



2011 OFFICERS and CHAIRS

President	Tom Huntzinger	785-766-6717
1 st Vice President	Roger Lemmons	785-840-9594
2 nd Vice President	Elaine Seeman	785-331-2280
Secretary	Dianne Throop	785-841-1408
Treasurer	Cheryl Travis	785-841-1616
Membership	Betty Scribner	785-865-8235
Service	Wanda Lyon	785-764-2210
Public Relations	Gordon Montney	785-760-0595
Newsletter	Wendy Hambly	913-845-0121
NARFE PAC	Linda Surritte	785-856-0558
NARFE Net Coor		
Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Legislative Chair	John Surritte	785-856-0558
Sunshine	Sandy Nease	785-843-3378

KUDOS & THANK YOU'S TO:

- ❖ New members Milford Linesand and Mary Reno.
- ❖ Cheryl Bowman for agreeing to be on the ballot for Public Relations Chair for 2012
- ❖ Linda Surritte for filling in as Alzheimer's Chair while John Scott gone October through January.
- ❖ John & Linda Surritte for once again pledging to match members' Alzheimer's donations for September - November 16, 2011.

---Report deserving members to Wendy Hambly---

SERVICE OFFICER Wanda Lyon

A 2012 COLA, is based on the 3rd quarter CPI-W average (July, August, September). That average must be higher than the 2008 third quarter average, **IF** September remains unchanged, it could mean a 3.5% COLA for 2012.

	CPI-W	MONTHLY % CHG	% TOWARD NEXT COLA
July 2011	222.686	0.07	+3.34
Aug 2011	223.326	0.30	3.63

(785)764-2210 or lyonden@sunflower.com

SUNSHINE CHAIR Sandy Nease

A birthday card was sent to Margaret Sanders, who turned 96. Please let me know about illness, special birthdays, celebrations, or honors our members receive, so I can send an appropriate card.

Phone: 785-843-3378

ALZHEIMER'S John Scott

Donations: September = \$158.37. YTD = \$407.33.

The above amounts include a donation from the Surritte family in memory of John's mother, Nina Ogden, who had Alzheimer's and passed away July 29, 2011. Also in memory of John's mother, Linda and John Surritte will match Alzheimer's September - November donations, up to \$600 total.

October 19th MEETING INFORMATION

October's meeting is at Meadowlark Estates at 6th & Folks Street. **Usual time—noon.** Meadowlark is providing lunch at no cost, but we do need a head count by October 10th. **Elaine Seeman is taking reservations.** So call her, email her, or quickly print and mail the form on page 3 to her. Her contact information is on that form. Feel free to invite members who don't usually attend meetings, potential members, friends, and spouses. **JUST REMEMBER THAT WE NEED A HEAD COUNT BY OCTOBER 10th.**

Park along the street in front of the building, but **DO NOT PARK** in the semi-circle in front of the south door, as that is for drop-off only. Enter through the South door. NARFE members will be outside to greet you and assist with directions to the dining area.

SEPTEMBER 21st MEETING RECAP

We were happy to have the following guests attend the meeting: from the Shawnee Mission NARFE Chapter 1162 were Agnes Shellhammer, Flo Biel, Elizabeth Bornman, Louis Bornman, Louise Lloyd, and Lorna Larson; and member's guest included Barbara Hilpman, and Donna Travis.

The speaker, Riley Scott, State Director and Deputy Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, KS, brought us up-to-date on Washington happenings and fielded questions.

Mr. Scott said the hot topics in Washington are the budget and the Select Committee, which is made up of 12 Congressmen (6 Republicans and 6 Democrats). The Select Committee is charged with preparing a report on balancing the budget due out around Thanksgiving. Congress should vote on that before Christmas. Moran opposes the Select Committee because he feels he was sent to Washington by voters to decide those things. Twelve are on the committee while there are 535 Congressmen. He explained that Moran voted against raising the debit ceiling bill because the bill did not include any means to save Social Security (SS) or Medicare and make them solvent. Moran favors a flatter tax and fixing tax loopholes and advantages. He also feels there should be focus on growing the economy, and that we need to address increasing revenues and cutting the budget.

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In response to the question “Has Moran considered a flat tax?” Scott replied that the Senator had cosponsored a fair consumption tax bill. Moran’s ideas include a “national sales tax,” and doing away with income tax, but, income tax is covered by a Constitutional Amendment. Moran is hopeful that something will come out of the Select Committee.

Moran is committed to keeping the promises made by the government to people and to addressing problems and looking for solutions.

Scott went on to say that Obama will not sign a bill that cuts SS or Medicare without taxing the rich and that you will not see one party “winning.” He also stated that the problems today are from Republicans over-spending. He continued by saying that every “special interest” group has an agenda and that we need to move toward a system that shows no preference—a more sane and civil approach.

Surritte and Huntzinger pointed out that federal workers have been easy targets with wage freezes and a tendency of Congress to demonize federal employees when addressing debt issues. Scott said Moran’s position is that nothing is off the table.

In response to the question of “What are the chances of passing a 2012 budget?” Scott replied that the House passed a budget, but there has not been a budget passed for 3 years.

Other comments made by Scott included:

- > Often congressmen become lobbyists, so they don’t want to vote on the “Big” issues.
- > Bills with a 2 year duration make it difficult for companies to plan because they don’t know what their taxes will be in 3 years.
- > Moran voted against the Dodd/Frank Bill for banking regulations because big banks can afford to comply while smaller banks can’t afford Compliance Officers to deal with regulations.

