



Kaw Blue Communiqué

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(By: John H. Rodgers, 785-230-6050,
rodgersjohn@rocketmail.com)

Well, here we are in February of 2013 and our elected leaders in Washington D.C. are on vacation. In the mean time nothing is being done about the budget.

We have 262 members in this chapter. If each of us make phone calls to our elected leader's offices, they may just listen!

I was happy to see 71 men and women at our February meeting. We had four new members and a few guests as well.

We are losing members, so lets make it our goal to work hard, not only to retain our current members; but to recruit new members to join us. Dick and the membership committee have applications available for you to hand out. Remember to **fill in the area with your referral name and membership number so that our chapter receives credit!**

We have a convention coming up in April. If you plan to attend please contact Judy Grossnickle as soon as possible to receive the registration packet. If you have made something for the convention, please get it to Ann Domsch so that we will be able to get it to the Convention.

I need a volunteer for the nominating committee at the convention. If you are interested, please contact me.

Our next meeting is March 20, 2013. Hope to see you there!

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

(By: Elaine Liddell, Program Chairman)

Please plan to attend your meeting. We meet at RC McGraw's, 2317 Tuttle Creek Blvd. Lunch is served at 11:15AM. If you are not called by a caller, please call John Rodgers for reservations.

Wednesday, Apr 17

Dennis Peterson

Riley County Hazardous Waste Program
"What We Do & What You May Do"

Wednesday, May 15

Dr. Thomas Herald, USDA,
Center for Grain & Animal Health Research
"New & Old Programs"

Wednesday, Jun 19

Jennifer R. Wilson
County Extension Director
"All About the Riley County Fair"



ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE

(Ann Domsch, Alzheimer's Committee Chair, 537-5147)

Treat Alzheimer's When It Matters Most!

The key to improving the brain function of people with Alzheimer's disease may not be more-effective drugs but how those drugs are used. Since Alzheimer's is difficult to detect early, drug treatment generally begins after brain damage has already occurred. Now three large trials are testing potential Alzheimer's drugs in a new way: treating people who are at a high risk of developing Alzheimer's years before their symptoms become obvious. In one study, the drug *solanezumab* became the first to demonstrate it could actually slow the progression of the disease. The effect was small but might be much more significant if the drug is given earlier. Bruce Sigsbee, MD, president of the American Academy of Neurology said, "The challenge will be to recognize the disease early enough to apply the drug." Fortunately, scientists are working on just that, and they have started to identify, decades before symptoms occur, changes in the brains of people in their 20s who are destined to develop the inherited form of the disease.

The NARFE Convention is fast approaching. All items, antique, homemade or new with a value of at least \$5.00 are welcome. If you are not able to attend the convention, you may bring your contribution(s) to the April meeting or call me and we'll arrange pickup.

We will be continuing the Basket Alzheimer's Collection at every other monthly meeting and the Penny Collection for Alzheimer's. Remember 100% of the money collected supports Alzheimer's Research. Don't forget to save and turn in the Best Choice bar codes.

TAKE POLITICAL ACTION!

(Ann Murphy, PAC Chair)

Did you send in your contribution to NARFE-PAC in the postage paid envelope from the center of your Mar '13 NARFE magazine? NO? You may give your contributions directly to me at our monthly meeting. If you donate \$20.00 to PAC you'll receive a very nice red, white and blue pin.

What is NARFE-PAC? It is a separate, segregated fund of the Association comprised only of voluntary contributions from NARFE members specifically for political purposes. AKA **The Federal Employee & Retiree Defense Fund.**

Why Contribute to NARFE-PAC?

NARFE is fighting against attacks on federal workers and retirees—along with their pay and benefits—every day. PAC is there, to help elect (and re-elect) lawmakers who will protect your benefits and recognize the value of your service. It amplifies NARFE's voice on Capitol Hill. Your voluntary contributions to PAC help fund the political arm of our organization in Washington whose sole purpose is to protect the benefits of individuals with a vested interest in the Civilian systems of the federal government. PAC is the political action committee that works for your interests.

