



2017 OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Tom Huber	785-843-1157
1 st Vice President	Roger Lemmons	785-840-9594
2 nd Vice President	Elaine Seeman	785-331-2280
Secretary	Wendy Hambly	785-840-8401
Treasurer	Cheryl Travis	785-865-7580
Membership	Dianne Throop	785-841-1408
Service Officer	John Rowe	785-856-8759
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NARFE PAC Chair		
Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Legislative Chair	John Rowe	785-856-8759
Sunshine	Mary Margaret Rowen/Clara Arnold	785-842-8847 785-842-1680
NARFE NET Coor	Jerry Feese	785-842-4330

MARCH 15TH MEETING

NARFE Free State Chapter 378 will meet Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at noon, in the south room of Conroy's. The program is at noon, followed by lunch, and a brief meeting. Lunch is optional. The cost is and includes a choice of 1 of 3 entrées, coffee or tea, and gratuity.

The speaker for March is Lawrence's City Manager, Tom Markus.

RECAP FEBRUARY 15TH MEETING

Feloniz Lovato-Winston, Kansas Public Radio (KPR) representative and Director of Development, spoke to Chapter 378 about KPR's mission, programming, partnerships, and funding.

The primary mission of KPR, a public radio station, is public service by enhancing the cultural and artistic landscape for their listeners.

The station was established as KANU in 1952, was housed in the "Mud Hut" at Hoch Auditorium at KU., and was licensed by Kansas University. In 2002, the station's 50th anniversary came a name change to Kansas Public Radio, and the launching of a project to raise funds for a new facility and new towers in Atchison and Chanute. Two million seven hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$2,780,000) was raised- \$1.2 M from members and 1.5M from 2 donors. Since Audio Read is a sister organization and staff is shared, an addition to the Audio Reader facility made sense.

KPR programming includes:

- Quality News and Talk (local news, National Public Radio, BBC, and American Public Media)
- Beautiful Music (Classical, Jazz, Folk & Bluegrass)
- Award Winning Programs (Peabody Award: The American Past, Calder Pickett and 16 KAB Non-Commercial Station-of-The-Year)

The Formats include: [1] News & Talk (Statehouse News Coverage includes a year-round Statehouse Bureau Chief who provides daily reports from Topeka during the session and interim legislative meetings though out the year; and Kansas News in collaboration with KCUR and KMUW), [2] Classical Music (45 hrs weekly, live performances *i.e.* *Classics Live* 8-9 on Sundays), [3] Jazz, [4] Trail Mix, [5] Retro Cocktail Hour, and [6] KPR Presents.

Events involve local and regional partnerships

KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S

- John Scott for his continued service to Chapter 378 as Alzheimer's Chair.
- Dianne Throop for scheduling the Chapter's May meeting at the Baker Wetlands Discovery Center and for donating a handmade scarf for the Alzheimer's auction at convention in April.

ALZHEIMER'S JOHN SCOTT

Chapter 378 February 2017 donations = \$176. Thank you to Linda and John Surritte for their memorial donation for Tom Huntzinger. The Year-to-Date total is \$215.

CHAPTER 378'S NEW PRESIDENT

Tom Huber, newly elected Chapter 378 President, earned his Ph.D. in History, from the University of Chicago in 1974. He was a member of the history faculty, US Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, for 27 years. He taught History of Modern Warfare and lightly specialized in French Revolution and Napoleonic Warfare. He has been a member of the chapter for 4 years. In addition to NARFE's stated goal of protecting federal workers' and retirees' benefits, he values the quality of life services of all federal workers-Postal, VA, Air Transportation, and USGS workers. He reminded us of Tom Huntzinger's optimism—a full glass of clean water. We need to support the Alzheimer's fund and promote an environment of fellowship within the chapter. He is counting on members for support.



with *Sunflower Music Festival, Topeka Symphony, Johnson County Community College, Lied Center of Kansas, Dole Institute, Liberty Hall, Folly Jazz, and Folk Alliance Conference*. Annual events include: the *Big Band Holiday Jazz Concert, Live, on-air performances, and KPR concert series*.

