



**2012 OFFICERS and CHAIRS**

President	Tom Huntzinger	785-766-6717
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Roger Lemmons	785-840-9594
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Elaine Seeman	785-331-2280
Secretary	Dianne Throop	785-841-1408
Treasurer	Cheryl Travis	785-841-1616
Membership	Betty Scribner	785-865-8235
Service Officer	Wanda Lyon	785-764-2210
Public Relations	Cheryl Bowman	785-979-1568
Newsletter	Wendy Hambly	913-845-0121
NARFE PAC	Linda Surritte	785-856-0558
NARFE Net Coor	Leonard Short	785-840-8401
Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Legislative Chair	John Surritte	785-856-0558
Sunshine	Sandy Nease	785-843-3378

**KUDOS & THANK YOU'S TO:**

☞ Dianne Throop for writing the nice recap of the November program.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

On January 16, 2013, Barry Greis, the State Architect will speak about the repairs and remodeling of the Kansas State Capitol building and dome, including need, cost, and outcome

The February 20, 2013, meeting speaker is Diane Stoddard, Lawrence Assistant City Manager, to tell us about the proposed Recreation Center and the city's infra-structure (water, sewage, trash) and what needs to be done with it.

This all leads to financial questions. Can Lawrence afford all these things at once? Where should the priority be placed? Have your questions ready for this program!

**CHRISTMAS PARTY ENTERTAINMENT**

Due to scheduling conflicts the River City Reeds, are not able to perform at the Christmas party.

Fortunately for us, The Horizons Clarinet Quartet comprised of Bob Friauf (leader), Paul Jordan, John Roper, and Shirley Lemmons will perform. These 4 are members of the New Horizons Senior Band. They perform a variety of music from popular to classical compositions and will play during our meal.

The Lawrence Music Club Ladies Ensemble is made up of several members of the Lawrence Music Club. They sing for the enjoyment of making music and for the pleasure of the listeners. They are directed by Shirley Lemmons, who has many years experience directing church choirs. The ensemble will present their program following our meal.

**DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**If you haven't already, please send your reservation for the NARFE Chapter 378 Christmas Party at the Lawrence Country Club. We need a head count and pre-payment, so reservations are needed. Return the completed form before December 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**NARFE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**LAWRENCE COUNTRY CLUB  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>  
at NOON.**

Spouses and any active or retired Federal Employees are welcome.

**Head count & prepayment REQUIRED, so please mail this completed form with remittance by DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> to:**

**WENDY HAMBLY, 25029 Dehoff Dr.  
Tonganoxie, KS 66086**

**NAME(S) OF THOSE ATTENDING:**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**(please print clearly)**

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CHOICE OF MEAL(S)</b>	<b># OF MEALS</b>
<b>The Soup, Salad, &amp; Sandwich Buffet</b> includes 2 daily soup selections, a variety of meats, cheeses, bread, garnishes, full salad bar, potato chips, and brownies.	
<b>Quiche</b> (ham, Cheddar, Broccoli) includes Fresh Fruit, and Rolls	
<b>TOTAL # OF MEALS:</b>	
<b>COST PER MEAL:</b>	<b>X \$14.50</b>
<b>TOTAL REMITTANCE ENCLOSED:</b>	

**Check payable to: NARFE Chapter 378**  
**NOTE: Beverages other than coffee or tea will be on a cash basis and subject to tax & gratuity. Also, \$2.50 of the \$14.50 covers entertainment.**

## NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING RECAP BY DIANE THROOP

Peggy Sampson, Outreach Coordinator, Audio Reader, presented the history and mission of the Audio-Reader. Petey Cerf, a local community activist, conceived the idea one day when she made a nursing home visit to read to a friend. Another person was also there reading. She recognized the need to serve many people. She researched her idea and found a service to model, did her homework and presented the idea to the state legislature. She walked away with a \$500,000 budget. The Audio Reader opened 41 years ago on the KU Campus.

The Audio Reader is a free reading service for the blind, visually impaired, and print disabled from conditions such as, dyslexia and traumatic brain injuries. The service has 12 staff members and 350 volunteers. The service reads over 100 papers, including the KC Star, USA Today, Topeka Capital- Journal and many small local papers. They read textbooks, manuals and personal papers. Since books on tape are now readily available, popular books are not included in their service.

