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JUNE 21ST MEETING R. LEMMONS

NARFE Free State Chapter 378 will meet Wednesday, June 21, 2017, at noon, in the south room of Conroy's. June's presenter is Eileen Horn, the project engineer of the current program in Lawrence to replace all incandescent bulbs with efficient LED's. She will "shed some light" on various aspects of the program such as how this process will work, program cost, and anticipated savings. It should be an interesting program.

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.

KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S

- Dianne Throop and Deneise Schneider for a nice lunch and interesting program at the Baker Wetlands.
- John Scott for emailing information about members' 60th wedding anniversaries.
- Leroy Hahn for providing the link to Trump's proposed budget, which contains substantial, cuts to federal retirement benefits.
https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/budget/fy2018/2018_blueprint.pdf

RECAP MAY 17TH MEETING

You missed an interesting program if you didn't come to May's Chapter 378 meeting at the BAKER WETLANDS Discovery Center. Dr. Roger Boyd open his presentation by explaining what wetlands are (water plus land) and what they do for the environment in acting as a sponge, reducing flooding, filtering pollutants from water, and providing critical habitat for numerous birds, animals, and fish.

He continued with the history of the wetlands. The US government acquired much of NE Kansas from with the Shawnee Indians. Section 18, the 640 acres of the original Baker Wetlands was divided into 4 parcels of 160 acres, which were homesteaded in 1854. In 1883, The Bureau of Indian Affairs began purchasing land for the Haskell Institute, a boarding school for American Indians. By 1902 the Bureau had acquired the 4 parcels described above. From 1902 to 1934, agriculture was being taught at Haskell. In the 1956, the *Department of the Interior declared a significant portion of the acreage as surplus land. Parcels of this land were given to the city to construct Broken Arrow School and South Junior High; to the county to build Broken Arrow Park; to the State Biological Survey, which was later transferred to the University of Kansas; and another 20 acres to the Kansas Forestry, Fish, and Game Commission, which later became the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and tourism. What remained was an odd-shaped parcel of approximately 573 acres, commonly known as the Haskell Bottoms.*

Early efforts of Dr. E. Raymond Hall, director of

ALZHEIMER'S JOHN SCOTT

Nationally, NARFE has donated \$12.2M to Alzheimer's research from 1986 to April 2017. The goal for 2018 is to reach \$13M.

FED WEEK 5/24/17

Trump Budget Proposal Would Cost Federal Employees, Retirees Big Bucks

Changes in federal retirement policies included in President Trump's budget proposal would impose substantial new costs to active employees to fund their future benefits while reducing the value of benefits for both current and future retirees. Read at <http://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/trump-budget-proposal-cost-federal-employees-retirees-big-bucks/>

MEMBERSHIP DIANNE THROOP

Happy 60th anniversary to Sandy and Don Nease (June 2, 1957) and Mary Margaret and Ken Rowen (June 30, 1957). Ken is also celebrating his 90th.

the University of Kansas Natural History Museum and the State Biological Survey, to preserve the Haskell Bottoms and create a wildlife refuge were unsuccessful. In 1968, Dr. Hall and his longtime friend, Dr. Ivan L. Boyd, at Baker University finally received the 573 acres free of charge through a Quit Claim Deed. Boyd and his Baker University students began conducting studies to determine which conditions were best for various grass seed germination.

In 1982, Dr. Roger Boyd became manager of the area. He continued to plant prairie grasses and pursued acquiring funds from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore the area to wetlands.

From 1994 to 1996, the western leg of the South Lawrence Trafficway (SLT) was built. This was followed by much debate about the route to complete the south route to connect with K-10 on the west side of Lawrence. In September 2008, Baker University began to convert 140 acres of cropland back to wetlands with funds from the Federal Transportation bill of 2006. In 2010, KDOT established another 10 year highway funding bill and the SLT was funded. Work began in 2013 and was completed in 2017.

The Baker Wetlands now consist of 573 acres -56 acres forfeited plus 410 acres resulting from a KDOT transfer to Baker University, for a total of 927 acres.

A \$9M endowment from KDOT sustains the area and the Discovery Center. The wetland and facilities provide educational opportunities (6th grade field trip to see the benefits of the wetlands and university classes), research by the university, and recreation for bird watchers, hikers, bikers, and photographers. The trails and boardwalks are open dawn to dusk. The Discovery Center has a display area showing the area's history and inhabitants, and a classroom, which can be divided. It is a research facility and shop, and an observatory with a telescope. The astronomy club meets monthly on Sunday evenings.

The facility had over 11,000 visitors during the first year. There are 487 plant species, 278 species of birds, and 98 other vertebrate species.

Dr. Roger Boyd's son, Jon Boyd, became manager of the wetlands 2 years ago. Lawrence is fortunate to have 3 generations of wetlands stewards.

For more info see the website: bakeru.edu

NARFE HEADQUARTERS 4/26/17

NARFE hired a new Executive Director, Barbara Sido ("Seedo"). She is a Certified Association

Executive and has a wealth of past experience serving as an executive director, in various association positions, and running her own consulting company. She has served in executive positions in the American Institute of Architects, National Restaurant Association Education Foundation, School Nutrition Association and School Foodservice Foundation and Business and Professional Women/USA. She also worked in the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. Her consulting firm, Prevailing Wisdom, provided confidential executive coaching for senior association executives.

NARFE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE 6/9/17

Take Action! Contact Your Legislators About the President's Budget

The president's recently released 2018 budget proposal contains unprecedented threats to the earned pay and benefits of federal workers and retirees. Have you made your voice heard yet? This budget is a step in the wrong direction, and NARFE urges its members to [contact](#) their legislators and ask them to reject these egregious cuts aimed at the federal community.

Proposing to cut benefits for those who have already retired goes beyond any proposal we've seen before. This would renege on the government's promise to pay the full amount of retirement annuities – which includes cost-of-living adjustments – in exchange for years of hard work over long careers by our nation's public servants.

It is critical that your legislators hear from you now. If you have not done so already, [write](#) and [call](#) your legislators. If they do not hear from you and other federal retirees about the effects of these dangerous proposals, your silence will be viewed as acceptance. Take action now!

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