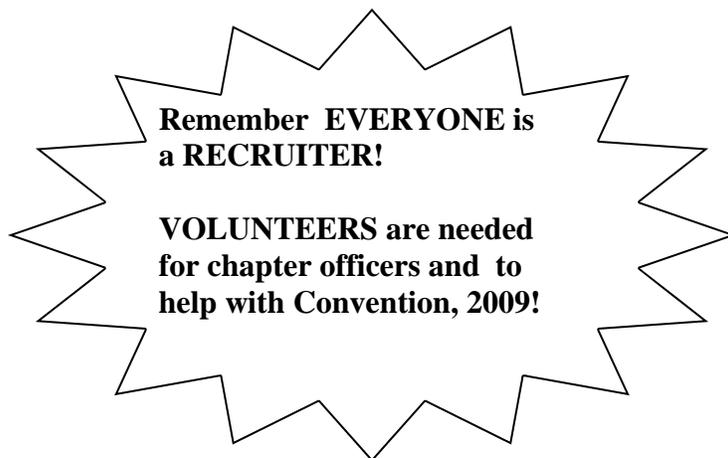
4. On the next line enter your birthday and click submit.
5. Your record will appear. Update any information that is not correct or add missing information.
6. To receive GEMS you must add your e-mail address.
7. Once you have updated your information and provided your e-mail address click update.
8. You have now updated your record in NARFE and will start receiving the GEMS updates.

MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD			
MONTH	GAIN	REINSTATED	LOSS
JUL	3	1	4
AUG	1	1	1
TOTAL	4	2	5
Memberships in peril: 2 (second arrears notice sent)			
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of 8/18/08: 284			

MEMBERSHIP

(Dave Schafer, 1st Vice President—Membership)

Welcome to new members Laurel Erickson and Barbara Kennedy. We also extend a warm welcome to transfer members, Irene Wienck and Melinda Scroggie. We're glad that Dennis Stafford and Iva May Larson have been reinstated. We also welcome new members Charlotte Welfringer and Helen Folkerts. They are assuming the membership of their deceased spouses.



 **NARFE**
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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Forwarding Service Requested
Judy Grossnickle, Editor