The very first volunteer, a KU librarian, now retired, continues to read for others. Some volunteers specialize, only reading textbooks.

Access to the Audio Reader is via an application process with medical documentation supporting the need. Clients can receive the service through a radio, telephone or the internet. The Audio Reader service is available throughout Kansas and the Western half of Missouri. The radio service has scheduled times for readings. The telephone and internet service, popular with people who work, has more flexibility, since programs can be access on demand.

Clients can make special requests for a reading. For example, the service has read text books for a student and legal documents for a person. They also read wrestling magazines for youth since it is a sport in which the blind can participate.

The service is on the air 24 hours a day. It is live from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Major newspapers are read in the morning, while smaller newspapers are read in the afternoon. The evening offers hour segments of books. There is a biography hour, books to movie hour, and "armchair reading hour." The weekends present a children's segment and a blind handyman hour.

Volunteer readers are auditioned. If you would like to volunteer, but don't want to read, they have administrative and gardening jobs. The service is dependent on donations and grants. For more information access their website at [reader.ku.edu](http://reader.ku.edu).

## MEMBERSHIP

Betty Scribner

### NARFE MEMBER RECRUITING TIPS

1. KEEP a MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION HANDY (in your car, purse or wallet).
2. GIVE CONCRETE REASONS and ADVANTAGES to being a NARFE member.
3. DETERMINE IF the PROSPECT is working, retired, or spouse: CSRS prospects will be more interested in NARFE's work on COLA's, taxes, and prescription drug costs, while FERS and current employees should know about our recent accomplishments for them such as the credit for their unused sick leave and the "Roth" option with their TSP.
4. STRESS NARFE's VALUE and what they receive with membership. The cost of membership is \$45, but what they could lose is worth far more than that. For most current and retired federal workers, their retirement and health care benefits are among the most valuable assets they possess. Members also receive legislative representation at both the federal and state levels; a subscription to the monthly magazine; electronic alerts to legislation affecting their income and health care security via weekly legislative hotline emails; eligibility for college scholarships for your children and/or grandchildren; disaster relief grants; and discounts on hotels, cruises, vacations, car rentals, bankcards.
5. OFFER to SHARE a COPY of *NARFE* magazine with a prospect.
7. IF YOU CAN'T ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS, offer to get the answer and get back to them, or refer prospects to the NARFE Membership Chairman, NARFE Hq R&R Department at 800-627-3394, or NARFE website ([www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org))
8. REMEMBER to INVITE THEM to JOIN US! Let them know that every member counts! United we can achieve what individuals may not be able to accomplish on their own.

BettyScribner, 785-865-8235 or  
email: [scribner@sunflower.com](mailto:scribner@sunflower.com).

**LEGISLATIVE****JOHN SURRITTE**

**NARFE Legislative Hotline (24/7): 877-217-8234**  
**U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 866-220-0044**  
**Call Congress Day**

NARFE is still urging members to contact their Senators and Representatives. The post-election session of Congress will meet in the face of the "fiscal cliff" and could take up much-delayed issues, including the postal overhaul, expiring tax provisions, Medicare reimbursements to providers and sequestration (across-the-board cuts to Pentagon and non-defense budgets).

More information, including a detailed script, will be provided via email through the Legislative Hotline and GEMS. The Hotline is also available on a toll free number, 877-217-8234.

**OPEN SEASON for FEHBP 2013 PLANS**

OPEN SEASON for Federal health, vision, and dental plans for 2013 **closes December 10, 2012**. Check page 40 of the NARFE Magazine October issue for information on changes for 2013. November and December (pages 38-50) issues provide more information. The December issue provides Vision and Dental insurance information. The following websites provide information on the 2013 plans.

<http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/rates/index.asp>.

For rates for national fee-for-service plans, please visit

<http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/rates/nonpostalffs2013.pdf>.

Try the website [www.plansmartchoice.gov](http://www.plansmartchoice.gov) for some comparison shopping for health plans.

**NARFE NEWSWATCH****Nov. 27, 2012***From the GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE:***LEAVING FEDS OUT OF DEFICIT DEAL****WINS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT**

A bipartisan group of lawmakers -- all representing areas heavily populated by federal employees -- has a message for President Obama and colleagues in Congress: Leave the federal workforce alone.

