

2017 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS		
President	Tom Huber	785-843-1157
1 st Vice President	Roger Lemmons	785-840-9594
2 nd Vice President	Elaine Seeman	785-331-2280
Secretary	Wendy Hambly	785-840-8401
Treasurer	Cheryl Travis	785-865-7580
Membership	Dianne Throop	785-841-1408
Service Officer	John Rowe	785-856-8759
Newsletter	Wendy Hambly	913-845-0121
NARFE PAC Chair		
Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Legislative Chair	John Rowe	785-856-8759
Sunshine	Mary Margaret Rowen/Clara Arnold	785-842-8847 785-842-1680
NARFE NET Coor	Jerry Feese	785-842-4330

FEBRUARY 15TH MEETING

NARFE Free State Chapter 378 will meet Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at noon, in the south room of Conroy's. The program is at noon, followed by lunch, and a brief meeting. Lunch is optional. The cost is and includes a choice of 1 of 3 entrées, coffee or tea, and gratuity.

The speaker for February is Feloniz Lovato-Winston, a representative from KCPR.

RECAP JANUARY 18TH MEETING

Jim Miller, who keeps us informed of the legislature activities in Topeka, was the speaker for January. He began with a couple of jokes, which made us laugh, and then outlined the bad news. Throughout his presentation, Miller emphasized getting to know your representatives at both the state and national levels, and keeping those legislators informed.

On the National Level: Trump has made it clear he does not like federal employees or retirees, and the Republican Congress agrees with him. All we can do is let them know we are still out here.

He took advantage of an opportunity to speak with Lynn Jenkins, at the airport, on his way to catch an Honor Flight, to see the War Memorial in Washington, D.C. He also said Jerry Moran was recruited as a NARFE member in 1998 at a in dinner in Hays, KS. He reminded all of us to seize opportunities to connect with legislative representatives, and said that it is not a better year to belong to NARFE than 2017, and have NARFE representing us in Washington DC.

On the State Level: Democrats don't seem to be able to agree about what is important as a group. Jim is an independent lobbyist, so he can go wherever he wants. The 3 groups, Democrats, Republicans, and moderate Republicans can't agree on how to balance the budget, and voters aren't going to want to pay overtime for them to come to a consensus.

One issue is the LLC's tax exemption. There is talk of repealing that.

Federal retiree annuities are not taxed by Kansas, so could be a target.

The new Speaker of House in Topeka, Rick Ryerson, wants to repeal the LLC exemption, and there is the possibility the NARFE annuity exemption may get thrown in with that. (As a result of a 1994 court case decision, NARFE annuities are under an umbrella with 9 other agencies exempting them from

KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S

- Tom Huber, for stepping up to the plate and accepting the Presidency of Chapter 378 for 2017.
- Leonard Short for his service as Secretary of Chapter 378.

NARFE INSIDER OFFICER NEWS 1/26/17

NARFE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The 2017 NARFE-FEEA Steve Bauer Scholarship Program, is open to children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of NARFE members, and is open from February 1 through April 28. Applicants must be high school seniors planning to attend their first year of a 2-4-year degree program at an accredited college as a full-time student in the fall/winter of 2017.

New this year is the online-only application and submission process. Students can access the application from the NARFE website as of February 1 by clicking on the Scholarship Program graphic in the rotating display on the home page, www.narfe.org. For complete details on eligibility requirements and how to apply, [click here](#) to read and/or print the two-page brochure "A Guide to the NARFE-FEEA Steve Bauer Annual Scholarship Awards Pro- gram" (NARFE publication F-105).

Sixty \$1,000 awards will be given out this year. The NARFE Scholarship Program relies on the generosity of donors. To make a tax-deductible contribution, make checks payable to NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund and mail to NARFE Scholarship Awards, c/o FEEA, 1641 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314. You also can use the donation coupon that appears every month in *narfe* magazine. For additional information, please email scholarship@narfe.org.

being taxed.) Governor Brownbach has previously used up all funds available to try to balance the budget. He now wants to sell the "Tobacco Payback," which is income for Kansas for the next 20 years.

SO GET TO KNOW THEM [your state and national representatives] SO YOU CAN KEEP THEM INFORMED.

The repeal of LLC exemption is a big issue, but that won't solve the budget problems such as repairing highways and infrastructure. Missouri is going to pass a tax for those things. Kansas is out of solutions, so NARFE is a target. (There are more voters on Social Security than Federal Employees.) Have a dialog with them that you are concerned and stay in touch.

Currently there are no answers to Kansas' money problems. Watch the papers, get on the KS Legislature website to check what bills are upcoming. Question-John Rowe - Do we get emails from KS federation concerning issues that affect us?

