



**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	Betty Scribner	785-865-8235
Service Officer	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 Coor	Leonard Short	785-840-8401
Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Legislative Chair	John Surritte	785-856-0558
Sunshine	Sandy Nease	785-843-3378

**KUDOS & THANK YOU'S TO:**

- ✘ John Surritte for his outstanding efforts in keeping the membership informed of legislative events and information during this important voting season.
- ✘ Jerry Sherman for grilling the hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats for the picnic.

**ALZHEIMER'S John Scott**

October is the last month Linda and John Surritte are matching your Alzheimer's donations. **You still have time to make John dig deep in his pockets and make your Alzheimer's donations count double.** If you write a check, you can deduct the donation from you income taxes.

We're still collecting the bar codes from BEST CHOICE brand labels fro money for Alzheimer's. bring them to a meeting or call Wendy Hambly (913-845-0121) to arrange pick up.

**NARFE HEADQUARTERS 9/21/12**

OPM announced the Open Season for health, vision and dental plans this year will run from Monday, November 12, 2012, through Monday, December 10, 2012. *NARFE* magazine provides an annual analysis of Federal Benefits Open Season in its October, November and December issues. "Open Season Report: 2012 Preview" appears on pp. 40-43 of the October magazine. The OPM website for health insurance premiums is <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/rates/index.asp>.

For rates for national fee-for-service plans, please visit

<http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/rates/nonpostalffs2013.pdf>. The full benefit packages for all 230 plans should be available before the end of October.

**OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> MEETING - R. LEMMONS**

Change of plans for October, no insurance companies. October's speaker is from the Master Gardeners' Organization speaking on how to put plants, grass, and trees to bed for the winter.

**PLEASE NOTE: November's meeting is moved up one week so it doesn't interfere with Thanksgiving plans. So mark your calendars for a NARFE Chapter 378 meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, November 14, 2012.**

**SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> MEETING RECAP**

The September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting was a picnic at the Chipperfield Club House hosted by Cheryl Travis. Twenty-four NARFE members enjoyed all the yummy food Cheryl provided and had a chance to relax and visit on a lovely day. Roger Lemmons said one new member, Jerry Sherman, literally had his initiation by fire—he grilled all the hamburgers, hotdogs, and brats. Christi Hansen and Joan Kenny, renewing active members, Mike Meyer and Karen Anderson, potential members, and Jim and Carole Turrentine, members we haven't seen for awhile, joined in the fun. Betty Scribner helped Cheryl serve. Thank you to Cheryl, Betty, and Jerry for a very nice, relaxing lunch.

**MEMBERSHIP Betty Scribner**

Welcome to new members Craig Dare, Jerry Feese, and Jerry Sherman.

**Peace of Mind for Pennies a Day!**

In what month did you retire? Is that the same month you signed up for NARFE? If so and if you pay dues annually, write it on your calendar to help you remember to send your dues to NARFE headquarters early enough to prevent your membership from being dropped.

Have you thought about using **Dues Withholding** as an easier way to save money and "never have to remember to pay your NARFE dues?" If you are retired, sign up and pay even less than the annual dues. When you write a \$45.00 check for your annual NARFE dues, you are paying about 12 pennies a day for protection of your pension? However, **if you have signed for Dues Withholding, you pay only ten cents per day (a 15% savings) for NARFE pension protection!** I have forms available.

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

**LEGISLATIVE JOHN SURRITTE**

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

Be sure to check out the article, *How Congressional Behavior Should Infrom Our Own*, pages 21-28 in the October issue of the NARFE magazine.

The article is prefaced with the following: *NARFE's Biennial voting feature, ..., serves to provide information and empowerment. It should not be interpreted as a NARFE endorsement. The sole intent is to provide the best empirical information on how current members of Congress voted on legislation of concern to the federal community. Use it in conjunction with other means of measuring incumbents.*

**PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE SCHEDULE**

From NARFE 9/14/12 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:  
The 3 presidential and 1 vice-presidential debates are the best defense against often misleading political commercials.

**All debates from 9-10:30 p.m. EDT.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate Wed. Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Topic: Domestic Policy  
Narrator: Jim Lehrer, executive editor, PBS NewsHour  
Venue: University of Denver, Denver, CO.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Presidential Debate Tues. Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>**

Topic: Town Hall  
Narrator: Candy Crowley, chief political correspondent, CNN, and anchor, CNN's State of the Union  
Venue: Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Presidential Debate Mon. Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Topic: Foreign Policy  
Narrator: Bob Schieffer, chief Washington correspondent, CBS News, and moderator, Face the Nation;  
Venue: Lynn University, Boca Raton, FL.

**Vice Presidential Debate Thurs. Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>**

Narrator: Martha Raddatz, senior foreign affairs correspondent, ABC News;  
Venue: Centre College, Danville, KY.

More details are posted at [www.debates.org](http://www.debates.org), including, "Organizing a Debate" information.

**SERVICE OFFICER Wanda Lyons**

To trigger a COLA for 2013, the average CPI-W July, August, and September of 2012 needs to rise above the 2011 average for those same months (223.233). The August CPI-W figure is 1.7 % higher than that figure, and the average of the July and August CPI-W figures is 1.38% higher than that 2011 figure, which would result in a 1.4% COLA. *However, the September figure will be averaged with July and August to determine the actual COLA.* The final data point, September consumer prices – which will set the COLA for 2013 – will become available at 8:30 am EDT Tuesday, October 16. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter average will be compared to the 2011 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter average (223.233). More information is available at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi).

**NARFE continues to support COLA's based on fair assessments of increases in consumer prices to protect the value of federal annuities from inflation.**

CPI-W		Monthly % Change	% Toward 2013 COLA
July 2011	222.686	0.07	
Aug 2011	223.326	0.30	
Sept 2011	223.688	0.20	
3 <sup>rd</sup> qtr av	223.233		
July 2012	225.568	-0.20	1.04
Aug 2012	227.056	+0.7	1.7
Sept 2012	Due out Oct. 16th		

**CHAPTER 378 BALLOT**

It's that time of year again. As Past President of Free State Chapter 378, John Surritte is preparing the ballot for the election of Chapter 378 officers for 2013. If you are interested in any of the following positions, please contact John Surritte by phone (785-856-0558) or via email at: [jfsurritte@hotmail.com](mailto:jfsurritte@hotmail.com).

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⌘ Alzheimer's Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
⌘ Legislative Chair	John Surritte	785-856-0558
⌘ Membership Chair		
⌘ Public Relations ⌘ Ch	Wendy Hambly	913-845-0121
⌘ NARFE PAC Chair	Linda Surritte	785-856-0558
⌘ NARFE Net Coor		
⌘ Newsletter Editor	Wendy Hambly	913-845-0121
⌘ Service Officer		



☞Sunshine Chair		
*elected positions	☞appointed/volunteer positions	