



KANSAS FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

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DONALD L. COOPER
FEDERATION PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT

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Once Again - the year is gliding by. Daylight savings time is about to change !

I'm reminded of the many things that have occurred during the last few weeks. One of those *things* is the numbers that tell us that **Kansas** has **5,366** members, as of 8/31/05. 12/31/04 figure was 5,556 - a **loss of 200 members**. If each of us were to set a personal goal of recruiting One (1) new member - retiree or currently employed, we could have 11,000 Kansas Members !

Kansas did have a nice representation at CONK. A lot of good NARFE information was available. Many of the Kansas NARFE Chapters will benefit with the facts, figures, new ideas and enthusiasm being brought back to the Chapters.

Kansas did great with the NARFE Scholarship program - Kansas had three (3) Scholarship recipients announced at CONK. Congratulations to those Sponsors for getting those winning applications submitted. And congratulations to those three fine high school seniors.

Chapters can benefit greatly by having a good attendance at the Training Seminars. Gale Beck, Kansas Federation Training Officer has three Training Seminars scheduled for October. Kansas Federation Area III will hold a Training Seminar at Clay Center on October 13. Area IV Training Seminar will be held at Hutchinson on October 26. Kansas Federation Areas I & IA Training will be October 27 at Leavenworth. Your Chapter will benefit the most if you have a good attendance. It is **your opportunity**.

Many Chapters have the nominees for their 2006 officers already named. If your chapter doesn't have next year's slate of Chapter Officers ready - it is time to get your Chapter Nominating Committee in gear. Remember, the strength of NARFE is in strong Chapters. NARFE needs solid Chapters to be able to more effectively protect our earned benefits !

NARFE Chapter 138, Wichita, has your Annual Kansas Federation Annual Convention planning well underway. They will have a good Convention for **you**. **Mark April 23-25, 2006 on your calendar - now**. Ask your Chapter members to attend. Don't wait until your March Chapter meeting to begin your inquiry. Set a goal of what percentage of your Chapter you would like to have attending. Think of your membership and start priming those you feel will help your Chapter by their participation in the Annual Convention. ASK them to get serious about learning more about NARFE by being a part of the Federation Convention, in Wichita April 23, 24 & 25.

It will be great to have **all** 46 Kansas NARFE Chapters represented in Wichita next spring - **Start Your Planning Now**.

So often, good Chapter activities are not undertaken, because the Chapter is short on funds. Consider raising Chapter dues. Try it. Chapters who have raised dues found that almost no members dropped because of a dues increase.

National has a matching funds program to promote recruitment. Ask about this opportunity to make those Chapter funds cover recruitment activities. Have a recruitment party - National will match your funds for the portion related to recruits.

Urge all of your members to read and share their NARFE magazine. Sharing that NARFE may lead to recruitment of a new member - a good tool for securing *your new member*. AND - don't leave home without a membership application on hand. Don't miss an opportunity to "sign-up" a new NARFE Member. ASK for "eligibles" to become aware of what they can do for NARFE and what NARFE can do for them.

As you read and hear the news about disaster relief - keep in mind that Congress will need money to fund that disaster relief. Be ready to defend your earned benefits. Be prepared to inform your Congressman of how you feel about matters that relate to **you**.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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In opening this article for our October/November newsletter, we want to wish the very best and safety for the survivors of hurricane Katrina, including my daughter, Michelle, and her husband, Mark. We also pray that a similar catastrophe never occurs in Kansas.

On the legislative front we still have not gotten Premium Conversion and GPO/WEP passed by the present Congress. In our state, Congressmen Moore and Moran support both bills and Congressman Ryun supports Premium Conversion. Both of our Senators, Roberts and Brownback and Congressman Tiahrt support neither. You need to contact those who do not support the above bills and let them know our support of them in the future depends on their support of us now. An easy way to contact them is to call 1-866-220-0044 and ask the Capital Hill operator to put you in touch with their office. Demand their active support or for the reason they do not.

