

# THE BISON



## Buffalo Bill Chapter 27

May 2014

Issue 2

### From the President:

Welcome to spring! There are several daffodils blooming in the yards around the neighborhood. They are so pretty and the cool nights have allowed them to last a long time.

The Executive Board has tried to come up with ideas to gain the number of members attending our meetings and is always looking for ideas. We have added an additional door prize which seemed to add some enthusiasm. I try to keep the meeting right at an hour long and we have our refreshments before the meeting starts. If any of you have any ideas that might get members to join us for about an hour on the first Thursday of the month (except January and July), please feel free to contact me either by phone or my email, below, with your idea(s).

The Annual Picnic is coming up, but at this time I do not have a firm date or price. If I get one before this goes to print, I will include it in this *Bison*, but keep the picnic in your mind. It is one of the two times a year that we all get to see each other.

Be sure and keep in touch with your government officials and voice any concerns with their votes on the various bills that affect all government employees, both retired and actively employed. You will find the addresses, emails and etc. in this *Bison*.

There are four of us attending the Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters Convention, Manhattan, KS at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 27-29 April. We will be giving convention reports at the May meeting, 1 May 2014, The Heritage Center at 1:30pm.



Boni Lages  
913-683-2222  
boniwoody@gmail.com

### From the 1st VP—Membership

Membership in NARFE is dropping and we need to actively work to get new members and bring back some who have let their membership lapse.

Here are **Ways to Help NARFE Now!** from the *Recruiting & Retention Journal* from February 2014.

1. Ask someone to join. This can be done thru an ad, a letter, a phone call or at a booth. If you don't ask, they won't join.

2. Keep in touch with former co-workers. Your opinion about NARFE could impact your ex-colleagues simply because they know you.

3. Create attainable goals. Set a goal that you think you can meet.

In February we got a new member, Steven Humes, who was recruited by Ross Perkins. Ross gave him a copy of his *NARFE* magazine. Thanks Ross!

Any of you could do that and we might be able to get our membership back up!

Thanks to all of you!

*Fran Gast*

### From the 2nd VP—Programs

**May 1st**—Report on Convention.

**June 5th**—Memorial Service; rescheduled from February meeting due to the weather.

**July**—No meeting.

**Aug. 7th**—Annual Picnic. Terry Booker is our host; we will have brisket, fried chicken, cheesie potatoes, salad & assorted desserts. Come join us and have fun. Date, time and cost will be in July-Aug. *Bison*.

*Billie Oertel*

### From the Legislative Officer

There is at least one win in NARFE's political agenda. That is that the chained CPI is off the table for a couple years. I also read in the April *NARFE* magazine that repeal of the GPO/WEP has a total of 109 cosponsors in the house. I have little faith of it going anywhere, but at least there is a significant number of representatives looking at the possibility.

I feel the greatest financial concern we have as citizens is at the state level. Removing all business, farm, rent and royalty income from the Kansas Income Tax rolls may prove to be very unfortunate. Our schools are claimed to be significantly under



funded at current levels. With this cut in state revenue, I see little probability of meaningful relief being provided. Our grandchildren's generation needs the latest and best education possible. Never overlook the fact it is their generation's earnings that will be paying the taxes to support our pensions and other services we will need and expect.

*Wayne Stalnaker*

**From Sunshine Chair:**

Over the past few years our NARFE chapter has sent an average of 37 sympathy cards, about 10 sick cards, and a few anniversary cards a year. Please call me at 913-351-3386 if you know of anyone we need to send a card to. Also, we would appreciate any sympathy cards you are not going to use yourself. Thank you.

Get Well cards were sent to Ursula Aponte and Charles Sturgis.

