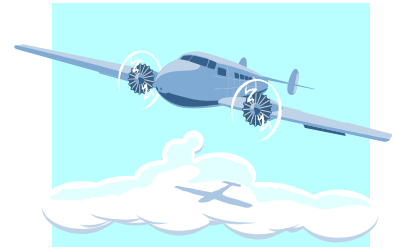




# THE FLIER



Volume IV, No. 2

Amelia Earhart Chapter 0621—Atchison

2015

## April Through August Meetings

- April 21—Tom Huntzinger, Federation PAC Chair
- May 19—Report on Federation Convention
- June 16—To be determined
- July and August—no meetings

At the April meeting Tom Huntzinger will discuss the importance of NARFE-PAC and why this year it needs donations more than the Alzheimer's Funds. After Tom has spoken we will auction off a NARFE tote that was given to the chapter by Elizabeth Bornman, Federation 1<sup>st</sup> VP, with the funds going to NARFE PAC.

## Federation Convention

The Kansas Federation Convention is April 26<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup> in Topeka. Attendees from this chapter are Judy Etter, delegate at large; Peggy Coder and Lorene Mumm, delegates; and Roger Mumm and Dale Etter, alternates. There will be a live auction on Sunday evening and a silent auction Sunday and Monday with proceeds from the two going toward Alzheimer's Research. If you would like to contribute items for the auction they must be in new condition or a valuable antique and worth at least \$5. More expensive items (baskets, art, handmade toys, valuable antiques to name a few) are auctioned off at the live auction and attendees can bid and keep checking their bids at the silent auction. The two auctions together raised \$5,926.84 in 2014 for Alzheimer's Research.

Chapters who contribute items are given credit toward their per capita total for the amount their donated items raise. This year Amelia Earhart Chapter 621 has contributed well over the per capita goal of \$5.50. If you have items to contribute bring them to the meeting on Tuesday or call me and I'll make sure they are taken to Topeka.

## NARFE Legislative Accomplishments in the 113th Congress

In addition to proactive successes, the NARFE Legislative Department was able to prevent several attempts to enact legislation that would be detrimental for the federal employees, annuitants and their families. Sometimes, especially in the current political climate, holding back legislation is a major victory. Some highlights of the 113th Congress are below, as well as available [online](#).

- Prevented any damaging alterations to current retirees' annuities, including opposing the proposed switch to the Chained CPI.
- Stopped proposals to: increase retirement contributions for active federal employees; eliminate the defined-benefit pension of the FERS retirement system for new hires; and end the FERS annuity supplement.
- Successfully opposed provisions in the Senate postal reform bill, including proposed changes to FEHBP, requirements

that USPS retirees enroll in Medicare and changes to the FECA program.

- The House of Representatives voted unanimously to provide back pay to federal employees furloughed during the October 2013 government shutdown.
- NARFE worked to ensure that Capitol Hill staff maintained benefits in the Health Insurance Marketplace, including preserving their employer contribution, when a provision in the Affordable Care Act required that they leave FEHBP. However, with Republicans in charge, most of this is back on the table (see below).

### **Message From Federation President**

Cindy Blythe, Federation president, sent the email below on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. The House and Senate passed budget resolutions in March that cut billions of dollars worth of pay and benefits from federal employees *and* retirees. The House budget proposed \$318 billion in “savings” by raising the cost of health insurance for all FEHBP participants, eliminating federal jobs, increasing retirement contributions for current employees and, perhaps most shocking, changing the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan G Fund. The Senate budget, while less specific in how it would cut costs, still asks the federal community for \$170 billion toward deficit reduction. The joint budget agreement is expected to include the same severe cuts.

#### **TO ALL NARFE MEMBERS IN KANSAS:**

I am following-up on the urgent message all NARFE members received last week – I’ve copied it below for your convenience. The House and Senate are currently negotiating the FY16 budget agreement. The House and Senate budgets both unfairly targeted federal employees *and retirees*. NARFE Headquarters has asked us to take action NOW to prevent

these cuts from being included in the compromise budget. I hope you have taken action and called our Senators and your Congressman.

You know that I would not follow-up and ask you to take action if it were not important. These proposals will hit all NARFE members – active federal employees and current retirees. For more details on the cuts, you can visit NARFE’s [website](#).

