



2014 OFFICERS and CHAIRS

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Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Legislative Chair	John Surritte	785-856-0558
Sunshine	Sandy Nease	785-979-5481

KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S

- ☞ Dianne Throop for taking notes and writing the item for July's meeting program.
- ☞ John and Linda Surritte for their continued generosity to Alzheimer's. **John and Linda are also matching funds donated to Alzheimer's research by other chapter members during the months of August, September, and October.**

ALZHEIMERS

John Scott

2014 CHAPTER 378 DONATIONS

Month	Chapter Donations	YTD Total
July	\$113	\$368*

Ninety dollars of the \$113.00 total received at the July meeting was a memorial donation in memory of Marianne Pavlovskis from John & Linda Surritte.

An additional sum of \$63* was the result of the Live and Silent Auctions at the April Federation Convention,

The Alzheimer's Association. If you wish to receive their e-news, sign up at:

http://www.alz.org/join_the_cause_narfe_email.asp

MEMBERSHIP

Dianne Throop

Betty is still making phone calls for the chapter.

Dianne will contact Haskell again about any plans for a Health Fair in the fall.

Dianne Throop, email: d.throop@sbcglobal.net

AUGUST 20TH MEETING ROGER LEMONS

The August 20, 2014, NARFE Chapter 378 will meet in Conroy's meeting room. The program begins at noon. The optional lunch is at 12:30, includes a lunch choice from 3 menu items, and

includes coffee, tea, and gratuity for \$10. August's program is Brad Allen, Lawrence Public Library Director. He will discuss the new Library and what it has to offer the public and particularly NARFE members. The new library will have been in use about a month when this program is given. This should be an interesting presentation in light of the library being brand new.

Upcoming meetings: We will have our 3rd annual picnic at Chipperfield in September. Mayor Mike Amyx to be our guest and have him speak informally about various topics effecting Lawrence. December will be the Christmas Party.

JULY 16TH MEETING RECAP DIANNE THROOP

Gene Meyer has been the President and CEO of Lawrence Memorial Hospital (LMH) since 1997. Prior to coming to LMH, he was the Senior Executive Officer at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas and CEO of Spelman Health System in Smithville.

Mr. Meyer welcomes direct calls from LMH clients. His office number is 505-6130. Mr. Meyer discussed the changes in health care delivery in general and how LMH is adapting to those changes. He discussed the Affordable Care Act which has led to significant changes in health care delivery. Our health care system could not continue to sustain the rate of increased costs. Health is 18% of the GDP. A lot of people are sheltered when they have private insurance. However, they are seeing higher copays. The intent of the ACA is to provided insurance to 32 million Americans. **The American Hospital Association agreed to accept lower Medicare reimbursement, if that funding went to the uninsured.**

Under the new system, those uninsured, and should be insured, will have a \$95 penalty if they received health care. That penalty will increase significantly, if they do not enroll. About 8 million signed up for ACA; 60% already had health insurance, so only 3.2 million were new enrollees. **The ACA also provided for extended Medicaid; however, the Kansas government decided not to accept the funding. Mr. Meyer believes that decision impacted about 15,000 people in Lawrence.**

Under Mr. Meyers management, LMH has expanded their services. The new Emergency Room is completed. It has around 38,000 visits per year.

They have also improved privacy, and remodeled the operating rooms, obstetrics and expanded the ICU. **In addition to several new physicians practicing in Lawrence, LMH has opened several area clinics. These include facilities in Eudora, Baldwin, Tonganoxie and McLouth. They also have a strong referral system in place with other Kansas facilities.**

LEGISLATIVE John Surritte

For more information about the CPI-W go to:
<http://www.bls.gov/cpi/cpifaq.htm>

CPI-W		Monthly % Change	% Toward 2014 COLA
Mon/yr.	Figure		
3 rd qrt 2013	*234.327		
June 2014	234.702		1.9
July 2014	Due out 8/19/14		
Aug 2014	Provided as info becomes available.		
Sept 2014			
3 rd qrt 2014	*		

*To trigger a COLA for 2015, the average CPI-W average of July, August, and September of 2014 needs to rise above the 2013 3rd quarter average (234.327).

