



# **Kansas NARFE News**

## **From Your Federation Officers**

### **June 2017**



#### ***Federation President's Message***

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We had another successful Federation Convention, with the help of the Salt City Chapter # 0537, Hutchinson. The exit surveys have been very complimentary about the entertainment that the chapter arranged for our pleasure. The Alzheimer's auctions were both successful, with over \$4,000.00 being raised for research.

A lot of information about the future of our Federation was passed during the convention. I have appointed a committee to review and revise the Kansas Bylaws so that we will be in compliance with those of National. Changes will be made to allow the voting for one-member-one-vote and optional chapter membership. The tricky part will be getting input from the membership in a timely manner before our next convention. All the Chapters should be working on getting their bylaws changed by December 31, 2017. I sent all the Chapter President's a template to use. If your chapter hasn't gotten the template, contact me and I'll send to you again.

Gene Algrim, Area 4 Vice-President, has scheduled a training session October 26<sup>th</sup>. The session will be held at the Sedgwick County Extension Office, Meadowlark Room, 7001 W 21<sup>st</sup> Street N, Wichita. The session is scheduled to being at 10:00 and end at 4:00. There is a great deal of information being presented during the training; John Ourada will present the duties of a Chapter President and Vice-President; Carol Ek will present the Secretary duties and Peggy Coder will present the Treasurer duties. Louis Bornman will pass on information pertaining to what a Legislative Chair should do and Elizabeth Bornman will discuss the Service Officer duties. If there is adequate time during the session, Carol Ek will provide training on the OAM. There will be registration and meal information coming out from Gene soon. Keep watching your emails for the information. I encourage each chapter to send at least one officer to this training.

The Executive Board met this past weekend at the Best Western Express in Park City. The hotel has been suggested as the host hotel for the 2018 Federation Convention. The Board found the hotel very comfortable and quite adequate for our needs. So for the next few months, I will be working with the hotel sales manager to see if we can come to a suitable arrangement on such things as hotel room cost and menu choices.

Kansas Senate Bill 30 has been signed into law and will be effective July 1, 2017. This bill is of great interest to Kansas federal retirees because it states that “(vii) Amounts received as annuities under the federal civil service retirement system from the civil service retirement and disability fund and other amounts received as retirement benefits in whatever form which were earned for being employed by the federal government or for service in the armed forces of the United States” shall be subtracted from federal adjusted gross income. This is the piece of law that maintains our exemption from Kansas income tax. It stayed intact this year but we must remain diligent with the message to our representatives.

One of the duties of the Federation President is to appoint a chairman for various standing committees. Those appointments are Federation Legislative Chair, State Legislative Chair, PAC, Service Officer, Alzheimer’s, Membership, Public Relations, and a couple more. At the Executive Board meeting, I asked for ratification of the following appointments:

- Louis Bornman – Federal Legislative Chair
- Jim Miller – State Legislative Chair
- John Misiewicz – PAC
- John Ourada – Membership
- Chantelle Haas and Joanne Miller – Alzheimer’s Co-Chair

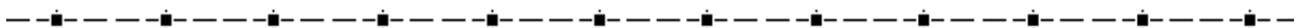
There are a couple positions still vacant and a couple positions that would like to be replaced (after several years of faithful service). So why am I putting this in the newsletter – because I need your help. We need some new blood on the Executive Board and I’m sure there is someone out there that might like to try one of these positions. If you are one of those people, please send me an email.

John Ourada as Membership Chair is actively seeking venues where NARFE can set up a booth and reach potential members. If you hear of an event, such as your county fair or Senior Fair, and you think we would benefit from having a booth with NARFE information please let him or me know. You will see in John’s newsletter article that we recently purchased a couple banners that can be used to get NARFE’s name out there. Contact John to get ideas for a booth.

Please make plans to attend the College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) August 28 – 30, 2017 in South Sioux City NE. Every other year, Carol Ek, Region V Vice-President, puts together a great program for all members of Region V. This program will be no exception; Carol has an impressive lineup of presenters, Barbara Sido NARFE Executive Director, Bridget Boel Marketing Director, David Snell Federal Benefits, just to name a few. CONK will be held at the Marina Inn. Carol will be sending out invitations soon with all the registration information.