*Marilyn Murray*

<b>IN MEMORIUM</b>	
<b>Members</b>	
Dale J. Noll	Cora Marie Walker
Frances M. Powell	Daryl W. "Pete" Zink
<b>Family Members</b>	
Charles Gable, brother of Phyllis Gable	
Joseph Heincker, father of Linda Heincker	
William "Bill" Hopkins, husband of Celeta Hopkins	

**From the Alzheimer's Chair:**

**Five Early Warning Signs of Alzheimer's**

Think you're too young to worry about Alzheimer's? Most people—more than 5 million—develop the disease after age 65. But 200,000 million Americans have been diagnosed in their 40s and 50s. Alzheimer's can't be prevented or cured, but the sooner you're diagnosed the sooner you can take steps to manage symptoms and live better for longer. Here are five warning signs.

**You forget what you read.** Memory loss is the most common sign, but not every lapse is symptomatic. Occasionally losing track of car keys can happen to anyone. But not remembering recently learned information, such as a conversation you just had, could be cause for concern. Other memory-related signs: forgetting important dates or asking for the same information over and over.

**You call a tea kettle a water pot.** Struggling

more to find the right words to identify objects is an early sign of Alzheimer's, as is difficulty expressing your thoughts or participating in conversations.

**You run more red lights.** Not because you're in a rush but because you misjudged the distance. Alzheimer's may disrupt your brain's ability to understand spatial relationships, interpret what you see and even sense of time and place.

**You act differently.** Perhaps you feel inexplicably anxious, confused or depressed, maybe you're more irritable or aggressive, you may also become easily upset or fearful for no real reason. People with Alzheimer's also start withdrawing from hobbies and once-loved social activities.

**You're walk is wobbly.** The science behind this is preliminary, but it's backed by three new studies. Researchers found that changes in gait, such as more variable strides, may indicate a decline in cognitive function, and provide an early clue to Alzheimer's. (*USA Weekend*, Nov 23-25, 2013)

