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MEETING JULY 18TH R. LEMMONS

NARFE Free State Chapter 0378 will meet Wednesday, July 18th, at noon, in the south room of Conroy's. 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.

July's speaker is Stuart Boley, Mayor of Lawrence.

RECAP JUNE 20TH MEETING

Speaker Dwight Adams, a retired physician with an RV and a wife who was up for the adventure, volunteered for Habitat for Humanity (HFH) in 2001. Dr. Adams was a bit late, but his presentation made it worth the slight wait.

He and his wife used their motor home to go to towns needing help with housing. The towns often provide a parking place and meals. The RV group of volunteers is known as "The Caravaners." He and his wife participated in this group for 15 years, until they had to sell their motor home.

The following are Dr. Adams' thoughts and information about HFH:

- Many people credit President Jimmy Carter with the creation of HFH, but the organization was actually the brainchild of Mr. and Mrs. Millard Fuller. Fuller was a successful businessman, but his wife grew unhappy with their marriage and just making money. She wanted to do something useful with their wealth. [You know if mama isn't happy, nobody's happy] Mr. Fuller then came up with idea to provide housing for the poor. He approached President Carter with his idea and they became friends. President Carter got behind the program.
- In 1989, the Lawrence Chapter of HFH was established. It has built over 90 homes and contributed to over 65 homes. 10% of donations here go to international fund.
- HFH builds houses with people of low income. The potential owners must invest 225 hours of sweat equity per person going to live in the house. HFH houses are sold at no profit, and there is no interest on the mortgage.
- Owners-to-be are educated on how to maintain the house.
- HFH is a Christian organization, but individuals are

KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S

- Roger Lemmons, for securing another interesting speaker. Dwight Adams' presentation on his participation in Habitat for Humanity was very informative and interesting.
- Jerry Feese, for saving the day and figuring out the connections between the TV and Mr. Adam's computer, making it possible for members to view Mr. Adams' PowerPoint presentation.
- John Scott, for his long-time service to Chapter 0378 as Alzheimer's chair.

ALZHEIMER'S JOHN SCOTT

May donations totaled \$18. June donations totaled \$111. YTD donations total \$222. Per the June 2018, the Alzheimer's Association Monthly e-News Update (exclusively for NARFE), reported that NARFE members have donated \$12.76 million since beginning the support of Alzheimer's research in 1986. The goal for 2018 is \$13M.

Please Note that 100% of your donation goes to research. To make a donation or memorial donation in the name of a loved one or friend, contact John Scott (phone number listed above) and send or give at a meeting your donation and information to John.

SUNSHINE

Please notify one of the Sunshine Ladies [their phone numbers are on page 1, top of left column] if you know of someone who needs a card or has a life event.

not required to be Christian.

- The RESTORE facility in Lawrence on North Connecticut St. is important for the Lawrence. This store makes enough to pay for overhead costs.
- The Caravaners' was organized in 1989, some of the volunteers are retired, some are not. It is a worldwide group.
- The main office in Atlanta sends volunteers for 2-week to work on a project. Volunteers work from 9-5 or 8-5 each day. Some build 1-2 times-a-year, some build continually.
- He and his wife were sent to New Zealand on one project.
- Caravaners working in Lawrence have parked at Clinton State Park. Those fees were donated, and churches provided meals for workers.
- Safety: Each house has safe room, a box build within the house. The 4 walls are separate from the outside walls and large bolts hold it in place. The inside is lined with 2 layers of 3/4" plywood, and the room has a steel door. Hurricane clips are used to hold the roof down to walls and trusses that form the roof. When hurricane Andrew went through Florida, the houses that survived best were HFH houses.
- When a house is started, there is a "DRIVE A NAIL" ceremony where family members drive a nail.
- Dr. Adams showed a photo of Jonathon Greene, the construction supervisor who kept workers busy. He showed another photo of a toddler, with a hammer and said, "One is never too young to start.
- They begin with framing the walls and roof trusses, apply a vapor barrier wrap to the exterior, put in insulation, and create some attic storage area because these homes have no basements or garages. They have the younger volunteer do the shingling.
- He recalled a Texas house that was refurbished with financing by a Methodist Church. The woman was in an abuse marriage. She was mentally affected. The house had been neglected and was in disrepair. Her kitchen consisted of a 2-burner hot plate. There were holes in roof. They refurbished the house with a new roof, reinforced the trusses—they literally rebuilt the house. Dr. Adams and his wife went back 1 year later. They found she was a different person. She was able to be sociable. The woman told them that for the first time in 30 years she had a Christmas tree. Volunteers usually get to know the people when working on a house, but for this owner, they could see how refurbishing her

home really impacted the quality of her life.

