



**2011 OFFICERS and CHAIRS**

President	Tom Huntzinger	785-766-6717
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Roger Lemmons	785-840-9594
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Elaine Seeman	785-331-2280
Secretary	Dianne Throop	785-841-1408
Treasurer	Cheryl Travis	785-841-1616
Membership Service	Betty Scribner	785-865-8235
	Wanda Lyon	785-764-2210
Public Relations	Cheryl Bowman	785-979-1568
Newsletter	Wendy Hambly	913-845-0121
NARFE PAC	Linda Surritte	785-856-0558
NARFE Net Coord	Leonard Short	785-840-8401
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:**

☞ Dianne Throop for the great July 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Recap article about Paul Davis & Andy Tuttle.

**FEHBP OPEN SEASON July 27, 2012**

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that this year's Federal Benefits Open Season is from Monday, November 12, through Monday, December 10. New for this year, all Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) plans will provide on their websites a summary document – a Summary of Benefits and Coverage – detailing information about health plan benefits and coverage, as required under the Affordable Care Act. The Summary will provide information on costs such as deductibles and co-payments/coinsurance, what is covered and what is not covered, enrollees' rights to continued coverage, and grievance and appeal rights. Plans will make a paper copy of the Summary available. OPM said the plan brochure will be the official statement of benefits. The annual Federal Benefits Open Season covers the FEHBP, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) and FSAFEDS. NARFE magazine will provide comprehensive analysis of many FEHBP plans in its October, November and December issues.

(from the NARFE website)

**SERVICE OFFICER Wanda Lyon**

The COLA for 2013 depends on the average CPI-W for July, August and September of 2012 to rise above the 2011 average for those same months (223.233). June's CPI-W is 226.036 a monthly change of -0.24% resulting in a 1.26% total toward COLA. July's numbers are released August 15, 2012.

**AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING ROGER LEMMONS**

Meet at Conroy's Pub. Program at noon, lunch at 12:30. The meal, iced tea, coffee, gratuity, and tax are included for \$10.00. Business meeting follows lunch.

August's program is Rebecca Buford with Tenants to Home Owners, an organization which helps people of moderate to low income go from paying rent to homeowners. Hopefully this program gives people more self-esteem and may build them a little equity.

A picnic at the Chipperfield Club House, hosted by Cheryl Travis, is planned for September.

For October's program, I hope to have several health insurance providers to review and discuss their plan changes for 2013.

November's meeting is scheduled for the day before Thanksgiving, so we'll have discussion on changing dates or canceling the meeting

**JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING RECAP -Dianne Throop**

Paul Davis, District 46 State Representative (D) from Lawrence, has been a representative for 10 years. He remembers trying times, but none with as many controversies as there were during this past year. There were many meaty issues before the Kansas legislature.

The Governor set an agenda, putting very large proposals in front of the legislature. The agenda should reflect the concerns of the people. The economy is the main issue concerning Kansas and that is where the legislature time should have been spent. Davis has a proposal with 14 ideas to improve the job situation in Kansas, including training, an area in which we are far behind, and requiring the state government to contract or give preference to Kansas companies.

**SCHOOL FINANCING:** The governor proposed a school finance bill. Currently, 50% of our money is spent on public schools. Previously, funding was cut \$250,000. The deficit is made up locally by increasing the mil levy. This approach impacts people on fixed incomes. Education funding currently ensures a child's education is equal district to district. The governor's proposal increases local responsibility and eliminates the assurance that children are getting an equal education. Both parties rejected this proposal, and a

court case is pending to force the legislature to do something about funding in the future.

**KPERs** has an \$8 billion liability and will be broke in 2033. The state needs to remedy this. The legislature was told in the 90s to fix the underfunding and ignored it. The governor is proposing a 401K plan. This is a shift from the defined benefit system to a contribution benefit system. The governor did not include any remedies to the existing shortfalls, so it was ditched. The legislature came up with a system to help pay off the liability and some changes for new employees. One source is money from the casino revenues.

**MEDICAID:** It is the biggest cost driver. Funding is a partnership of 60% federal funding and 40% state funding. KanCare, the governor's plan to privatize the system, impacts the developmentally disabled care, and is a big concern. Under KanCare, the state would replace the current provider, and pay 3 for-profit companies to operate the system that provides services for 383,000 low-income elderly, disabled and low-income families and children. Of those, 8,193 have developmental disabilities. One of the big frustrations is that a lot of the potential bidders admit they have no experience serving people with developmental disabilities.

**REDISTRICTING:** The worst thing is that the legislature spent too much time dealing with redrawing boundaries. It is currently a very poisonous process, and should be removed from legislative control. Iowa has a wonderful model with a nonpartisan organization deciding the boundaries. There will be a big push for this next year. The process failed this year, the house decided not to honor the process, and they gridlocked it. This resulted in 3 federal judges making the decision.