On an equally important front there is a move afoot to pass legislation in the House to reduce your fed-

eral pension 2% a year for 10 years, a \$127 billion reduction, to help reduce the federal deficit. With the average federal pension in Kansas less than \$2000 a month, I'm not sure you can afford a reduction. In our state, Congressman Ryun has signed on as a co-sponsor of this bill, HR2290. It would probably be worth your time to call him at the above telephone number and ask him why he would want to penalize the 8,000 plus federal retirees or their survivors in his district. In Kansas we have over 25,000 federal retirees and survivors who would be affected adversely if this legislation were to pass. Since we only have 5,000 NARFE members in the state, you, as members, need to contact the other 20,000 federal retirees and survivors and let them know of this threat to their retirement security. Now is the time to act before it is too late.

Finally, Linda and I attended the College of NARFE Knowledge held in South Sioux City, Nebraska. What I got out of the conference was to get most federal retirees, their survivors and active federal employees to join the organization. With over 4,000,000 retirees, survivors and active employees eligible to join, it is a real shame only 350,000 have done so. I have made a pledge to my self that I will personally sign up at least one new member this year. When I get him or her to sign up, I personally pledge to sign up another new member. I ask you to also make this pledge. Together we all will make a difference. Remember our Congressional delegation will listen if they know the strength in our numbers.

In closing, thanks for your support of NARFE. As far I can determine it is the only organization looking out for us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **IF YOU AGREE MAKE THE PLEDGE TO GET A NEW MEMBER.**

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/PAC COORDINATOR

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Well another lovely Summer is behind us and Fall is approaching. Requests are coming in for financial support from NARFE-PAC by candidates running for election to National offices next Spring. As the candidates are thinking toward another election, we should be making sure they are aware of the feelings of their constituents. NARFE makes it quite easy for you to send requests for support of pending bills to the respective legislators.

Go to <http://www.narfe.org/> on your computer. Once there you will see a large item in the center of the page for you to click on to go to the Legislative Issues and Alerts page. There is a place for you to fill in your information (Congressmen ignore requests not from their District) and the system can automatically send your message to your Congressman, both Senators and President Bush. Our current concerns are H.R. 147 AND S. 619, to correct the GPO AND WEP provisions AND H.R. 994 AND S. 484, to extend to us the ability to pay our Health Benefits Premiums with pre-tax dollars (PREMIUM CONVERSION.)

If using the computer is not your thing, you can

call your legislator's local office and ask the staffer to convey your thoughts. You can also write them but, if you do, be aware that letters sent to Washington DC are still being inspected, irradiated and delayed. A post card to Washington DC is not subjected to these delays. A letter sent to the Kansas office is forwarded to Washington in an enclosed packet not subject to the scrutiny individual mail is.

However you chose, please for your sake, the sake of every member of your Chapter and all Federal Retirees in Kansas, let your elected officials know your feelings.

On a personal note, many of you know that as I was preparing to go to CONK, my father had a stroke and passed away. Thank you every one for the calls, e-mails and mail of condolences. Your support means a lot to me. **GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**

SECRETARY

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Traveling to the College of NARFE Knowledge was indeed a pleasure as I picked up Helen Gallagher, Area 1A Vice President and Chapter 27 President; and, Flo Biehl, Chapter 1162 Vice President and PAC Chair; in Leavenworth. Helen and I enjoyed Flo's passenger seat driving and Flo and I enjoyed Helen's witty comradeship. Needless to say, that made the college much more fun and interesting. Twenty-six (26) members from Kansas attended. We were presented with the initial "Chapter Management Development Series" initiated by Headquarters. Much of the information was very well presented and informative. Richard Thissen, our Regional VP, planned and delivered two and one-half days packed full of information we all need be fully aware of and use in our dealings with all members and our representatives every day. I had the pleasure of leading the Secretary training session with Mary Ann Kelly, State Secretary from Minnesota. We had a good audience and hopefully gave good information.

September 13th, I had the pleasure of traveling to Independence, Chapter 1763 to attend that Chapters 25th Anniversary which was chartered that very same day in 1980. I was given the distinct pleasure of presenting the 25 year certificate to President Dorothy Rockers and Lee Cain who was the President when the Chapter was chartered. This was quite an honor. President Dorothy and Secretary Virginia Sack held a very nice party for the members with probably twenty-five 25 members in attendance. The trip was very safe as I had John Lancaster watching the road for me and Gary Townson watching the sky. I believe Gary when he says he was watching for rain but I also believe he was praying part of the time.

