



2013 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 Officer | Wanda Lyon | 785-764-2210 |
| Public Relations | | |
| Newsletter | Wendy Hambly | 913-845-0121 |
| NARFE PAC | Linda Surritte | 785-856-0558 |
| NARFE Net Coor | Leonard Short | 785-840-8401 |
| Alzheimer's Chair | John Scott | 785-542-3510 |
| Legislative Chair | John Surritte | 785-856-0558 |
| Sunshine | Sandy Nease | 785-979-5481 |

KUDOS AND THANK YOU'S

- ➔ John and Linda Surritte for offering matching Alzheimer's donations during August, September, and October.
- ➔ Cheryl Travis for offering her neighborhood clubhouse for the October meeting.

2014 CHAPTER OFFICERS John Surritte

It is time to name candidates for Chapter Officer and Chair positions for 2014. If you are presently serving and plan to continue in 2014, please let me and our 2013 Chapter President, Tom Huntzinger, know by Wednesday, October 16, 2013, our Chapter meeting date.

If you are not presently serving but are interested in serving, please let Tom and me know by October 17th. Chapter officer elections will be held at our November NARFE meeting. Officers for 2014 will be sworn in and 2014 chairs will be recognized at our December meeting. Those who have agreed to serve in 2014 are as follows:

| Office/Chair | Name |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Tom Huntzinger |
| 1 st VP | Roger Lemmons |
| 2 nd VP | Elaine Seeman |
| Treasurer | Cheryl Travis |
| Legislative | John Surritte |
| Alzheimer's | John Scott |
| NARFE PAC | Linda Surritte |
| Newsletter Editor | Wendy Hambly |
| Nominees needed for: | |
| Secretary | NARFE Net Coordinator |
| Membership | Public Relations |
| Sunshine | |

SEPTEMBER 18TH

Roger Lemmons

Meeting is in the meeting room at Conroy's at 6th and Gateway. The program begins at noon with lunch at 12:30 p.m. followed by a brief meeting.

The program for the September is Marissa Clark, who will speak on Alzheimer's research.

October's speaker is Mary Moody, who is involved in refurbishing BNSF Depot in NE Lawrence. The location for the October meeting will be at the clubhouse located at 745 Chipperfield, Lawrence KS. Lunch, a taco bar provided by the Salty Iguana, is the customary \$10.

AUGUST 21ST

MEETING RECAP

Mary Doveton, has produced and directed over 240 shows in professional, educational and community theatres. She was a founder of Theatre Lawrence (formerly Lawrence Community Theatre) and has served as its director since 1984. Mary holds degrees from Clarke University and the University of Kansas. In 2009 she was named a Fellow in the College of Fellows of the American Association of Community Theatre. She has judged theatre festivals across the country and served in several national offices. Mary was one of six Regional Mentors for the Kansas Arts Network and served on grant review panels for several states. She was the recipient of the first Phoenix Award for Performing Arts here in Lawrence and is a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow.

Mrs. Doveton covered the process and journey to the new community asset, the new theater facilities at 6th and Bauer Farm Dr.

The theater began in the late 70's with performances at variety of facilities in Lawrence including the Art Center, Trinity Episcopal Church, and a dinner theater at the TP Junction. The old church at 15th and New Hampshire became available and Mary had her first experience with fund raising. The church was purchased and extensively remodeled in the mid-80's and became the permanent home of the theater.

With the growth of programs, audiences, and children's programs, a larger facility was needed, so in the late 90's they began exploring options. They looked at existing buildings but couldn't find one that met their need for space for the auditorium, costume, set building, offices, and classrooms. They began a fundraiser and started by asking

Tensie' Oldfather, who Mary described as a “no nonsense, tell it like it is gal,” for a lead donation of \$1,000,000. Her immediate response was, “I’ll give you the million, but not a penny more.” They then began working with other individuals and businesses in Lawrence to raise the remainder of the funds needed to build. Even though a property was already selected for building, when Mike Trainer of the Free State Development Group called Mary wanting the theater to be included in the vision for the Bauer Farm planned urbanist, residential, commercial, walkable community, she couldn’t refuse when he said, “What if we donated the property?”

Lawrence’s rezoning of the property took several years, and then the recession hit, so building was delayed. A \$500,000 challenge grant required the community raise a total of \$6,200,000 to receive the grant. The people of Lawrence rose to the occasion with donations like the fellow riding his bike to donate a bag of quarters he had saved, a young girl bringing in her piggy bank, and 2 gifts of \$1,000,000. On September 2011, work began with the architects, builders, and focus groups in the community to ensure a wide spectrum of input.

