



**2011 OFFICERS and CHAIRS**

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2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Elaine Seeman	785-331-2280
Secretary	Dianne Throop	785-841-1408
Treasurer	Cheryl Travis	785-841-1616
Membership Service	Betty Scribner	785-865-8235
Public Relations	Wanda Lyon	785-764-2210
Newsletter	Cheryl Bowman	785-979-1568
NARFE PAC	Wendy Hambly	913-845-0121
NARFE Net Coord	Linda Surritte	785-856-0558
Alzheimer's Chair	Leonard Short	785-840-8401
Legislative Chair	John Scott	785-542-3510
Sunshine	John Surritte	785-856-0558
	Sandy Nease	785-843-3378

**KUDOS & THANK YOU'S TO:**

- ☞ Dianne Throop for donated 2 handmade scarves for the Alzheimer auctions at the Kansas Federation Convention.
- ☞ John and Linda Surritte for donating items for the Alzheimer's auctions.
- ☞ Roger Lemmons for donating a bird house for the Alzheimer's auctions.
- ☞ The delegates Tom Huntzinger, Roger Lemmons, Elaine Seeman, Linda Surritte, and John Surritte for representing Free State Chapter 378 at the 2012 Kansas Federation Convention in April.

---Report deserving members to Wendy Hambly---

**FROM THE PRESIDENT Tom Huntzinger**

Free State Chapter 378 received two awards at the Federation Convention in April. The first award was for New Membership. The chapter had a new membership gain of 8%, which was the largest increase of all Chapters in the State of Kansas. The second award was for outstanding contributions to Alzheimer's of \$8.82 per member. Our chapter deserves this recognition it received. These awards are direct reflections of our members' efforts in these important aspects of NARFE.

**LEGISLATIVE JOHN SURRITTE**

**NARFE Legislative Hotline (24/7): 877-217-8234**  
**U.S. Capitol Switchboard: 866-220-0044**

**Congress is still after federal workers.**

**SUNSHINE CHAIR**

Please let me know about illness, special birthdays, celebrations, or honors our members receive, so I can send an appropriate card.

Sandy Nease 785-979-5481

**MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING ROGER LEMMONS**

Meet at Conroy's Pub. Program begins at noon, lunch at 12:30. The meal, iced tea, coffee, gratuity, and tax are included for \$10.00. Business meeting follows lunch. Guests are welcome.

The May16th program is Bob Davis, the radio voice of the Kansas City Royals and several KU sport events. He should have some interesting stories to tell.

June's program is Jerome Farmer of "Just Food," who will speak on the organizations efforts to provide food for persons and/or families in need. Cheryl Travis suggested we collect food at the June meeting. Elaine Seeman pointed out that "Just Food" is able to purchase food cheaper than individuals, so it may be best to donate money. What the Chapter will do will be determined at the May meeting.

**APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> MEETING RECAP**

Mitch Young, with Lawrence Parks & Recreation and Sexton of the Lawrence cemeteries opened with a brief history of the cemeteries in Lawrence. Kansas University owned the first cemetery. In 1865 land was purchased at \$75 per acre, and 22 lots were sold for \$100. Today those same lots would be \$18,000. An early gardener for the cemeteries was from Moscow and had been a gardener to the Emperor.

In 2005 Lawrence took over the cemeteries and currently maintains 79 acres and public areas. The cemeteries are Oak Hill, Memorial Park, Maple Grove and Natural Burial.

The city does not sell merchandise, but does maintain what people purchase elsewhere. He did warn of possible theft.

Mr. Young suggested that it is easier on the family if Mom and Dad decide burial and funeral arrangements ahead of time to relieve the children of having to make decisions and to ensure individuals have their wishes fulfilled.

Oak Hill Cemetery, the veterans' plot, has an eternal flame that has been burning since May 1967. The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars have ceremonies at Oak Hill.

Cremation is less expensive than a traditional funeral, but in Lawrence does not save space, as only 2 cremations are allowed per plot. "Natural

burials,” where the body is not embalmed and the casket has no glues, attracts more individuals from Kansas City than Lawrence. The area is not mowed and just the underbrush is maintained. Markers in this area must be natural, of granite or limestone. Individual gravesites are located with GPS systems.

Revenues are from selling space and opening/closing graves. The city considered a Pet Cemetery, but is not proceeding with that at this time.

Maintenance is a huge issue and difficult. People put up items such as lights and shepherd hooks. These should be picked up March 1<sup>st</sup> in preparation for Memorial Day Events.

The 2011 traffic study revealed that Friday through Monday of Memorial Day weekend, 2400 visited Oak Hill and 2400 visited Memorial Park.

The city does not broker graves, so many people sell unwanted plots on Craig’s list. The sites may also be donated to a church and used as a tax deduction at the current cost or space can be designated to someone.

From the brochure distributed by Mr. Young, “Monuments attract thousands of visitors annually. A monument erected by the citizens of Lawrence, includes the following inscription: *Dedicated to the memory of one hundred fifty citizens, who defenseless, fell victims to the inhuman ferocity of border guerrillas, led by the infamous Quantrill in his raid upon Lawrence, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1863.*” Information is also available on the website: [www.lawrenceks.org](http://www.lawrenceks.org) and in the lower level of the library in the Helen Osma Local History Collection.

**DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH AWARD**

Roger Lemmons, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, presented Wendy Hambly the "Diamond in the Rough Award" at Chapter 378’s April meeting. Wendy was recognized for publishing the newsletter, contributions to the Alzheimer’s Program and her many hours of work in numerous other endeavors of the Chapter. She



Wendy exhibiting her lump of coal.

truly deserves recognition as she has tirelessly worked for the chapter, often times behind the scenes and without recognition. Thank you, Wendy, for many service contributions to the Lawrence Free State NARFE Chapter 378.

**MEMBERSHIP BETTY SCRIBNER**

I am working on a “mini-health fair” for October. The Chapter would invite a variety of health provider representatives to present the changes for the open season and answer questions.

I would like members’ input as to the companies you would be interested in having at such a meeting.

Betty Scribner, Membership Chair, at 785-865-8235 or email: [scribner@sunflower.com](mailto:scribner@sunflower.com). Note this is a new email address.

**ALHEIMER’S John Scott**

Lawrence Free State Chapter 378 was credited with \$110.00 in donations as part of the Alzheimer’s Research auctions at the Kansas Federation Convention April 22-24, 2012, and received \$70 in donations from our members at our April NARFE Chapter 378 meeting, which brings the YTD total to \$237.

We are still saving labels from BEST CHOICE brand products. For 1000 labels, the chapter will earn \$60 for Alzheimer’s research.

Many of the BEST CHOICE products are less expensive than name brands without sacrificing quality. All that is needed is the small rectangle with the bar code. Just cut that out and bring to a meeting or call Wendy Hambly at 913-845-0121 for pick up.

**WEBSITE Leonard Short**

We are in the process of updating the website. Progress has been slow to date, but as soon as we figure out the in’s and out’s of the program NARFE National provides for developing and maintaining the site, updating will be much faster and be on a regular schedule.

You can access the site from the NARFE.org website. Click on “FIND CHAPTERS” on the left side of the home page, then type in Lawrence’s zip code. Or go directly to the Chapter 378 website at: [www.narfe.org/chapter378](http://www.narfe.org/chapter378).

We are open to suggestions, comments, and corrections. You can contact me, Leonard Short, at 785-840-8401 or Wendy Hambly at 913-845-0121.