Remember, as you hold your yearly elections – please get your F-7, "Chapter Area Officers" to me as soon as possible and no later than January 1st. These are very important to assure you that the correct persons will be getting the correct mailings and contacts. I must have convention material in the mail by December 27th so timeless of the F-7

is important.

We will begin the training meetings again for the fall season. Please remember – all members are invited to attend and you do not have to be from that District to attend. Any NARFE member or potential member is welcome. If you wish additional information before attending you may call anyone of the members of the training team. Gale Beck, (620)-365-3469, e-mail: beckgjks49@netks.net; Donald L. Cooper, (785) 537-1676, e-mail: cooper@flinthills.com; Carol R. Ek, (620) 241-1131, e-mail: crek67460@sbcglobal.net; John Lancaster, (316) 721-0606, e-mail: jlancaster2@cox.net; Jodine Elwick, (316) 722-9119, e-mail: rdjae@aol.com. James F. Miller, Gary E. Townson, John Surritte and Linda Surritte will be assisting with the coming training sessions in membership, PAC (Political Action Funds), Alzheimer's and Legislative.

"I just realized, you have too many irons in the fire when you can't find the kindling to light the fire."

CHANGES

Area 4: Cowley County, Chapter 757, meeting date changed from the second Saturday to the second Monday of the month at Neives' Mexican Restaurant, 119 E. 9th St. at noon beginning September 12, 2005. The Chapter will not meet during June, July and August.

TREASURER

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Some of the information in this newsletter is a repeat of my previous letter but it is worth repeating because of the name change to National Active and Retired Federal Employees. Please review the chapter's bank account information and see how the account is listed. In some cases the old name of the national association may not even be mentioned. If it is, now is the best time to get it changed. The July issue of the Quarterly News for NARFE Leaders has a copy of the Virginia State Corporation Commission Letter as well as a copy of the Internal Revenue exemption letter which should make the change easy to handle. Also in the July issue our National President reminds those chapters that use non-profit mailings to do the paperwork at the post office for the name change.

The January and April issues of the Quarterly news each have an article and a direct deposit authorization form for those chapters who wish to go to the direct deposit system.

This years issues of the Quarterly News for NARFE Leaders contain several articles and reminders of the name change. I urge any current chapter treasurer to save these issues and pass them on to the chapter treasurer next year.

While we are in the process of reviewing and looking back, look back at your retirement statements. Today the CPI was announced for August and reminded me of the COLA increases that NARFE has protected for Federal retirees.

AREA 1 VICE PRESIDENT

Agnes Shellhammer
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Since our last newsletter I have visited with Chapter 2231 in Valley Falls. I really enjoyed their meeting and the food was delicious.

I had planned to attend CONK but had to cancel due to being scheduled for a total knee replacement. However, surgery was cancelled 4 1/2 hours prior to the time to start due to low blood sodium. What a disappointment and I am trying to raise the sodium level so we can try the surgery again.

I am planning on attending the Federation Board meeting in Wichita On March 25 and I hope to see all of the members of Area 1 and 1A in Leavenworth for the training session on October 27th.

AREA 1A VICE PRESIDENT

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This was my first time attending CONK. Information was excellent. I particularly enjoyed speaking with Chuck Timanus and John Clements and I only wish more members from Area 1-A could have attended this worthwhile event.

The Kansas City, KS Chapter 1160 had six members present. My chapter, Buffalo Bill Chapter 27, had one present and that was me. Gasoline is costly, but members could have doubled up in cars. The weather was great while we were there. Not only did I learn a few things, but had a wonderful time meeting members from SD, ND, IA, NE, KS, MN, and MO. Region V Field VP, Dick Thissen, did an outstanding job. He was always checking to make sure everything was OK for us and the hotel was very nice. Flo Biehl, Shawnee Mission Chapter 1162 and I shared a room overlooking the river.