They had to blend wants with budget, while addressing what people wanted—closeness of the stage, restrooms, and parking. The result is 137 parking spaces, 299 tiered seats (fees for using a show increase for 300 seat theaters), display space for visiting artists for each show, a bar, office area, thrust stage, an overhead metal grid system for suspending lighting without having to access with ladders, revolving turn-table stage center, large scene shop, seam shop, big dressing rooms. The lower level contains 3 classrooms, an outdoor patio, and space for storing sets, properties, and costumes. The revolving stage was less expensive than a “fly-space” behind a back curtain for scene changes, which was priced at \$1,000,000. The overhead metal grid is more flexible and safe for adjusting lighting for each show.

Doveton said volunteers are the life-blood of the organization. There are only 3 full-time and 5 part-time employees. There are 400 volunteers; the theater can’t function without volunteers.

Besides the 6 productions there are extensive children’s program including The Willow, Boys and Girls Club, and Girl Scouts; Vintage Players (script-in-hand performers) who in addition to performing, go onto 2nd grade classrooms to act out fairytales

with the students and help them to figure out plot sequence and character development; the Travelers perform murder mysteries and can be seen on the Baldwin Kansas Bell.

Some closing tidbits included: you can donate vintage and unusual items for props or costumes; a committee comprised of board members, past directors, and suggestions from the public determine the shows; Ragtime could not have been done in the old theater because of the cast size and set requirements; the copyright fees for Ragtime were ~\$9,000. Generally musicals are more expensive, and this cost is determined by size of the audience, price of tickets, and number of performances.

| Shows this Season | Opening Date |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Footloose (musical) | Sept 20 th |
| Shrek (musical) | Dec 6 th |
| Wrong Window (comedy) | Jan 17 th |
| Other Desert Cities (drama) | Feb 28 |
| The Great Gasby | Apr 11 th |
| The King and I | June 13 th |

Contact info: phone - THE-SHOW (843-7469)
 email – boxoffice@theaterlawrence.com
 website - www.theaterlawrence.com

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| MEMBERSHIP | Betty Scribner |
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Welcome to new member, Greg Grimes of Baldwin.

We were sorry to learn that NARFE member, Archie Hawkins of Lawrence passed away August 23, 2013.

This fall Chapter 378 hopes to cosponsor a health insurance fair with Haskell University. More info as the project develops.

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership for next year and, in some cases, renewed for 2 or 3 years. Some of you heard from me about past due memberships because NARFE headquarters seems to be slow about reporting your renewal in the monthly reports. I truly appreciate the fact that you have chosen to support the Lawrence NARFE Chapter 378.

Here is why NARFE is crucial to you right now! Your federal benefits and health insurance are probably among your most valuable assets. Right now, they are under unprecedented attack. Bolstered by claims from biased “think tanks” and media outlets that federal employees and retirees hold significant responsibility for our nation’s dire economic situation, some lawmakers are calling for drastic cuts in your benefits.

NARFE is leading the fight in these attacks.

Today, we number about 300,000 members, but to ensure NARFE’s continuing success, we must maintain and grow the NARFE membership. At a time when all federal workers and annuitants should stand together, your membership in NARFE is more important than ever. For a very interesting place to find more information on how NARFE is leading the fight to protect your federal retirement benefits, go to www.ProtectAmericasHeartbeat.org.

Renewing your membership is easy -- you can click on www.NARFE.org/renewal. If you haven’t tried the automatic annual dues paying option, now is the time! Just select the “automatic renewal” option online. If you have questions, call me (785-865-8235) and I will be glad to assist you in any way.

Betty Scribner scribner@sunflower.com.

oppose this change. These initiatives are listed below. We strongly encourage you to make your voice heard loud and clear during this week!

Sincerely, Joseph A. Beaudoin, National President

A. To protect your COLA, you must contact your Representative and Senators during NARFE’s Call Congress Week – Sept. 16-20.

The average CSRS annuitant would lose \$48,000 during his/her retired years under the Chained CPI. You can use [NARFE’s calculator](#) to estimate how the proposal would reduce your earned federal annuity and share that figure with your legislators.

Calling Capitol Hill is easy and only takes a few minutes – and a powerful way to protect your earned benefits. Use the toll-free number and follow these simple instructions:

Step 1: Call the Capitol using NARFE’s toll-free number 1-866-220-0044. Ask the operator to connect you to your Representative's office.

