



**2014 OFFICERS and CHAIRS**

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Legislative Chair	John Surritte	785-856-0558
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**KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S**

- ♣ Roger Lemmons for securing a super June program that created record attendance.

**ALZHEIMERS**

**John Scott**

**2014 CHAPTER 378 DONATIONS**

Month	Chapter Donations	YTD Total
January	\$126	\$126
February	\$17	\$143
March	\$9	\$152
April	\$14	\$166
May	\$13	\$179
June	\$13	\$192

The Alzheimer's Association. If you wish to receive their e-news, sign up at:  
[http://www.alz.org/join\\_the\\_cause\\_narfe\\_email.asp](http://www.alz.org/join_the_cause_narfe_email.asp)

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Dianne Throop**

Welcomed to new members, John and Martha Rowe, who transferred from the Kirksville Chapter.

Three member on the dropped list were sent renewal letter. In June, I have made email contact at Haskell concerning plans for a health fair in the fall. I will follow-up with them in July.

Thanks to you who have reinstated or got your dues in on time – January through March is a high-volume time for members' dues to be renewed. That applies to our chapter also. Thank you to all of you for another year with NARFE!

Betty is still making phone calls for the chapter.  
 Dianne Throop, email: [d.throop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.throop@sbcglobal.net)

COLA 2015: The exact cost-of-living adjustment for 2015 **won't be known until October when all the numbers are in**, but plugging into the formula the latest available data results in a 1.7 % increase.

**JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING ROGER LEMMONS**

The July 16, 2014 meeting of the NARFE Chapter 378 will meet in Conroy's meeting room. The program begins at noon.

July 16<sup>th</sup> speaker is Gene Meyer, Chief Executive Officer of Memorial Lawrence Hospital (LMH). Should be an interesting one. We had a good turnout for the June meeting. We don't often get high ranking officials for our programs, so good attendance for the July meeting would be great.

August's program is Brad Allen, Lawrence Public Library Director. He will discuss the new Library and what it has to offer the public and particularly NARFE members. The new library will have been in use about a month when this program is given. This should be an interesting presentation in light of the library being brand new.

**JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING RECAP**

June 18<sup>th</sup> speaker, Susan Metzger, Assistant Director of the Kansas Water Office (KWO), gave an interesting and informative presentation to one of our larger groups. She spoke about "the Elixir of Life - Water" and the "Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas." She began with a general overview and then focused on the 50-year vision for Kansas. Kansas is unique in that it is 2 different "water states" and rainfall is very diverse across the state. Western Kansas is served by ground water, the Ogallala Aquifer, while Eastern Kansas is served by rivers and streams and collected in reservoirs. Northern Kansas averages 13-18" of rainfall/yr, and Southern Kansas averages 40-50"/yr. Lake Clinton is full for the first time in 2 years. In a pie chart illustrating water usage, Southwest Kansas used the most for irrigation of crops.

Western Kansas established water rights in 1940. Then the NE along rivers, with Southeast Kansas was last to develop water rights.

Reservoirs fill in with sediment, thus reducing a reservoir's capacity. KWO personnel have found better results with locally induced land management. Watershed groups work with landowners to slow down erosion to prevent sediment from filling reservoirs. The state is dredging Redmond Reservoir to restore it's capacity.

Because Ogallala Aquifer is 70% depleted,

major reservoirs are filling with sediment faster than anticipated, and the decreased rainfall in recent years, Governor Brownback called for a plan of action. On July 1, 2014, the first draft of the water plan for Kansas was posted on KWO's website for public review. ([kwo.org](http://kwo.org)) Local meetings and 150 events are planned for across the state.

Ms Metzger praised the Dannon Yogurt Company for being great conservationists. They require their supplying dairies to practice conservation methods in their dairy operations. Owen Corning is another conservation conscious company.

She emphasized that we all can be involved in water conservation at home and in industry. In order to manage water, legislation needs to change, crops requiring less water could be promoted, and regulations for the use of 2-4 D need to be addressed. Newer technology provides for precision irrigation control via a smart phone. The technology can be expensive and, for older landowners, hard to make the transition.

Possibilities for the future:

- > Maybe smaller reservoirs
- > Transfer water from reservoir to reservoir (inter-basin law dictates how far water can be moved)
- > Transfer Missouri River water to Western Kansas

There are plans to visit 12 locations throughout the state with the first draft of the water plan to get feedback from citizens. November 12-13, 2014, the full document will be unveiled.

Question and Answers"

Q: For how long were the reservoirs designed?

A: Each was designed for 100-year-use. They are about 60 years old, but filling at a faster rate (2 times faster in some cases) than anticipated. We need to maintain them.

Q: What do they do with the sediment?

A: Dredging the Redmond Reservoir will yield be 3M cubic yards of sediment. Some is used to restore native prairies, to construct wetlands, and for row crops. Redmond will take 1-5 years and cost ~\$20M (\$13M to remove sediment, \$7M to reimburse landowners and restore areas)

## LEGISLATIVE

**John Surritte**

The following are excerpts from a May 30, 2014 email sent by Kansas State Senator Marci Francisco, District 2: *Moody's Investors Service downgraded the credit rating for Kansas the day after the release of April revenues. "The downgrade reflects Kansas' relatively sluggish*

*recovery compared with its peers, the use of non-recurring measures to balance the budget, revenue reductions (resulting from tax cuts) which have not been fully offset by recurring spending cuts, and an under-funded retirement system for which the state is not making actuarially required contributions."* Moody's also downgraded the Kansas Dept. of Transportation revenue bonds citing the continued transfer of highway funds to the State General Fund and noted phasing in increasing income tax cuts will "continue to exert pressure on the budget."

**It will be YOUR turn to vote on or before August 5<sup>th</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>!** Although the only state senate elections this year are for Districts 35 and 37 (former Senators Apple and Emler were both appointed to the Kansas Corporation Commission), there will be elections for the offices for one U.S. Senator, all four U.S. Representatives, the Governor/Lt Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Insurance, four members of the State Board of Education, all 125 State Representatives, and a number of judges. Election information is on the Secretary of State's website: <http://kssos.org/elections/elections.html>

*There will be a constitutional amendment on the November ballot that, if passed, would legalize charity raffles.*

If you wish to receive future newsletters, email your request to: [marci.francisco@senate.ks.gov](mailto:marci.francisco@senate.ks.gov)

Comments about federal workers from President Obama made at a town hall meeting at Minneapolis' Minnehaha Park, June 2014.

"We've got floods right here right now. The federal government is coming in and it's going to be working with local communities that are overwhelmed to try to make sure that people get help rebuilding. Those are federal workers. If they weren't around after a tornado or a hurricane, communities would be in a world of hurt. When you check the weather, even on your smart phone, that information didn't just come from some Silicon Valley office. That came from the National Weather Service. The folks who help our men and women in uniform make sure that they've got proper equipment, those are federal workers. Fighting fires — a lot of times those are federal workers in the Forest Service. ...It frustrates me when I hear people acting as if somebody who's working for the federal government somehow is less than somebody working in the private sector — if they're doing a good job and carrying on an important function, we should praise them."