Areas 1 and 1-A (combined) are hosting a Training Seminar in Leavenworth, KS on Thursday, October 27, 8:30-3:30, at the High Noon Saloon (don't let the word "saloon" mislead you - there won't be any can-can gals there or pistol-toting guys in the bar!). Most of the Federation officers will attend as well as Region V NFVP Dick Thissen. Gale Beck is in charge of this seminar. This is for all NARFE members and spouses, not just the officers. The cost for this seminar is \$10 and will include lunch. All of us need to learn more

about NARFE and this will be the time to accomplish this. The fee is payable on the 27th of October at the door when you register. Chapter presidents should contact all their members and then let me know how many will attend so we have enough food for lunch, **NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 21.**

Our village had their annual River Fest on September 10. Warren Reed provided our chapter with his '76 cream-colored Cadillac convertible. Members Eileen Gallagher, Fred Hagemaster and myself got to ride with Warren in the River Fest parade and had a fun time.

I visited Sunflower Chapter 1160, Kansas City, KS on Sep 9. The chapter always has great food and such a variety. I suggested they set up a Calling Committee and perhaps an E-Mail Committee to notify members about their monthly meetings. On September 27 I will visit the Pony Express Chapter 1948 in Wetmore, KS; on Oct 6 an Area 1A visit to Leavenworth Buffalo Bill Chapter 27 and on Nov 17 will visit Brown County Chapter 2164 in Hiawatha for installation of officers.

AREA II VICE PRESIDENT

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Chapter #2098, Tri-River Chapter, hosted their annual Alzheimer's Auction at their September NARFE Chapter Meeting. This is their major fund raiser for Alzheimer's, and they contribute throughout the year. Each member is encouraged to bring an unwrapped gift for the evening dinner and auction. Total receipts at this auction was \$1,007.50. Their best ever. To add spice to the auction, Jean Nickels contributed a white eyelet silvered embroidered queen size bedspread which she had made and it brought \$200. Tri-River also has over 100 NARFE Members. "Congratulations" for a great job of fund raising and recruitment.

Chapter #384, Emporia reports that their Chapter President Linda Griffiths and husband Tom, Legislative Chair are moving to Kenai, Alaska to be near their daughter. They have sold their home and will be on the move shortly. They plan to spend this coming winter in Missouri and Texas in their RV. Replacements have not been found for them in chapter #384 at this time since they just recently made the announcement. Thanks, Linda and Tom for a job well done, and Kansas will be looking forward to your return on occasion for a visit.

Chapter #785. Herbert Crawford, Ottawa Chapter Secretary reports that they had a chapter visit from Eric Haar, Field Representative for U. S. Representative Jim Ryun in May. Mr. Haar gave a comprehensive presentation on the positive things which Jim Ryun is doing for his constituents.

Chapter #2099. Sylvia Riepen Osage City Chapter Secretary reports their chapter will continue their chapter

meetings in September after a three month vacation. Gale Beck, Area Vice President will provide the program.

Chapter #2077, Iola Chapter will celebrate their 20th Anniversary at the October meeting. Don Cooper, Federal President will be the guest speaker. Chapters in Area 2 and southeast Kansas have been invited to attend. Chapter #2077, hosted their annual family picnic in September and tentative plans are being made to host a float in the "Farm City Day" parade in Iola in October.

AREA IIA VICE PRESIDENT

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One of the important tasks that all members of NARFE must take seriously is the recruiting and retention of members in this great organization we have. I believe that the most important tool we have in retaining members is the effective use of the Dues Withholding program. I feel that chapters who have not promoted it heavily should consider doing so. I recently looked at the numbers of Dues Withholding members in the six chapters in my area. I found they range from zero percent to sixty percent of the members of the chapters on Dues Withholding. Members who are life or honorary members were not included in developing these statistics. Between the zero and sixty percent numbers, I have chapters who have 6, 7, 16, and 18 percent on Dues Withholding. Why are these figures important? 1. I believe that retention of members who have automatic dues withholding will be much greater. 2. Costs and work for both the National Office and Chapters are reduced by not having to send first and many time second notice requesting renewal of membership, and 3. Chapters and our National Office have income from those members who continue to pay dues every month through withholding.