KPR has 100,000 weekly listeners (2 times the capacity of Memorial Stadium holds and 6 times the Allen Fieldhouse capacity). KPR broadcasts from Junction City 91.3FM, Manhattan 99.5FM, Emporium 89.7FM, Atchison 89.9FM, Chanute 90.3FM, and *Lawrence 96.1FM, *a new signal launched in July 2016, broadcasting news, talk radio, BBC, and NPR.

News listeners by gender and age: 46% female 54% male, 18% are 65+, 23% are 55-64, 21% are 45-54, 19% are 35-44, and 15% are 25-34.

Funding comes from the Private Sector (65.3%), KU (20%.8), Federal (12.6%), and State (1.3%). Note: In fiscal year 2017, State-funding cuts to KU, resulted in KU cutting \$100,000 from KPR's budget. Another \$100,000 in cut in FY18, is expected. This money is NOT coming back. These cuts create a greater need for community support. There are over 6000 members (remember 100,000 listeners per week). Fund Drives are held 3 times per year. Last fall fund drive was the most successful they have had. Premium free - no gifts given- just the member card with perks at \$120/year level.

Q and A: 1. How does member support break down? Most is from Lawrence, then Topeka, followed by Manhattan and Grand Junction. 2. What Federal Government Agency oversees public radio funding? The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), is a private, nonprofit corporation, created by Congress in the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. CPB is the steward of the federal government's investment in public broadcasting. The average annual cost per American for public media is \$1.35. Tom Cole, U.S. Representative for Oklahoma's 4th congressional district (R) and chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, oversees the House's funding for the CPB. He is a strong supporter of public media.

Speaker Contact info: KPR, 1120 W. 11th St., Lawrence, KS 66044. Feloniz Lovato-Winston, Director of Development, Phone: 785-864-5968, Email: fwinston@ku.edu Website: KPR.KU.EDU

PLAN AHEAD FOR APRIL 19TH PROGRAM

Patrick R. Miller, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Kansas will speak to at the April meeting. Perhaps you will remember his well-received presentation in June of 2016, which included politics and background on Presidential candidates. Dr. Miller has asked if chapter members have any specific questions. If so, please email, phone or relay those questions to Roger Lemmons now, so Dr. Miller can address them in April.

NARFE INSIDER OFFICER NEWS 1/26/17

NARFE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The 2017 NARFE-FEEA Steve Bauer Scholarship Program, is open to children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of NARFE members. It is open from 2/1/17 – 4/28/17A, to high school seniors planning to attend their first year of a 2-4-year degree program at an accredited college as a full-time student in the fall/winter of 2017.

New this year is the online-only application and submission process. Students can access the application from the NARFE website by clicking on the Scholarship Program graphic in the rotating display on the home page, www.narfe.org. For complete details on eligibility requirements and how to apply, [click here](#) to read and/or print the two-page brochure "A Guide to the NARFE-FEEA Steve Bauer Annual Scholarship Awards Program" (NARFE publication F-105).

Sixty \$1,000 awards will be given out this year. NARFE Scholarship Program relies on the generosity of donors. To make a tax-deductible contribution, make checks payable to NARFE-FEEA Scholarship Fund and mail to NARFE Scholarship Awards, c/o FEEA, 1641 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314. You also can use the donation coupon that appears every month in *narfe* magazine. For additional information, please email scholarship@narfe.org.

NARFE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE 3/3/17

Legislation Introduced to Change COLA Calculation

This week, NARFE President Richard G. Thissen joined Rep. John Garamendi, D-CA, at a press conference introducing the CPI-E Act of 2017 (H.R. 1251). This bill would require the use of the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) instead of the current Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) when determining annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for Social Security, federal annuities and

veterans' benefits. NARFE applauds the introduction of this bill.

