



Kaw Blue Communiqué

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Clifford Spaeth, 539-1363)

Summer is gone and it's time to get into swing for our fall and winter meetings. One of the aspects that add fun and education potential to our monthly meeting is the program speakers. Elaine Liddell, with suggestions from some members, again has a great lineup for September through December 2016. Program presenters are as follows:

- September 21 - Barbara Green, Monarch Butterfly Presentation
- October 19 - Lindsey Younger (Sr. Representative, Blue Cross/Blue Shield), 2017 Insurance Changes
- November 16 - Steven Farney, Kansas Basketball History (State of Kansas, not just KU)
- December 21 - Jeremy Lies, Nelson Poultry Farms
- Another event due to take place this fall is election of officers. I hope that each of you will consider running for a chapter office. Big Narfe's strategic planning studies revealed a dramatic reluctance of members and potential members to get involved, which has led to dissolving or combining chapters. Kaw Blue has many members who would be great leaders in our chapter!

Any suggestions you have to keep our chapter viable are welcome.

I hope to see you all on September 21.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

(By: Elaine Liddell, Program Chairman)

October 19, 2016

Lindsey Younger,
Senior Representative
Blue Cross/Blue Shield

November 16, 2016

Steven Farney,
Kansas Basketball History

December 21, 2016

Jeremy Lies
Nelson Poultry Farms

If you'd like to share your projects or talents, please present a NARFE program, just let Elaine know.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

(By: John Drach, Legislative Committee Chairman)

This first item discusses the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). The House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee held a hearing on March 22 which focused on the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

H.R. 711 was introduced and it would not repeal WEP, but it would reduce the WEP penalty applied to future Social Security benefit payments, beginning in 2017 for those who turn age 62 before 2017. The amount of the reduction would be determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA), but was estimated to be 50 percent of an individual's current WEP penalty. For individuals who turn 62 during or after 2017, the bill would replace the current WEP formula with a fairer one, saving most WEP-affected individuals about \$77 per month.

It is now reported Legislation has been introduced in both chambers of Congress that would repeal WEP completely. The Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act of 2015 initially aimed to reduce the WEP penalty by 50 percent. But a revised version that surfaced in July pushes that relief back to 2026 and would only reduce the penalty by 14 percent, averaging \$77 per month for future retirees. If applied in 2016, the proposal would help about 1.25 million beneficiaries.

We'll need to watch for the final decision on the WEP and GPO issues. For employees and retirees who have the Federal Long Term Care Insurance, the Office of Personnel Management announced these premiums will in-

crease by an average of 83 percent, beginning November 1. The increases follow the awarding of a new seven-year contract for FLTCIP to the John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company.

NARFE is prohibited by law from participating in, or commenting on, contract proposals between OPM and private vendors. However, NARFE will be evaluating policy options and making recommendations to Congress.

IN MEMORIUM

Our sympathy is extended to the families, friends and co-workers of the following deceased members:

Mavis Fletcher, Born: Oct 28, 1925 Died: Feb 7, 2016

Karen Sisk, Born, Dec 5, 1936 Died: Nov 3, 2015

Chester Unruh, Born: Jan 31, 1918 Died: April 8, 2016

ALZHEIMER'S UPDATE

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

Starting in September we will have a book exchange to raise money for Alzheimer's Research. The exchange will be on the honor system. There will be a container for your quarter and you can take a book. Next month you can recycle that book or keep it whatever works best for you. Anyone can add to the book system. Clear out your books and give someone else new reading material. Here is another idea to raise money for Alzheimer's Research.

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Foodless Food Sale:

A bit of news we have today,
A foodless food sale is on the way.
In these busy days, now who has time to
bake
A pie, or cookies or a chocolate cake?

You'd be surprise if you counted cost
Of material, heat and the time you'd have
lost.
Cooking for a sale is just too much
work. Yet
We know that no one wishes to shirk.

So, we've thought of a plan that's really
grand.
And feel quite sure you'll understand.
In an envelope, please provide the price of a
cake,
Or pie, or anything else that you might bake.

Without fuss or bother, you will have done
your part.
We're sure you'll give with a willing heart.
This is the end of our little tale.
Grant us success with our foodless food
sale.

All contributions go to Alzheimer's Re-
search and are tax deductible.
Be sure to include your name and address

Judy Grossnickle, Delegate to 34th National NARFE Convention

The 34th NARFE National Convention
opened with President Thissen reminding
the attendees that the Decisions we would
make at this convention "could determine
NARFE's survival."

ALZHEIMER'S: We contributed 11.9
million. Our goal is 12 million so we're
almost there. We voted to increase our

goal to 13 million. Can we make it? Al-
most assuredly.

ATTENDANCE: 849 in attendance
with 1,994 proxies.

VOTING: See Dennis's report.

ELECTIONS: Richard Thissen, Na-
tional President; Jon Dowie, Secretary-
Treasurer; and Carol Ek, Regional Vice
President were all re-elected for two more
years.

LEGISLATIVE: Maintaining benefits
equals victory for our organization. Al-
though we didn't lose one dollar of the
\$318 billion we faced last year, we have to
stay vigilant with our upcoming budget
year and the challenges faced by the pro-
posed Postal Reform. Postal reform may
be the start of reform across the board for
all civil service.

LONG TERM CARE: Remember
when NARFE pushed for the Long Term
Care and encouraged our participation?
The rates have skyrocketed. If you have
the Federal Long Term Care **you must re-
spond by Sep 30th**. Do you want to re-
main the same coverage with the higher
rate? Do you want reduced coverage with
reduced premium? Or do you want to drop
out altogether? **No response means
you're willing to pay the higher premi-
um.** John O'Brien, OPM stated that
"None of us are happy about the increase,
but the increases are necessary to keep the
program solvent."

**Save your Best Choice labels
for Alzheimer's donation or
donate cash to both Alzhei-
mer's and NARFE PAC.**



MEMBERSHIP

(By: Dick McChesney for Membership 785 537-8302.)

Some critical things which affect all members of NARFE were to be voted on at the National convention August 28--September 1. Important items to be voted on:

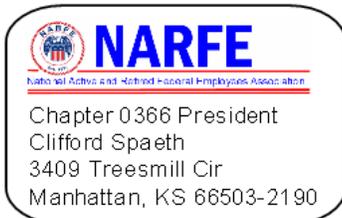
1. Chapter membership optional.
2. One member one vote on National resolutions.
3. National Executive Board authorized to raise National dues a maximum of 10% every other year.
4. Possibly reducing the National Vice Presidents from 10 to 5.

The National Executive Board and NARFE study teams over the past two years know NARFE must change to encourage and retain memberships for a stronger voice in Washington. We have lost over 50% of our members over the past 35-40 years. NARFE is and must remain our means of protecting retirees

and employees benefits.

The least we can do is continue our membership and encourage others to join. Surely, \$40-\$47/annually is cheap insurance for such valuable benefits. National dues are \$40/year and our chapter dues are \$7/year. First year members join for a total of \$40. Retirees can save 15% of National dues by electing dues withholding. Life memberships are available. Also, electronic memberships are available. These application are generally found in the back part of the monthly NARFE magazines and certainly from me, Dick McChesney, 537-8305

MEMBERSHIP SCOREBOARD			
MONTH	GAIN	REINSTATED	LOSS
Jul-Sep	2	2	7
Memberships in peril: 4			
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP as of August: 227			



Forwarding Service Requested
Judy Grossnickle, Editor