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KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S.

📧 Jerry Feese who will appear at the Travel club, February 24th meeting.

NARFE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE FEB. 6, 2015

NARFE's [Legislative Action Center](#) is a more streamlined site allowing you to follow NARFE's legislative priorities, write letters to your members of Congress, and review background information on each issue. It is easier to forward to friends and family to encourage them to take action on NARFE's issues. We encourage NARFE members to visit, become familiar with the site, and send your legislators a letter asking them to support the FAIR Act (or thanking them for doing so).

Resources for State Legislative Advocacy

NARFE's [Legislative Action Center](#) now includes a [State Advocacy](#) module with useful information and links to empowering web-based resources. You can read your governor's state of the state address. [Governing.com](#) provides a gateway to the video and text of these speeches. Both the [THOMAS](#) system at the Library of Congress and [MultiState.com](#) provide gateways to the websites of state and territorial legislatures. Experiment with these sources and then volunteer to assist your [chapter's](#) State Legislative Officer or contact your [federation president](#).

We encourage questions or comments. Email them to leg@narfe.org

CHAPTER HISTORY Roger Lemmons

I am trying to put together a history of Chapter 378, if anyone has any information or a story, please send it to me or bring it to February's meeting. So, you long-time members, please scratch your heads and contact me at: 785-840-9594 or r-slemmons@att.net.

FEBRUARY 18TH MEETING Roger Lemmons

NARFE Chapter 378 will meet February 18, 2015, in the south meeting room of Conroy's Pub. The program begins at noon, lunch (a choice from 3 entrée's and coffee or tea for \$10) is at 12:30, and a brief meeting follows the lunch. Kathy Richardson, will speak about Lawrence's recycling program.

JANUARY 21ST MEETING RECAP

January's speaker, Laura Calwell, a representative from *Friends of the KAW*, spoke about the group's advocacy role in the use and maintenance of the river.

The Kansas River (know locally as the KAW) begins at the confluence of the Republican and Smoky Hill Rivers near Junction City. It flows 173 miles to Kansas City where it joins the Missouri River. The KAW watershed drains almost the entire northern half of Kansas and part of Nebraska and Colorado (53,000 sq miles). It is the world's largest prairie based river system.



Friends of the KAW are concerned with preventing and reversing pollution, recreation, public access, and cooperating with other groups to promote a clean river fit for recreation and a water supply. They are members of the Water Keepers Alliance.

The KAW provides drinking water for approximately 800,000 people, and is home to many species, especially birds--cliff swallows, white heron, blue heron, pelicans, egrets, ducks, geese, and bald eagles.

An outstanding feature of the KAW is the sand bars. They are accessible by water and are like ocean beaches. It is public property, so you can camp and picnic on them. Note that the Kansas Constitution requires you to have landowners' permission to access the river, so use public access ramps.

Friends of the KAW promote recreation on the river and has provided numerous access ramps to this big wide river, which benefits tourism. The group also sponsors float trips for both private and public education from April through October. They

rent canoes and kayaks for \$12. Anderson Rentals, Lawrence, KS, (785) 843-2044, and Jellystone Park, Lawrence, KS, (785) 842-3877 rent canoes and kayaks. If you have your own there is no charge for the boat trips. The Kansas River Water Trail was dedicated July 14, 2012.

Because a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required to authorize dredging permits on the KAW, the Corp of Engineers is doing an environmental assessment of the river and will take public comments at the end of the year. The only dredging on the river currently permitted is below the dam at Lawrence. Dredging causes the river to pull sand, clay, and dirt from up-stream to fill in the hole created by the dredging.

The group monitors water discharges, industrial discharges at Manhattan and below the dam at Lawrence. They have worked with companies to clean up the pollution. Storm water from feed lots, city pet waste, and fertilizer all lead to the river. March 14, 2015, in cooperation with West Star and a grant from Douglas County Heritage they plan to clear out old tires from the river west of Topeka.

There is a very nice *River Water Trail Map* covering the KAW from Junction City to Kansas City, which is chucked full of good information covering locations of dams and hazardous area (where you should portage), restrooms, access ramps, and safety tips.

For more info check out Friends of the KAW website at: <http://kansasriver.org/>. Membership is \$15/year. Two fund raisers planned in Lawrence: Cat Fish Fry Sept 27th and Film Festival Oct 11th. There is a Clean Energy Day meeting, 9 am, Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at the Capital in Topeka. Kansans want a responsible energy plan to transition our state to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar and improvements in energy efficiency.

RSVP Online: <http://tinyurl.com/RSVPCleanEnergyDay>

SENIOR INFO FROM PARKS AND REC

The spring newsletter is available online <https://www.lawrenceks.org/assets/lprd/lifelong/lifelong-februrarynewsletter15.pdf>. Registration deadlines are coming up for classes: *Creating Family Archives* (pg 2.), the *Somerset Wine Tour* (pg 6 and the computer classes on page 3 (P&R newsletter).

Both active and vicarious travelers will enjoy the next Travel Club meeting on February 24. **Guest Jerry Feese** {a Chapter 378 member} will

share his recent trip to Iceland. Please RSVP for the travel club so we can plan accordingly.

Gayle Sigurdson, Recreation Programmer
gsigurdson@lawrenceks.org
 Parks and Recreation Department
 office (785) 832-7920

SERVICE OFFICER John Rowe

Website for the "Be Prepared for Life's Events" form is <http://www.narfe.org/pdf/f-100fill.pdf>

ALZHEIMER'S JOHN SCOTT

January 2015: \$38.75 collected at the January meeting.

SPECIAL EVENT Elaine Seemen

NEW DINNER THEATER:

Forever Plaid

Wednesday, APRIL 8, 2015 Matinee Seating begins at 11:30 a.m. Dining begins at 12:00 noon
 Opening Curtain is 1:00 p.m.

Forever Plaid is an internationally acclaimed musical revue telling the story of four young, eager, male singers who in 1950 meet their demise in a bus crash to their first big concert. Every evening they return from Heaven to posthumously fulfill their dreams, to perform the concert that never was. Great hits featured are *Sixteen Tons, Catch a Falling Star, Matilda, Three Coins in the Fountain and more.*

Group of 8: \$33 which includes meal, performance, coffee, tea, or soda, and tax. Desserts are extra.

Group of 15: \$33 (Same as above) except for every 15 ticket, get one free. That means 16 can go for the price of 15. This applies for every 15 bought..

Car pool. I can get a total of five in my vehicle. If sixteen go, divide the 16th ticket among three drivers (\$33/3 = \$11 off of ticket, their cost = \$22) that would cover their gas.

To reserve tickets we need to make a DEPOSIT of \$40. (8 tickets would be \$40, 10 - \$50, 16 - \$80, 20 - \$100)

They are holding 20 reservations so we can sit together until Wednesday, February 18th. Would need to make the \$5 for each reservation (non-refundable). Full payment is due March 8th, 30 days before the show. If 10 sign up, we would be guaranteed seating together.

Please respond to me before Feb 18th at:
 785-331-2280 or eseeman@sunflower.com