Step 2: Politely greet the staff person who answers the phone. Give your name and address so they know you are a constituent. Then say:

I am a retired/active federal employee and member of NARFE.[Senator or Representative X] represents thousands of federal workers and retirees. As Congress debates the budget, I urge him/her to oppose a switch to the Chained CPI to determine annual COLAs to Social Security benefits, federal civilian and military retirement annuities, veterans' benefits, and disability insurance benefits.

The Chained CPI does not account for how much seniors spend on medical care and is therefore not a better measure of inflation. Over the next 25 years, I could lose \$_____ in reduced COLAs. The budget should not be balanced on the backs of seniors.

Please oppose any effort to move to the Chained CPI. Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoints.

Step 3: Call the Capitol using NARFE’s toll-free number 1-866-220-0044 again and ask the operator to connect you to one of your Senators’ offices and repeat the message. Repeat for your state’s second Senator.

If the toll-free number is busy, please dial the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask for your member of Congress. You can also find the

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| LEGISLATIVE | John Surritte |
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NARFE Legislative Hotline (24/7): 877-217-8234
U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 866-220-0044

There's still time to act! Opportunities for advocacy abound during district work periods
<http://www.narfe.org/heartbeat/toolkit.cfm>

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| SERVICE OFFICER | Wanda Lyons |
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| CPI-W | | Monthly % Change | % Toward 2014 COLA |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Mon/yr. | Figure | | |
| 3 rd qrt 2012 | *226.936 | --- | --- |
| July 2013 | 230.084 | 0.04 | 1.39 |
| Aug 2013 | Provided as info becomes available. | | |
| Sept 2013 | | | |
| 3 rd qrt 2013 | * | | |

*To trigger a COLA for 2014, the average CPI-W average of July, August, and September of 2013 needs to rise above the 2012 3rd quarter average (226.936).

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| NARFE NEWSWATCH SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 |
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September 16-20 is NARFE Chained CPI Advocacy Week!

The following is a letter from NARFE President:

Dear NARFE member,

On September 9, Congress will return to Washington after a five-week break and continue negotiations over the 2014 budget, sequestration and the debt ceiling. A likely part of that conversation will be a switch to the Chained CPI. The proposed move from the current method (CPI-W) of determining annual cost-of-living adjustments to the Chained CPI would result in lower COLAs and hurt seniors already facing increasing costs.

NARFE is undertaking a series of events the week of September 16th to draw attention to the Chained CPI and urge Members of Congress to

direct number for your Representative and Senators on their websites using www.house.gov or www.senate.gov.

B. Send a letter to the editor of your local paper urging opposition to the Chained CPI.

During the week of September 16th, we will make an even bigger statement if letters to the editor (LTEs) run in papers throughout the country. Below is a sample letter you can use and send to your paper(s). We encourage you to change the letter to reflect your own personal situation.

You can send the letter by visiting the website of your local paper(s) and finding the editorial section. An even easier method would be to send the letter through NARFE's Legislative Action Center, which will select the appropriate papers for you and send the letter directly. To follow this method, please click [here](#), which will ask for your zip code and then bring up a list of papers. From there you will be directed to the LTE.

****Please note: the text in brackets in the letter MUST be changed by you to reflect where you live. Sample letter to the editor:**

A flawed policy initiative called the Chained CPI is gaining steam in Washington budget talks that would shortchange KANSANS who receive federal benefits such as Social Security and federal annuities by low-balling their annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). Chained CPI supporters have tried to minimize the consequences it will have on seniors, retired federal employees, and veterans by calling it a "technical adjustment" or "better measure of inflation."

When you cut through the rhetoric, the truth is that the Chained CPI is only an adjustment in that it means smaller COLAs each year. It hurts every American – particularly our most vulnerable – in a major way that worsens over time.

How would the switch to the Chained CPI hurt an American citizen who receives the average \$15,000 annual Social Security benefit? Over 25 years, Chained CPI would rob the senior of more than \$23,000. Just think of how many coupons that senior would have to clip to make up for the loss of \$23,000 over his/her retired years. For many federal annuitants who don't receive Social Security, the impact is even greater. Over 25 years, the average federal retiree would see a loss of \$48,000.

I urge KANSAS' lawmakers to reject the Chained CPI and provide America's seniors,

retired veterans and public servants, and individuals with disabilities the income protection they have earned and deserve.