Throop stated she felt no one follows up on the impact of programs passed or if there is duplication of programs.

Scott concluded by thanking the group for our service to the country.

LEGISLATIVE JOHN SURRITTE

Check out this link to the editorial by NARFE President, Beaudoin in *USA Today*. He responded to their Sept 29th “pants-on-fire” article attacking Federal retirement benefits. Also, see page 3.

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/letters/story/2011-10-03/federal-retirement-programs/50646082/1>

MEMBERSHIP BETTY SCRIBNER

Welcome to new members Myron Linesand and Mary Reno of Linwood, Kansas.

Ron Miller, Blue Cross Blue Shield representative, who we met at the NARA fair in Lee’s Summit, MO last June, has followed up on his initial invitation to Chapter 378 to participate in his Open Season informational meeting. Ron sponsors this meeting to explain BCBS changes for 2012 to Kansas City area Human Resources Directors. The meeting will be October 13th.

Ron is providing Chapter 378 with podium time to explain NARFE’s goals and a display area for us to answer questions and, hopefully, recruit new members. This will be an excellent opportunity to present NARFE to a large group of federal employees so they become aware of NARFE, what it is, it’s goal and activities, and how important NARFE is to active and retired federal employees.

If you need membership information and/or forms, please call me at 785-865-8235.

CHAPTER 378’s 2012 BOARD CANDIDATES

To date, the following individuals have agreed to be candidates on the 2012 Chapter Board Ballot:

- Tom Huntzinger, Chapter President
- Roger Lemmons, First Vice President
- Elaine Seeman, Second Vice President
- Dianne Throop, Secretary
- Cheryl Travis, Treasurer
- Betty Scribner, Membership Chair
- Linda Surritte, NARFE PAC Chair
- John Scott, Alzheimer’s Chair
- John Surritte, Legislative Chair
- Wanda Lyon, Service Officer
- Cheryl Bowman, Public Relations
- Sandy Nease, Sunshine Chair
- Wendy Hambly, Newsletter Editor

Positions without candidates: NARFE Net Coordinator

Interested in running for any board position? Contact John Surritte. As Past President of the Chapter, John is in charge of compiling the ballot.

HEADCOUNT NEEDED

REMEMBER THAT WE NEED A HEAD COUNT BY OCTOBER 10TH FOR LUNCH FOR THE OCTOBER 19TH LUNCH AND MEETING AT MEADOWLARK ESTATES.

...See page 3...

NARFE President, Beaudoin's response to the USA TODAY's inaccurate article:

According to the OMB, at the end of the year, the U.S. Treasury will hold nearly \$800 billion in the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund that has been growing from federal employee contributions for decades. Looking to the future, the OPM projects that assets will reach \$1.1 trillion in 2020, \$2.4 trillion in 2040, \$6.5 trillion in 2060, and \$15.3 trillion in 2080. In addition, a 2011 report by the impartial Congressional Research Service said, "Actuarial projections indicate that the CSRDF will be able to meet its financial obligations in perpetuity."

This fund is so stable that it was used this summer to prevent the nation from financial default as our nation's leaders struggled to come to an agreement on the debt ceiling. The fund is invested in Treasury securities, much as anyone who holds a savings bond or Treasury bill. These securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government and are as good as cash.

The decisions of the debt "supercommittee" are too important to be contaminated by faulty analysis, and its members should have full confidence in the current and future sustainability of the federal workforce's retirement program.

DesMoines Register, Editorial by Darlene Freeman, Iowa Legislative Chair: *Our federal employees ensure our most basic needs as a society are met—from the safety of the food we eat to the quality of the air we breathe.*

Some spend their days thwarting the spread of infectious disease, while others raise the alarm whenever a storm is coming, [and] others deliver mail regardless of the weather. Sadly, there is a growing sentiment in America that our country can do without a federal workforce.

America needs our federal employees, and we should not allow bad data to turn federal employees into national scapegoats. We know we will have to do our share.

Today, more than 84 percent of federal employees work outside the D.C. metropolitan area.

On average, they are paid 22 percent less than they would be in the private sector; 44 percent of federal employees hold bachelor's degrees versus 18.7 percent in the private sector. They go to work every day in every state to protect and drive progress of our country.

Free Lunch

☞ Reserve your lunch by OCTOBER 10th ☛

Elaine Seeman is taking lunch reservations for the NARFE CHAPTER 378 meeting on OCTOBER 19th, at Meadowlark Estates. 12 noon

Meadowlark Estates is providing lunch at NO COST TO YOU, BUT WE DO NEED A HEAD COUNT.

Please CALL, EMAIL, OR USE THIS FORM TO MAIL YOUR RESERVATION TO ELAINE SEEMAN BY OCTOBER 10TH.

**ELAINE SEEMAN
PHONE: 785-331-2280
EMAIL: eseeman@sunflower.com
ADDRESS: 5222 CONGRESSIONAL PL.
LAWRENCE, KS 66049-3796**

YES, I PLAN TO ATTEND THE OCTOBER 19TH NARFE CHAPTER 378 MEETING AND LUNCH AT MEADOWLARK ESTATES AT 6TH AND FOLK, LAWRENCE, KS.

NARFE MEMBERS' NAME(S):

BRING A POTENTIAL MEMBER NAME:

TOTAL NUMBER FOR LUNCH: _____

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION:

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____