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN THE 113th CONGRESS

Improve and protect the affordability of and choice provided by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP)

- Oppose proposals that would force employees and retirees to pay an increasing share of health insurance premiums.
- Ensure that proposals intended to increase Medicare utilization protect retirees not enrolled in Medicare from unfair premium increases, and/or ensure that they have the opportunity to enroll in Medicare without penalty.
- Support efforts to reduce the cost of prescription drug coverage, including FEHBP participation in the Medicare Part D Employer Group Waiver Plan program.
- Continue to assess additional proposals, such as use of new plan offerings, wellness incentives, fraud prevention measures and other intended cost savings measures for their impact on enrollee premiums, coverage, and choice.

Oppose the Chained CPI

- Oppose reductions in cost-of-living adjustments

(COLAs) to federal retirement annuities and Social Security benefits, including a switch to the Chained CPI for purposes of calculating COLAs.

Continue to oppose arbitrary across-the-board cuts to the size of the federal workforce and federal pay or retirement benefits Additional priorities:

- FECA: Oppose unfair reductions in federal workers’ compensation benefits at retirement age without taking into account recipients’ disadvantages in preparing for retirement. Support improvements to the program integrity of the federal workers’ compensation program.
- Improved Data: Support a requirement that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) publish data on where federal employees live, by congressional district.
- Reemployed Annuitants: Support extending the ability of agencies to rehire retired employees without offsetting reductions in their annuities, as provided in the 2010 NDAA (P.L. 111-84).
- Locality Pay: Support providing equity to federal employees who retired from service in Alaska, Hawaii or other “non-foreign areas” by recalculating their annuities to include a measure of locality pay – without this, their annuities do not reflect an appropriate percentage of their final salaries.
- Combat Zone Tax Parity: Support a revision of tax laws to exempt civilian federal employees serving in a combat zone from federal income taxes in the same manner as private government contract employees are exempt.

The following information is from the NARFE website: <http://www.narfe.org/pdf/kansas.pdf>

Total Active and Retired Federal and Postal Employees: 48,158

KANSAS’ FEDERAL FAMILY*

Employee Annuitants	19,549
Survivor Annuitants	5,240
Total Annuitants on Roll	24,789
Monthly Annuities (\$000s)	55,956
Active Federal Employees	17,033
U.S. Postal Service Employees	6,336

KANSAS’ NARFE COMMUNITY

NARFE Chapters: 44 NARFE Members: 3,887

NARFE Legislative Hotline – July 25, 2014

Message from NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin...“Uncertainty creates opportunity. While it is clear the final week of July will be the last week before the five-week congressional summer recess, most everything else on Capitol Hill is uncertain. I urge each NARFE member to harness this opportunity by seeking out incumbent lawmakers and their challengers during the recess, August 1 through Labor Day. Use your August *narfe* magazine, page 33, to show incumbents that the [federal family](#) votes in every [state](#) and district. Share NARFE [issue priorities](#) with all candidates.”

Choose Your Own Advocacy Adventure

This summer, senators and representatives will spend more time in their home states and districts, meeting with constituents and campaigning for office. NARFE members must not let this opportunity to interact with their legislators and candidates pass them by. August is “NARFE Grass-Roots Advocacy Month.” If you’re unsure where or how to start, use the new “Choose Your Own Advocacy Adventure” flowchart on NARFE’s [homepage](#). Complete a new chart for each representative, senator and candidate for those offices. The NARFE Legislative Department staff is willing and eager to assist, so don’t hesitate to contact us at leg@narfe.org.

What Lies Ahead

After the recess, Congress will have about three weeks in September to fund the government for at least part of fiscal year 2015, which begins October 1. While the House has passed several appropriations bills, all 12 bills are far from enactment. If that were not enough, Congress is also grappling with these issues: the looming insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund, expired tax provisions, an influx of unaccompanied minors along the border, and a seemingly endless debate over the future of the VA. The lame-duck period between the November elections and the start of the new Congress in January could prove to be a busy one.

NOTE:

Election are coming up for the Chapter 378 in November. John Surritte, as past President of the chapter, will be compiling a nominations list. Contact him if you are interested in serving the chapter.

Elections are coming!

We need to be paying attention to candidates and voting records of incumbents. Check your NARFE magazine and the NARFE website for information.

