



Kaw Blue Communiqué

Volume No. 2 | Issue No. 3

Manhattan, KS Date June 17, 2015

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(By: John H. Rodgers, 785-230-6050,

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To all the members of 0366, I want to take this opportunity to **Thank You**. I have led you for three terms as President, and cherished every moment. To my executive board, I tip my hat to you. Our members elected the best!

We had a good convention. As with any large gathering, there were a few items under contention. Well it's time to go straight to the main reason I left the convention a little early. I had a call from my neurologist at St Francis. I have **Parkinson's Disease** and now they've added a "40% chance" that I also have **early onset of the letter "A"**. I have put a lot of thought in my decision to resign as your president at this time. I know Cliff will continue with the hard road ahead. I have little regrets with my decision. Remember you're the best chapter in the state! Stand tall and let it be known we are here and we have a "VOTE". God Bless all of you !!
John R.

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 Clifford Spaeth for reservations.

July & August
Summer Vacation
No meetings

September 16

Dr. Scott Bean,
Research Scientist,
Grain Quality & Structure Unit,
Agriculture Research Service
"Research on Sorghum Crops"

(Dr. Bean is also wonderful photographer)

DON'T FORGET TO COLLECT BEST CHOICE LABELS AND TO CONTRIBUTE THEM TO THE ALHEIMER'S FUND. ELAINE LIDDELL NEEDS AS MANY AS YOU CAN CARRY INTO OUR MEETINGS! SHE SENDS THEM IN AND RECIEVES CASH BACK WHICH GOES INTO OUR ALHEIMER'S FUND.

Editor's note: Since Rebecca is John's mainstay and now caretaker, she too resigned so she may take care of John. This means that John will be replaced as President by Cliff Spaeth. Dick McChesney has volunteered to help Cliff with the Membership Committee and the Secretary position is vacant. **Do you have the skills, knowledge and abilities to assume the position of secretary through December? If so, call Cliff, 785-539-1363**

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(By: John Drach, Legislative Committee Chairman)

It was reported in early May that the House and Senate budget negotiators finalized a joint budget resolution for fiscal year 2016. This highly anticipated conference report is the first time both chambers have agreed on a budget in several years.

While the impact of the joint budget resolution on federal employees and retirees is not as severe as the House budget, it still contains more than \$193 billion worth of cuts from the federal community. The joint resolution also fails to relieve agencies from the arbitrary budget constraints imposed by the across-the-board funding cuts known as sequestration.

NARFE is relieved that the resolution does not set in motion an expedited process (budget reconciliation) to achieve those assumed savings, and it includes no policy proposals to do so. This is in contrast to the House budget resolution, which specifically directed the committee with jurisdiction over the federal community to achieve substantial savings and provided specific policy recommendations to achieve the savings.

While this budget fight is ending, many more remain. Nationally, NARFE reminds members to stay vigilant. The policy changes contained within the original House resolution will continue to be part of the conversation on Capitol Hill as Congress looks to pay for other priorities. Nationally NARFE has drafted a letter for your use to send to members of Congress. Please access the National Legislative Hotline dated May 15th and send the letter to your members of Congress telling them the Federal Community has shouldered a substantial amount already towards the deficient reduction.

--John

61st KANSAS FEDERATION OF NARFE CHAPTERS 2015 CONVENTION

Our 2015 Convention was held in Topeka, KS hosted by Chapter 0002. Kay and Mike Cardella started working the reception of Alzheimer's auction items at noon. 364 fine articles were donated to silent and live auctions. As normal, the bidding was fierce with lively competition to take home the prize. The auctions raised \$5,900.00. Since the convention was attended by 121 attendees that meant that each person donated an average of \$48.75 to the auctions. But, judging by the loot carried out, I'd declare Louis and Elizabeth Bornman the major bid winners. Way to go NARFE members! I know the Alzheimer's Research Fund was richer due to the generosity of the members who contributed items for the auction and the members who bid and won the auction prizes.