OK, maybe this sounds good, but how do you get members to sign up? Let me explain the way the Chanute NARFE chapter 0799 reached the 60 percent level on D/W. About two years ago, even before a dues increase was being talked about, our chapter set aside \$100.00 to provide a \$5.00 incentive to any person signing up for dues withholding. It was offered to the first 20 persons who provided proof of changing to D/W. A dues withholding form completed by the member could be handed to the Sec./Treas as evidence or when the M-112 showed a change in dues payment to D/W, the secretary issued a check for five dollars to that person. When the Chanute Chapter started doing this there were no financial savings in signing up for D/W. Now, with the recent dues increase, dues withholding is more attractive than ever. How can your chapter afford to do this? For every member you retain your chapter will receive the annual dues for that person, but if they do not renew, their annual dues is also gone. May I suggest you kick this idea around in your chapter meetings and find a way that will

work for you to get 50 percent or more of your members on D/W. It can be done!

AREA III VICE PRESIDENT

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We are looking forward to the Area 3, Training Session which will be held at the Emergency Service Academy, 703 2nd St, Clay Center, KS on October 13, 2005 from 8:30 until 3:15. A catered lunch by Danny's Grill is planned. The cost of the lunch and supplies is \$9.00. I hope that the training session will be well attended because the more who come, the more ideas and interaction we'll have. To reserve your spot please contact me, my information is above.

Dennis and I were one of the 25 Kansas Delegates to attend the College of NARFE Knowledge (CONK) at South Sioux City, IO from August 29 through September 1, 2005. We were quite impressed with CONK and felt that it was worth our time and money. There were several things that we learned at CONK that I intend to expound upon with my Area:

1. Have your cell phone listed on the No Call List. Call 888-382-1212 or on line at www.donotcall.gov.
2. HR Bill 2290 is bad news. We need to be politically active on this bill as it would reduce our benefits by 2% per year if passed.
3. A resolution for "The National Only Membership" has again reared its head. This will be one of the topics at the NARFE National Convention in 2006. The membership will again have to decide if we should require automatic chapter membership with national membership.
4. Every chapter should be "thinking outside the box" to spice up our meetings so that we may recruit and retain members.

The Kaw Blue Chapter 0366 was very happy to learn that Tyler Warner, whose mother is one of the Kaw Blue Members, won one of the 72 scholarships awarded through NARFE. We were very proud of Tyler and wish him the best in his academic endeavors. *Have a great fall!*

AREA IV VICE PRESIDENT

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No Article Received

AREA V VICE PRESIDENT

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With the summer days behind us it is time to face the beauty and activities of fall. One very important activity is election of Chapter Officers for 2006 calendar year. I hope each NARFE member has let your willingness to serve your Chapter be known. Your dedication and commitment to serve as an Officer or Committee Chair is vital to the growth and strength of your Chapter and NARFE. NARFE needs leaders and doers and each member has that capability whether we acknowledge it or not.

Secondly, we must stand ready to communicate with our Congressman and Senators. I know many members have let our Congressman and Senators know your position of the three most supported legislative issues, GPO, WEP and Premium Conversion. However, it may become necessary that we work to defeat any bills that are designed to erode the benefits we now enjoy.

Lastly, if the calendar isn't marked, mark it for April 23-25, 2006, to attend the 52nd State Federation Convention at the Airport Hilton Hotel, Wichita, KS.

AREA VI VICE PRESIDENT

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Scott City Chapter 1996 have had a double set back. Not only did Chapter President Wes Hardy die but Chapter Sec/Treasurer Everett Lindenmuth passed away a week later of a heart attack.

The big trouble was that they were the only 2 officers of the chapter. So last Tuesday evening I conducted the chapter meeting in Scott City. Federation President Don Cooper was in attendance to assist in the meeting. Due to the small turnout we were unable to elect new officers. This is an example why the chapters should have a full slate of officers. But we might have a new member for the chapter.

I attended the meeting of Chapter 1709, Great Bend this month. President Sharon Mauler presided at the meeting. Our program, the sheriff, failed to show up so we had a nice time discussing NARFE business.

The gasoline prices are a great concern to all of us. To help the situation I tried lowering my speed 5 miles per hour and I found I gained about 3 miles per gallon. We retired people have all of the time in the world. Ha Ha.