Questions and Answers:

Q—Do they install attic fans

A—No, homes are air-conditioned. Some in the north have garages just because it so cold.

Q—Did you take your RV to New Zealand?

A—No, they rented an RV with another couple. One The other man had previously been to New Zealand. So, after completing their 2-weeks of work on the house, they toured New Zealand with the gentleman as the guide. It was great!

Q--How are recipients selected?

A—Individuals complete an application. Selection is made on the basis of based on need and ability to repay.

Q--How is the word spread?

A-- Social workers, beyond that he wasn't sure.

Q--What happens to the money that is paid back?

A--What is paid back is reinvested in more homes. Lawrence property is very high cost, so HFH provides the cost of the land.

Q--How many hours does it take to build a house?

A--Usually 3 months, so around 2000 hours. Professionals are hired for HAVC (heating and cooling), concrete work, insulation, and electric.

Q--What are current projects in Lawrence?

A--HFH has purchased condos that are 30-40 years old on South Michigan. They are rehabbing those condos. Invitations are out to Caravaners to come in September to begin the next condos.

Q--Are the house plans all the same?

A--There are some choices, such as room arrangement, sink placement, and paint color.

Q--Was the New Zealand house different from stateside houses?

A--It was a little different in construction. It was on a slab. Angle iron was added to the slab. A crane brought in the inside walls. Then they build the outside walls around the inside walls.

Q--Where is the HFH office in Lawrence?

A--It is next to the Restore facility on Connecticut.

Q--Can anyone shop at the RESTORE facility?

A--Anyone can buy there. They will pick up furniture

or large items. Dianne Throop said she had donated a piece of antique furniture that sold in 2 days for quite a bit of money.

A little history of HFH from Habitat.org website.

The idea that became Habitat for Humanity first grew from the fertile soil of Koinonia Farm, a community farm outside of Americus, Georgia, founded by farmer and biblical scholar Clarence Jordan.

On the farm, Jordan and Habitat's eventual founders Millard and Linda Fuller developed the concept of "partnership housing." The concept centered on those in need of adequate shelter working side by side with volunteers to build decent, affordable houses. The houses would be built at no profit. New homeowners' house payments would be combined with no-interest loans provided by supporters and money earned by fundraising to create "The Fund for Humanity," which would then be used to build more homes.

Beau and Emma were the owners of the first home built by Koinonia's Partnership Housing Program. They and their five children moved into a concrete-block home with a modern kitchen, indoor bathroom and heating system, replacing the unpainted, uninsulated shack with no plumbing where they had previously lived.

In 1973, the Fullers decided to take the Fund for Humanity concept to Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo. After three years of hard work to launch a successful house building program there, the Fullers then returned to the United States and called together a group of supporters to discuss the future of their dream: Habitat for Humanity International, founded in 1976.

The times have changed, the build site locations have grown in number, but the very real change that Beau and Emma's family experienced is shared by families today who partner with Habitat to build or improve a place they can call home. Thanks in no small part to the personal involvement of U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn and the awareness they have raised, Habitat now works in nearly 1,400 communities across the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries and has helped more than 13 million people achieve strength, stability and independence through safe, decent and affordable shelter.

NARFE NATIONAL EMAIL MAY 2018

Report of meeting sponsored by the NARFE Topeka Chapter 0002 on June 22, 2018, in Wesley Hall at Aldersgate Village, Topeka, KS. NARFE Chapter 0002 hosted Laura Kelly, Democratic candidate for Kansas Governor. Topeka opened the meeting to other NARFE Chapters and Bonner Springs, Atchison, Lawrence, Topeka and Junction City were in attendance. Robilea Swindell, Jerry Feese, Dianne Throop, and Wendy Hambly represented Chapter 0378 of Lawrence.