Answer-Not currently. With all the pending possibilities, it would be nice if we have that information so we could contact Topeka. No one told us the "golden age would become tarnished"

process as an alternative to the standard process, a bill that could be used as the basis for an effort to limit federal employee appeal rights government-wide. Under the bill, an agency could take a personnel action including firing against an employee for performance or conduct reasons with as little as seven days but no more than 21 days of notice, the employee would have only seven days to file any appeal at MSPB, and the MSPB hearing officer would have to issue a decision within 30 days or else the agency's action would prevail by default. Further, during an appeal, the MSPB generally could not stay any removal and in that time the individual could not receive any pay or other form of compensation. Those provisions largely mirror those enacted in 2014 for senior executives at the VA, which the Obama administration used only in a few cases before abandoning them in the face of a legal challenge. The government-wide authority would be at the discretion of the agency on a case-by-case basis--management could choose to use the standard notice and appeals procedures instead--but the alternative authority could easily become the method of choice for agencies because of the advantages to management.

FEDWEEK WEEKLY

1/13/17

[Panel Plans Thorough Review of Civil Service Law](#)

Coming up on the 40th anniversary of the law underlying federal employment--the 1978 Civil Service Reform Act--it is time to "undertake a comprehensive review of the civil service system," according to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The panel's plan for the next two years says that "modernizing the civil service system is critical to better serving the federal workforce and the American taxpayers it serves. The hiring process must be competitive, merit based, technology-based, and conducted in a cost-effective manner. In addition, a review of the general schedule and occupational families and job series should be conducted to determine whether and how it can be improved and overhauled to better entice talented youth into the government and reward high performers." Also, the committee plans to examine the retirement system, skills gaps, accountability and removal processes, labor-management, the Senior Executive Service, employee morale issues and disciplinary policies.

[Government-Wide Disciplinary Shortcut Proposed](#)

Legislation (HR-559) offered in the House would allow all agencies to use a shortcut disciplinary

ALZHEIMER'S

JOHN SCOTT

Chapter 378 November 2016 donations totaled \$77, which included memorials for four \$15 memorial donations in memory of chapter members, JoAnn Lewis, Reba Bryant, Robert Schrick, and Patricia Hahn. December 2016 donations to NARFE's Alzheimer's fund totaled \$10. Chapter 378 donations for 2016 totaled \$935.25, which equals \$7.79 per member.

THE NARFE INSIDER, Quarterly News for NARFE Leaders, Vol 5, No. 1, January 2017, reported that on 9/23/16, GovExec.com gave a shout out to NARFE for surpassing its \$12,000,000 Alzheimer's research fundraising goal.

MEMBERSHIP

DIANNE THROOP

Form F7, updating the 2017 list of Chapter 378 Officers at NARFE National was submitted to NARFE Headquarters.

Welcome new member, Deneise Schneider.

NARFE KS FEDERATION CONVENTION

The KANSAS FEDERATION CONVENTION is April 23-25, 2017, at the Atrium Hotel and Convention Center, Hutchinson, KS. The Federation

Executive Board is the host for the convention this year as there were no chapters requesting to fulfill those duties. The registration packets have been mailed to all Chapter Presidents and Secretaries. There is a registration form included in this newsletter for your convenience. Please consider attending! Deadlines:

Registration Form and payment by April 1, 2017

Meal Cancellation and Refund by April 18, 2017

Alzheimer's Silent Auction Items: From Chantelle Renee' Haas, KS Federation Alzheimer's Chair: *Over the past several years, the silent auction to benefit Alzheimer's Research has successfully raised an exceptional amount of money to fund research projects. Kansas ranks among the top 5 in contributions with well earned bragging rights. As we strive to best our contributions from the previous year, we have created a monster in silent auction items. Last year there were over 493 silent auction items that took many, many man-hours to register, mark, [and track.]*

*This year, I presented to the Executive Board for their approval a plan to set some guidelines for the live and silent auctions. **The items that are most sought after (and fought over) are:***

- 1. Handmade craft items*
- 2. Homemade food items*
- 3. Themed basket*

So the Executive Board has giving their approval to limit the auction items that will be accepted to those fitting in one of the 3 categories.

KS FEDERATION LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

From Louis Bornman, KS Federation Area 1 Legislative Chair: *Well the elections have all happened and the new Congress has been sworn in and a new President is set to take office. Many are looking forward to this change with great anticipation but many are looking ahead with a dread of impending doom. And they have that feeling of dread for some very good reasons. The initial actions by the Congress and the proposed list of candidates for most of the high-level cabinet level appointees should give everyone in the federal government ample reason for concern. Most, if not all, of the proposed cabinet level appointees are adamantly opposed to the missions of the agencies they are being appointed to run. That should send a chill and feeling of dread throughout the agency workforces. If that weren't enough **here are just a***

few of the things that will have the potential to wreak havoc on federal employees and retirees:

