



Volume IV, Issue 1

Amelia Earhart Chapter 0621—Atchison

October 2014

October Through December Meetings

- **October 21—No formal program.**
- **November 18—Blue Cross/Blue Shield Representative, election of officers**
- **December 16—Christmas Luncheon (location to be announced)**

The October and November meetings will be at the KFC/Taco Bell, 1400 Skyway, and will begin at 11:30 with lunch. The location of the December meeting will be voted on at the October meeting.

National Convention

The NARFE National Convention was held the last week of August in Orlando, FL. Louis Bornman carried our one proxy and I told him to vote for what was best for NARFE. He then came to our September meeting to discuss the convention. The Future of NARFE (FON) was an important issue. Most of the items within the proposal made by the FON Committee had been withdrawn by convention time. The attendees voted to reduce the number of national officers to two: president and secretary/treasurer. Richard Thissen is the president-elect. Richard was the Region V vice-president until 4 years ago when the elected treasurer died in office and Richard was elected by the National Executive Board. He is from Lake Ozark, MO. The secretary/treasurer elect is Jon W. Dowie from Florida. They will assume office on November 1st. The attendees voted

to continue the FON Committee. NARFE cannot continue to function as it currently is—we have lost half our membership in the last 20 years and no longer have the “clout” we used to have in Washington D.C. Old members are passing away or not renewing their membership, and we are not getting new members.

Membership Incentive

Get your retired civil service friends and/or your spouse to join NARFE and earn \$10 for each new member. If you are the sponsor of a new member (your membership number (found on the mailing label of your magazine) must be on the application) from now through December 31, 2014, NARFE will send you \$10. I have a personal story to tell about membership. Dale and I eat lunch with a couple every Wednesday in Leavenworth and Dale and Sonnie ate lunch together on Wednesdays before they retired. Sonnie is also a retired civil service employee and I have worked on him to join NARFE for probably 4 years. Every several months I would mention it. I took him my magazine after I read it, I printed membership applications and took them to him, I filled out membership applications and took them to him—he always had an excuse. Finally in August I took a filled-out application and a stamped and addressed envelope to lunch with us. He added his wife’s name and wrote a check and they both joined. While they joined the Leavenworth chapter (they live in Lansing), they are members and a member helps the

organization no matter which chapter he or she belongs to.

NARFE—Political Action Committee

One of the consequences of fewer members is less money contributed to PAC.

Your voluntary contributions to NARFE—PAC help fund the political arm of our organization in Washington, whose sole purpose is to protect the benefits of individuals with a vested interest in the civilian retirement systems of the federal government. NARFE—PAC helps elect senators and representatives who are sympathetic to the concerns of federal employees and retirees and who support fair and equitable federal retirement programs. Whether one's interest is guaranteed full funding for retirement benefits, fighting proposed reductions in benefits, or ensuring that adequate and affordable health benefits are available to federal workers and annuitants, NARFE—PAC is the political action committee that works for your interests. (PAC information bulletin)

Health Insurance Premiums

The *NARFE NewsWatch* published on 14 October contained the following message from the current national president Joe Beaudoin:

Over the last four years, federal employees have endured a three-year pay freeze, reduced pay increases since then, and lost pay due to sequestration-related furloughs. Now comes a 3.8 percent increase in health insurance premiums on top of that. I call on members of Congress to appropriate sufficient funding to provide a pay raise next year for our hard-working federal civil servants.

FEHBP premiums went up 7.3 percent in 2011, 3.8 percent in 2012, 3.4 percent in 2013 and 3.7 percent in 2014. To view

FEHBP premiums by plan for 2015, go to <http://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/healthcare/plan-information/premiums/>

[This is the site in the article *from NewsWatch*. When I tried it while writing this newsletter it had not been updated yet with 2015 rates.]

Elections

Elections for national, state, and local offices are November 4th. Polls in Kansas are open from 7 a.m. to 7.p.m. If you can get to the polls but are physically unable to enter the polling place, poll workers will bring a paper ballot to your vehicle. You must have a government-issued picture identification with you to vote. If you live in Atchison County you may go to the courthouse and fill out a form to request a ballot be mailed to you. The ballot must be returned to the courthouse by noon, November 3^d.

If you are not registered, you're too late-- the deadline to register to vote was October 14th.

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)
- Pam Oswald—Alzheimer's chair (913.833.4965) (pamoswald@hotmail.com)
- Roger Mumm—Legislative and PAC chairs (913.682.1197) (roglormum@aol.com)
- Lorene Mumm—Service officer and program chair (913.682.1197) (roglormum@aol.com)
- 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, MO

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.