Please take a few minutes and call Senators Roberts and Moran and your Representative. You can call Capitol Hill by dialing 1-866-220-0044. If you use this number, NARFE will know how many people called to tell members of Congress “not to support any FY16 budget agreement that penalizes hard-working federal employees or threatens the retirement security of federal retirees.”

After you’ve made your calls – ask your friends and families to do the same. And then report your conversation to our legislative department at headquarters (you can e-mail them at [leg@narfe.org](mailto:leg@narfe.org) [or call 1.877.217.8234]. They keep a running record of our grassroots activities).

If we’re going to stop these proposals from becoming law, it starts with us making phone calls now. This is the first step.

Thank you, [Cindy Renee’ Blyth President,](#)  
[Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters](#)

## Important Contacts

### Social Security

Web: [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

Phone: Voice: 800.772.1213

TTY: 800.325.0778

### Veterans Affairs

Web: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

Phone: VA Benefits: 800.827.1000

Meds by mail: 888.385.0235

Leavenworth: 913.682.2000

Topeka: 785.350.3111

### Office of Personnel Management

Web: [www.opm.gov](http://www.opm.gov)

Phone: 202.418.3300

### NARFE

Web: [www.NARFE.org](http://www.NARFE.org)

### Kansas Federation, NARFE

Web: [www.ksnarfe.org](http://www.ksnarfe.org)

### Chapter Officers

- Judy Etter—President and newsletter editor (913.773.8565) ([jetter@bbwi.net](mailto:jetter@bbwi.net))
- Mary Underwood—Vice president and public relations (913.367.1486) ([munderwood1951@sbcglobal.net](mailto:munderwood1951@sbcglobal.net))
- Peggy Coder—Secretary-Treasurer and NARFE netter (913.833.4925) ([pcoder@yahoo.com](mailto:pcoder@yahoo.com))
- Pam Oswald—Alzheimer's chair (913.833.4965) ([pamoswald@hotmail.com](mailto:pamoswald@hotmail.com))
- Roger Mumm—Legislative and PAC chairs (913.682.1197) ([rogormum@aol.com](mailto:rogormum@aol.com))
- Lorene Mumm—Service officer and program chair (913.682.1197) ([rogormum@aol.com](mailto:rogormum@aol.com))
- Elaine Montgomery—Membership chair (913.833.2441) ([beverlymontgomery@centurylink.net](mailto:beverlymontgomery@centurylink.net))

### Congressional Contacts

#### • Kansas

##### • Senator Pat Roberts

- Email: <http://roberts.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=EmailPat>
- Phone: DC: 202.224.4774  
Topeka: 785.295.2745
- Local Office: Frank Carlson Federal Building, R. 392, 444 SE Quincy, Topeka, KS 66683

##### • Senator Jerry Moran

- Email: <http://moran.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-jerry>
- Phone: DC: 202.224.6521  
Olathe: 913.393.0711
- Local Office: 23600 College Blvd, Ste. 201, Olathe 66061 (mail: PO Box 1154, Olathe 66051)
  - Representative Lynn Jenkins
- Email: <http://lynnjenkins.house.gov/contact-me>
- Phone: DC: 202.225.6601  
Topeka: 785.234.5966
- Local Office: 3550 SW 5<sup>th</sup> St, Topeka, KS 66606

##### • Missouri

##### • Senator Roy Blunt

- Email: <http://www.blunt.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form?p=contact-roy>
- Phone: DC: 202.224.5721  
KC: 816.471.7141
- Local Office: 911 Main St, # 2224, Kansas City, MO 64105
  - Senator Claire McCaskill
- Email: <http://www.mccaskill.senate.gov/?p=contact>
- Phone: DC: 202.224.6154  
KC: 816.421.1639
- Local Office: 4141 Pennsylvania, # 101, Kansas City, MO 64111
  - Representative Sam Graves
- Email: <http://gravesforms.house.gov/email-sam>
- Phone: DC: 202.225.7041  
St Joe: 816.233.9818
- Local Office: 411 Jules St., St Joseph 64501

If you are mailing a senator or representative, the item will get to the addressee more quickly if you send it to the local office.