Summer is the time of the year that most Chapters are in recess. Many members go out of state for vacation – it’s a time to rejuvenate and renew. This is a perfect time to try your hand at recruiting. While you are traveling, strike up a conversation with the person sitting next to you in the plane, talk to the person filling up at the adjoining gas pump, greet your mailman at your mailbox – you’d be surprised at the number of people we pass every day that are Federal employees or know of an employee. I’ve heard several of the Executive Board members say that they carry a blank application with them. Once you’ve made that contact, it’s just a matter of handling them the application and poof! you’ve got a new member!

Have a safe and wonderful summer!!



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***1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President & Training Officer***



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It's been some time from our Federation Convention. Thank you for re-electing me as your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President. We have a lot to cover at the federation and chapter levels in the next two years because of the action of the last National Convention.

The President's proposed budget has a major impact on the current and retired federal worker. His released budget request that punishes federal workers by making them pay much more for their pensions and additional \$5,000 for the average federal worker while making those pensions much smaller. Many of our federal employees perform jobs that no one else can do, often in places no one else would work.

The relentless assault on the federal workforce must end. The civilian workforce was smaller last year than it was 40 years ago, according to data from the Office of Personnel Management. Like private sector workers, federal workers increasingly have been asked to do more with less. Federal works contributed \$190 billion to deficit reduction since 2011 alone. Since 2012 workers hired are paying more for smaller pensions and several pay freezes and annual raises since then have been microscopic. Salaries and wages have fallen by 6.5% since 2010, adjusted for inflation. And now comes the latest attack on federal workers' pensions, on top of continued attacks on pay, health care, collective bargaining and due process rights. According to certified financial planner Art Stein, a FERS annuity would lose one third its value over 0 years if inflation averages between 2 and 3 percent annually and nearly one half of its value if inflation averages 4 percent. According to NARFE, the average FERS annuitant would lose approximately \$100,000 over 20 years and the average CSRS annuitant would lose \$60,000 over 20 years under the Trump budget. Again we aren't just talking about people who are still working. We are talking about current retirees –people in their 60's and 70's and older who will not be able to re-enter the workforce to make ends meet.

President Trump would eliminate annual cost of living adjustments for people in the FERS system including for current retirees and reduce them by half a percentage point for people in the old CSRS including for current retirees. Federal workers are working to ensure that our grandchildren inherit an economy and an Earth that is still livable. When we punish federal workers – 30 percent of whom are veterans with one of the worst budgets put forward in decades, we aren't just harming them and their families. We are harming each and every American.

Let's continue to fight for our benefits, increase our chapter memberships and open the ears of our Senators and Congressman to how important federal employees are to the country.



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***Treasurer***

***Peggy Coder***

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**Effingham, KS 66023-4105**

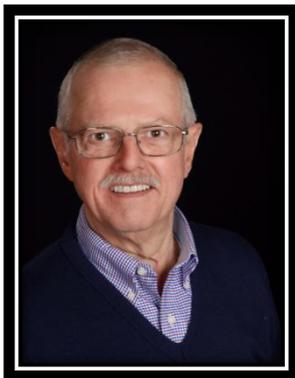
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Another Convention done. It was good to see old friends and make new ones. It was my first year as Treasurer and it was a busy time for me. A big thank you to all that helped make this Convention successful.

The 50/50 drawing brought in \$719.00. The lucky winner was Donna Christensen from Garden City, Kansas. She was awarded with \$359.50. The other half stays in the Federation Bank Account. Our treasury is healthy with a balance as of March 31, 2017 of \$20,273.89.

Thank you to all the Chapters that filed their 990-N with the IRS for tax exempt organizations and those that let me know if they needed help with their filings. We got them all filed for this year.

I just received an email from “supposedly” Cindy Renee’ Blythe requesting that I initiate a bank transfer. This was a scam. Please check your emails carefully and call if you receive something that doesn’t sound correct.



***Area 1 Vice-President & National Legislative Chair***

***Louis Bornman***

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If you have been getting news from NARFE Headquarters, then you are well aware that the President’s proposed budget as well as other legislation that has been introduced targets almost every aspect of active and retired federal employee pay and benefits. In case you haven’t been getting their news or haven’t heard otherwise here are some of the key issues contained in the budget.

- Increase Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) contributions from workers by 1 percentage point each year until they equal the government’s contribution. This would take five to six years and would result in increased out-of-pocket payments of about 6 percent over the period. Out-of-pocket payments by federal law enforcement officers would increase by the same amount, but would not equal the greater contributions from law enforcement agencies. There will

be no change in the retirement benefit received and if the next two bullet items are included will result in a greatly decreased benefit at an increased cost to the employee.

