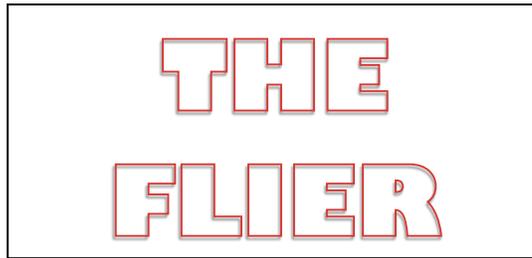




Volume IV, Issue 1



Amelia Earhart Chapter 0621—Atchison



September 2013

September Through December Meetings

September 17—Chris Harmon will discuss hearing aids

October—15—John Reichley will talk about the haunted structures at Fort Leavenworth

November 19—Blue Cross/Blue Shield Spokesperson and election of officers

December 17—Christmas dinner

September through November meetings will be at KFC/Taco Bell, 1400 Skyway, Atchison, at 11:30. Call Judy or read the “On Taps” in the *Atchison Globe* for the location of the December meeting.

Passings

Barb Pretzer, member of the Kaw-Blue Manhattan chapter and former Kansas, Region V, and then National Alzheimer’s Research Chairperson for NARFE, passed away in Manhattan August 3, 2013. The Amelia Earhart chapter sent a memorial to Alzheimer’s Research from the chapter.

From the President

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. The weather was certainly nicer until the last 2 weeks.

Dale and I attended the College of NARFE Knowledge in August in South Sioux City, NB. This is a training session, held in odd-numbered years, for anyone in Region V that wants to attend. It is an excellent place to meet members from the central part of the country

and find out how other chapters and federations do things. Two of the speakers are running for National President—Elaine Hughes, current National Secretary and membership chair; and Paul Carew, National Vice President and chairperson of the recently formed committee to review the future of NARFE. For the next 2 years, dues for new members will be \$40 the first year, whether the member is joining the E-NARFE chapter or a local chapter. The second year, the member will pay the \$40 and chapter dues. Amounts of money given to National, each Federation, and local chapters will be reduced for the first year. This will hopefully be an incentive to attract new members.

The committee to review the future of NARFE is examining what NARFE should look like in the years to come. E-NARFE has attracted some younger, active employees, but many current government employees do not know if they will make a career of Federal service and so are not interested in protecting their benefits. Membership has leveled off at around 250,000 but the average age of members has increased and we are dying off. Chapters are also closing because they cannot attract new members and the old ones are tired of being officers or are physically unable to carry on. We must find a way to attract these younger retirees and active employees to join us.

Sarah Weissmann, who heads the legislative grass-roots program at National, spoke on the importance of keeping in touch with our national legislators and letting them know when

we are happy with what they are doing and when we are not. She passed out letters to specific Senators that we could take to our next meeting for members to sign (I will bring these Tuesday). She also emphasized NARFE Call-In Week (more about this later).

Susan E. Johnson-Drenth, an elder law attorney from Fargo, North Dakota, spoke on the most important legal steps seniors need to take, such as financial power of attorney, health care directive, probate, estate and gift taxes, and medical assistance. She did not have enough time to cover everything in her outline and I believe we could all have listened for several more hours—extremely informative.

Cindy Reneè Blythe, the Kansas Federation president, spoke about what active employees are looking for. Her bottom line was that they want something that benefits them and that they do not have to pay for.

We also heard updates on membership in the seven states making up Region V and found time to visit with others from the region.

Chained CPI

The chained CPI is still on the table in Washington. President Obama is recommending this method of computing our cost of living allowance (COLA) rather than the CPI-E; using the chained CPI would result in a decrease of .3% cumulative in our COLA every year. This is not much the first year but after 10 years is a considerable amount of money. The NARFE website (narfe.com) has a calculator you can use to figure your loss.

Call Congress Week

September 16 through 20 is Call Congress Week. Page 9 of your September NARFE magazine contains the instructions for making free calls to our Senators and Representative. This call is to make Congress know how we feel about the Chained CPI. It is important that you call. If you cannot find your magazine, call me and I will give you the phone numbers and the

gist of the script concerning the CPI. Let us see if we can get at least 75% of our chapter phoning in (100% would be super).

Reminders

Dues withholding saves you money and saves NARFE money. Dues withholding for the Amelia Earhart chapter is less than \$3.50 monthly. You never have to remember to mail your dues in and you save NARFE postage. You should sign up about 3 months before your membership expires. You can call me if you want to know that date.

Send your email address to me at the address below. I will not give it to anyone or send you jokes, but I will send you the newsletter (saving the chapter money) or very important NARFE news. Over half the chapter members are receiving their newsletters this way and you can also.

Important Contacts

Social Security

Web: www.ssa.gov

Phone: Voice: 800.772.1213

TTY: 800.325.0778

Veterans Affairs

Web: 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

Phone: 202.418.3300

NARFE

Web: www.NARFE.org

Kansas Federation, NARFE

Web: www.ksnarfe.org

Chapter Officers

- Judy Etter—President and newsletter editor (913.773.8565) (jetter@bbwi.net)
- Mary Underwood—Vice president and public relations (913.367.1486) (munderwood1951@sbcglobal.net)
- Peggy Coder—Secretary-Treasurer and NARFE netter (913.833.4925) (pcoder@yahoo.com)
- Venita Jo Rader—Alzheimer's chair (913.833.4742)
- Eugene Harter—Legislative and PAC chairs (785.872.3443) (wren@rainbowtel.net)
- Lorene Mumm—Service officer and program chair (913.682.1197) (roglormum@aol.com)
- Sally Harter—Sunshine (785.872.3443) (wren@rainbowtel.net)
- Elaine Montgomery—Membership chair (913.833.2441) (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
Topeka: 785.232.2605
- Local Office: 800 SW Jackson, Suite 1108, Topeka, KS 66612

• Representative Lynn Jenkins

- Email: <http://lynnjenkins.house.gov/contact-me>
- Phone: DC: 202.225.6601
Topeka: 785.234.5966
- Local Office: 3550 SW 5th 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

• 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

• Representative Sam Graves

- Email: <http://gravesforms.house.gov/email-sam>
- Phone: DC: 202.225.7041
St Joe: 816.233.9818
- Local Office: 201 S. 8th St, # 330, St Joseph,