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**MEETING R. LEMMONS**

NARFE Free State Chapter 378 will meet Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

June's speaker is Dwight Adams of Habitat for Humanity.

**RECAP MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

Rachel Bell, Director of Business Services and Customer Relations, leads the Kansas Turnpike Authority's (KTA) business and customer partnership strategies, oversees K-TAG customer service and video enforcement image review, and directs all media and marketing efforts. She has implemented systems to promote safety and help the driving public stay informed. She and her executive assistant came from the Wichita headquarters to speak to NARFE Chapter 0378 about how the turnpike came about, projects, and future plans.

In the 1950's, prior to the interstate system, Kansans worried about being by-passed. They wanted major cities like Wichita, Topeka, and Kansas City to be part of the interstate system. Western Kansans did not have an appetite for taxes, so the toll road gained interest.

Gail Moss argued the case so Turnpike debt would not fall back on Kansas. In 1953, the bill for the Turnpike passed and revenue bonds were issued. On December 31, 1954, construction began with ground breaking on the banks of Kaw in Lawrence. After 22 months of construction, the Turnpike opened on October 25, 1956, with roads from the Missouri boarder to Topeka and through the Flint Hills to the Oklahoma border. The 4 toll roads, I-70, I-470 I-335, and I-35, are fully supported by tolls.

They like to think they are innovative because of the short time it took to build. Both Missouri and Kansas have claims to fame. Missouri was the first to approve the toll road., and Kansas was the first to build. In 1958, I-77 Oklahoma finally completed their portion of the road and you could finally get somewhere.

The Turnpike is not funded by taxes or state funds. It is totally supported by the tolls collected.

In 1970, high oil prices caused a reduction in

**KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S**

- NARFE Topeka Chapter 0002 for hosting a governor candidate on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The facilities, Aldersgate, are very nice and the food is good if you are interested in lunch.

**FED CON 18**

**LEARN FROM THE BEST AT FEDcon18 – the premier training conference for the federal community where NARFE experts deliver:**

- Practical, easy-to-understand knowledge to ensure that you capitalize on your federal benefits and leave nothing on the table at retirement and beyond
- A close inspection of legislation and policies threatening the security of current and retired Feds – and what you can do
- Best practices and leadership development to enhance the federal community's contribution at the local level

FEDcon18 in Jacksonville, Florida, sets the stage for a one-of-a-kind forum celebrating the dedication of America's civil servants. Get ready for a fast-paced 2 ½ days of thought-provoking speakers, leadership training, intensive benefit education and the opportunity to engage and connect with your federal colleagues.

August 26-28<sup>th</sup>, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, Jacksonville, FL. (Single/double rate \$99 – rate guaranteed until July 31, 2018)

Registration fee \$175 for NARFE members

More info at: NARFE.org

traffic. In the 1980's, traffic came back. Some small connections have been and median barriers were added during 1985-89. With the digital age of the 1990's, the TKA developed their first website, added computers to toll booths, and introduced the K-tag.

Early in 2000's, 2 of 3 service areas were rebuilt, self-pay machines were installed, and credit cards were accepted in booths. The first fully automated toll area was installed at the Eudora-Tonganoxie booth area. Two bridges were replaced, which cost more than building the original Turnpike. Ms. Bell participated in the demolition of one of the old bridges. She said with a big smile, "You can't beat dynamite! I got to pushed button!"

Because of legislation, states can contract with each other. In 2014, K-tags became compatible with Oklahoma tags.

In 2015, the new CEO launched aggressive long-term projects, which created excitement among employees. So far, bridges were raised to allow use by large freight haulers, and cameras replaced gates to facilitate collecting unpaid tolls. Seven years remain on the long-term projects involving preservation and improvement. K-tag has a partnership with KDOT.

Florida is currently working toward being compatible with other states.

The goal of the KTA is to provide high quality, safe, transportation service to our customers, both Kansans' and out-of-staters.

Question and Answers:

Q-Under Brownback, the state was trying to take K-tag's cash stash. What happened?

A-Kansas did not get it.

Q-Can you get a ticket if you get to next booth too fast?

A-KTA does not check times, so no.

Q-It was said that when this section was paid for that it would no longer be tolled, but there are still tolls.

A-There are no free roads. They are tax or toll supported. If bonds are paid off it could revert to state control. Removal of gates is due to KC growth.

NARFE member comment: I commuted for 20+ years and never missed worked because the toll-road was well maintained.

Ms. Bell praised the great employees they have

Q-How much revenue is raised each year?

A-\$115-120 million. Any surplus money goes into a 10-year program. KTA operates on a cash-flow basis, so no financing is necessary. Some surplus is invested.

