

THE BISON



Buffalo Bill Chapter 27

July-August 2014

Issue 3

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

When: Thursday, August 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Heritage Center, 109 Delaware

Cost: \$12.00 for Members & Guests

MENU

Fried Chicken & BBQ Brisket
Cheesy Potatoes
Pasta Salad & Cole Slaw
Assorted Desserts
Rolls and Butter
Coffee and Iced Tea

Note: There is a ramp that makes the Heritage Center handicap-accessible. Also, plenty of free parking.

Chances for door prizes will be sold for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. One prize per person.

NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED WITHOUT A RESERVATION!!! SIGN UP NOW!!!

Reservations: Eileen Sturgis
538 McDonald Rd.,
Leavenworth, KS 66048

For more information, phone: 913-683-2222.

Cut-off Date: August 3, 2014

Reservations are made when check or cash is submitted. If check is made out to NARFE, it will be cashed AFTER the dinner; if made out to Eileen Sturgis, it will be cashed right away, so you will receive your cancelled check faster.

Please include, on a separate piece of paper, the name(s) of member(s) and guest(s). Also indicate that check is for Annual Picnic.

Thank You!!! See you there!! Eileen Sturgis

From the President:

I love the rain every few days. It keeps the cucumbers, tomatoes, flowers and lawn watered

without having to drag a hose around.

You will find in this *BISON* a separate letter to each member of this chapter. If you get the *BISON* by email you will not get an addressed envelope. If you get it mailed you will also find an envelope with my address on it to mail back a check for our fight against Alzheimer's. We have some members right now fighting different forms of the disease and it is very difficult for them and their families, so take the time to write a check and mail it back. Any donation large or small is 100% tax deductible and will go toward helping find a cure for this disease.

When we were at the convention in Manhattan we received a copy of a small Xeroxed copy of a pamphlet that could be given to the local funeral homes for memorials to Alzheimer's. Bill and I took them to a local printer and had them done up professionally on pretty blue paper and have delivered them to the funeral homes in Leavenworth and the one in Tonganoxie. We were told at each one that they never knew where to send memorials locally when the family requested memorials to Alzheimer's and were pleased to have the information. We have had donations from a memorial last week and I am sure we will get more as time goes by.

Please make your reservation(s) for the Annual Picnic with Eileen Sturgis.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the Annual Picnic

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

From the 1st VP—Membership

NARFE puts out a Recruiting and Retention Journal every quarter and in an article titled "Retention is Much More Than Just the Renewal Check", they provided a quote from Cheryl Patterson from the 2014 Issue of the Chapter 443, Huntsville, AL newsletter. "Remember that many of the benefits we enjoy today as retirees were afforded to us, while we were working, by other retirees and NARFE members working to support the entire federal community. Now, it is



our job to help support the active federal employees, who will be the retirees of tomorrow". This is so true and something we need to remember. It's also something that we need to pass on to those who could be members of NARFE, even if they don't join our chapter.

Some questions and answers that were included in the same article are as follows:

- What is NARFE's role in the federal community? NARFE is the ONLY organization solely dedicated to protecting and preserving the pay and benefits of all federal workers and retirees.
- How is NARFE relevant to the member and necessary today? The reason NARFE was created in 1921 was to persuade public policy makers that federal workers ought to have economic security in retirement as compensation for devoting their careers to public service.
- NARFE's primary mission and *raison d'être* remains protecting the retirement and health benefits on behalf of federal employees, retirees and their families.
- What is NARFE's legislative track record? Log in to the NARFE website, www.NARFE.org, to see what NARFE has done lately. Click on the "Legislation" tab, on the left panel click on "2013 Legislative Accomplishments."
- Things look like they are going to change for NARFE and all the members of NARFE. Hang in there and let's work to make NARFE as good as it can be.

Fran Gast

From the 2nd VP—Programs

July—No meeting.

Aug. 7th—Annual Picnic at 6 p.m, \$12. Terry Booker is our host; we will have brisket, fried chicken, assorted salads & assorted desserts. Come join us and have fun.

Sept. 4th—TBA.

Oct. 2nd—Jodi Fincher from St. John's Hospital.

Nov. 6th—Fall Festival—details in next *Bison*.

Dec. 4th—Pam Maxwell, Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Billie Oertel

From the Legislative Officer

There is a significant income tax preference item that some Federal Retirees are not taking advantage of. It's the income adjustment available to Public Service Officers.

It is the reduction of taxable annuity by the amount of health and/or long term health insurance premiums, deducted from their federal annuity, to a maximum of \$3,000. This will frequently amount to an annual tax reduction of \$300 to \$450.