The current COLA calculation fails to accurately measure seniors' spending, especially in the area of health care. In 2016, health care inflation was 4.1 percent, while the CPI-W indicated the average price of consumer goods increased only 0.3 percent. For those over the age of 62, 12 percent of their spending goes toward health care, on average, while the general population spends just 5 percent.

In a statement at the press conference, Thissen said, "The fact that we do not use the CPI-E already is shocking. Instead, cost-of-living adjustments for seniors collecting Social Security and federal civilian or military retirement benefits are based on the costs experienced by 'urban wage earners and clerical workers.' They are not based on the costs experienced by retired individuals." You can read Thissen's full remarks [here](#).

The bill currently has 24 [cosponsors](#) and has been submitted to multiple House committees for consideration. NARFE urges its members to send a letter to their legislators asking them to cosponsor the legislation. Use the NARFE Legislative Action Center to send a [letter](#).
GPO and WEP Full Repeal Bill Introduced

Rep. Rodney Davis, R-IL, introduced the Social Security Fairness Act of 2017 (H.R. 1205), a bill that would repeal both the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). NARFE has long opposed these unfair penalties and supports repeal of both provisions.

The GPO prevents federal retirees who receive a government annuity based on their own work in employment not covered by Social Security from collecting full Social Security benefits based on their spouse's work. Their earned Social Security spousal or survivor benefits are reduced by two-thirds of their non-Social Security-covered annuity.

The WEP greatly reduces the Social Security benefit of federal retirees who worked in Social Security-covered employment and who also receive an annuity based on their non-Social Security-covered government job.

More information on the bill, including its 84 cosponsors, can be found [here](#). A letter urging your representative to cosponsor this bill can be found in the [Action Center](#) on the NARFE.org website.

NARFE KS FEDERATION CONVENTION

The KANSAS FEDERATION CONVENTION is April 23-25, 2017, at the Atrium Hotel and Convention Center, Hutchinson, KS. There is a registration form included in this newsletter for your convenience. Please consider attending! Deadlines:

Registration Form and payment by April 1, 2017

Meal Cancellation and Refund by April 18, 2017

*Guidelines for the Alzheimer's live and silent auctions. **The items that are most sought after (and fought over) are: 1. Handmade craft items, 2. Homemade food items, 3. Themed basket Auction items should fitting into 1 of the 3 categories.***

PROPOSED BYLAW/STANDING RULE

AMENDMENT, February 22, 2017

It will be presented at the Kansas Federation Convention, in Hutchinson, KS, April 23-25. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Federation President Cindy Blythe at cindy.r.blythe@uscg.mil.

1. TITLE: *Bylaws rewrite to incorporate National 2017 Bylaws Revisions.*
2. Bylaw Article and Section affected (or Standing Rule number): ARTICLE X
3. State the specific change proposed: *Allow the Kansas Federation Executive Board to have time to rewrite and make revisions, where necessary, to incorporate the approved National Bylaw changes from the 2016 National Convention. Bylaw revisions will be submitted for membership approval prior to the 2018 Kansas Federation Convention.*
4. Provide a comparison of what is in the bylaws (or standing rules) now, with the adjustments proposed, and how it will look if adopted:
 - a. Current Bylaws (or standing rules):
 - b. If Adopted:
5. Reason the change should be adopted (Limit to no more than three paragraphs): Two major bylaw changes were adopted at the 2016 National Convention; One-Member-One-Vote and Optional Chapter Membership. These require corresponding changes to the Kansas Bylaws. The Executive Board will compare National and Kansas Federation Bylaws and propose any necessary changes to the Kansas Bylaws to stay in concurrence with the National NARFE Bylaws.
6. Estimated Cost: None
7. Method of proposal:
 - d. Federation Executive Board via Federation Convention - Date adopted: