



Kaw Blue Communiqué

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MEMBERSHIP

(By: Cliff Spaeth, Vice President for Membership)

I first want to thank Dick McChesney for his untold hours of service as the immediate past Vice President for Membership. He is presently basking in the beautiful Arizona sunshine. The current Membership Committee consists of Don Erickson, Don Cooper, myself and Dick when he returns this spring.

Our job is effective only if you as members help us in selling prospective members on the many positive attributes of NARFE.

We do have a very positive start in 2015. Teresa Franz and Duane Walker attended their first meeting in February as new NARFE members. Welcome to both of you! That raises our number of voting members from 266 to 268. Several prospective members have been identified and we are working to seal the deal. Please let me know if you have a suggestion on a prospective member.

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.

April 15

Lori Bishop
Director, Flint Hills Volunteer Center
"Volunteer Opportunities in Our Community"

May 20

Chuck Marr
NARFE Member
"How to Grow Tomatoes"

June 17

To be announced

DON'T FORGET TO COLLECT BEST CHOICE LABELS AND TO CONTRIBUTE THEM TO THE ALZHEIMER'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 ALZHEIMER'S FUND.



In 2014 our chapter contributed \$11.04 per member to Alzheimer's Research!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(By: John Drach, Legislative Committee Chairman)

Many times we wonder what NARFE is doing for me. National NARFE recently reported their 113th Congressional accomplishments. Here are some of those reported NARFE's accomplishments:

Successfully opposed a switch to the **Chained CPI** to calculate annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). Switching to the Chained CPI would cost the average federal retiree \$48,000 over 25 years by slowing the growth of COLA increases.

Prevented increased retirement contributions for current employees. As part of a budget compromise, Congress increased the percentage of salary paid by new hires (starting in 2014) by 1.3 percent. However, just days before the deal was announced, it was reported that budget negotiators agreed to increase contributions for current employees by 1.2 percent.

Prevented reduction or elimination of federal retirement annuities. NARFE has been successful in ensuring legislation to eliminate the defined-benefit pension of the Federal Employees Retirement System for new hires is not enacted into law. Attempts to eliminate the FERS Annuity Supplement also have not been enacted.

Successfully opposed a proposal to dismantle the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. H.R. 1780 would have removed active employees from the FEHBP and placed them in the exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act. By removing traditionally younger and healthier active employees from the pool of participants, retirees would be left

Continued in the next column

Legislative Report continued from previous column

the program and face significantly higher costs. Eventually, the FEHBP would cease to exist. NARFE was successful in ensuring this proposal did not move through the legislative process.

Successfully opposed provisions of the Senate postal reform bill that would have increased premiums for federal employees and retirees across the board. The original version of S. 1486 allowed for the creation of a separate postal employees health benefits plan, removing them from the FEHBP. It also would have created separate plans for postal retirees with Medicare coverage, but not for those without. The combined effect of these changes would have been an increase in FEHBP premiums across the board.

Successfully supported the addition of self plus one coverage to the FEHBP. Pursuant to the FY14 and FY15 budget deal, the Office of Personnel Management will begin offering a self plus one option in the FEHBP in 2016. This option should result in lower premiums for two-person families.

ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE

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

Quick Facts about Alzheimer's Disease:

- More than 5 million Americans are living with the disease.
- Every 67 seconds someone in the U.S. develops the disease.
- The disease is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S.
- There are approximately 500,000 people dying each year because they have the disease.
- 1 out of 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia.
- In 2013, 15.5 million caregivers provided an estimated 17.7 billion hours of unpaid care valued at more than 220 billion.

Continued in the next column

Alzheimer's Update continued from previous column

Have you noticed any of these warning signs?

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life. Especially recently learned information; forgetting important dates of events; asking for the same information over and over.
- Challenges in planning or solving problems. Are you having trouble following a familiar recipe or keeping track of monthly bills.
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, work or at leisure. Have trouble driving to a familiar location or remembering the rules of your favorite game.
- Confusion with time and place. Do you lose track of dates, seasons and the passage of time.
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships. Do you have difficulty reading, judging distance and determining color or contrast.
- New problems with words in speaking or writing. Do you stop in the middle of a conversation and have no ideas how to continue or they may repeat themselves.
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps. Do you put things in unusual places and not be able to go back over your steps and find them.
- Decreased or poor judgment..

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

Hello to everyone in chapter 0366. I hope the New Year has started off well for all. We missed the February meeting since we attended our son's graduation from basic training. The weather seems so unsure from day to day, one day it feels like spring and the next it's winter. Where's that ground hog?

President's Corner continued from previous column

April brings the State NARFE Convention in Topeka. I hope we have ten (10) delegates to represent our chapter. Think about it! Let me or Rebecca know as soon as possible so Rebecca can submit your name as a delegate.

At the end of August we also have CONK (College of NARFE Knowledge). Because you learn so much and meet other like minded people, those who attend make it a point to attend again. You'll learn a lot and will have a great time. My wife, Rebecca, and I will be attending this year. They bring up a lot of things that we don't think of here in our chapters.

If your spouse isn't already a member, please enroll them. Numbers matter. It's an easy recruitment so turn in the paperwork now before the convention. I'd love to report that we have significantly increased our membership this year. We even will help by giving gift memberships out if you ask. I want this year to be a good year for our chapter. I will, pay half of the first years membership fee for each of you that turn in an application for your spouse before convention. So come on, you can't ask for a better deal than that! Help me make this chapter the best in the state. Let's show the rest that "KAW BLUE" can and will take the lead. Like I have said in the past "Lead-Follow-or Get the Heck Out of the Way". I wish you all well and hope to keep seeing you at the meetings.

Your Thankful President John R.

Continued in the next column

At our last convention a big seller in the silent auction was the very patriotic red, white and blue Uncle Sam's holding the flowing American Flag.

During the long cold winter months we decided to make a few more Uncle Sam's to support the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Program. The Uncle Sam's were made using donated materials, which were all made in the USA.

At the February meeting 3 completed Uncle Sam's were offered to the membership for \$25.00. All 3 were spoken for. We have completed 4 more and 2 more are under construction.

Kay & I are asking for your support in the "Uncle Sam for Alzheimer's" mission. The Uncle Sam's will be on display during the March Meeting. These all weather patriotic Uncle Sam's make a perfect gift for your family members. We hope to have a few more made for the April Convention in Topeka. If you are unable to make the March meeting, you can call for home delivery at 785-539-3448. Kay & I as well as the Alzheimer's Research Program thank you for your support.

IN MEMORIAM

Leland W. Elliott, member

Wilber E. Ringler, member and past president of 0366

Jesse Settler, member

Pauline F. Adolph, member

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

MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD

MONTH	GAIN	REINSTATED	LOSS
Dec-Feb	2	1	4

Memberships in peril: 4

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of Feb, 236



NARFE

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Chapter 366 President

John H. Rogers

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Forwarding Service Requested

Judy Grossnickle, Editor