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APRIL 19TH MEETING R. LEMMONS

NARFE Free State Chapter 378 will meet Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at noon, in the south room of Conroy's. The program is at noon, followed by lunch, and a brief meeting. Lunch is optional. The cost is and includes a choice of 1 of 3 entrées, coffee or tea, and gratuity.

I have secured one of our favorite speakers for the April meeting, **Patrick R. Miller**, who first spoke to us in June of 2016, about the then, upcoming Presidential election. His return for April's meeting should blend well with the new administration being near 100 days old.

His credentials include: Being Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Kansas. His areas of specialization in American politics include political psychology, public opinion, electoral behavior, political communication, and survey and experimental methods. He has been published in numerous peer-reviewed academic journals, and his current research interests focus on political identities, partisanship, political civility, and civic engagement. He did his undergraduate studies at the College of William & Mary and received his doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, also receiving a certification in survey research methodology there from the Howard W. Odum Institute for Research in Social Science. Patrick is the child of two U.S. military veterans, and his hometown is Virginia Beach, VA. He has experienced running state legislative campaigns in Virginia, but is no longer active in politics apart from researching it.



The May meeting venue is the **BAKER WETLANDS**. Dianne Throop made the reservation for the chapter and says the program is very interesting. Lunch is a 6" sub of turkey and black forest ham. Reservations and remittance are needed, so check the back page of this newsletter for the form you need to return by MAY 12th.

RECAP MARCH 15TH MEETING

The speaker for the March 15th, NARFE Chapter 378, meeting was Lawrence City Manager, Tom Markus, who gave an informative and interesting of his duties as City Manager and plans for the future of Lawrence.

KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S

- Tom Huber, for stepping up to the plate and accepting the Presidency of Chapter 378 for 2017.
- Leonard Short for his service as Secretary of Chapter 378.

NARFE INSIDER OFFICER NEWS 1/26/17

NARFE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM -The 2017 NARFE-FEEA Steve Bauer Scholarship Program is open to children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of NARFE members. It is open from 2/1/17 – 4/28/17, to high school seniors planning to attend their first year of a 2-4-year degree program at an accredited college as a full-time student in the fall/winter of 2017.

New this year is the **online-only application** and submission process. Students can access the application from the NARFE website as of February 1 by clicking on the Scholarship Program graphic in the rotating display on the home page, www.narfe.org. For complete details on eligibility requirements and how to apply, [click here](#) to read and/or print the two-page brochure "A Guide to the NARFE-FEEA Steve Bauer Annual Scholarship Awards Pro- gram" (NARFE publication F-105).

Sixty \$1,000 awards will be given out this year. NARFE Scholarship Program relies on the generosity of donors. To make a tax-deductible contribution, make checks payable to NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund and mail to NARFE Scholarship Awards, c/o FEEA, 1641 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314. You also can use the donation coupon that appears every month in *narfe* magazine. For additional information, please email scholarship@narfe.org.

Mr. Markus opened his talk by telling us that Lawrence is the first community in Kansas to receive a 4-STAR rating for national excellence in sustainability.

He then proceeded to give some of his background. He has been in City management since 1973. He came to Lawrence from Iowa City, IA, another university town. In Iowa City, he established a plan for the city and developed a well-trained team. One from his team moved into the City Manager's position when he left.

A recruiter called him about the opening in Lawrence, and he was chosen for the position of City Manager. He plans to stay 5 years and hopes to repeat what he accomplished in Iowa City, to get a plan in place and develop a well-trained team to take over when he leaves. He sees in Lawrence, some very good people on the city management team.

Today we have the Grey Tsunami, the wave of older people retiring. Technology has evolved since he started in city management. In order to continue to work he had to become more tech savvy. When his father was retiring, his dad reasoned that lots of young people want to move up. Mr. Markus decided then, that he would never "force" people to retire.

Lawrence wanted a Strategic Plan in place, rather than reacting to a crisis. The Strategic Plan acts as a roadmap for where city is headed. The Strategic Plan Framework includes: Lawrence's *VISION – The City of Lawrence--supporting an unmistakably vibrant community with innovative, equitable, transparent and responsible government.* The *Critical Success Factors* for the plan include:

- > *Effective Governance and Professional Administration*
- > *Safe, Healthy and Welcoming Neighborhoods*
- > *Innovative Infrastructure and Asset Management*
- > *Commitment to Core Services*
- > *Sound Fiscal Stewardship*
- > *Collaborative Solutions*
- > *Economic Growth and Security*

Support for core services provided by the city extend beyond the basics. Lots of things going on in the arts and cultures, technology, and a whole array of thing that make a community attractive to people. Because Lawrence did not have a capital improvement policy, "he with the loudest voice wins." A capital improvement program (CIP) was needed. Developing this policy means prioritizing all big time development. Mr. Markus is responsible for

preparing and recommending that budget. Prior to the last budget, a CIP was not part of developing a budget. The former budget process was a little contemptuous. Is about knowing what expenses are and balance core needs and babbles.

The nice thing about being close to retirement--is being comfortable saying some things you wouldn't say in early part of your career and having experience and knowledge to make decisions.

