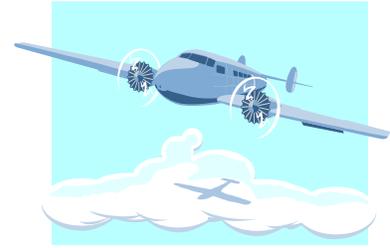




THE FLIER



Volume VI, Issue 1

Amelia Earhart Chapter 621

September 2016

October Through December Meetings

- October 18—Butterfly House on the Prairie, 4424 Highway 59, Cummings KS
- November 15—Paolucci's, 115 S. 3^d St
- December 20—Snow Ball, 111 N. 8th St, Atchison

All meetings start at 11:30.

We voted to have our October meeting at the Butterfly House. The cost will be \$5 per person. We will tour the butterfly house and then eat lunch. Lorene is going to bring Subway sandwiches and bottled water and we will pay her. We will have our meeting after lunch.

The November meeting will be a presentation by Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The December meeting has no program.

We are probably going to make the Snow Ball our new meeting place. They have promised to separate us better from the Rotary Club so that we can hear.

Passings

As I was writing this newsletter I learned that Lowell Moser passed away October 6. Lowell joined NARFE in 1995. His funeral was October 10th in Holton.

National Convention

Dale and I attended the 34th Biennial NARFE Convention in Reno NV in August.

Approximately 1,000 delegates and attendees heard from Jessica Klement (NARFE HQ) on NARFE's efforts in several policy areas, including reform of the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision. She commented that because NARFE has been on the defensive for the past 6 years, maintaining benefits in really a win. U.S. Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM) pledged her continued support of Federal employees as a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Resolutions passed that will affect the future of NARFE included—

- One member, one vote. Every member of NARFE will now be able to vote on resolutions instead of having conventions where a one vote is allotted for every 50 members (or fraction of 50 if the number of members in a chapter is not evenly divisible by 50). Information and voting instructions and materials will probably be mailed to each member, possibly in the magazine, and it will be the member's responsibility to ensure his or her vote counts.

- Optional chapter membership. In the 1980s chapter membership became mandatory. Now a new member will join NARFE and then be asked if he or she wants to join a chapter. If the member does, he or will be able choose which chapter to join. There will be no more E-chapter.

Richard Thissen, president, and Jon Dowie, secretary/treasurer, were re-elected to serve another 2 years. However, a resolution to allow national officers to serve more than two 2-year terms was defeated; therefore, new national officers will be elected in 2018. Resolutions to retain 10 regions and reduce the number of regions to 5 were both defeated so 10 regional vice presidents were elected, including Carol Ek of McPherson who was re-elected the Region V vice-president. The resolution to allow regional vice presidents to serve more than two 2-year terms passed. Members also pledged to reach a cumulative goal of \$13 million for Alzheimer's research in 2018. To date we have donated more than \$11.9 million.

Cost of Living Increase

As of this writing Federal retirees are scheduled to receive a cost of living allowance (COLA) of .2

percent. If this happens and Congress does not move to "hold harmless" those who have their Medicare Part B premiums withheld from their annuities rather than Social Security, Medicare premiums will rise to as much as \$149 per month. NARFE has signed a letter, along with 74 other organizations, outlining the hardships this will cause to 30 percent of the beneficiaries. This letter was sent to the leaders of the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. You can also contact Rep. Jenkins, Sen. Roberts, and Sen. Moran on this issue. FEHBP premiums will also rise an average of 4.4 percent with the average enrollee's share rising 6.2 percent. Both of these will substantially cut into retiree annuities.

Elections

National and local elections are November 8th. If you are not registered you have until October 18th. To be safe, take a birth certificate, passport, or other proof of citizenship with you (I do believe you do not need those as a judge has intervened but better safe than sorry). This election can affect us for many years. If you do not vote, you have no right to complain after the election.

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
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 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 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.