



Volume I, No. 3

Amelia Earhart Chapter 0621—Atchison

March 2012

March through May Meetings

March 20—Mikey Stafford from Master Gardeners

April 17—Memorial Service

May 15—Convention Report

Meetings will be at KFC/Taco Bell, 1400 Skyway, at 1130. Please join us.

From the President

Spring must be coming, even though the winter has been mild, compared to the last several. I have a blooming crocus, my surprise lilies are up, and the forsythia is blooming.

The Kansas Federation convention is in Salina on April 22 through 24, 2012. As many as six members from Atchison may attend. The format has changed somewhat from past conventions—we are hoping to have a legislative session on Sunday afternoon. We will elect state officers for the coming year, hold silent and live auctions for Alzheimer's, and vote on adopting three amendments to the bylaws. In simple terms, these amendments are—

- (1) Change when chapters pay their per capita dues to the Federation from November 30 to August 31 each year. This will eliminate the confusion that often occurs in November when new chapter officers are being elected.
- (2) Change terms of state officers to 2 years from 1 year and elect president, second vice

president and treasurer in even-numbered years and first vice president and secretary in odd-numbered years. This would reduce the turnover of all officers at the same time.

- (3) Change the Federation convention host from a chapter that volunteers each year to rotation of the Federation convention through the areas (there are eight) under the direction of the area vice president. This will allow small chapters to have the opportunity to help host the convention and not put the entire burden on the large chapters. The actual location of the convention will not have to be in the area hosting, but may be anywhere the area decides.

We discussed these amendments at our February meeting and decided that we were in favor of all three. If you have a different opinion, please contact Judy. If you are interested in attending the convention as an interested member, please call Judy or Peggy for information.

From the Service Officer

One of my favorite articles in the NARFE magazine is *Questions and Answers* section. The *Questions and Answers* section is divided into questions asked by retirees and questions pertaining to active employees. As Service Officer, I would encourage everyone to read the retirees portion of *Questions and Answers* because there might be something there that

pertains to your life situation or, at the very least, you would enjoy one of those "I didn't know that" moments.

From the Membership Chair

We welcome our newest member, Elaine Montgomery. Elaine is the recently retired Effingham postmaster. We are anxious to get to know Elaine and share our NARFE knowledge and concerns. NARFE is the only organization devoted to protecting the rights of Federal Civilian employees and retirees.

From the Alzheimer's Chair

Folks in our age bracket should be interested in Alzheimer's research. One hundred percent of the money given through NARFE is used for Alzheimer's research. The NARFE-Alzheimer's chair reported she had met with representatives from the Alzheimer's Association recently and added 4 more grants to fund, making a total of 53 grants funded since the NARFE program started.

The NARFE national goal is \$5.50 per member donated this year. Our chapter has met that goal the past several years. If you would like to donate to the fund, please make your check out to "NARFE-Alzheimer's Research" and mail it to Janice Neuschafer, 908 Countryside Drive, McPherson, KS 67460-2104. Be sure to include your chapter number (621).

If you get solicitations through the mail from Alzheimer's Disease Research in Clarksburg, Maryland, know that this is not the NARFE group. If it has a postage-free envelope enclosed, make a note on the return portion that you are a NARFE member and return it to them. You should not receive any more mailings from them.

Note: After Venita wrote this article we received notification that Barb Pretzer, NARFE-Alzheimer's National Committee chair and a

member of the Manhattan KS chapter has resigned for health reasons. Jane Rodgers from Indiana has replaced her. Janice Neuschafer from McPherson has agreed to add the Region V NARFE-Alzheimer's chair to her work as Kansas chair.

From the PAC Chair

Did you know that NARFE-PAC provides NARFE members (us) a stronger voice to oppose efforts to take away our earned benefits by allowing members to pool their political resources on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate candidates who support giving Federal workers and retirees a fair deal. The March issue of NARFE magazine has a very good article on pages 18 through 20.

If you would like to make a contribution you may send it to me –Eugene Harter, P.O. Box 254, Muscotah, KS 66058-0254 (or better yet bring it to our chapter meeting on March 20)—and I will proudly deliver it to the State NARFE-PAC chair Donald Cooper at the Kansas NARFE Federation meeting April 22 through 24 in Salina. Make checks out to NARFE-PAC (include chapter number 621); a \$20 contribution qualifies you for a 2011-2012 NARFE-PAC pin. Thanks.

Reminder from Treasury

The U.S. Treasury is sending out reminders that certain Federal benefits, including Federal retirement annuities and Social Security, will no longer be available through paper checks starting next March. Anyone receiving paper checks and who has not elected by that time to receive payments either by direct deposit or on a debit card will be switched to the debit card by default at that time. While virtually all Federal employees receive their salaries electronically, about a tenth of beneficiaries in retirement and veterans programs still receive paper checks.

TSP Fund Returns for February

Every TSP fund posted positive returns in February for the second straight month, with the international stock I fund up 5.14 percent, the large company stock C fund up 4.34 percent and the small company stock S fund up 3.99 percent. Their 12-month returns are -7.68, 5.16 and 2.16 percent, respectively. The government securities G fund gained 0.12 percent in February and the bond F fund gained 0.05 percent, for 12-month gains of 2.24 and 8.48 percent, respectively. The February and 12-month returns of the lifecycle funds are: income, 0.98, 2.86; 2020, 2.53, 2.46; 2030, 3.1, 2.35; 2040, 3.54, 2.15; 2050, 3.99, 1.57.

Important Contacts

Social Security

Web: www.ssa.gov
Phone: Voice: 800.772.1213
TTY: 800.325.0778

Veterans Affairs

Web: www.va.gov
Phone: VA Benefits: 800.827.1000
Meds by mail: 888.385.0235
Leavenworth: 913.682.2000
Topeka: 785.350.3111

Office of Personnel Management

Web: www.opm.gov
Phone: 202.418.3300

NARFE

Web: www.NARFE.org

Kansas Federation, NARFE

Web: www.ksnarfe.org

Chapter Officers

- Judy Etter—President and newsletter editor (913.773.8565) (jetter@bbwi.net)
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- Peggy Coder—Secretary-Treasurer and NARFE netter (913.833.4925) (pcoder@yahoo.com)
- Venita Jo Rader—Alzheimer's chair (913.833.4742)
- Eugene Harter—Legislative and PAC chairs (785.872.3443) (wren@rainbowtel.net)

- Lorene Mumm—Service officer and program chair (913.682.1197) (rogormum@aol.com)
- Sally Harter—Sunshine (785.872.3443) (wren@rainbowtel.net)

Congressional Contacts

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• Senator Pat Roberts

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Senator Jerry Moran

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Representative Lynn Jenkins

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Senator Roy Blunt

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Senator Claire McCaskill

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