



# Kaw Blue Communiqué

Volume No. 16 Issue No. 1

Manhattan, KS Date: March, 2010

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Ann Domsch	537-5147
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2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Marjory Mortvedt	776-0464
Secretary	Pam Van Horn	826-8917
Treasurer	Dale Walters	539-4970
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, April 21

“Fairy Godmother”

Shirley Delano

Founder and Member: Advisory Board  
& Grants Committee

Wednesday, May 19

“History of the Platt House”

Jan Wichman & Candace Pannbacker  
Riley County Genealogy Society

Wednesday, June 16

“ROUTE 66 —

The Way from East to West“  
Doug Meloan

**Newsletter  
via e-mail!**

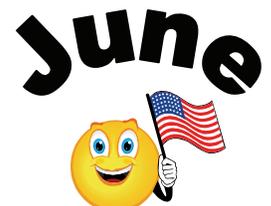
## PROTECTING OUR EARNED BENEFITS!

(By: Don Erickson, Service Officer)

Did you know that we are millionaires? We need to value our retirement benefits:

1. Our federal retirement is not subject to the ups and downs of the stock market.
2. You always have a steady income every month, assuming there are no changes by Congress.
3. Federal retirement income is tax free in the state of Kansas; but we need to be vigilant to proposed changes.
4. COLA'S help against inflation in the long run.
5. Our retirement is steady compared to 401Ks.
6. We have great medical and prescription benefits, which we don't want to lose.

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The biggest cost in our Chapter's Budget is the newsletter. The budgeted amount is \$700.00 per year. It would be a great monetary savings to our chapter if more members would receive their newsletters via e-mail. This would save printing costs and postage of 82 cents per mailed copy. We will add your name to the e-mail recipients' list if you'll let me know at : [jgrossnickle@cox.net](mailto:jgrossnickle@cox.net)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

Think NARFE! As you talk to people in your neighborhood, in the grocery store-check out line, at church or at the ball game. As you visit, find out what they do, where they work, are they a federal employee and then talk about NARFE. (Don't forget to ask if they are retired and from where).

We need to have a double focus: to retain our current members and to recruit new members.

Recruiting new members is not an easy job. In order to be successful you need to BELIEVE that recruiting new members is important for our cause. Why does NARFE exist? What is our purpose? Does it matter what Congress does regarding our earned benefits? What has NARFE done for me? Do you realize that NARFE was instrumental in getting our retirement plan, getting survivors benefits for spouses, cost of living adjustments (COLA's) and many, many more items. Is it important to you to keep these?

Lets not let our chapter be just another social organization that gets together to have lunch, listen to a program, visit, and then goes home enriched by our social interaction; but, plagued by dwindling members!



## ALHEIMER'S NOTES

(By: Elaine Liddell, Alzheimer's Chairman)

Thank you to all who clip "Best Choice" UPC (Proof of Purchase) labels. We received a check for \$60 for Alzheimer's from the Associated Wholesale Grocers last month from their "Save A Label" program. It takes 1,000 labels (that is a lot of labels!) to receive the \$30, and that is doubled when sent with their certificate, so keep on clipping.

We are excited to start a new project "Pennies Against Alzheimer's Disease" (PAAD), and we ask members to bring their extra pennies to each meeting. Bernadine Eichman has graciously volunteered to head this project. The plan is for the pennies that you bring to the meeting to be weighed, and at the end of three months we will see who has brought the most (a "prize" may be given). Every three months we will take the pennies to a bank to be counted and a check will then go to Alzheimer's for the amount collected.

Memorials are also a way to contribute to Alzheimer's. Checks should be payable to: **NARFE, Alzheimer's Research**. Please show the name of the deceased, (who the memorial is for) and provide an address for the thank you card that is sent by Janice Neuschafer, the Kansas Alzheimer's Coordinator. Contact me if you have questions or concerns. Thank you to members who quite regularly send memorials.

The Kansas Federation Convention is in April, and items for the auction will be needed. We did extremely well in 2009 with the auction bringing \$925 for the donated items from our Chapter members.

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### **ALHEIMER'S NOTES, con't**

It all goes for Alzheimer's Research! Can we top that, this year?

Do you have some new ideas for Alzheimer's projects? All ideas are appreciated and needed. Do you want to have a garage sale this year?

If you know of members who are ill or suffering, please let me know so that a card from our Chapter can be sent.

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### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

(By: Dick McChesney, Chairman)

Obama's Administration budget blueprint for fiscal year 2011 did not recommend any reduction in earned retirement and health benefits for federal annuitants and workers. This is the first step of several and National NARFE will constantly monitor this and advise if we, the grassroots folks, should take any action.

Since National health care reform is not on the front burner, National NARFE is not asking us to take any action on this subject presently. At the time of this writing, the one e-mail letter NARFE is asking those who haven't is to generate a letter to Senators Brownback and Roberts. This letter is asking them to vote favorably to protect federal retirees who are not eligible for Social Security, from the Medicare Part B increase. The rate for people in this category have increased from \$96.40 /month to \$110.50/month effective 1-1-10.

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### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT, con't**

To generate these and any subsequent letters go to: [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) Here's how: Sign in: Click on Legislative: Click Legislative Action Center: Click Issues and Legislation Action Center; Click on above Letter and Click Send. Those who don't have Internet or anyone who would prefer to express their opinion on this or any subject, you may call toll free 1-866-220-0044 You can talk to our Senators and Congresswoman Jenkins office staff that way.

If you are an active employee or retiree who doubt the value and effectiveness of NARFE you need to read page 16, Feb. *NARFE* magazine. This states NARFE Legislative Accomplishments, 1st Session - 111th Congress (2009). Where would we be without NARFE!? Members sure know the value. We need to discuss and share this article with non-members, who are eligible to belong to NARFE, to help recruit them, it should be an easy sell!

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

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

Welcome to new members, Michael Marks, Alan Moberly, Lawrence Hagen Paula Hughes, and Melvin Nudson. Have you considered converting 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 Dave a call.

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### Protecting our Earned Benefits!

What can we do to protect our benefits?  
DON'T TAKE THEM FOR GRANTED!

1. Encourage active and retired federal employees to join NARFE.
2. Contribute to the Political Action Committee (PAC) fund - \$20 gets you a pin.
3. Admit that we are a lobbying group - everything involves politics.
4. Write letters and cards to our congress people concerning changes to our benefits.
5. Be active in our chapter. Become an officer or committee member.
6. Stay informed. Read the *NARFE* magazine front to back.
7. Pay your dues - dues withholding is the least expensive and most effective way of keeping current.

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### Protecting our Earned Benefits!

NARFE has been very effective in protecting our benefits and we need to remain active locally and nationally if we are to maintain our benefits. The upcoming deficit may prove to be very challenging for us.

<b>MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD</b>			
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>GAIN</b>	<b>REINSTATED</b>	<b>LOSS</b>
Dec — Feb	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Memberships in peril: 9			
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of 2/4/10: <b>282</b>			



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

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Forwarding Service Requested  
Judy Grossnickle, Editor