



2013 OFFICERS and CHAIRS

President	Tom Huntzinger	785-766-6717
1 st Vice President	Roger Lemmons	785-840-9594
2 nd 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		
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	785-979-5481

KUDOS & THANK YOU'S TO:

- ☞ John Surritte for keeping us well informed about state and federal legislation.
- ☞ Beverly Kipp who welcomes us at meetings and keeps track of our name tags for monthly meetings.
- ☞ Betty Scribner for the outstanding job she does as Membership Chair. Check out page 2 top left.
- ☞ Ken Rowen, Val Romero, Tom Huntzinger, and Cheryl Travis for volunteering for the Committee to Review Chapter 378's By Laws.

SUNSHINE

WENDY HAMBLY

Get well cards were sent to Barbara Hilpman, Linda Surritte, and Margaret Atkinson. A sympathy card was sent to Walt Aucott, whose mother died. If you know someone who needs a card for illness, sympathy, or a special event, let me know.

Wendy Hambly 913-845-0121

LEGISLATIVE

JOHN SURRITTE

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

NARFE NEWSWATCH FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Tell your representative: No further federal pay freeze: *NARFE President, Joseph A. Beaudoin, asks all NARFE members to help defeat a bill that would extend the federal employee pay freeze for a third year. The bill, H.R. 273, is expected to be voted on this week — perhaps as early as Thursday, Feb. 14. Federal employees have been under a pay freeze since January 2011. The freeze is scheduled to be lifted on March 27, when the existing Continuing Resolution, a stop-gap spending measure, expires. Federal employees would then get a 0.5 percent increase for the remainder of 2013. NARFE has a strong message of opposition to the pay-freeze extension bill ready for you to send to your representative. To send it, [click here](#).*

FEBRUARY 20TH

Roger Lemmons

The meeting is at Conroy's Pub. The program begins at noon with lunch at 12:30 p.m. followed by a brief meeting. February's program is Diane Stoddard, Lawrence Assistant City Manager, to tell us about the proposed Recreation Center and the city's infra-structure, including utility upgrades, industrial development and/or any other hot topics.

The March meeting is Nancy Thellman, recently re-elected Douglas County Commissioner. She will discuss what is going on in Douglas county government.

The topic of April's program is WATER...our concerns, is there a continued unlimited supply, and quality. We searched no further than our own ranks to cover this topic. Tom Huntzinger can provide us with background and issues surrounding water availability. Tom has worked for the USGS for many years and is well versed on the subject of water in Kansas.

JANUARY 16TH MEETING RECAP

Barry Greis, the architect for the restorations of the Kansas Capital Building in Topeka presented an interesting program explaining the various stages of the original construction of the capital building and the ongoing restoration. Before being hired to lead the restoration of the capital, Mr. Greis was the architect for restoring the Governor's House.

The movement to restore the Capital Building began in 1997. The restoration began in 2000 with no cost estimate in place. Since 2000, the project has been financed in 2-year increments and is scheduled to conclude this year with a total price tag of \$332,000,000.

Mr. Greis pointed out how amazing that, in 1860 when design began, people were living in sod houses, yet Kansas had the foresight to design and build this beautiful capital. It took will, determination, and vision. The lighting fixtures, the colors, and stencils you see with this restoration are what were determined in the 1880's (when construction of the Senate Chamber began). The restoration was done in stages and began with the East Wing. Historic photos and finding original paint colors, murals, and stencils under 60-year-old paint layers allowed the restoration to return the capital to its original décor.

Because of the weight of the planned Dome, they had to dig the foundation 15' deeper than

planned to reach bedrock. Buttresses placed at corners of the East and West Wings prevented the walls from cracking. They used mules and oxen when construction began and later steam engines. It is amazing what those builders accomplished. It took 37 years to build. They paid cash as they went.

The South Wing, containing the Supreme Court Chambers restoration was completed 2 years ago. The court is actually housed across the street because the original structure was outgrown. The Court did hold a few sessions in the restored chamber in 2011.

The Rotunda and North Wing were finished the fall of 2012. The chandelier, which had been removed in 1942, was restored from photographs. The copper, which turned black over the years, was cleaned, polished, and sealed.

The Dome and roof systems were a poor design and leaked. The decision was made to replace the Dome.

The historic photos are being put into a database for online viewing. Tours are available. Call ahead or check the website for days and times. I took my grandsons last summer and highly recommend the tour.

MEMBERSHIP Betty Scribner

Welcome to Steve Prue, Executive Assistant at Haskell Indian Nations University, who registered for a free NARFE membership at our NARFE table at the health fair at Haskell last November. His name was drawn at the end of the day.

We extend a warm welcome to Mr. Leroy Hahn, a former U.S. Department of Agriculture employee, who recently transferred from Nebraska; and to Valerie Roper, who transferred from Virginia!

I sent emails and letters to our chapter members during February thanking them for continuing their NARFE memberships during this next year. Our strength is in numbers and your membership just gives more power to our NARFE legislative force in Washington D.C. There is so much going on in Washington D.C. that it is impossible to keep up with all of the proposed legislation information and how to evaluate the real impact on our paychecks and ultimately our lives. We, as NARFE members, are a very aware, concerned group, and are united in protecting the future of the federal community. Thank you very much for another year with NARFE Chapter 378.