C. Coupons, coupons and more coupons!

NARFE is extremely grateful to the hundreds of chapters and individuals who sent in coupons for the media campaign on the Chained CPI. Your generosity, which garnered hundreds of thousands of dollars in coupons, far more than the \$48,000 we were hoping for, allows us to be even more creative in our media push.

NARFE is working on organizing a press event on September 18th to highlight the coupon campaign. The details are still being worked out, so stay tuned for more information. If you're in the Washington, D.C. area and would like to participate in the event, likely on Capitol Hill, please email leg@narfe.org.

D. Send an email to your Members of Congress

It is possible that the phone lines to Capitol Hill will be busy during our call-in week, as Congress has only a few days to act before the start of the fiscal year. If you are unable to get through on the phone, please send an email to your Members urging their opposition to the Chained CPI. You can send them the NARFE action letter through our Legislative Action Center [here](#).

E. Learn more about the Chained CPI

Not sure how the Chained CPI works? NARFE President Joseph Beaudoin and Legislative Director Jessica Klement taped a video explaining the ramifications of this flawed policy. To watch the short video, click [here](#).

Additionally, the NARFE Chained CPI fact sheet is available in the Legislative section on the NARFE website. From [this page](#), click on "Issue and Position Papers" on the left. This section is available to NARFE members only; you must be logged in to view it.

F. Still have questions? Contact the NARFE legislative department at leg@narfe.org or 703.838.7760 ext. 201.

AARP Bulletin - June 2013 - Washington Watch

A BACKDOOR TAX HIKE

You've Probably heard of the chained CPI. It's that new way of calculating the cost-of-living adjustments to Social Security and veterans [and civilian federal retirees and workers] benefits, and President Obama included it in his most recent

budget proposal. Most of the attention has been focused on how this new consumer price index, if adopted, would be stingier with annual increase in benefits. But the chained CPI (C-CPI) could also increase your income taxes. Experts estimate that taxes would increase for about 80% of all taxpayers. How? Every year, the Internal Revenue Service makes adjustments, based on inflation, to income tax brackets, standard deductions, personal exemptions and more. The adjustments help prevent bumping taxpayers into higher brackets and making them pay more because of inflation. Because the chained CPI would yield smaller increases than the current formula, more of your income would be taxed at a higher rate. "This impacts a lot of middle-class families," said Cristina Martin Firvida, AARP director of financial security and consumer affairs. Taxpayers with income of \$10,000 to \$20,000 would see their taxes rise the most—by almost 7% over 16 years, according to the Tax Policy Center in Washington. The higher the tax bracket, the lower the percentage increase, bottoming out at 0.2% for those earning more than \$1 million a year. So in addition to cutting Social Security by \$127 billion over 10 years, the chained CPI would raise income taxes by \$142 billion.

Recycle your old greeting cards

If you have old greeting cards that you no longer want to keep, would you be willing to donate them to an individual that takes used cards, cuts them up and uses the scenes, words, and the card base to make new cards. The "new cards" often have new words of celebration or comfort. She sells these cards and donates the proceeds to Parkinson's research. So, if you have some old cards and are willing to donate them, please bring them with you to our NARFE meeting and Roger Lemmons will see that she gets them.

ALZHEIMER'S John Scott

Only 1½ months left that the Surritte's will match donations made by Chapter 378 members to Alzheimer's. Make your check payable to *NARFE Alzheimer's Research* in September or October for a tax deduction and to support a good cause.

In addition to the donations at the August meeting of \$13, John & Linda Surritte donated \$50 in memory of Barb Pretzer. To date Chapter 378 has donated \$578.25 for Alzheimer's research.

SUNSHINE Sandy Nease

Know someone who needs a card? Contact Sandy Nease 785-979-5481

Archibald Leo "Archie" Hawkins

Archie Hawkins, 94, of Lawrence, died August 23, 2013.



Archie was born April 24, 1919 in Martin, SD the son of William and Agnes Hawkins.

He served his country during WWII in 61 combat missions in CBI and ETO in B25's. He taught in the vocational department at Haskell Indian Nation College from 1946-1976. He was a member of St John

Catholic Church, Haskell Alumni, VFW life member, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, Kiwanis, Rotary and was a United Way Chairman. He was also in the Indian Hall of Fame.

He married Mollie Hand September 4, 1941 in Lawrence, KS. She preceded him in death February 21, 1992.

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September 16-20 is NARFE Chained CPI Advocacy Week!

Follow the steps NARFE has outlined which are listed on pages 3 and 4.

Call Your Senators and Representatives

Write a letter to the editor

Email Your Congressmen

Write to your Congressmen