- Base future retirement benefits on the average of the high five years of salary instead of the current high three.
- Eliminate Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) for current and future FERS employees.
- Cut the COLA for Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) employees by 0.5 percent from what the formula would allow.
- Eliminate supplemental payments for FERS employees who retire beginning in 2018. The supplemental approximates the value of Social Security benefits for those who retire before age 62.

Please go to the NARFE Legislative Action website and use their prepared letters to communicate with President Trump, your Congressman and Senators Moran and Roberts to let them know that these proposals are totally unacceptable and will have a severe detrimental impact on **your life**. I would also recommend you take the time and effort to go pay a visit to their local offices and speak directly with their staff about these issues. Remind the staff that these proposals are increased payments and cuts to benefits that will directly affect them also. To quote our national President Richard Thissen, Trump's plan is "beyond insulting. It is downright mean. Simultaneously promoting tax cuts and forcing a tax on just federal employees, through an increase in retirement contributions, is the height of hypocrisy." Also eliminating the FERS COLA will cost many current and all future retirees tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars in individual future retirement benefits over their retired life which will make many struggle to make ends meet in retirement. **You have to speak up. Silence is considered consent.** If you don't want to lose money, speak up loudly and often.



**Area 1A Vice-President**

**Judy Etter**  
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I am wearing both my chaplain and area vice president hats this newsletter.

First, the chaplain: we want to try a different way to develop the list of deceased members for the memorial service. If the deceased member's spouse assumes the membership belonging to the deceased, the spouse's name is listed because the spouse also keeps the membership number of the deceased member. We are asking the chapters to keep track of which member(s) have passed away, including the deceased's town of residence, and give that list to the area vice president, either monthly or by April 1<sup>st</sup> before the convention. The area vice president can then send me the list and I can combine the names for the convention and the minutes of the convention. If you have any questions please email me at [jetter@bbwi.net](mailto:jetter@bbwi.net) or ask your area vice president.

Second, if you make up a basket for next year's Alzheimer's auction, please wrap the basket in clear cellophane (you can find cellophane bags at craft stores). My husband won the bid on a small

basket at the silent auction, but someone had helped him or herself to the contents and things were missing. It is upsetting to think that not all of our members are honest.

Hopefully you have all started revising your bylaws because your members have to approve them before the National office approves them. Several chapters in Area 1A have made progress and once you get started, it is pretty easy if you use the template found on the OAM. Have a good summer.



***Area 3 Vice-President***

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Greetings from Area 3.

Since the convention, I visited one chapter, Clay Center, since they were not represented in person at the convention. At that chapter and our own in Salina, we discussed the chapter bylaws template.

The greatest challenge for all of our chapters appears to be replacing the good chapter leaders that we have and recruiting new members. Each month, we read about members who have dropped their membership or members who have become ill and receiving medical attention. We just need to find ways to keep our current members involved and recruit new members, while always keeping in mind that a person becoming a national-only member is better than dropping their membership.

I also want to report that I submitted the NARFE article for the Salina Journal for Public Service Recognition Week in early May. They did publish it and I received several positive comments locally. I also visited with Congressman Marshall's staff at their Salina office. I discussed our NARFE issues, left copies of our NARFE magazine at the office, and received a cordial reception. The staff and Congressman, if available, offered to attend one of our chapter meetings this fall.

Lastly, I mention that Harold Klaege, who was our Federation and chapter Service Officer, has moved to Nebraska. We will miss his knowledge and dedication to the work of a Service Officer.

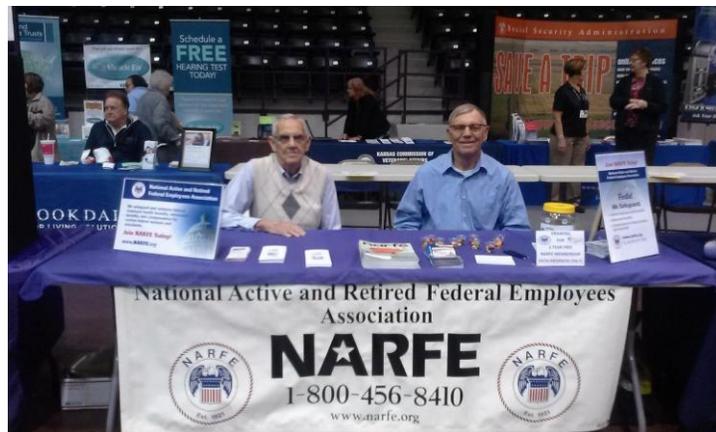


***Membership Chair***

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Greetings from the Membership chair.