The reason this preference is so frequently overlooked is due to the fact, there is no specific reference on the 1040 form. The taxpayer is responsible for determining their own eligibility and the amount of adjustment. Occupations granted this adjustment are: law enforcement, firefighters, chaplains, rescue squads and ambulance crews. Unfortunately this adjustment does not extend to surviving spouses.

Also, Kansas will no longer be taxing distributions made from the Federal Thrift Savings plan. This change was effective as of tax year 2013. This proves to be quite a windfall for those who participated in the plan.

I believe I wrote about this tax preference before, but I ran into a guy awhile back that hadn't been getting it.

He was retired from the prison and a preparer had been doing his taxes. It was after April 15, 2014 when he became aware. He lost out on 2007, 2008, 2009 & 2010. In his situation \$450 a year=\$1,800.

I bet there are many others qualified who aren't aware.

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. Feel free to bring them to the Annual Picnic. Thank you.



A Get Well card was sent to Eleanor Ochs.

Marilyn Murray

IN MEMORIAM

Members

Gary Doebele

Margaret A. Oertel Gorski

Family Members

Rose Mary Visocsky, wife of Steve Visocsky

From the Alzheimer's Chair:

At the recent state convention Janice Neuschafer, State Alzheimer's Chairman, spoke about the current happenings in Alzheimer's research and how our contributions are being used for further research. Alzheimer's is a form of dementia. One in nine older Americans have dementia. Dementia is growing and increasing as baby boomers age. One third of all seniors who die are affected by some type of dementia. Alzheimer's is not a normal part of aging.

In our committee meeting we discussed fund raisers and projects to raise money for Alzheimer's research. One chapter in western Kansas had a big garage sale and another chapter worked at bingo once a week. Our chapter has used books and magazines for sale at our meetings. Please help us with our fund raising for NARFE Alzheimer's Research.

We are enclosing in the newsletter a copy of a letter to mail back with a check payable to NARFE Alzheimer's Research.

Helen Stewart

From Legislative Hotline, June 20, 2014

Message from NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin

"Unlike a certain very large seniors' organization, NARFE is a member-driven, advocacy organization. Delegates to NARFE conventions set major policy, including the legislative program for the following Congress. Pages 44-50 of the July issue of *narfe* magazine are devoted to

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.

Sen. Pat Roberts, 444 SE Quincy, Rm 392, Topeka, KS 66683, (785) 295-2745, 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

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

Rep. Willie Dove, D-38th Dist., 300 SW 10th Ave., ext. 7670, willie.dove@house.ks.gov

Sen. Steve Fitzgerald, R-5th Dist., 300 SW 10th Ave., ext 7357, Steve.Fitzgerald@senate.ks.gov

Sen. Tom Holland, D-3rd, 300 SW 10th Ave., ext. 7372, tom.holland@senate.ks.gov.

Rep. Melanie Meier, D-41st, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 7650, Melanie.meier@house.ks.gov.

Rep. Connie O'Brien, R-42nd, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 7683, connie.obrien@house.ks.gov.

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

NARFE's National Convention, August 24-28 in Orlando, FL. Included in the schedule on page 47, you'll see the NARFE-PAC Breakfast and Legislative Lunch and Learn, both on Wednesday, August 27. I urge you to come to Orlando and bring along a large measure of open-mindedness and good will."

Consumer Prices Rise in May

"On June 18, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov/cpi or 202-691-6994) reported that the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) rose to 234.216 in May, an increase of 0.33 percent from April. * * * June consumer price indices will



be released on July 22. More information is available to NARFE members on our website.”



Why I Like Retirement !!!

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

July NO MEETING.

July 31 Executive Committee meeting.

Aug. 7 Annual Picnic, **see pg. 1 for details.**

Aug. 28 Executive Committee meeting.

Sept. 4 Chapter meeting: TBA.

Sept. 25 Executive Committee meeting.

Oct. 2 Chapter meeting: Jodi Fincher, St. Johns Hospital.

Oct. 30 Executive Committee meeting.

Nov. 6 Annual Fall Festival, details in Oct-Nov issue of *Bison*.

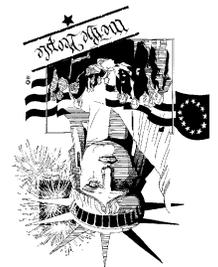
Nov. 20 Executive Committee meeting.

Dec. 4 Chapter meeting: Pam Maxwell, Blue Cross Blue Shield.

January NO MEETING.

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.



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