When one writes laws and ordinances it is best to have many committees go over them. Ordinances are reflections of short time priorities. Lawrence has 47 boards of commissions. He is proud that we have engagement, but engagement has to have purpose. Ask questions but give some facts.

For example: Maintaining sidewalks. There are lots of ideas...is the owner or city responsible? Lawrence orders the owner to fix sidewalks, but the city does not follow up. The city now wants a "walkable," "bikeable" community. The two biggest sources of funds are sales tax and property tax. A regressive tax means those with lowest income pay a disproportional part of the tax. If he uses sales tax to pay for sidewalks, it is a regressive tax. What about people who can't take care of it? He'll find another way. Federal regulations require accommodations for the handicapped, but provide no funds. Those accommodations can be 1/3 of the cost of redoing a street. On corner lots, the city only charges 50% to owner. If a city tree breaks a sidewalk, the city will pay for sidewalk repairs. The city tries to be fair. It is also a liability issue, because if the city assumes the financial responsibility, people are more likely to sue a city verses suing an owner.

SHORT TERM PRIORITIES are what the city will try to accomplish over 2 years. This 2-year period has to do with Lawrence's elections held every 2 years. It is not typical to be able to flip the majority every 2 years. After the next election he will walk new and old leaders over the strategic plan. Lawrence is more reactive than proactive. Hoping to change that, so Lawrence has longer outlook.

The budget is currently a 2-year plan. The advantage of a long-term program is being able to pay over a 2 years period.

The current advisory board has 47 members. He will try to whittle that number down.

High speed Internet? Trying to figure out how to provide universal coverage.

When asked what the impact of state's financial problems have. He responded "Huge." For example: Mental health many facilities closed down. There are numerous people on the streets with mental health problems. There is an unfunded mandate, which pushes the responsibility of care onto the city. Lawrence residents are fair, strong-minded, compassionate individuals, but every place is not like Lawrence, so they don't help the mentally ill. That makes Lawrence a draw for the mentally ill. They bring people to county shelter.

Unfortunately time ran out, so maybe we'll have to have him back for an update.

ALZHEIMER'S JOHN SCOTT

Chapter 378 received \$19.00 at the March meeting today for Alzheimer's Research. Our year-to-date donations to Alzheimer's are \$215.00.

I received a Thank You card from Tom Huntzinger's wife, Pat, thanking our Chapter for the donations toward Alzheimer's Research that our Chapter gave in memory of Tom.

MEMBERSHIP DIANNE THROOP

Norm Wycoff passed away on March 29, 2017, at the age of 94. Norm was a long-time member of NARFE Chapter 378. He participated regularly in chapter meetings until about 5 years ago, when he moved into Presbyterian Manor. In 1940, Norm enlisted and became a Navy pilot, piloting PB4Y aircraft from 1942 through 1946. Norm graduated from KU in 1948 with a BS in Economics; then received a Masters from Columbia University in International Affairs in 1950. He worked for the U.S. State Department from 1950-1977. After retiring, he returned to Lawrence. He visited or worked in over 116 countries. Norm was an interesting, intelligent, gentle soul who always made positive contributions to chapter meetings.

NARFE KS FEDERATION CONVENTION

The KANSAS FEDERATION CONVENTION is April 23-25, 2017, at the Atrium Hotel and Convention Center, Hutchinson, KS

Thank you to Diane Throop, who donated 2 handmade scarves in brown tones, to Cheryl Travis who donated a chili bowl set, which includes a handmade fabric bowl holder, and to Wendy Hambly, who donated a quilted patriotic table runner.

President, Tom Huber, will represent the Chapter 378 at the convention. He will deliver the auction

items and exercise the Chapter's 5 proxy votes.

NARFE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE 4/7/17

Webinar Recording Available: 'Fed Up (date) with the 115th Congress'

Interested in getting the latest on congressional action relating to issues affecting the federal community? The NARFE Legislative Department hosted a webinar this week reviewing how upcoming budget battles and advancing postal reform legislation could impact all federal and postal employees and retirees. Make sure you know the threats facing active and retired federal employees. The hour-long webinar hosted by NARFE Deputy Legislative Director John Hatton is available [here](#) for NARFE members to view.

Make Your Voice Heard in Congress

NARFE members are encouraged to use the new, easy-to-use [NARFE Legislative Action Center](#) to send letters to members of Congress on a variety of NARFE issues, sign up for action alerts and track NARFE-related bills and votes.

SUNSHINE C. ARNOLD & M.M. ROWEN

Get well card sent to Dianne Throop who had back surgery.

CORRECTION TO MARCH NEWSLETTER

Page 2 Q&A 1. "Grand Junction" should be Junction City.

**NARFE Chapter 378
MAY 17th MEETING RESERVATION**

The \$7 lunch includes: a 6" Turkey and Black Forest Ham sub from Subway, tea or bottled water, chips, and a brownie.

Please return this form and remittance by Friday, May 12th.

Make checks payable to NARFE Chapter 378
send to Wendy Hambly
25029 Dehoff Dr., Tonganoxie, KS 66086

Please print clearly

Name(s)	\$
Total Remittance:	