Q/C-Need for a disaster plan

A-The KTA contracts with the Highway Patrol. Troop G is assigned to the Toll-road. KTA works every day with those plans. A variety of plans are needed because each situation is different. KTA enlarged drainage boxes in the Flint Hills to decrease water levels and prevent victims of auto accidents from drowning.

Tolls are based on axle count and get-on get-off locations. Some other places are changing the way they toll to get away from geton-get off.

**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.

**NARFE NATIONAL EMAIL MAY 2018**

*Please take this opportunity to exercise one of the most important responsibilities of your NARFE membership and vote in the 2018 NARFE election.*

*NARFE is offering members the opportunity to cast a vote online or in print. Please choose the voting format that is most convenient for you.*

*Voting is now open for the NARFE 2018 election until 11:59 p.m. ET on June 30, 2018. Your ballot has been customized for you. It contains only the names of the candidates for whom you are allowed to vote. Remember, only those in regions 4, 5 and 10 will vote for a Regional Vice President candidate. To vote, you will need your unique voting PIN number and member ID number found below. Go to <https://www.esc-vote.com/narfe2018> to access the login page of the secure voting website for the NARFE 2018 election.*

*Enter your NARFE member ID number and your unique voting PIN number (Obtained from*

NARFE). Once you have logged in, follow the online voting instructions. The voting website has background information for each section of the ballot. Or, refer to the June 2018 issue of *narfe magazine* for details. For candidate information, go to the March 2018 issue of *narfe magazine*. Complete election information and FAQs can be found at [www.narfe.org/2018Balloting](http://www.narfe.org/2018Balloting).

If you need assistance? Please email [narfehelp@electionservicescorp.com](mailto:narfehelp@electionservicescorp.com) or call 1-866-720-4357 on Monday - Friday between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (ET). **YOUR VOTE MUST BE RECEIVED BY 11:59 P.M. EASTERN TIME ON SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2018.** Thank you for participating in the 2018 NARFE election. Sincerely, Barbara Sido, Executive Director.

<b>NARFE WEBINAR</b>	<b>6/21/18</b>
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### Steps to a Speedy Federal Retirement

A NARFE Federal Benefits Institute Webinar

Federal benefits and retirement expert Tammy Flanagan helps you prep your paperwork to ensure speedy delivery of your full annuity. Attend this exclusive online presentation with a BONUS post-webinar Q&A online chat on Thursday, June 21, at 2 p.m. ET.

Is retirement on your radar? Attend this one-hour webinar to learn what forms you need, where to find them and how to ensure accuracy so you can deliver a healthy retirement package. Whether you are FERS or CSRS, federal benefits and retirement expert Tammy Flanagan provides step-by-step guidance for your transition from federal employee to retiree.

Sign up today for this one-hour presentation and Bonus Q&A session on June 21 at 2 p.m. ET.

#### You Will Learn:

- When is YOUR ideal date to retire,
- When to submit your paperwork.
- What you can do to avoid processing delays
- Options for FEGLI, FEDVIP, FLTCIP and FEHB
- Social Security and TSP considerations
- Post-retirement benefit elections
- And more

NARFE members may attend the live webinar FREE, but registration is required. Register [here](#).

The webinar will be recorded and available to view online within 24 hours of the broadcast. Registration is not required to [view the recorded session](#).

<b>NARFE INSDIER VOL. 6, NO. 3, MAY 2018</b>
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By Barbara Sido, Executive Director

### Springing toward summer and a new season of development at NARFE

The calendar says summer is near, and that means federation conferences, conventions and meetings are taking place across the country. NARFE President Richard G. Thissen and I, along with NARFE staff, have enjoyed speaking at many of these events and hearing directly from NARFE's federation and chapter leaders. It's also been exciting to share updates on major developments and equally beneficial to receive feedback from the people who matter most – NARFE's members. Headquarters staff has made tremendous progress in furthering a number of initiatives since my last writing, and I'm thrilled to share the details with you.

As an important part of the NARFE Next initiative, we continue to develop prototypes of several new programs, products and services to further deliver value to the federal community. Headquarters staff, members of the National Executive Board (NEB), and a collaboration network of NARFE members have all provided ideas and insight. These early prototypes are being shared at many federation conferences. Both members' and prospective members' feedback will allow us to refine these ideas and help us shape new ones. You can expect an opportunity to participate at FEDcon18 where we will elicit your input at a special NARFE Next booth. We hope you will join us and help finalize future NARFE benefits.

