

THE BISON



Buffalo Bill Chapter 27

May 2013

Issue 2

From the President:

Happy Spring!

There are six chapter members attending the Kansas Federation Convention, 28-30 April, in Overland Park, KS. Next week several chapter members are getting together to assemble baskets and get other "treasures" organized to place in both the Alzheimer's Live Auction and Silent Auction at the convention. We have some very nice items, so looking forward to seeing how much money we make this year. Last year is going to be hard to beat, we did so well. Membership is going to be a hot topic I am sure at convention again this year, especially getting the active employed civilian workforce to join NARFE. The organization works so hard to save their benefits, as their benefits dwindle each and every year. I have little luck in getting any to join so I cannot say what the secret is to get them interested. If any of you have any suggestions please let me or one of the other officers know, so we can go forward with your suggestion.

See you at our next chapter meeting on May 2, 2013, 1:30 pm at The Heritage Center. Also please mark your calendar for our Annual Picnic the evening of 1 August 2013 at The Heritage Center.

Boni Lages
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boniwoody@gmail.com

From the 1st VP—Membership

After reading the NARFE's Recruiting & Retention Journal, I found that retention of mem-

New Officers for 2013

President: Boni Lages
1st VP—Membership: Fran Gast
2nd VP—Programs: Billie Oertel
3rd VP—Service Officer: John Leavitt
Treasurer: Ross Perkins
Legislative Chair: Wayne Stalnaker
Sunshine Chair: Marilyn Murray
Alzheimer's Chair: Helen Stewart

bers is not the reason that NARFE membership is declining. Analysis by NARFE HQ revealed that retention of membership is not the problem, it appears our inability to attract new members in large enough volume is where the problem lies. NARFE HQ is going to the lapsed membership files and contacting lapsed members to encourage reinstatement. We need to do the same thing. If you know someone who has left NARFE, give them a call, or send them a letter, and urge them to return.

Another item that has been noted is that younger federal employees and retirees are not interested in attending meetings, and are more interested in joining eNARFE. eNARFE is available through www.NARFE.org, so if anyone is interested, you can refer them to that internet address.

As members of NARFE we need to talk to those around us and give them information and help them to decide that they need to join NARFE, and that NARFE can help them keep their benefits.

Since the weather is finally getting nice, maybe you can talk to your neighbors and friends as you spend time outside, and give them a copy of a *NARFE magazine* and answer any questions they may have. The *NARFE magazine* contains an application for NARFE membership, and you can point that out to them. Additional information is on www.NARFE.org. It is good to refer people to it, and take a look at it yourself.



I'm looking forward to attending the NARFE Convention in Kansas the end of April and hope to find more ways to develop our membership!

Fran Gast

From the 2nd VP—Programs

May 2nd—Convention Reports

June 6th—LTC Nathan Keller, DB Controller

July—No Meeting

Aug. 1st—Annual picnic, Terry Booker is serving.

Sept. 5th—Susie Bradford, Hospice

Oct. 3rd—Joey Henderson, Twin Oaks

Nov. 7th—Fall Festival, Terry Booker is serving, and the Power & Life Choir from Leavenworth Sr. High will be performing.

Billie Oertel

From the Legislative Chair:

We are all in a quandary as to what our financial future is going to be. It makes little difference if we are currently retired or retirement is decades away. It is a near certainty that the computations for COLA's are going to be modified. Contributions for many current employees will probably be increased. If not, it is a near certainty that employee contributions for new hires will be implemented in the near future.

It has been reported that the Civil Service Retirement fund is currently fully funded. The Social Security Trust Fund does not have a current deficit. The fact is surplus Social Security Trust funds have been borrowed to help fund various other government programs to help maintain lower revenue income from other sources. It is only claimed that a future deficit looms for the Trust Fund.

The overall deficit is real and has been with us a long time. But Civil Service and Social Security expenditures have not contributed one thin dime to that deficit.

President O'Bama has proposed a change in how Federal COLA's are computed. There being many representatives and senators who are more than willing to cut retiree earned and paid for benefits, it may well happen. To get a good

grasp on how this change may affect your future, use the Calculator on the NARFE web-site. A calculation will show that a person having a earned \$40,000 per year retirement benefit will suffer a \$36,299 loss of benefit over a 20 year period if the proposed chained CPI is fully implemented.

I consider it very unfair that reductions continue to be taken from civil service and social security retiree benefits to cover deficits they have not contributed to. If you feel the same, contact your federal representative or senator.

Wayne Stalaker

From Sunshine Chair:

If you know of members who are hospitalized or ill at home let me know and I will send cards. We would also like to recognize wedding anniversaries and need your help by furnishing us with that information. Please call me at 351-3386. Thank you.

Get Well card was sent to Joe Kolb.

Marilyn Murray

IN MEMORIUM

Members

Francis Alexander	Lillian Holt
Delores Anderson	Grace (Cissy) Lewis
Lucian Gabrick, Sr.	Joseph Parks
Rosemary Sachse	

Family Members

Betty Duree, sister of Diane Barrett
Jacqueline Porter, sister of Betty Reed

From the Alzheimer's Chair:

A question came up at the April meeting about donations to NARFE/Alzheimer's Research. Some of our Chapter members have received a solicitation coupon to send donations to an address in Washington, D.C. These coupons should not have been sent to NARFE members. **Please do not use these coupons for making your donations.** We should continue to make donations through our local chapter. The



LEGISLATORS' Topeka Address / Phone:

Federal: Sen Jerry Moran, 612 Kansas Ave, 66603 (785) 233-2503, www.moran.senate.gov.

Sen. Pat Roberts, 444 SE Quincy, Rm 392, 66683, (785) 295-2745, www.roberts.senate.gov.

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

NARFE member toll free line to Congress members: 1-866-220-0044.

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

Sen. Tom Holland, D-3rd, 181 East, ext. 7372, tom.holland@senate.state.ks.gov.

Sen. Kelly Kultala, D-5th, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 7357, kelly.kultala@senate.state.ks.gov.

Rep. Owen Donohoe, R-39th, L27 Docking Building, ext. 7682, owen.donohoe@house.state.ks.gov.

Rep. Melanie Meier, D-40th, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 7630, melanie.meier@house.state.ks.us.

Rep. Jana Goodman, R-41st, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 6014, jana.goodman@house.ks.gov.

Rep. Connie O'Brien, R-42nd, 300 SW 10th Ave, ext. 7656, con-nie.obrien@house.ks.gov.

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

2012 Kansas Federation contribution goal was set at \$5.50 per member for each chapter. If these coupons are used, our chapter will not receive credit for these contributions.

A recent report "2013 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures" states that Alzheimer's disease was first identified more than 100 years ago, but research into its symptoms, causes, risk factors and treatment has gained momentum only in the last 30 years. Although research has revealed a great deal about Alzheimer's, the precise changes in the brain that trigger the development of Alzheimer's, and the order in which they occur, largely remain unknown. The only exceptions are certain rare, inherited forms of the disease caused by known genetic mutations. Alzheimer's disease affects people in different ways. (Will be continued in next Bison.)

Helen Stewart

*Know how to prevent sagging?
Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.*



Be Prepared for Life's Events

One important role NARFE plays is helping survivors of federal employees and retirees navigate the benefits that are available to them upon the death of a current federal employee or annuitant. That's where the "Life's Events" pamphlet comes in. It outlines a simple three-step process for survivors:

- Return payments and checks issued after the date of death and notify financial institutions that are receiving direct deposit of those payments.
- Notify the agencies that were paying benefits to the deceased.
- Obtain certified copies of the death certificate to establish eligibility to be paid death benefits, such as Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees Retirement System survivor benefits, Federal Employees Group Life Insurance benefits, Thrift Savings Plan funds and Social Security.

The pamphlet includes forms to record important information that will make it much easier for your survivors to know who they need to contact in the event of your death. This includes:

- Personal information
- Retirement asset information
- Financial records
- Liability account numbers
- Lender information
- Insurance information
- List and location of important documents
- Who to notify
- Burial instructions

There's also a sample notification letter that can be sent to the Office of Personnel Management's Retirement Operations Center to assist your survivors in providing all of the information needed for OPM to process benefits payable upon your death.

Exerpt from NARFE Newswatch website



Did You Know?

If you had to pick the most all-around nutritious vegetable, you might say the sweet potato is No. 1, because it is packed with fiber and vitamins *and* gives you a healthy hit of protein, too.



Why I Like Retirement !!!

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?
Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

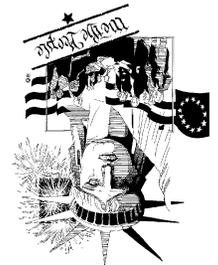
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Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 25	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.
May 2	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: Convention Reports
May 23	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.
June 6	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: LTC Nathan Keller, DB Controller

July	No Chapter Meeting.	
July 25	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.
Aug. 1	6 p.m.	Annual picnic.
Aug. 29	9:15 a.m.	Executive Committee meeting.
Sept. 5	1:30 p.m.	Chapter meeting: Susie Bradford, Hospice

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.



**NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED
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