At the convention, I accepted the President’s invitation to be the Federation membership chair. My first activity was to man an information booth at the senior fair in Dodge City, with the able assistance of Norm Christenson, Vice President, Garden City. It was a good experience. About 200 people were in attendance. Most of them wandered past our booth and we talked with many of them. A few were already NARFE members, and we found only one who was eligible to join. Many state and county retirees asked if there was a similar organization to help them. We felt that the opportunity to display our organization was a good and valuable activity for NARFE. Here is a picture of our booth.



The Federation has purchased two table runners for use for NARFE displays to the public. The posters were printed from files on the NARFE website. The Federation also has a 6-foot banner, which is made of durable canvas. The table runner can easily be mailed to your location for an event. The posters can also be mailed or you can get your own printed and laminated at a local printed shop for about \$5 each in 11x17 (or smaller) size



The Federation also has a lighted table top display. This display is more suitable for an unmanned display or in a large enough area where a NARFE member can stand alongside to greet people and talk to them. This display is stored in large (9-inch X 16-inch x 30-inch) roller cased that can be mailed to your location. However the display posters or pictures need to be updated.



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***Alzheimer's Co-Chair***

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**ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE: THREE KEY STEPS TO TAKE NOW**

Over 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, a number that is expected to increase significantly as Baby Boomers age. The impact of the disease doesn't stop there. There are notable consequences to the over 15 million Americans who provide more than 18 billion hours of unpaid care, and to society at large. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that in 2017, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias will cost the U.S. \$250 billion, a figure that could skyrocket to over \$1 trillion by 2050!

Short of finding a cure, is there anything we can do to improve the lives of those with Alzheimer's disease and ease the burden on families and society? The good news is there are 3 key things you can do right now.

1. **Know the Warning Signs.** It is normal to experience some age-related memory changes, which differ significantly from those associated with Alzheimer's disease.

2. **Get a Professional Diagnosis.** If you or someone you love shows any of these signs, talk to your doctor immediately. Early diagnosis can provide the most options for effective treatment and management.
3. **Ask About Treatment Options.** Alzheimer’s medications are most effective when taken in the earliest stages of the disease, which is why early diagnosis is so important. There is currently no cure for Alzheimer’s, but new treatment options can help people maintain their cognitive abilities longer, providing a better quality of life for themselves and their loved ones.

At the convention, Lois Nowlin, Region V Alzheimer’s Coordinator, encouraged everyone to join in one of the many 2017 Walks to End Alzheimer’s Disease around the state. Be sure to register your team as NARFE, *so as to be counted as a **Walk National Team.*** Two are passed but there are ten coming up in September and October.

Place	Date	Place	Date
Pittsburg	Saturday, June 10	Kansas City, KS/MO	Sunday, October 1
Topeka	Saturday, June 10	Emporia	Sunday, October 1
Hutchinson	Saturday, September 16	Great Bend	Saturday, October 7
St. Joseph, MO	Sunday, September 24	Liberal	Saturday, October 14
Dodge City	Sunday, September 30	Wichita	Saturday, October 21
Winfield	Saturday, September 30	Hays	Saturday, October 28



***Alzheimer’s Co-Chair***

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The Federation Convention is now a thing of the past. Both the Live Auction and the Silent Auction were successful in raising money for Alzheimer’s Research. Over \$4,000.00 was raised to benefit Alzheimer’s. I want to thank everyone that donated goodies and especially their time to help with the auction. It takes a number of people to track the items donated and place them in the rooms for everyone to bid on.

I’ve had the opportunity to review the Convention Exit Survey comments regarding the auctions and will use your input to provide some improvements for the next convention. Although the silent auction didn’t net as many donations as previous years, it was still successful. The number of items was very manageable, nothing was left over and no one had to take any items back. We did learn a few things about food items though like don’t bring items that need to be kept cool; items with eggs or milk. Next year I’ll try to provide better instructions so we don’t have that happen again.

There is still plenty of time in the year to donate to Alzheimer’s. Just send your donation to Joanne and she’ll see that the check gets to the right place.

Stay hydrated this summer while outside doing activities and enjoy those sunny days!