The major theme of the Convention was focused on LEGISLATURE. Sarah Weissman, Big NARFE (NARFE Headquarters) was our guest and Legislature Speaker. Her main message was that Congress giveth and congress can taketh away. When we don't speak up, **our silence means agreement**. So, if you don't agree with what Congress is doing, considering or planning, speak up! The NARFE Web site has form letters that you can click into and send as is or modify to your liking. You should write – letter, postcard or e-mail, call, and attend town meetings. Even non-NARFE members should be encourage to visit the NARFE Website to send letters to their representatives. Federal Employees have already given back 120 billion dollars to reduce the federal budget. Should we give more? Some of the changes facing us are: Sequestration; Reducing the percentage of our health insurance paid by the

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ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE

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

Serious head injuries may lead to premature brain aging, a new British study suggests. Traumatic brain injury is not a static event. It can set off secondary processes, possibly related to inflammation, that can cause more damage in the brain for years afterwards, and may contribute to the development of Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

Researchers looked at brain scans from 99 people who suffered traumatic brain injuries from traffic crashes, falls or assaults. After their injuries they had persistent neurological problems. Their brain scans were taken between one month and 46 years after their injuries. These scans were compared to brain scans of healthy people.

The study found that the brains of the people with head injuries showed changes in structure that resembled those in older people. On average, their brains appeared to be about five years older than their actual age.

A New Trial to treat Alzheimer's is seen as "game changing". Helen DeCoste of Boston is a patient in a ground breaking clinical trial, testing whether a drug call Solanezumab can slow down or even prevent Alzheimer's disease. No drug has even come close before, but researchers have never tested patients quite like Helene in quite this way before. Specifically they have a buildup of what's called amyloid plaque, which doctors believe is what kills off brain cells. The hope in this trial is that the drug will destroy the amyloid before the amyloid destroys the brain.

A4 is an ambitious, international trial in which 60 hospitals are looking for 1,000 patients who are not yet exhibiting signs of memory loss, but who also have brain scans suggesting they will get Alzheimer's in the future.

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government, which would increase the amount we have to pay; and Increasing the cost for CFE (Current Federal Employees) by 6% into the G Fund. Be prepared to fight to prevent more whittling away of our benefits.

For PAC (Political Action Committee) our federation has raised \$2,800.00 in contributions from 62 contributors. PAC is important to us because the politicians only listen to those who contribute to their campaigns. PAC contributes to those who support our aims and goals.

On the last day of the convention, the award certificates were presented. Our chapter was recognized for contributing **\$11.04 per member**. The chapter with the lowest per member amount donated, \$6.17 per member, while the highest per member average was Chapter 2086 (Ulysses) with \$16.43 per member. So, we were in the middle of the pack.

CONK (College of NARFE Knowledge) is again scheduled for Aug 24 – 26 August 2015 at South Sioux City, Iowa.

Our convention elected: Elizabeth Bornman, 1st VP; Gwen Ketter, Secretary; and John Ourada, Area III, VP.

Our next convention will be held in Salina, KS on April 24-26, 2016. The 2017 Convention will be hosted by the Executive Committee location, unknown at this time.

MEMBERSHIP

(By: Cliff Spaeth, Vice President for Membership)

John, I am very, very sorry to hear about your diagnosis of Parkinson's and potentially Alzheimer's. My father had Parkinson's and I know I am a high risk of eventually some sort of dementia. Did you just receive the diagnosis? Are you sure you want to resign at this time? Your enthusiasm and positive attitude would be greatly missed by our club. I have no desire to move up to president but would finish this year if you really feel you must resign. Even if you do, your and Rebecca's presence at meetings would be a lift for all of us.

We've had some gains and more losses. We have 10 memberships in peril. Our chapter needs you! Renew! Talk up NARFE to all you know who are eligible to join us. Offer them the Application out of our magazine. Recruit!

IN MEMORIUM

**Bonnie Culbertson, Member
Frances Moyer, Member
Ted Samuelson, Member**

Our sympathy is extended to their families, friends and co-workers.

MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD

MONTH	GAIN	REINSTATED	LOSS
Mar—May	1	1	7

Memberships in peril: 10

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of May, 235



Forwarding Service Requested
Judy Grossnickle, Editor