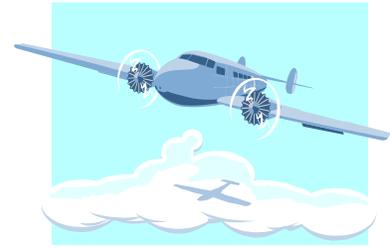




THE FLIER



Volume III, Issue 3

Amelia Earhart Chapter 0621—Atchison

May 2014

May Through August Meetings

- **May 20—Margie Wakefield, candidate for Kansas 2d District US Representative**
- June 17—to be announced
- July and August—no meeting
- September 16—first fall meeting

The May meeting will be at the KFC/Taco Bell, 1400 Skyway and will begin at 11:30 with lunch. About 12:15 we will begin our meeting with Ms. Wakefield, who is running against Rep Lynn Jenkins; she will speak for about 10 minutes and then answer questions. We have invited the other chapters in Area 1A plus the chapters from Holton and Valley Falls. I don't know how many visitors we will have, but I hope we have a good turnout. Please watch the "On Tap" column of the Atchison paper for the location of our June meeting.

Convention

The Kansas Federation of NARFE Convention was held in Manhattan April 27th through 29th. Representing the Amelia Earhart chapter were Judy Etter, delegate-at-large; Peggy Coder and Lorene Mumm, delegates; and Roger Mumm, alternate delegate. Approximately 130 voting members attended from all parts of the state, Doniphan County in the northeast to Ulysses in the southwest. No resolutions had been submitted, so there were no major changes to procedures. Elected for 2-year terms were Cindy Renee Blythe, president (re-elected),

Osage City; Rita Dawson, second vice-president, Emporia; and Rebecca Rodgers, Manhattan, treasurer. The first vice president, Elizabeth Bornman, Shawnee Mission; and secretary, Gwen Ketter, Topeka, were elected to 2-year terms in 2013. The live auction for Alzheimer's Research on Sunday night raised \$2,340 and the silent auction (Sunday afternoon to Monday afternoon) raised about \$3,600 (totals were not yet final when Janice Neuschaffer gave her report Tuesday morning). Political Action Committee (PAC) donations amounted to over \$1,500. 214 members were remembered at the memorial service on Monday afternoon. Attendees at the Monday evening banquet were entertained by Ron Wilson, cowboy poet lariat (intentional pun) who had even written a poem for NARFE. Other important issues are in topics that follow.

Kansas Legislative Forum

The legislative session Sunday afternoon was presented by three state legislators: Senator Tom Hawk, Representative Sydney Carlin, and Representative Tom Phillips. Kansas faces a financial crisis because the income tax cut passed at the last session has decreased revenue. Money has been borrowed from the highway trust fund to cover expenses in the general fund with no provision to repay it. There was concern that many of the bills passed mix policy issues with financial. Kansas passed a bill that would put Medicaid and Medicare

funding under state control. This same bill was passed by 8 other states with about 20-25 states considering a similar bill but would require approval of Congress before it could become effective. Administration of Medicaid in Kansas has been privatized in Kansas with some controversy and may need more oversight by the state.

Water is going to become a major problem in the future as existing water resources are being depleted and droughts are becoming more severe. Neighboring states also face this problem which will require working together. On Monday John Hatten from NARFE presented the national report. The chained CPI is not in the Presidential budget. FEHBP has been expanded to include self plus one. Postal reform is being monitored by NARFE. NARFE PAC contributions are important now that campaign financing has been opened. Roger Mumm, Legislative Chair

Future of NARFE (FON)

Bruce Coleman from Waterloo, Iowa, was a member of the 12-person FON committee appointed by NARFE National President Joseph Beaudoin. On Monday morning he spoke to the delegates by way of Skype. NARFE has been losing money and members for years—from over 495,000 members in the 1980s to less than 300,000 members currently. Over 1,300 chapters have closed, including 4 in the last year in Kansas. New members have been difficult to find as younger active employees are not interested in joining organizations, employees are not expecting to retire from the Federal government, and many approached about membership reply with—“why should I join when you are already doing the work.” Two percent of the current members are under 55 and more than 40 percent are over 75.

The National Executive Board (NEB) will bring two bylaw amendments to the 2014 National Convention:

1. To reduce the four National Officers to two:

- National President and National Treasurer (eliminating the National Vice President and National Secretary positions); and
2. To eliminate mandatory chapter membership.

In addition to the two bylaw amendments, the NEB also will bring one general resolution to the 2014 National Convention: “That the NEB continue developing the model for the Future NARFE using the Future of NARFE Committee report as a foundation, and provide implementing resolutions and bylaw amendments for consideration at the 2016 National Convention. This will be done through strategic planning, with stakeholder participation, to decide the best organization for the future of the Association.” There are a total of 30 recommendations, too many to put in this newsletter. Keep up with your NARFE magazine. At the meeting on May 20th I will have a questionnaire from Carol Ek, Region V vice president, on how the members view these changes.

Future of Kansas

The *Iola Register* published an editorial last week that has been reprinted in the *St. Joseph (MO) News-Press* and the *Leavenworth Times*. Again, I do not have permission to reprint it and it is too long to reprint here. However, if you can find a copy it is worth reading and I will bring a copy to the May meeting. Beginning in 2018, any revenue increase above 2 percent automatically triggers more tax cuts. There are no savings for a rainy day. We have already lost 8 percent of our revenue. In 5-years’ time, that is expected to rise to 15 percent. The great experiment has failed and Kansas is adding new jobs at a slower rate than the country as a whole.

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

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- Mary Underwood—Vice president and public relations (913.367.1486)
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- Peggy Coder—Secretary-Treasurer and NARFE netter (913.833.4925)
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- Pam Oswald—Alzheimer's chair (913.833.4965)(pamoswald@hotmail.com)
- Roger Mumm—Legislative and PAC chairs (913.682.1197)
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- Lorene Mumm—Service officer and program chair (913.682.1197)
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- Elaine Montgomery—Membership chair (913.833.2441)
(beverlymontgomery@centurylink.net)

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.

• 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, MO