My wife and I attended the Hutchinson State Fair on Thursday. I spent a lot of time passing out my NARFE cards to the Federal Employees there. A lot of the CFE's were interested in our program. But I forgot to take along membership application blanks. I find that I need to carry

applications along with me at all times.

Please tell all of your chapter members to read the September NARFE magazine, page 10-12, "Automatic Spending Cuts On Fall Agenda".

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Jim Miller

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First day of Fall ! Cooler weather ! Pulses quicken (we hope !) I have been asked " How and where do we find the names and addresses of federal employees or retirees ? " Well, this is a pitch for you avid readers to attend the training sessions being offered in October ! We hope to have some answers for you. However, all the training assembled won't do the KS Federation of NARFE any good, if no one cares enough to attend. Offended ? Good ! Come to the training nearest your chapter and express your opinion !

OCTOBER is forecast by NARFE HQ as a month when we may see a dramatic drop in membership. Several factors lead to this, and the best action we can take to bring in renewals will be to work hard and smart to retain our current membership. I commend those chapters who are doing a Region leading effort to sign their renewals on to Dues Withholding.

A potential NARFE recruiter complained about calling on his new " Postmistress " and asking her to join NARFE. Woops ! Bad first impression ! There are (officially) no mistresses in the US Postal Service ! The official title is Postmaster, female or male. This recruiter was re-buffed and the postmaster told him she was too busy to visit with him. She was probably telling him the truth. Postmasters I have visited with at conventions and other meetings tell me that the workload and the pressures have never been this bad. One has a large calendar on his office wall with the days numbered until he can retire. Each day with a smile of satisfaction, he tears off another day. At last count, he was " down " to 715 ! Is he a NARFE member ? You bet ! Postmasters do eat lunch (if they have time and don't work through their lunch period) and might appreciate having a break. They can also help in recruiting, if there are (1) other employees (2) employee bulletin boards. Official USPS bulletin boards are a no-no.

If your chapter has a meal at your meetings, one good idea brought forth is to print out slips of " WHAT HAS NARFE DONE FOR ME LATELY ? " and place those at each chair. A good one to start with is to remind members of how their annuity is affected by retaining COLA's. There will be more on that at the training sessions. I hope to see you there !

STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Jim Miller

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Remember the story of the boy who cried Wolf ! just one time too many ? This won't be one of those. You can wait breathlessly until January 2006 for that cry. There are numerous KS legislative committees meeting, for different purposes. These committees are charged with examining special projects and presenting their findings in January for the opening session. Some or perhaps all will be looking for additional sources of revenue.

We observe the first day of Autumn in September, and the first chill of lost benefits will follow, if NARFE members are lackadaisical. Ron Richey, Topeka Chapter State Legislative Chairman does a superb job, but as he's not from every district, and we both have limited influence with legislators other than our own. Those are YOUR responsibility !

SERVICE OFFICER

Jodine A. Elwick

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Greetings from your State Service Officer:

The fall weather is upon us and it's a beautiful time of year. Enjoy!! The hurricane has visited a tragedy on our nation causing so much heartache and we as a nation have risen to the occasion to help our neighbors. Keep up the good work!

The hurricane has brought out the importance of the need of having records readily available in case of any kind of disaster or other immediate need. Copies of your medical cards, a list of your prescriptions and medicines, and herbal remedies, your physician (s) names, dentist's name, eyeglass prescription, Social Security card, home insurance, car insurance, important phone numbers, bank names, credit union names and account numbers your Civil Service Annuity number and any other important records that would be beneficial in putting your life back together. At our house we carry a packet with our physician's name, current medications, special phone numbers plus information about my husband's heart device at all times.

Form F-100, Be Prepared for Life's Events, A NARFE Guide for Federal Employees and Annuitants, is an excellent booklet for recording your information. Insurance companies also have forms for recording vital information. Another venue for recording your information is your computer and placing it on a CD that is handy to take with you. Also, more current information is being compiled for items to be included in a survival kit which can be helpful in many situations even though you may not have to leave your home. You need to know the best route to get out of

town if that is necessary and what transportation is available as well as facilities where you can evacuate to should that be necessary.

