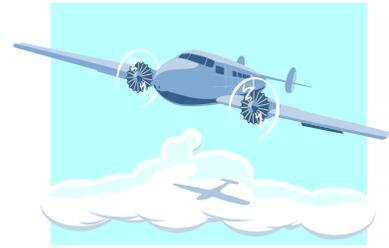




# THE FLIER



Volume V, Issue 3

Amelia Earhart Chapter 621—Atchison

May 2016

## May Through September Meetings

- May 17—KFC/Taco Bell, Federation Convention Report
- June 14—Blue Ribbon Diner, 115 W. 7<sup>th</sup>, Horton
- July and August, no meetings
- September 20—KFC/Taco Bell, National Convention

KFC is at 14<sup>th</sup> and Skyway, Atchison. All meetings are at 11:30. We will eat first and then begin the meeting between 12:15 and 12:30. Please join us and bring a friend. Just inform one of the officers (back page) so we can let the restaurant know that there will be more than usual. Hope to see you.

## Passings

We have learned of the passing of two members since the last newsletter: Ernest Wilson, a national member, and Dora Slavin, a member transferring to Atchison from Hiawatha. Dora was 105 years old and attended the Hiawatha meeting on her birthday last July.

## Convention Highlights

One resolution was presented. It changed the length of term for an area vice president from 1 year to 2 years. It passed and became effective immediately. Election of Federation officers resulted in Cindy Reneè Blythe,

Osage City, being re-elected president; Rita Dawson, Emporia, being re-elected second vice-president; and Peggy Coder, Atchison, being elected treasurer. Judy Etter was re-elected area 1A vice president. All terms are for 2 years. The Sunday evening live Alzheimer's auction raised \$2,181.50 and the silent Alzheimer's auction raised \$3,145.50 for a total of \$5,327.00. As no chapter submitted a bid to hold the 2017 federation convention, the executive board will host that convention in Hutchinson. No chapter bid on the 2018 convention either, so the federation executive board will also host that convention with location to be decided. Attendance at conventions has slowly decreased and several ideas were presented to help increase attendance, such as a shorter convention.

## National Convention

The biennial national convention will be held in Reno NV the end of August. One of the resolutions being considered involves reducing the number of regions from 10 to 5 (Kansas is in region V which also includes North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri and our regional vice president is Carol Ek, former president of the Kansas federation). The reasoning behind this is to save money, but many

members feel this will affect the help and information federations and chapters get from national headquarters as these officers serve as liaisons. Also being presented are proposals to hire a manager to run NARFE and free up the national president and treasurer to be the faces of NARFE with Congress and the press; making chapter membership optional; and allowing "one member, one vote" at convention instead of one vote per 50 members or per chapter at the national convention. Currently Dale and Judy Etter are planning to attend as are four other executive board members and members from Shawnee Mission, Manhattan, and McPherson.

**2017 COLA and Medicare**

The following article is taken from the May 10, 2016 *NARFE NewsWatch*.

"It is likely that Medicare Trustees will recommend another rise in Part B premiums to take effect in January 2017. Last year the Trustees estimated "an average annual Part B growth rate of 6.7 percent over the next 5 years." The second unknown factor is the rate of inflation. Currently, the inflation rate is -0.87 percent below the 2014 third-quarter average rate used to calculate Social Security and CSRS annuity increases, but some inflation is beginning to appear. For the 12 months ending in March, the CPI-W index has risen 0.5 percent compared to -0.6 percent for the same time period in 2015. -

\* \* \* \* \*

"If the 2016 third-quarter inflation number remains at or below the 2014 third-quarter inflation number, there

would be no COLA in 2017. Under the two-year budget deal struck in 2015, if there is no COLA in 2017, premiums will not rise for anyone covered by Medicare Part B regardless of the Medicare Trustees' recommendations. On the other hand, if there is a small increase in the CPI-W, Social Security recipients' Part B premiums would rise only in an amount equal to their COLA. Premiums for non-Social Security beneficiaries would be raised substantially to offset smaller-than-needed premiums paid by Social Security recipients, plus absorbing any additional surcharges. The result could be a disparity of 50 percent or more between Part B premiums for Social Security beneficiaries and non-Social Security recipients, since 70 percent of Part B beneficiaries are covered by Social Security and the Part B trust fund is legally required to be in financial balance. If Trustees recommend an increase in Part B premiums this year, "a zero percent COLA would be in the best interest of federal retirees not protected by the hold-harmless clause,". "A small COLA would have a greater [negative] financial impact on those not protected by the hold-harmless clause," added Ms. Klement."

This would also affect those whose Social Security is less than the new Medicare premium. Solutions could include using the CPI-E (bases COLAs on expenses for those of us who are older) rather than the current CPI-W (clerical workers). However, this Congress would be more likely to base the COLA on the Chained-CPI which in itself would be costly to federal retirees. Also a

possibility is Congress legislating a raise for retirees, but that is also unlikely.

- See more at:

<http://www.fedsmith.com/2016/05/03/what-is-worse-than-no-cola-a-small-cola/#sthash.3BoRz6vC.dpuf>

## 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))
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- Elaine Montgomery—Membership chair (913.833.2441) ([beverlymontgomery@centurylink.net](mailto: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>
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  - **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)
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### Missouri

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KC: 816.421.1639
- Local Office: 4141 Pennsylvania, # 101,  
Kansas City, MO 64111
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St Joe: 816.233.9818
- Local Office: 411 Jules St., St Joseph  
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