Background Information from Laura Kelly's website (<https://www.laurakellyforkansas.com/about/>):

Laura Kelly grew up in a career military family where she learned the importance of service, integrity and accountability. She has made it her life's work to fight for children and families on the job, in her community, and as a four-term state senator.

As the long-time leader of the Kansas Recreation and Park Association, Laura advocated for public parks across the state. She was a leading voice in promoting healthy families and communities and improving the quality of life in Kansas through top-notch parks and recreation services. In earlier jobs, she fought to improve mental health services and helped patients live healthy, more productive lives.

Laura was elected to the Kansas Senate in 2004. She immediately built a reputation as a no-nonsense leader who could work with both Republicans and Democrats to get things done. After just two years, she was asked to serve as the Ranking Minority member of the important Ways and Means Committee. She has advocated for fiscally responsible, balanced budgets that still reflect the priorities of Kansas communities, like schools, health care, roads and public safety. At the height of the Great Recession, she and a Republican colleague spearheaded legislation to establish a state savings account so Kansas could better prepare for unexpected, uncontrollable emergencies that impact the state budget.

As an advocate for children and families, Laura held the Department of Children and Families accountable for its lack of transparency and has demanded answers to tough issues that directly impact the safety of children in the foster care system. She was a key player in the establishment and funding of the Early Childhood Development

Block Grants, which have helped thousands of Kansas children enter kindergarten ready to learn. As a mom, Laura understands how devastating the costs of child care can be for low-income women who just want to go to work and provide for their families. She's fought to make child care more affordable for these parents, and she took a leading role in fighting Governor Brownback's attempts to dismantle Kansas' prized early learning system in 2016.

Most recently, Laura fought to repeal the Brownback tax plan and put Kansas back on sound financial footing. She knows it is important for everyone, including the wealthy, to pay their fair share to fund our priorities – like roads and schools. She was key to building the bipartisan coalition to reverse Brownback's tax plan putting Kansas on the road to fiscal recovery. Laura has fought – from her first session to her most recent – for additional funding for K-12 schools, colleges, technical schools and universities.

The Brownback tax experiment taught Kansans first hand that it takes more than massive tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations to create jobs. After years of watching the Governor jump from one self-inflicted fiscal crisis to the next, Laura believes we need a new approach to jumpstart job growth in a rapidly changing economy. She has long supported traditional engines that drive prosperity: public schools, job training, and infrastructure, but she also believes Kansas leaders must think more like entrepreneurs and less like politicians. We must innovate and make creative, strategic investments that plan for the jobs of the future.

Unfortunately, the first year alone of Governor Brownback's tax policy inflicted more damage to state finances than the entire Great Recession. After five years of hemorrhaging revenue on tax cuts for the wealthy, Kansas' long road to recovery will require planning and precision. That's why it's so important to keep moving forward, and why Laura is uniquely qualified to lead Kansas into the next chapter.

Laura and her husband Ted Daughety, a doctor of pulmonary and sleep disorders, live in Topeka and have been married for 34 years. They have two grown daughters, Kathleen and Molly Daughety.

The following are some of the key points of Laura Kelly's presentation and her responses to questions from the floor:

- ✓ She views Kansas revenues as a 3 legged stool--- property tax, sales tax, income tax
- ✓ Due process for teachers
- ✓ Transparency of bills by enlisting cosponsor or introduce bills as a committee bill – In the past, sponsors names on a bill equaled a signaled to some law makers to not be interested in that bill. She suggested listing the sponsors of the bill in the minutes, so lawmakers look at content of the bill rather than sponsors. She explained the “gut and go” phenomenon where a committee will take contents of a bill out and put in something else. Medicaid was never voted on in committee; it was done on the floor of the House. This needs to change. It would help if every bill coming out of committee would be debated and voted on the floor.
- ✓ School boards regulate schools not the Kansas government. Kansas teachers are underpaid compared to other states. A Texas company, which looked at how schools spend funds, in addition to recommending more funding, said Kansas schools do spend efficiently.
- ✓ Why Immigration? Those individuals are looking for jobs, safety, and unrest in their home country. Immigration is a federal issue, but a lot of Kansas's economy depends on immigrants for seasonal work. A full path to citizenship would benefit western Kansas towns.
- ✓ Recently the Department of Revenue outsourced information technology to a Canadian company {additional notes: *May 9-10, 2018 - In conjunction with a \$50 million, 10-year outsourcing contract, dozens of IT employees face layoffs at the Kansas Department of Revenue...Privatization of executive branch operations, including Medicaid, corrections, child support collections and services at the revenue department, became a fixture of Sam Brownback's tenure as governor.*}¹ {*Kansas is moving to lay off dozens of Department of Revenue employees after entering into no-bid contracts worth millions with a company faulted for the botched rollout of the federal health care website in 2013...Fifty-six employees will lose their jobs as the agency transitions information technology services to CGI Technologies, a move that came as a surprise to some legislative leaders.*