I have become aware of some instances where the new Medicare drug program may be invaluable if your secondary health insurance plan does not have sufficient coverage.

I'm looking forward to our training sessions that we will be presenting for Areas 1, 1a, 3 & 4. To close, I want to share the following:

Smile Today!

A smile is infectious , you catch it like the flu,
When some smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin
When I realized I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile then I realized its worth,
A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected!

Keep the Smile going, everyone needs it!!

KANSAS ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

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Through the end of August, the Kansas chapters have donated a total of \$12,652.05 which computes to \$2.36 per member. Our Federation goal for 2005 is \$3.25 per member.

Barb Pretzer, the NARFE Region V Alzheimer's Coordinator, attended a NARFE National Alzheimer's Committee Meeting on August 24th. This committee reviewed applications from researchers and then selected two more to fund from our contributions. One of the researchers will be looking at links between Alzheimer symptom progression and vascular disease. The other will be looking at blood testing for early detection of the disease. Dr. Ron Champagne, Sr. VP of the Alzheimer's Association, spoke at this meeting. Surprising many in attendance, including Barb, he said **"I believe we will have a cure for Alzheimer's in the next five to ten years."** He said a lot of theories have been eliminated which helps to narrow down possible causes and there are now so many young, brilliant, eager and motivated scientists who all want to be 'the one' to discover the cure. This is encouraging and exciting news. **Thanks to all of you who are helping to make it happen.**

A real 'old-timer' weighs in on the value of research....

"Knowledge must come through action; you can have no test which is not fanciful, save by trial".

--Sophocles (496 BC - 406 BC)

KANSAS NARFE NET/HISTORIAN

Jim Dodd
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Thanks again to KS Net members who have sent me their changes in e-mail address. Be sure to also let NARFE HQ know your new address so you can continue to receive their e-mails also.

The Shawnee Mission Chapter 1162 has started its web site up again at www.narfe-chapter1162.org. I have added a new page to the KSNARFE.org web site for chapter web site access. Just click on home page item number 36. For information on the Hurricane Katrina recovery I have added a web page at item number 37 on the KSNARFE.org web site.

If your chapter has a newsletter that is in "computer" format, it can be added to the web site and retained as "historical" information. Just e-mail me a copy.

If you have any other information to be listed on the KSNARFE web site or to be added to the KS NARFE historical records please send me an e-mail. Thanks.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDITOR

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Thanks to Dennis Grossnickle for submitting the picture of the Kansas NARFE members who took their time to attend CONK in South Sioux City the last of August. (Page 8). These members took of their time and funds to learn more about NARFE to help YOU! The next time you see one of these members...say "Thank you" to them.

Remember the Kansas Convention in Wichita next April. This is the time to get together to help Kansas NARFE make decisions that will help maintain our benefits and Members. The Hurricane played havoc with the National Budget which will make our annuities become a target for cuts. See the article about HR 2290 in Vice President Surritte's article.

Of equal importance to chapters is the National Executive Board's resolution to eliminate mandatory chapter membership after the first year in NARFE. I guess I should not express my opinion, but I am. This resolution, (in my opinion), if it is adopted at the next National Convention will become the demise of NARFE chapters. Be sure to tell your delegate or Proxy to the National Convention how your chapter feels on this. Read the resolution in the NARFE magazine and think about it.

I have been asked to serve on a committee to come up with a resolution to be submitted by the Federations in Region V that may side step this resolution. It will consider unified dues for all chapters. The previous research indicates that this is a viable alternative. **God Bless America!**

Picture of CONK participants on page 8



Courtesy Dennis Grossnickle

Front: Shirley Steinert, Flo Biehl, Irene Miller, Joan Beck, Regina Barger, Carol Ek, Barb Pretzer
Middle: LaVerne Robinson, Elizabeth Bornham, Judy Grossnickle, Kay Crossley, Linda Surritte, John Surritte, Jane Lancaster, John Lancaster
Back: Bob Steinert, Dennis Grossnickle, Helen Gallagher, Bryon Nichols, Richard Diller, T. J. Robinson, Jim Miller, Gale Beck, Don Cooper
Not Pictured: Lorna Larson, Shirley Newman