**TAX LAW:** Davis stated that the tax law is the worst thing the legislature has done and is a reckless act. Everyone should pay their fair share. The tax reduction is huge and way more than the state can afford. We are not in a position to make these cuts. We will have a \$2.5 to \$3 billion deficit by 2018. And, who benefits from these cuts? There is no fair share. The original proposal saw the lower income with a 5,000% increase and those with a \$250,000 income with a 20% cut. That was adjusted. All business except C corps will be tax exempt. For example, in a doctor's office operating as an LLC or S Corp., the physician members might receive a

distribution from the profits. They would not pay taxes on that money, while the nurses, clerks and maintenance people receiving a wage from the business will pay taxes. Davis feels this is both reckless and disturbing.

**TAXATION OF FEDERAL RETIREMENT PAY:** He addressed a question concerning taxation of federal retirement pay. It is not going to be taxed.

**VOTER ID:** The new voter ID law will require people to show ID when voting. New registrants will have to show a birth certificate or similar document to registers.

Davis distributed newsletters.

### **BILL R 2309:**

A second speaker, Andy Tuttle of the Post Office, presented postal employee concerns about and the current bill in the House in Washington – HR 2309 to change the Post Office operations. Andy has been a postal worker for 16 years. The bill will end Saturday delivery and door-to-door delivery and close small town offices. The Saturday and door-to-door delivery are important services, especially for users who need medications delivered and delivered to the door and for those who have difficulty walking or walking long distances. In addition, the letter carrier has always been a presence in the community. They notice when things are right in the area they work. The goal is to eliminate 240,000 jobs. This will result in forced retirements and layoffs. In addition, the bill would allow emergency managers to take over the organization and void collective bargaining units.

One of the current headlines is addressing the speculation that the Post Office will default on a \$5.5 billion payment they are required to make in August as payment for future retirees. The Post Office is the only organization required to fund a retirement program for employee not yet hired.

Workers agree that there needs to be a new business plan. The Post Office predates the constitution and has survived the telegraph, telephone and internet.

Locally, the post office has not hired career carriers since 2007.

Andy circulated a petition opposing the bill for members to sign and to send to Lynn Jenkins.

**LEGISLATIVE**

**JOHN SURRITTE**

Lawrence Chapter Members, if you get a chance

to meet with Representatives Jenkins and Yoder and Senators Moran and Roberts, please let them know how you feel about active and retired federal employees being singled out to reduce the deficit.

**From the NARFE NEWSWATCH  
(July 7/27/12):**

**#3 Have You Scheduled Your  
August Meetings Yet?**

“August is NARFE’s “Meet Your Candidates” month! With federal employees and annuitants remaining a target in deficit-reduction talks, the August congressional recess is a critical time for NARFE members to get involved in defending the earned retirement, pay and health benefits of federal workers and annuitants. Congressional campaigns will be in full swing as the summer winds down and Election Day looms ever closer. Members of Congress will be in their districts August 6-September 7, and there is plenty of time to organize an event. NARFE’s Protect America’s Heartbeat’s Toolkit provides a variety of resources at: <http://www.narfe.org/heartbeat/toolkit.cfm>. Start mobilizing today!

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



employees to phase into retirement by collecting a partial annuity while switching to a part-time work schedule. “Federal employees will now be able to cut back on their hours but not fully retire if they are not ready. Not only is this good news for experienced federal workers, but the government as a whole also will benefit from retaining these valuable workers to help with transitions,” commented NARFE President Joseph A. Beaudoin. The bill, which funds transportation projects and lowered the student loan interest rate, passed with bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress, and President Obama signed the legislation (P.L. 112-141) on July 6.

Previous versions of the bill used reductions in federal employee pay and benefits to pay for expenditures for transportation projects and an extension of lower student loan interest rates. “The president’s signature on this bill is a victory for federal employees, who do not have to lose pay or benefits to pay for the legislation,” said Beaudoin.

“The outpouring of messages from retired and active federal employees over the last month has helped send Congress one simple message: Federal employees and retirees do not deserve to be the piggybank for all legislation moving through Congress,” Beaudoin added.

NARFE, which has long supported the concept of phased retirement, is particularly pleased with the new law’s requirement that not less than 20 percent of the phased retiree’s time must be spent mentoring his or her replacement, a key component of successful succession planning. More details regarding the guidelines for phased retirement can be found in Section 100121 of the bill.

