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MEETING AUGUST 15TH R. LEMMONS

NARFE Free State Chapter 0378 will meet Wednesday, August 15^h, at noon, in the south room of Conroy's. The presentation begins at noon, followed by lunch, and a brief meeting. Lunch is optional. The cost is \$10 and includes a choice of 1 of 3 entrées, coffee or tea, and gratuity.

July's speaker is a surprise.

RECAP JULY 18TH MEETING

The July speaker, Stuart Boley, is the current Mayor of Lawrence and a retired IRS agent. He graduated from KU in 1977, with degree in English and Modern European Studies. During his IRS career, he worked in Texas, Washington DC, did audits in Switzerland, then was moved backed to DC, and decided Kansas looked really good (no locally pay at that time). He had married woman Kansas, so when he retired in 2009, they returned to Kansas.

When back in Lawrence, he attended a Douglas County Committee meeting, and worked for a non-profit organization. In 2014, a Lawrence barber and sometimes Lawrence Mayor, Mike Amyx, told him, "You should run for mayor." Boley said, "I am a retired IRS agent, no one will vote for me." Mike said, "You might be surprised."

In 2014, Boley walked a lot during his campaign. After being elected he wanted to help restore confidence in city government. He is not against government. He does believe we need good government. We need to be able to trust the ones responsible for government.

The 2015 Lawrence's government election was an election for change with a new mayor, 3 new commissioners, and a new City Manager. Lisa Larson, a hard working scientist, was selected from 14 applicants to be a commissioner. Last November she was elected as commissioner. She is a good commissioner and will be mayor next year. Tom Markus, Lawrence's new City Manager, was hired from Iowa City in 2016, and is the first manager hired from to outside in over 20 years.

This new group is looking at essentially everything—a long-term strategic plan for Lawrence, a city plan, and the budget. State law requires funds be budgeted. In 2016, the city spent 16 million outside of what was budgeted. In the last

KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S

- Tom Huber for attending the lunch and program sponsored by the NARFE Topeka Chapter. The Speaker was Laura Kelly, current Democratic Gubernatorial candidate. His name was omitted from the list of attendees in last month's newsletter.

ALZHEIMER'S JOHN SCOTT

Chapter 0378 July donations totaled \$21. YTD donations total \$243.

Please Note that 100% of your donation goes to research. To make a donation or memorial donation in the name of a loved one or friend, contact John Scott (phone number listed above) and send or give at a meeting your donation and information to John.

GENERAL DYNAMICS OF LAWRENCE

FROM: [KELLI.BREITBACH@GDIT.COM](mailto:kelli.breitbach@gdit.com)
Subject: General Dynamics - Opportunity

Message: Hello - My name is Kelli Breitbach and I am a recruiter for General Dynamics in Lawrence, KS. We have an opportunity for a short-term contract (Customer Service) that I would like to see if you know anyone who would be interested. This duration of the contract is October 12th to December 12th. The contract is for the Office of Personal Management and would be helping Retired Federal Employees! I would love to have a brief phone call to discuss. Let me know! Kelli Breitbach kelli.breitbach@gdit.com (571) 635-4748

couple years we have budgeted almost all funds. The current budget lasts until mid-August. In 2013-14, the city failed to bill the country club for water. Nearly 99% of that has been collected. Now if you owe money the city will go after it.

He likes the finance area because he is where he is familiar with it. They did not hide the problem about not collecting the money, and they are making sure it doesn't happen again. The *Journal World* gave them a hard time about it. He said, "If you want a government agency to be transparent, don't beat them up." The *Journal World* is cooperating.

The finance department has done good work in issuing Green Bonds. [In 2017, the City of Lawrence issued our first "Green" Bonds to finance a citywide energy efficiency retrofit program in 40+ city facilities. The energy efficiency retrofit project addresses key Green Bond eligible environmental benefits including pollution reduction, climate change mitigation, and conservation of natural resources. **What are Green Bonds?** Green Bonds enable capital-raising and investment for new and existing projects with environmental benefits. Green Bonds are any type of bond instrument where the proceeds will be exclusively applied to finance Green projects that address key areas of concern including climate change, natural resource conservation, pollution reduction, and loss of biodiversity. The City of Lawrence will follow the internationally-recognized [Green Bond Principles](#) in structuring and reporting our green bond project. The Green Bond Principles (GBP) are voluntary process guidelines that recommend transparency and disclosure, and promote integrity in the development of the Green Bond market.]¹

There was surplus of money last year and that will go into the sidewalk repair project. There is \$800,000 available for homeowners who cant afford repairs to sidewalks or who live on a corner.

They are putting money into affordable housing. The attorney would not let bond money go into that. Douglas County is doing a voucher program, and some money will go to that.

The 2017 election got Lisa Larson, and Matthew retained. He interpreted that as endorsement of what the commissioners are doing.

He feels "It's an amazing retirement to be mayor."

Questions and Answers:

Q: What about the clean up of the old Farmland area? A: KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) left empty tanks formerly used for

water and nitrogen storage at the Old Farmland plant. There is nitrogen contamination of ground water. The city got some money to clean it up, but the money is running out and clean up not finished. The city put in infrastructure, but so far only one company is going into the Venture Park area. It is a real-estate development firm, and they may do 2 more buildings.

Q: In the past, there were mostly business people on the commission. A: There is now more diversity and that's a good thing.

Q: Is the city involved with the mental health facility? A: It is a county project, but the city contributions through the housing authority (\$450,000) for that facility. There is a blending of roles. The city budgeted for Bert Nash. Since 1986 we have blurred spending with Douglas County. Having 2 managers is suboptimal. How to collaborate effectively and alien resources between the county and city are topics of discussion. There has not been a change at the county level. It is more status quo in county, while the city has new blood. Both the city and the county serve the community.

Q: How do you determine who can't pay? A: We use the Income Guidelines from HUD. The program is in its infancy, so putting assistance money into it. The funds will not go to helping businesses or landlords. Will only help homeowners.

Q: What is the responsibility of homeowners to repair sidewalks? A: The city does have standards. One can report deficient sidewalks online. State law assigns the responsibility of cost to owners.

¹ Taken from the Green Bonds page of the Lawrence, KS, webpage: lawrenceks.org

SPECIAL EVENT NEWS

The Chapter is trying to sponsor a political candidate speaker for the October meeting. At the July meeting members wanted to try to get Paul Davis to speak. Dianne Throop and Wendy Hambly are still working on that. There has been a wrinkle in plans, as the Smith Center is not available. We will keep you updated.