I hope you will see me soon with your contribution to NARFE-PAC.

Donate Now!

To NARFE-PAC to fuel our fight!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(By: John Drach, Legislative Committee Chair)

Nationally, NARFE encourages all members to contact their congressional representatives. Individually we wonder if the contacts really matter. Here are only some of the Legislative Accomplishments NARFE feels we all accomplished with the 112th Congress through our contacts:

- Successfully opposed a switch to the Chained CPI to calculate cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).
- Successfully opposed a proposal to limit the government's contribution for health insurance premiums.
- Successfully opposed proposals to place postal retirees and/or employees into a separate health insurance plan.
- Prevented increased retirement contributions for current employees. Increased retirement contributions are effective for new hires but not current employees.
- Prevented reduction of federal retirement annuities. There were several pieces of proposed legislation introduced that sought to substantially decrease annuities.

It is important to contact your senators and representative at their offices, at town hall meetings or through telephone conference calls. Visit their websites and provide your contact information. NARFE's distinguishing feature over the years has been the ability to meet face-to-face with members of Congress.

Recently an item was discussed that is of great concern. On February 13th, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held a hearing

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT Continued from previous column

regarding various postal reform proposals. Troubling statements made suggested that the Postal Service could save costs by separating postal employees and retirees from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), and replacing their health insurance with separate plans. Our Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) is very important to both employees and retirees. Watch to see if any legislation is introduced regarding this item.

The Kansas Governor's Tax Bill was introduced to the Kansas Senate and House Tax Committees in late January. Various Committees will be working on various Tax Bills throughout the spring and summer. Watch for any legislation that would be detrimental for federal employees or retirees.

2013 CONVENTION

(Judy Grossnickle, Editor & Secretary)

If you would like to attend as a delegate. Let me know. Our chapter has funds set aside to help the delegates with a small reimbursement to help cover their expenses.

The Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters is holding the annual convention, April 28-30, 2013, at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Overland Park, Kansas. Our chapter is allocated 11 delegates. The hotel accommodations can be made directly with the hotel. The room rate is \$104.71 which includes breakfast and all taxes. The registration for the convention is due by April 5th. The full registration is \$78.00 which includes the registration fee, Sunday Night Buffet Dinner, Monday Noon Luncheon, Monday Night Banquet/Buffer. You may also register for a combination of registration and meals. The Alzheimer's Live Auction will be held on Sunday evening. The silent auction runs until just before the Monday night banquet.

MEMBERSHIP

(By: Dick McChesney Vice President for Membership)

Who is on the NARFE Membership Committee? Every member! We certainly believe in the value of NARFE working to protect current and retirees benefits. Many of those eligible will also see the value if we talk to them one on one.

Who Is eligible to join NARFE?

- Current employees
- CSRS and FERS retirees
- Spouses and surviving spouses of retirees
- Former employees covered by CSRS or FERS even though not receiving an annuity
- A former spouse who is legally entitled to a federal survivor's annuity.

Applications explaining the value of membership and NARFE background brochures are available. Please call me at 785-537-8302 if you need some. Be a NARFE mem-

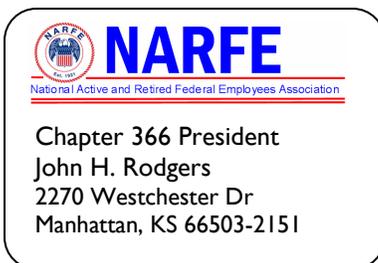
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MEMBERSHIP continued from previous column

bership recruiter -- thank you!

We've gained these seven new members since the September issue. We extend a warm welcome to Carol Balding, Todd Barrows, Douglas Beech, Carol Fink, Marvin Hachmeister and Rebecca Rodgers. Don't forget when you come to your first meeting your lunch is free. Give our president, John, a call and he'll reserve a place for you.

MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD			
MONTH	GAIN	REINSTATED	LOSS
Dec-Feb	3	1	5
Memberships in peril: 17			
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of Feb, 2013			262



Forwarding Service Requested
Judy Grossnickle, Editor