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JULY 19TH MEETING R. LEMMONS

NARFE Free State Chapter 378 will meet Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at noon, in the south room of Conroy's. July's presenter is M. Meir, Director of Community engagement, who will speak about programs for Seniors and the Senior Center.

The presentation begins at noon, followed by lunch, and a brief meeting. Lunch is optional. The cost is \$10 and includes a choice of 1 of 3 entrées, coffee or tea, and gratuity.

RECAP JUNE 21ST MEETING

Eileen Horn, Sustainability Coordinator, is the project engineer for the current program in Lawrence to transition from incandescent bulbs to more efficient LED's. She lived up to Roger Lemmon's promise that she would "shed some light" on the program.

Her undergraduate degree is in biology, and her graduate degree is in environmental science, augmented by on the job experience. She works for Lawrence's sustainability manager and Douglas County, coordinating information and ideas.

The Sustainability Divisions' portion of Lawrence's website (lawrenceks.org) defines the mission and lists key initiatives as: "The Sustainability Division makes decisions that balance the needs of the environment, economy, and society for both present and future generations." Key initiatives are:

- [Energy efficiency & conservation](#)
- [Fuel conservation & alternative fleet fuels](#)
- [Economic development](#)
- [Healthy, local food systems](#)
- [Sustainable transportation](#)
- [Water & utilities](#)
- [Waste reduction & recycling](#)
- [Green building design & construction](#)
- [Outdoors & recreation](#)
- [Greenhouse gas emissions](#)

Her position seems to cover a wide range of both city and rural activities, ranging from transitioning incandescent or CFL bulbs to LED bulbs on city streets and in buildings, to facilitating bicycling in Lawrence.

The bulb replacement is part of the facilities conservation program. There are many saving with

KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S

- Gordon Montney for accepting the Legislative Chair position for Chapter 378.

ALZHEIMER'S JOHN SCOTT

There was a memorial of \$25 in May, and June's donation was \$19. The year-to-date total is \$314.

NARFE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT 6/21/17

August is NARFE Grassroots Advocacy Month.

August is the month Congress goes home... and the perfect time for constituents to call on them.

Are you ready to engage your legislators on the issues that affect your earned federal benefits? The 1 hour webinar covers the best practices you can employ to defend the benefits you have earned from serious congressional attacks....this webinar will help you polish your advocacy skills.

We need all federal employees and retirees to speak out against proposals containing cuts to your earned pay and benefits if we are going to be successful. Join NARFE's Grassroots Program Manager Molly Checksfield to learn more during June's legislative webinar, "Choose Your Own Advocacy Adventure: Preparing for August."

Now is not the time to stay silent as Congress debates serious cuts to your earned benefits! To be effective, we must plan for the August recess now. Don't let those five weeks when your legislators are at home pass by without them hearing from you.

The webinar is archived on the NARFE website. If you have any questions, please email NARFE's Legislative Department at leg@narfe.org.

new technology. Newer technology is more expensive upfront, but pay for themselves in about 5 years. Lawrence's budget is done yearly. Because the city is tax exempt, there are no tax credits. They did energy audits of all city buildings, Douglas County, and unincorporated areas. (not Eudora)

One of the criteria to determine the merits of a program is determining the cost of the change and how many years it takes for the change to pay for itself.

Professional companies on a contracting list will guarantee savings. The Kansas legislature passed a law putting a lid on property tax, so the city is struggling with the budget. These professional companies evaluate the proposed program, then the cost of the program, and savings will pay for the loan. This scenario makes conservation programs doable.

Lawrence has been unable to get the electric company to replace LEDS in parking lots. The evaluation of the transition: \$11.3M saved over 20 years, LED's are more efficient and provide better lighting quality, LED's cost \$1.7M, so they pay for themselves in 7 years.

Other project may include: Upgrades to swimming pool pumps, Fire station solar paneling on roves, City Hall needs new windows.

They bundle short-term changes with long term projects, matching projects that are more expensive and take longer to recover the investment with programs that recover the investment in 5 years or so.

They recycle what they can by donating to Just Foods and the shelter.

The county has been doing energy efficient transitions and budget yearly for changes since 2010, when she was hired. The new library received the LEAD Gold for energy efficiency. They try to build efficiently. They are trying to retrofit the Court House.

The city contracts work, but also do some work themselves, such as the day-to-day things like the fire station at 19th.

There are 30% tax credit benefits to homeowners who do their own conservation measures, and some electric companies have leasing programs for solar panels. It is not just about watts. Lumens and color also play a role in good lighting. The Home Depot has 4-packs of LED's, which are more reasonably priced.

Members talked about replacing their lighting

with LED's. A lot of cities have replaced their street lights. The KU campus has done a good job of replacing lighting.

Batteries and Bulbs will recycle fluorescent bulbs (fluorescent bulbs contain mercury so you can't put them in garbage).

The presentation was interesting, and I believe she only scratched the surface of what the Sustainability Division in Lawrence is accomplishing. You can contact Eileen Horn at:

ehorn@lawrenceks.org.

KANSAS FEDERATION CONVENTION MINUTES CONCERNING BY-LAW CHANGES	4/23/17
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**63rd Annual Pre-Convention Executive Board Meeting
Atrium Hotel & Convention Center Hutchinson KS**

Bylaws – One proposed bylaw will not be presented. We will not present Area Changes – We will request permission to appoint a committee to look over our bylaws and incorporate changes to align with National Bylaw changes from the 2016 National Convention. Changes will need to be voted on and implemented by 2018.

Carol Ek - We will have to make changes to incorporate the one-member one-vote and no mandatory chapter membership. Per Carol every day more members are opting out of being chapter members. They will then be Federation only members. We will have to determine their ability to hold office and voting at state meeting. We will have to determine their ability to hold office and voting at state meeting. We will need to have this done January 1st. She stated that we should use the NES website to get the information out to the membership. All chapters will have to have their bylaws updated by August 31, 2018.

Cindy Blythe, Kansas Federation President, stated the following in the Kansas NARFE News June 2017 newsletter: *I sent all the Chapter President's a template to use. If your chapter hasn't gotten the template, contact me and I'll send to you again.*

**Keep in touch with your
congressmen...
Your benefits depend on it.**