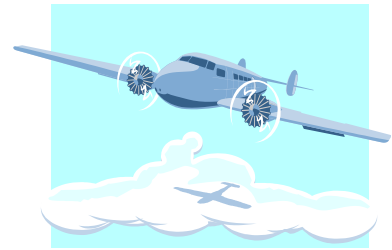




THE FLIER



Volume V, Issue 1

Amelia Earhart Chapter 0621--Atchison

2015

September Through November Meetings

- September 15—Discuss CONK
- October 20—Tom Huntzinger, PAC chair for Federation
- November 17—Lindsey Younger, BC/BS

These three meetings will be at the KFC/Taco Bell, 1400 Skyway, Atchison, at 11:30 a.m.

CONK

Judy and Dale Etter attended the College for NARFE Knowledge held in South Sioux City NE on August 24 through 26. This workshop is held every other year for any member of NARFE from Region V (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri). Attendees get to meet members from other parts of the country and attend seminars led by people in the know. This year's presenters were Jessica Klement, NARFE National Legislative Director; Susan Johnson-Drenth, elder law lawyer; and Richard Thissen, NARFE National President. There were also presentations on PAC and Alzheimer's Research.

Jessica discussed the battles NARFE is facing as Congress comes back to Washington: a budget that must be approved by September 30 or a continuing resolution that will fund the Government for 3 more months or a Government shutdown because there are no funds; changing the way COLAs are determined from the CPI-W (consumer price index for clerical workers) to the Chained CPI (COLA based on inflation minus 0.25 to 0.30 percent which is cumulative and can amount to a lot of money over the years) or to the CPI-E

(consumer price index elderly which is what NARFE prefers because it reflects expenses incurred by those of us who are older, like medical bills).

Susan also presented a seminar 2 years ago and was so popular she was asked back. Among other credentials she is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and is certified by the National Elder Law Foundation. She discussed estate planning terms and definitions and changes made to advance planning in recent years because of changes to state laws.

Richard Thissen discussed the Future of NARFE (FON). He assured everyone that all the rumors being heard are false because nothing will be done to reorganize NARFE any further until the national convention next August in Reno NV. In conjunction, Bruce Coleman, Iowa, the Region V representative on the FON committee, informed us of the changes the committee is proposing. Among them are going from 10 regions to 5; not requiring chapter membership; have NARFE governed by a board of directors; establish Congressional district leaders (CDL) in each Congressional District (Kansas has 4) who will be elected by the voting NARFE members of the CDL and reimbursed for expenses by NARFE HQ; and funneling Federation funds to PAC and other legislative needs.

OCTOBER MEETING

We have asked Tom Huntzinger, Federation PAC chairman, to the October meeting and we are inviting all the other chapters in the area. Tom came to our April meeting and did a super job of explaining the relationships between NARFE PAC and Congress: how recipients are selected, why PAC is important, etc. This is the year of PAC: at CONK 140 attendees contributed \$9,600 to PAC and many became sustainers (contributing a set amount per month by way of charge card). Congress does not like us, does not respect us or the work we did, and resents our annuity. If you come to only one meeting this year, come to the October meeting.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Lindsey Younger, a representative from Blue Cross/Blue Shield will present the program in November. By then she will know the cost for all plans next year. Do not forget that Self Plus One will be available this year. This is for all carriers, not just BC/BS. At CONK we were advised to change plans as soon as open season starts in November because there will be many more subscribers making changes than in previous years.

MEDICARE COSTS

“According to the ‘2015 Medicare Trustees Report,’ about 30 percent of Medicare Part B beneficiaries will shoulder the full cost of the 2016 premium increase, resulting in an increase of 52 percent from \$104.90 to \$159.30 per month. That 30 percent includes federal retirees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System and excluded from Social Security coverage.

“The other 70 percent of Part B beneficiaries are covered by the hold harmless provision, a provision of the Social Security law that prevents an individual's Social Security benefit from decreasing. This means that if there is no cost-of-living adjustment and Medicare Part B premiums increase, individuals who have their Medicare premiums deducted directly from

their Social Security checks are ‘held harmless’ from the premium increase. Without the effect of the hold harmless provision, Medicare Part B premiums would be expected to increase to \$120.70 per month.

“NARFE is pushing the Administration to protect federal retirees and others from bearing a disproportionate share of Medicare Part B costs. We are simultaneously working with legislators to introduce and enact legislation to do the same.” From *NARFE NewsWatch*, September 8, 2015.

Fair Tax Act of 2015

“This bill is a tax reform proposal that imposes a national sales tax on the use or consumption in the United States of taxable property or services in lieu of the current income and corporate income tax, employment and self-employment taxes, and estate and gift taxes. The rate of the sales tax will be 23% in 2017, with adjustments to the rate in subsequent years. There are exemptions from the tax for used and intangible property, for property or services purchased for business, export, or investment purposes, and for state government functions.

“Under the bill, family members who are lawful U.S. residents receive a monthly sales tax rebate (Family Consumption Allowance) based upon criteria related to family size and poverty guidelines.

“The states have the responsibility for administering, collecting, and remitting the sales tax to the Treasury.

“Tax revenues are to be allocated among: (1) the general revenue, (2) the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund, (3) the disability insurance trust fund, (4) the hospital insurance trust fund, and (5) the federal supplementary medical insurance trust fund.

“No funding is allowed for the operations of the Internal Revenue Service after FY2019.

“Finally, the bill terminates the national sales tax if the Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution (authorizing an income tax) is not repealed within seven years after the

enactment of this Act.” From CONGRESS.GOV,
Summary : H.R. 25—114th Congress (2015-2016)

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

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- Elaine Montgomery—Membership chair (913.833.2441) (beverlymontgomery@centurylink.net)

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• Senator Pat Roberts

- Email: <http://roberts.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=EmailPat>
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 - **Representative Sam Graves**
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