- *Federal hiring freeze-[1/27/17 NARFE Legislative Hotline: President Trump signed an [executive order](#) calling for an immediate federal employee hiring freeze. This action temporarily prohibits agencies from selecting new hires until the Office of Management and Budget creates a plan within the next 90 days to reduce the size of the federal workforce through attrition, although the size of the reduction was not specified. The order also allows for federal agencies to make exemptions for positions deemed necessary to protect public safety and national security.]*
- *reduction in the workforce through a process of only allowing one hire for every two employees who leave.*
- *gutting of the ethics rules for members of Congress including declaring all of their work and papers as their personal property and not subject to subpoena or examination in any type of investigation, including criminal investigations of potential wrong doing*
- *approval of the "Holman Rule" from 1876 which allows any member of the House to bypass the committee process altogether and make an amendment to any appropriations bill directly*
- *targeting federal programs and/or employees by name for elimination or reducing an individual's pay to \$1.*
- *increase the retirement contribution of all federal employees, including those under CSRS, by 6%*
- *cut the rate of return on the TSP "G" fund from the current two percent to .02% making it a worthless investment.*
- *limit the government's share of FEHBP premiums by tying the government's*
- *percentage contribution to years of service and also limiting the government's share of plan cost increases to the rate of inflation. This could change the individual's share of plan premiums from 30% to 50% over ten years.*
- *Increase postal workers share of FEHBP premiums which could be translated over to the rest of the workforce and then to retirees.*
- *eliminate the FERS annuity supplement for current employees.*
- *eliminate the FERS retirement defined benefit pension altogether and have only a defined contribution type plan (TSP/401K).*

- *Plans to change Medicare to a voucher program as a part of the repeal and replacement of the ACA (Obamacare). A Congressional Budget office estimate said that the average cost for health care for retirees in 2022 would be about \$20,500 per year. That would then be the base estimated price of private insurance to provide what Medicare parts A and B provide today. The voucher that the government would provide would be a fixed \$8,000 and not increase. That would leave everyone a bill of \$12,500 per year or about \$1050 per month to have the equivalent of what they get for about \$150 or less per month today.*
- *make all new hires “at will employees” thus eliminating all civil service rules and protections for those employees.*
- *Blocking employees from having union dues withheld from their paychecks.*
- *Ending the practice of allowing employees to conduct union business on government time.*
- *Making cuts to Social Security and/or eliminating the program all together for younger generations.*
- *Failing to make or approve appointments to the Merit Systems Protection Board. One of the last two members of the three-person board recently resigned, leaving the board without a quorum and therefore unable to render decisions on employee appeals of adverse personnel decisions.*

Please be sure to go to the NARFE website and send letters to your Congressman and Senators about the issues facing federal employees and retirees. It might be a good idea to go to the AARP website and see what they have to say about the attacks on Medicare and Social Security as those programs generally effect everyone not just federal retirees. I will be attending the NARFE Legislative Conference 12-15 March and I will provide you with an update of the situation at the Federation Convention in April. the KS Federation Newsletter, January 2017

NARFE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE 1/27/17

From NARFE President Richard G. Thissen:
 “Now that the ‘peaceful transition’ of power has taken place, NARFE is ramping up its efforts to protect the earned pay and benefits of active and retired federal employees. This week started with the imposition of a federal hiring freeze by President Trump, followed by congressional discussions on reforming the civil service, the federal retirement system and the U.S. Postal Service. NARFE stands ready to vigorously fight in your defense, and I urge

you to join us in letting lawmakers know that federal employees and retirees earned their benefits through service to the nation. Attacks on the federal community will not go unopposed.”

TOM HUNTZINGER 4/25/47 TO 1/27/17



Tom passed away January 27, 2017. Diagnosed with leukemia in November, 2016, he underwent chemo and radiation treatments and a stem cell transfer, which was successful. But with a compromised immune system, he succumbed to an infection, which KU Med was unable to treat successfully.

Born in Flagler, CO, he graduated from Colorado State University with a Master’s Degree in Agricultural Engineering. He married Patty Basler in 1974, in Oklahoma. They have twin daughters and 4 grandchildren.

Tom retired from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Prior to working there, he worked in the Kansas Department of Agriculture, and Applied Ecological Service. After retiring from the USGS, he was a private consultant for the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS), which coordinated the watershed restoration and protection efforts for Clinton Reservoir. In addition to being a NARFE member, he belonged to the American Society of Professional Engineers, Sierra Club, and Friends of the Kaw.

An avid conservationist with a passion for clean water in both his vocation and avocation, Tom enjoyed his sailboat for family interaction and quiet solitude. He was a kayaker, watercolor painter, bicyclist, and gardener. As a grandpa, he provided educational toys and lots of love, as illustrated in the photos shown at his visitation.

Tom was Free State Chapter 378’s President for 8 years. His calm, yet enthusiastic demeanor helped our chapter flourish. His friends, co-workers, and NARFE members (many of whom he recruited from USGS) said he was a passionate environmentalist, goal oriented, a perfectionist, a good man, and good friend. John Surritte, past NARFE Chapter 378 President, said it well, “Tom was a good man and a good friend. His passing is a loss for all who knew him.” Tom Huber, said “Tom’s selfless efforts over the years were a blessing to us and to many others.”