*Helen Stewart*

~~~~~  
**Future of NARFE Recommendations**

This information includes the Recommendations made by the Future of NARFE Report and the National Executive Board review:

**These recommendations will be implemented immediately:**

1. Engage in viable strategic planning on an on-going basis.
2. Conduct a comprehensive branding study, to include whether or not a name change is warranted for NARFE.
3. Enhance NARFE's mission to include championing good government and public service.

**This one will be implemented effective 1 Nov. 2014.**

4. Establish regionally-elected Board of Directors of five NARFE members. (Realign current 10 regions to five.)

**Those listed next will be developed into by-law amendment resolutions to be presented for consideration at the 2014 National Convention:**

9. Reduce four National Resident Officers to two National Non-Resident Officers
27. Local Chapter membership will become optional.
29. NARFE membership is open to all supporting its mission.



31. Open NARFE membership to Youth, up to age 26, at a reduced rate, e.g., \$10/year.

**Will be implemented by NARFE HQ after 2014 National Convention.**

10. Use funding recovered from reduction of the number of National Officers and change to Non-residency to hire professional marketing staff and hire an Executive Director.

17. Hire a professional Executive Director to manage the NARFE Headquarters.

**Exempt Philippines and Panama from these recommendations.**

19. Curtail Federation funds, and migrate funding to State, and other, Representatives, and for congressional legislative advocacy.

28. NARFE members are automatically members of a Congressional District action team.

**Include additional legislative staff**

30. NARFE should increase its professional marketing staff.

**Accepted by the Board as presented**

5. Provide for representative election of Board of Directors under new structure and governance.

6. Allow for two additional (or more if exceptional opportunity arises) appointed Board members.

7. Establish term limits for Board members.

8. Board members elect Board President and Board Treasurer.

11. Update current removal process for all in elected and appointed positions.

12. Establish the regionally-elected Board members function as policy makers.

13. Board of Directors to set annual National membership dues as part of the organizational budget process.

14. Salaries of the Board President and the Board Treasurer will be commensurate with their redefined roles.

15. Institute term limits of three terms for the Board President and the Board Treasurer.

16. Create a removal process for the Board President and the Board Treasurer.

18. Transition from the Federation structure to a state advocacy structure.

**LEGISLATORS' Address / Phone:**

**Federal: Sen. Jerry Moran**, PO Box 1154, 23600 College Blvd Suite 201, Olathe, KS 66061, (913) 393-0711, [www.moran.senate.gov](http://www.moran.senate.gov).

**Sen. Pat Roberts**, 444 SE Quincy, Rm 392, Topeka, KS 66683, (785) 295-2745, [www.roberts.senate.gov](http://www.roberts.senate.gov).

**Rep. Lynn Jenkins**, R-2nd Dist., 3550 SW Fifth St., Topeka, KS 66601, (785) 234-5966.

**NARFE member toll free line** to Congress members: 1-866-220-0044, [www.lj@mail.house.gov](mailto:www.lj@mail.house.gov)

**Kansas State (by Dist. at Statehouse, Topeka 66612, telephone (785) 296 + ext.):**

**Rep. John Bradford**, R-40th Dist., 300 SW 10th Ave., ext. 7653, [john.bradford@house.ks.gov](mailto:john.bradford@house.ks.gov)

**Rep. Willie Dove**, D-38th Dist., 300 SW 10th Ave., ext. 7670, [willie.dove@house.ks.gov](mailto:willie.dove@house.ks.gov)

**Sen. Steve Fitzgerald**, R-5th Dist., 300 SW 10th Ave., ext 7357, [Steve.Fitzgerald@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Steve.Fitzgerald@senate.ks.gov)

**Sen. Tom Holland**, D-3rd, 300 SW 10th Ave., ext. 7372, [tom.holland@senate.ks.gov](mailto:tom.holland@senate.ks.gov).

**Rep. Melanie Meier**, D-41st, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 7650, [Melanie.meier@house.ks.gov](mailto:Melanie.meier@house.ks.gov).

**Rep. Connie O'Brien**, R-42nd, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 7683, [connie.obrien@house.ks.gov](mailto:connie.obrien@house.ks.gov).

**State legislators hot line:** 1-800-432-3924.

20. State Representatives and two other Representatives (replacing Federation Presidents) to become compensated.

21. State Representatives to elect the Board of Directors, using a proportional voting system.

22. Establish Congressional District Leaders (CDLs) in each Congressional District.

23. Congressional District Leaders will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses by NARFE HQ.

24. Direct election of CDLs by voting NARFE members.

25. Structure NARFE's election process to coincide with the U.S. Congressional election process.

26: Congressional District Leaders elect State Representatives, or other similar Representatives, using a proportional voting system.



- 32: Vigorously pursue non-dues revenue sources.
- 33: NARFE should seriously consider establishing a 501(c) (3) foundation.
- 34. Conventions should transition into conferences and other events.
- 35. NARFE must use the most beneficial technology and communications methods possible.



**Why I Like Retirement !!!**

**Question:** What do you do all week?  
**Answer:** Monday through Friday, NOTHING . . . Saturday and Sunday, I rest.

### *Calendar of Upcoming Events*

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>May 1 Chapter Meeting: Reports on the Federal Convention.</p> <p>May 29 Executive Committee meeting.</p> <p>June 5 Chapter Meeting: Memorial Service (rescheduled from February due to bad weather).</p> <p><b>July NO MEETING.</b></p> | <p>July 31 Executive Committee meeting.</p> <p>Aug. 7 Annual Picnic; details in Jul-Aug <i>Bison</i>.</p> <p>Aug. 28 Executive Committee meeting.</p> <p>Sept. 4 Chapter meeting: TBA.</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**NOTE:** Chapter meetings are held in the **Heritage Center, 109 Delaware** at 1:30 p.m.  
 Executive Committee Meetings are held at the Leavenworth Public Library the last Thursday of each month at 9:15 a.m.



Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Leavenworth, Kansas 66048  
 Permit No. 101

NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED  
 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
 3012 Girard Street  
 Leavenworth, KS 66048  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED