



# Kaw Blue Communiqué

Volume No. 15 Issue No. 4

Manhattan, KS Date: December, 2009

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Ann Domsch	537-5147
1 <sup>st</sup> VP	David Schafer	539-7842
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

## IN MEMORIAM

Robert L. Dickens (Member) born on November 24, 1936, died July 29, 2009.

Donna Finnern (Member) born on October 18, 1926, died November 4, 2009.

## 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, January 20  
“Enjoy our State”  
Kansas Magazine  
Jennifer Haugh

Wednesday, February 17  
“Public Transportation”  
ATA Bus and More  
Ann Smith

Wednesday, March 17  
“Memories”  
Computer Assisted Scrapbooking  
Stan Leland and Edla Freeland

## HOT TOPICS!

- Economic conditions forecast no Retiree COLA.
- Medicare Part B fee to increase. Under the “Hold Harmless” provision your cost will not increase IF your Medicare is paid from Social Security, if not, expect an increase of \$14.10 per month in 2010 unless H.R. 3631 becomes law.
- Long-Term Care Insurance rate faces a hike of up to 25%.
- Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Authorization bill which includes the Civil Service Improvements signed into law. See article on pages 8–10 in the NARFE December issue.
- Threats continue towards the FEHBP. Continue to monitor the health care reform legislation at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org) and/or by phone toll-free at 877-217-8234.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

As we approach the holiday season take time to— Invest in Yourself!

1. Take care of yourself every day, physically and spiritually.
2. Take care of your family.
3. Be the best you can be.
4. Have fun every day and laugh.
5. Engage fully with NARFE
  - a. Explore and use the website
  - b. read the monthly magazine and the weekly GEMS.
  - c. Volunteer to serve on a committee or serve as an officer — treasurer especially.
  - d. Seriously commit to attending the Kansas Federation Meeting
  - e. Give to Alzheimer's research
  - f. Help protect our annuities.
  - g. Recruit new members
  - h. Write your congress person when issues arise.

Remember change equals opportunity. Keep abreast of all the changes that are occurring. And above all—Invest in Yourself Every Day!!!

**Our Chapter  
needs a  
Treasurer!  
Won't you  
volunteer?**

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(By: Dick McChesney, Chairman)

NARFE played a leading role getting civil service improvements included in the Fiscal Year 2010 Authorization Bill which President Obama has signed into law. This new law allows federal agencies to re-employ federal retirees on a limited, part time basis without offset of annuity. It also permits Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) workers to initially credit half and in 2014 all, of their unused sick leave toward retirement.

At the time of this writing the two issues National NARFE is asking members to do is to send prepared e-mail letters using the Legislative Action Center to Senators Brownback and Roberts and Congresswoman Jenkins to:

1. Protect our Federal Employee Health Benefit Plan as it is now, as legislation is voted on to overhaul National health care.
2. Ask Senators Brownback and Roberts to vote to protect all Medicare Part B folks from a premium increase. This particularly critical to Medicare recipients not eligible for Social Security.

These and other issues will continue to occur. This makes it so important for all of us who have computer Internet access to join the Rapid Response Team by e-mailing [memsrvcs@narfe.org](mailto:memsrvcs@narfe.org) and joining the program. You will receive NARFE Legislative Hotline by e-mail (when Congress is in session), but even more importantly, any urgent action requests. Legislation changes quickly on Capitol Hill so NARFE's ability to quickly engage us in grassroots correspondence with our legislators is a powerful way to protect our earned benefits.

# ALHEIMER'S NOTES

(By: Elaine Liddell, Alzheimer's Chairman)



The weather on the day of the NARFE-Alzheimer's Garage sale was perfect, bright sunshine glistened on the NARFE-Alzheimer's banner that Mike Cardella posted on the garage wall. Thanks to all the members who supported and shopped at the October 24th sale which made \$300 for Alzheimer's research. A conservative 59 hours was spent by members accepting items, locating/setting up tables, arranging the merchandise displays, and working on the sale day, plus the clean up. It would not have been successful without help of members.

If some of our members cannot attend the meetings, but wish to donate to Alzheimer's Research, just tear off the coupon below and send it to me, at 701 Canfield Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502



## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

(By: Judy Grossnickle)

The nominating committee consisting of your past three presidents, Don Erickson, Sandra Mathewson, and Judy Grossnickle were unable to persuade any member to be nominated for Treasurer. All the other officers agreed to be nominated for a follow-up term. Our current president volunteered to assume the Treasurer's duties if someone were willing to be nominated for president. The future of our chapter is in your hands. Please volunteer to be nominated for either President or Treasurer.



Enclosed is my check payable to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research. My contribution is tax deductible and will be sent to Alzheimer's Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

<b>MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD</b>			
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>GAIN</b>	<b>REINSTATED</b>	<b>LOSS</b>
Sep—Nov	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
Memberships in peril: 6			
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of 11/06/09: <b>281</b>			

## **DUES REFERENDUM**

Our chapter voted to support the dues referendum at the National Convention with a split vote, five votes for the referendum and one opposed. If the referendum passes at the Convention then the dues for all members would either be \$36.00 for those on dues withholding or \$40.00 for all others.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

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

Welcome to new members, Eugene Gering and Merle Shogren. Welcome back to reinstated member, Elvera Gehrt.

Five of our members who received 2nd renewal notices, renewed their memberships. If you don't like receiving those 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Recruitment, we're always looking for new prospective member names. If you are personally acquainted, you'll be the best convincer, but if you want some help, again, give me a call. We have several informative pieces that help make the case for belonging to preserve/enhance our earned retirement benefits.



National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

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Forwarding Service Requested  
Judy Grossnickle, Editor