*The Kansas Department of Revenue quietly signed at least two contracts in 2017 and 2018 with CGI Technologies, a subsidiary of Canadian-based CGI Group, which does significant government business. The cost of the contracts is expected to surpass \$100 million total over the next decade. CGI was one of the primary contractors that developed healthcare.gov. The site's launch was infamously rocky, marked by technical problems and poor performance...[the contracts] were unknown to legislative leaders until the layoffs became public knowledge}*²

References: ¹TIM CARPENTER, THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL / MAY 10, 2018

²BY JONATHAN SHORMAN AND BRYAN LOWRY of The Wichita Eagle

Kelly's response: There was lots of behind the doors dealing. This is not in Kansas' best interest. It will cost more to contract than to have state employees who are familiar with the programs preform the work.

✓ Medicaid expansion would save Kansas money. Kansas dollars are going out of state to private companies. The criteria should be what is better and cheaper. The Osawatomie Hospital is and example.

✓ Corruption in Washington. The Rule of Law is being crushed. Should it be replaced by criminal law? Kelly sees corruption in the area of privatization. Example moving workers into a build with a 25-year contract equals corruption. {Brownback also moved to close down Docking State Office Building and transfer hundreds of state employees to leased space in Topeka.}

✓ Kelly would like to see a tax review.

GENERAL DYNAMICS OF LAWRENCE

FROM: KELLI.BREITBACH@GDIT.COM

Subject: General Dynamics - Opportunity

Message: Hello - My name is Kelli Breitbach and I am a recruiter for General Dynamics in Lawrence, KS. We have an opportunity for a short-term contract (Customer Service) that I would like to see if you know anyone who would be interested. This duration of the contract is October 12th to December 12th. The contract is for the Office of Personal Management and would be helping Retired Federal Employees! I would love to have a brief phone call to discuss. Let me know! Kelli Breitbach kelli.breitbach@gdit.com (571) 635-4748

CHAPTER 0378 SEPTEMBER 19TH MEETING

Chapter 0378 hopes to have the Democratic candidate. Dianne Throop and Wendy Hambly have contacted both the Kansas Democratic and Republican Committees. The Democratic Committee returned our phone call. John Sieler of the Douglas County Republican Party returned an email saying "someone should reach out to you in the near future." Still waiting.

We are waiting for the August primaries to see which candidates will be available. We are trying to put together an informational lunch/meeting similar to the meeting in which Lynn Jenkins spoke at the Lawrence Country Club several years ago and a similar event for Wakefield when she ran against Jenkins a few years ago.

We are planning to hold this event at the Smith Center of Brandon Woods. The August newsletter and special emails will inform you of details and have a reservation form. This meeting will be open to other NARFE chapters and guests of members. We have had good turn outs for this type of event in the past and hope that trend continues.

Although NARFE's goal is to enhance and preserve federal employees and retiree's benefits, the current political climate makes it critically important that we become informed voters. Federal workers and retirees and our benefits have been under attack for several years, and it has become very apparent that those in office matter. Preserving current benefits, future raises, and a favorable formula for COLA calculations, and staving off privatization of government agencies such as the post office are dependent on Federal employees and retirees being informed voters.

Other considerations are outside interference from Russia and the discrediting of the media. Take the time to check your sources. Our future depends on our diligence.

Become an
informed intelligent
voter