During 2012, Chapter 378 made progress with gains in membership in spite of some losses. The following are the Chapter's membership stats:

- Total Members: 141
- New Members: 13
- Transfers In: 4
- Total Dropped/Reinstated/Deaths: 11
- Dropped: 5
- Dropped/Reinstated: 3
- Transferred to E-Chapter: 1
- Deaths: 2 (Mr. Otto Stites and Mrs. Genevieve Limberg)

Membership Information

- Active Employees: 11(double # from 2011)
- Annuitant Spouses: 6
- Dues Withholding: 30
- Life Members: 10

The membership goal for 2012 was to saturate the Lawrence federal agencies with information on the importance of NARFE to the government worker's life. Visits were made to the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Haskell Indian Nations University, Social Security, and the Post Office. NARFE was received with interest, and information is being displayed at most of these agencies. In addition, letters were mailed to Corps of Engineer contacts, postal union employees, Haskell alumni federal retirees, and other individual letter contacts during the year.

Most federal employees are unaware of NARFE and how it works for them on Capitol Hill. Many federal retirees have heard of NARFE, but do not understand the importance of its testimonies in government committee hearings to fight for our benefits. This year, our Chapter personal contacts, saw great success in helping potential members to understand what NARFE is and what its goal is.

Your personal contacts have made a difference for Chapter 378 and NARFE. Your being informed and willing to share NARFE information with those you meet has grown our Chapter's membership this year and done a good job of retaining members.

Betty Scribner, 785-865-8235 or email: scribner@sunflower.com.

NARFE NEWSWATCH 1/8/13

As reported on FORBES website, by Deborah L. Jacobs: *When should you redo your Will?*
 1. *Becoming a Parent....be sure you name a*

guardian for your children and provide for them financially in case something happens to you.

2. *Becoming a Grandparent...your will and any trusts that are part of your plan cover this new family member. The same goes for assets that pass through beneficiary designations...*
3. *Losing a Spouse...The estate law...allows widows and widowers to add any unused exemptions of their most recently deceased spouse to their own... The executor of the deceased spouse's estate must file a federal estate tax return, even if no tax is owed. The return is due 9 months after death, with a 6-month extension allowed.*
4. *Bad Health...This is a time to have your lawyer review any documents and bring them up to date.*

Other planning moves, too, should be made soon after a spouse's death. Revise your will and living trust and name new beneficiaries for any retirement assets you inherited from a spouse—otherwise your own heirs could lose income tax benefits associated with these accounts.... make sure you have durable power of attorney, appointing a family member, friend or adviser whom you trust as an agent to act on your behalf in financial and legal matters if you become unable to because of illness or disability...revisit your health-care proxy, a separate document that authorizes an agent to make medical decisions on your behalf.

ALZHEIMER'S

John Scott

NARFE Donations Top \$10

Million for Alzheimer's Research

Members of NARFE, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, have raised more than \$10 million for Alzheimer's research. Donations come from individual NARFE members, as well as NARFE chapters and federations nationwide that hold fundraising and other events to raise research funds. Since NARFE took on Alzheimer's research as a national project in 1985, members have raised money through progressively higher fundraising goals. The "\$10 million in 2012" goal was set at NARFE's 2010 National Convention. The goal was reached and exceeded in November, according to the Alzheimer's Association's latest monthly accounting of donations from NARFE members. "Alzheimer's

touches the lives of millions of Americans – both those afflicted with this heartbreaking disease and their family members," said NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin. "NARFE members can be proud of their commitment to finding a cure for this devastating disease or slowing the progress of its symptoms." "Alzheimer's Association President and CEO Harry Johns also praised the NARFE effort. "For more than 25 years, NARFE has demonstrated steadfast commitment to the mission of the Alzheimer's Association," Johns said. "We appreciate their unwavering dedication to the Alzheimer's Association research program and our efforts to end this disease." In 1985, NARFE first joined with the Alzheimer's Association to help fund research and find a cure for this disease. One hundred percent of NARFE donations go directly to support Alzheimer's research. Based on its extraordinary giving record, NARFE has been made a member of the Alzheimer's Association's distinguished donor program, the Zenith Fellows. The number of NARFE-funded Alzheimer's research grants totals 56. In August, delegates at the 2012 NARFE National Convention in Reno-Sparks, NV, approved a new goal of raising an additional \$1 million for Alzheimer's research by the end of 2014.

Chapter donations for January were. \$116.25.

NOTE: 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.

NARFE NEWSWATCH

02/12/13

White House warns of sequestration damage across government

Federal Times

If sequestration takes effect March 1, more than 1,000 FBI and other federal law enforcement agents would be sidelined, hundreds of federal prosecutors and thousands of food safety inspectors would be furloughed, and widespread furloughs at the Internal Revenue Service would leave millions of taxpayers unable to get answers from IRS call centers as the April 15 tax deadline approaches, according to the White House.

Read the rest of the article at:
<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20130208/AG-ENCY04/302080009/White-Ho>