The nine House members, all representing districts in Washington, Maryland or Virginia, said federal employees have "paid their fair share" toward reducing the deficit and any deal to avoid the fiscal cliff should not further target the group.

"We respectfully request that you carefully consider the implications that any proposed

agreement would have on these Americans so that it reflects the substantial budget savings that the federal workforce has contributed thus far," the lawmakers wrote in a letter.

They pointed to \$103 billion in budget savings derived from the federal workforce -- \$88 billion from a pay freeze that started in 2011 and is scheduled to continue through March and \$15 billion from **raising** the retirement pension contribution rate for new hires -- as evidence the employees already have been disproportionately targeted in trimming budgets.

Reps. Jim Moran, D-Va.; Steny Hoyer, D-Md.; Frank R. Wolf, R-Va.; Chris Van Hollen, D-Md.; Gerald E. Connolly, D-Va.; Robert J. Wittman, R-Va.; Donna F. Edwards, D-Md.; John P. Sarbanes, D-Md.; and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., all signed the letter.

Top Democratic lawmakers on committees related to the federal workforce **told *Government Executive*** last week that they also would like to leave federal employee benefits out of any potential debt deal. In addition, federal unions have expressed their desire to leave their members' pay and benefits out of the deal.

## **NARFE signs letter to Congress opposing changing the COLA formula**

NARFE and more than 50 other organizations are urging Congress to protect the current method of calculating the annual cost-of-living adjustment for federal civilian retirement, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, military retirement and veterans benefits. A proposal to change from the current formula, which uses the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, could be part of a deficit-reduction deal on Capitol Hill. "Proposals to substitute a 'chained CPI' calculation for the current index are inaccurately characterized as a 'technical adjustment' and will substantially reduce the current and future benefits of the constituencies we represent," the groups said. For the full text of the letter and list of organizations signing it, use this link:

<http://www.narfe.org/departments/home/articles.cfm?ID=2996>

**QUESTION FOR ACTIVE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

FROM: Margaret M. Carter, Editorial Director  
 Editor, NARFE magazine  
 E-mail: [communications@narfe.org](mailto:communications@narfe.org)

Dear Current Federal Employee,

NARFE magazine is working on a story for an upcoming issue and needs your input. Please help us by answering the question below.

Congress is looking for ways to wring major savings from the federal budget, perhaps by asking for retirement sacrifices from federal employees. For example, various versions of bills that were considered in the past, and will probably be revisited this winter, would have raised federal employees' retirement contributions anywhere from 1.2% to 5%, without raising benefits...and would have eliminated the FERS annuity supplement.

As Congress debates these fiscal issues over the coming months, they need to hear from federal employees who would be affected by these proposals.

How would an increase in your retirement contributions, and the elimination of the FERS annuity supplement, affect you specifically?

Please respond to [communications@narfe.org](mailto:communications@narfe.org).

Thanks for your assistance!

Margaret Carter

E-mail: [communications@narfe.org](mailto:communications@narfe.org)

Visit us on the Web at [www.narfe.org](http://www.narfe.org)

LIKE us on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Narfe-National-Headquarters/156166674427698>

**NEED TO UPDATE CHAPTER 378 BY-LAWS**

Tom Huntzinger, Chapter 378 President, and Diane Throop have discussed the need to update Chapter 378's By-Laws. Tom will be asking for volunteers to serve on a committee to review and make recommendations for updates. Contact Tom or Diane if you are interested in being on this committee.

Tom Huntzinger 785-766-6717  
 Diane Throop 785-841-1408

**ALZHEIMER'S**

**John Scott**

November's contributions from the chapter were \$81. The year-to-date total for Chapter 378 is \$705.70, which includes the Surritte's matching funds of \$208.

If you have a friend or loved one you would like to commemorate, include the form below with your donation:

Chapter 378 Alzheimer's Donation \$

Make your check payable to:

NARFE ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

Send to:

John Scott, PO Box 604, Eudora, KS 66025

For a memorial include name:

"In Memory of

Donor's Name:

Street Address

City, St., Zip

We're still collecting the bar codes from BEST CHOICE brand labels for money for Alzheimer's. Bring them to a meeting or call Wendy Hambly (913-845-0121) to arrange pick up.



Please note that space is limited for the NARFE Chapter 378 Christmas Party, so get your reservations in soon. We may not be able to accommodate walk-ins.