**NARFE WEBSITE July 11, 2012**

*National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association [NARFE], one of America’s oldest and largest associations, was founded in 1921 with the mission of protecting the earned rights and benefits of America’s active and retired federal workers. The largest federal employee/retiree organization, NARFE represents the retirement interests of nearly five million current and future federal annuitants, spouses, and survivors.*

**NARFE Praises Passage of Phased Retirement for Federal Employees**

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) hailed enactment of a law allowing federal

**SUNSHINE CHAIR Sandy Nease**

Please let me know about illness, special birthdays, celebrations, or honors our members receive, so I can send an appropriate card. I sent a sympathy card to the family of Genevieve Limburg.

(Report deserving members to Sandy Nease [sandynease@gmail.com](mailto:sandynease@gmail.com) or 785-979-5481)

**ALZHEIMER’S John Scott**

This is the first of 3 months (August, September, October) that Linda and John Surrutte will match Alzheimer’s donations from members. So make your donation count double and open your wallets in August, September, and October.

Chapter 378 donations received in July equaled

\$15.70. The YTD total is \$289.70.

## MEMBERSHIP

Betty Scribner

We welcome Kelly McCartney who has transferred to our NARFE chapter! Two members who were previously dropped have also been reinstated this month. Mr. Otto Russell Stites, a longtime member of NARFE, passed away on June 2, 2012.

Hopefully you received a letter or emailed thanking you as a NARFE member for taking time to renew and continue with Chapter 378 this year. Staying connected is important for the strength of the Lawrence NARFE chapter.

I received the new Chapter 378 brochures and will use them for recruiting this next year. The effort will be to visit all federal agencies in Lawrence, sharing magazines, the brochure, and a NARFE application, especially with current federal employees. Tom and I are working on a letter to provide current employees with information about the importance of NARFE to the well-being of their federal career at this time.

What can you do to help? I urge you to take an extra magazine and application and use it to recruit your federal friends and acquaintances, active or retired. You could give your friend or spouse a gift membership. It is a great way to get a member started for the first year, and a bargain at \$25. The best way to share NARFE information is one by one. Thank you for keeping NARFE on your "radar screen."

BettyScribner, 785-865-8235 or  
email: [scribner@sunflower.com](mailto:scribner@sunflower.com).

**Note:** This is a new email address.

**NARFE WEBSITE** - [narfe.org](http://narfe.org), Legislative Action Center, Issues & Legislation, Current Legislation

### KEY FOCUS BILLS NARFE OPPOSES and WHO SPONSORS THEM

**S. 2196** - Replaces Medicare with the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (Coverage in May issue of NARFE p. 25)  
**Sponsors: 4 Republicans, NARFE opposes**

**S. 2065** - S. 2065 Companion legislation (H.R. 3662) to replace scheduled 2013 sequestration by extending current two-year pay freeze (2011 and 2012) an additional year and a half, through June 2014, for all federal civilian employees. Restricts government hiring for five years; for every

three federal vacancies, only two are filled. See May Cover Story p. 26.

**Sponsors: 11 Republicans, NARFE opposes**

**S. 644** - Eliminates FERS defined-benefit for federal employees hired after 2012. (Coverage in May 2012 issue of NARFE pp. 25-26.)

**Sponsors: 12 Republicans, NARFE opposes**

**H.R. 5652** - Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012: Increases federal employee contributions under the CSRS and FERS by 5% of salary over 5 years, beginning in 2013 (Coverage in May 11 Hotline)

**Sponsor: 1 Republican, NARFE opposes**

**H.R. 3835** - Federal Pay Freeze Extension - Extends for an additional year the current two-year federal pay freeze (includes Members of Congress). Passed in the House on 2/1/2012.

**Sponsors: 5 Republicans, NARFE opposes**

**H.R. 3813** - Increases current employee contribution under both CSRS and FERS; changes annuity calculation and eliminates FERS Annuity Supplement. Reported favorable by Committee on 2/19/12.

**Sponsor: 1 Republican, NARFE opposes**

**H.R. 2465** - Federal Employees Compensation Modernization and Improvement Act - Passed House by Voice Vote.

**Sponsors: 4 (2R, 2D), NARFE opposes**

**H. CON. RES. 112** - Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2013 Extends federal pay freeze for 3 years and increases retirement contributions. Includes reconciliation instructions to 6 committees including House Oversight and Government Reform. Passed House 3/29/12; Senate Motion to Proceed Rejected 5/16/12 see Votes. (Coverage in NARFE: June, p. 10 and May, pages 8-10.)

**Sponsor: 1 Republican, NARFE opposes**

The NARFE website covers each bill in detail. You may be able to double click on the above bills for the details, but I am not sure the link will carry over when I change to pdf format and email the newsletter.

The website also lists "Key Votes" which shows how Congressmen voted on bills. Might be good to start checking those before the election