

NARFE Convention, 2018

Dennis and I were fortunate enough to attend the Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters Convention, (The Last One) on April 23-24, 2018 in Wichita, KS 67501. I was disappointed in the number of attendees. Our numbers had dropped to 72 attendees. As I sat in the audience, I remembered the first time I attended a NARFE Convention and there were about 300 delegates in attendance. I missed a lot of people whom I had become friends with over the years. I know less participation is not just limited to NARFE; but, across a wide spectrum of organizations across the nation.

NARFE is proud of our legislative accomplishments. Federal Civil Employee Retirees haven't lost anything in the last eight years. We cannot rest on our laurels. In the next budget for FY 19 it's been proposed that COLA be denied to Retirees; the retirement contribution be increased by 6% and the retirement annuity be based on the high 5 years instead of the current high 3 years.

Another disturbing proposal before Congress is Postal Reform. If the Postal Reform is passed, it's just a matter of time before they include all retired annuitants into mandatory Medicare Part B participation. That would reduce your annuity by more than \$130.00 per month.

Carol Ek is not seeking re-election to the Region V Vice President position. Cindy Renee' Blythe is running to become our Region V Vice President. Because she is hopeful that she will be elected to this position she declined the Kansas Federation President position. John Ourada, currently Area III VP, was elected President, leaving a vacancy at the Area III VP position. I was elected to fill this position for a 2-year term. I was the only "newly elected" board member this year.

By popular vote, Chapter 0366 was elected to host the next (1st) Conference to be held in Manhattan, KS on April 29-30, 2019. Our chapter is up for the challenge!

Our Chapter was credited for \$80.00 for tomatoes donated by Chuck Marr and \$160.00 for the bird houses donated by Kay & Mike Cardella. The Alzheimer's auctions netted: \$2,165.00 in the live auction and \$1,360.00 in the silent auction. PAC (Political Action Committee) donations amounted to \$937.00 with five (5) signing up to be sustainers. (Pledging at least \$10.00 a month).

This is the first time the "ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE" will be in effect. Voting for 2018 is imminent. The planned time line follows:

- March – Candidates statements appeared in NARFE magazine.
- April – Bylaws Committee report & recommendations.
- April – June: **Read your magazine and check the web to read about the candidates and the proposed bylaw and resolutions.**

Candidates: <https://www.narfe.org/member/articles.cfm?id=4313>

Bylaws https://www.narfe.org/pdf/Bylaws_and_Resolutions_Book-3.pdf

- **Caution: Don't vote to adopt all or reject all on the bylaws and resolutions ballot especially if you don't agree with all the recommendations made by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. (Dennis and I don't. We're going to vote each one individually.)**
- May 10 – May 22 – You'll receive your ballot in the June issue of NARFE. You may vote either electronically (<https://www.esc-vote.com/narfe2018>) or by the US Post Office (You have to pay postage). DO NOT DO BOTH. "ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE!" Ballots must be received by 11:59 PM on June 30, 2018! It is suggested that you mail your ballot not later than June 23, to ensure delivery by June 30th.
- May 10: E-mail Blast message will be sent by Big NARFE reminding those with a valid e-mail address registered with them to vote. It will have your membership number and PIN number affixed. Remember, don't put your name on the ballot. Two follow-up blasts will be sent out. IF YOU DON'T RECEIVE THESE BLAST MESSAGES, CHECK YOUR SPAM FOLDER. MANY SERVICE PROVIDERS AUTOMATICALLY BLOCK MASS MAILINGS.
- June 23: Mail your ballot.
- June 30: Ballots must be received to be counted.
- Winners of NARFE national offices must get a majority of votes (more than ½ of the ballots received), not just a plurality (the number of votes in an election that the leading candidate obtains over the next highest candidate).
- Our current Bylaws require another vote if no one receives a majority vote. To ward off multiple written elections, the parliamentarian and executive board placed on the ballot a provision to set aside our bylaws so we could hold preferential voting. (This provision requires a 2/3 affirmative vote). If a preferential vote passes and no one gets a majority of votes, we'll have to hold the preferential balloting where we would rank the candidates as in the following example: There are four candidates: Adams, Barker, Cooper and Denmark. The voter prefers Cooper, so that candidate is marked with a "1" for the first choice. Then the voter chooses Barker as the second choice, marking it with a "2." Denmark is their third choice gets ranked with a "3"; their fourth choice, Adams gets a "4." All preferences from all voters are thus taken into account. In this type of vote the candidate truly favored by the bulk of the voters is revealed.

EVERY MEMBER HAS A VOTE; BUT, FOR YOUR VOTE TO COUNT IT MUST BE SUBMITTED EITHER ELECTRONICALLY OR BY MAIL BY JUNE 30, 2018!