Our process to become more data-driven with an advanced association management system (AMS) has reached a critical point. An extensive selection process from among industry-leading platforms has just been completed. The Configuration Advisory Board (CAB) of NARFE members was directly involved in developing the requirements for the new system. We will be announcing our platform of choice in the coming weeks. Months of preparation, data transfer, training and integration is ahead of us, but by the end of 2018, I'm confident that NARFE will be able to interact with member data in a more streamlined, meaningful and efficient manner.

The energy surrounding FEDcon18 builds by the day. To date, more than 600 people have registered for FEDcon18 – many of whom never attended a previous NARFE national convention. With more than 30 training sessions and workshops, an exciting lineup of high-profile general session speakers and ample opportunity to network with friends and colleagues, this premier NARFE conference and celebration of civil service is a

must attend. If you have yet to register, please visit [www.narfe.org/fedcon18](http://www.narfe.org/fedcon18).

This month started out with Public Service Recognition Week – a time to honor civil servants at the federal, state and local levels and military personnel for their dedication to serving and protecting the American people. A member of the Public Employees Roundtable, a coalition of good-government organizations, NARFE was proud to once again shine the light on the positive work of federal employees both on the front lines and working behind the scenes. Again this year, NARFE members participated in a successful letter-to-the-editor campaign, acknowledging the good works of public servants in newspapers across the country.

We're in NARFE election season, as online voting began May 10. Complete ballot information along with online voting details are in the June issue of *narfe magazine*. Visit the members-only section of the NARFE website for comprehensive information, including answers to frequently asked questions and a visual, step-by-step guide to completing the ballot. Voting ends at 11:59 p.m. ET on June 30, 2018.

All of the efforts NARFE is currently undertaking will help position us as a stronger, more robust and more relevant organization heading into NARFE's centennial in 2021. The next few weeks and months will continue to be busy for us here at headquarters as we make final preparations for FEDcon18. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing your ideas and meeting many of you soon.

## **FEDcon18 Delivers the Information NARFE Leaders Need**

By Jennifer Bialek,

Deputy Director of New Business Development

FEDcon18 is just three months away. There are more than 600 people registered for the conference with a great representation of NARFE leaders, members and even nonmembers.

Chapters and Federations are doing a great job spreading the word about FEDcon18. Mentions in newsletters, social media posts, and shout outs at meetings and conventions are certainly helping to create buzz about this new and one-of-a-kind event.

Beyond the once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to hear inspirational celebrity speakers like Henry Winkler, Mike Massimino, Mara Liasson, Joe Theismann, and our own personal celebrity Tammy Flanagan, FEDcon18 delivers a wealth of knowledge, learning, and ideas that you can take back home and apply to your chapters and federations.

Every registrant has asked, "What do you hope to take away from FEDcon18?" and "How can I become a more effective legislative advocate for my benefits?"

We've got you covered. FEDcon18 offers an entire track of advocacy sessions loaded with valuable advice on how attendees can utilize grassroots strategies to make a difference right away. The "Legislative Update" breakout session with Staff Vice President for Advocacy Jessica Klement will provide an update on the key issues facing Feds today.

Another top need is "Help with membership retention and recruitment tips and chapter leadership training." If that's on your wish list, be sure to sign up to hear industry expert Cynthia D'Amour. Her sessions on chapter leadership and chapter development will provide attendees with many ideas they can put into play immediately to strengthen their chapters. Don't miss the Recruitment Best Practices session on Sunday where Cynthia teams up with NARFE's Monica Williams and super recruiter Gregory Kann for a deep dive on how to identify, engage and ultimately convert prospects to members.

FEDcon18 offers more than 13 hours of live breakout sessions presented by top federal benefits experts. Whether you're planning for retirement, managing your Retirement Savings Plan (TSP) account, evaluating your health care needs, seeking your best Social Security strategy or building an all-important estate plan, the decisions you make today have a big impact on your future.

Keep spreading the word about FEDcon18. We are looking to you to continue to share this information with your local chapter members about why they should attend. Check for updates on FEDcon18 by visiting [www.narfe.org/FEDcon18](http://www.narfe.org/FEDcon18).

### **AUGUST IS GRASSROOTS MONTH**

Remember the August is the month Representatives and Senators are at home. Be sure to watch for announcements of Town Hall Meetings or of events where candidates are appearing and share that information with other NARFE members, family and friends.

Be a responsible citizen and vote, and be an informed voter.

### **IMPORTANT DATE from THE VOTER, Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County, KS.**

Voter Registration & "How to Be An Engaged Citizen" Presentation, How-To Festival  
Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 am-3pm  
Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St.

Presentation at 2:40 - 3:00 pm, Meeting Room B