



# KANSAS FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

EDITION 40

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2004

**DONALD L. COOPER**  
**FEDERATION PRESIDENT**

## **PRESIDENT**

**Donald Cooper**  
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Summer of '04 is history. For many NARFE members, it was a busy summer.

Our Federation Secretary worked very hard to insure that Kansas votes were all represented at the voting in Reno. Not all States had their voting power at the Reno NARFE Convention Through Carol Ek's efforts, the 18 Kansas NARFE members attending the 28th Biennial Convention carried proxies for those Chapters not having members present at the Convention. Another of the Kansas delegates, John Lancaster had a high profile position, as Chairperson of the Convention Teller Committee. Many attendees were skeptical of the electronic voting equipment. Lancaster's teller committee got the voting completed very satisfactorily. The only complaints were related to the time it took for the voters to get through the line, to the voting machines. The second day, for a run-off to determine where the convention would be held in 2008, went very well. The teller committee changed to ten lines, one for each of the regions.

All of the National Office incumbents were reelected. Mike Hoyman chose to not seek reelection as National Treasurer. Richard C. Ostergren of California was the winner of that position. The winner of the 2008 convention location was Louisville, KY.

Another Kansas NARFE member, Barb Pretzer Region V Alzheimer's Coordinator was very visible, working at the NARFE Alzheimer's booth. The National Alzheimer's Committee is to be commended for their making Alzheimer's awareness of NARFE's commitment AND the amount of money raised for Alzheimer's research. Over \$27,000 was raised for Alzheimer's research. Remember, ALL of the NARFE raised Alzheimer's funds go to research.

A great deal of time was devoted to debating resolutions. That is the process of upgrading the effectiveness of our organization. The process demonstrated the dedication of so many NARFE members.

Read your NARFE publication carefully. The actions taken at the Reno Convention will be covered in our excellent publication.

Interaction with the NARFE members of the other States gave me the knowledge that we are basically, all the same. We have many NARFE Chapters who experience the reluctance of members to serve as Chapter leaders. Kansas has 47 Chapters and 47 different responses to the annual process of securing Chapter Officers for the coming year. Kansas NARFE has 5,700 members. This 5,700 member body has the responsibility of assuring that each of the 47 Kansas

NARFE Chapters have effective leadership for the coming year. Keep in mind, NARFE effectiveness is your best bet for the protection of YOUR earned benefits. Express your willingness to support your Chapter Officers. Healthy Chapters are the foundation of NARFE.

NARFE is networking - communicating and coordination. We need it all. Legislative "watch-doggin". service to our members, supporting Alzheimer's research funding and membership.

The Memorial Service conducted at the convention disclosed the loss of 18,420 members since the previous convention. Kansas had 377 of those deaths. This is the reality of our upper age organization. It also highlights our responsibility to recruit new members, to replace those members who have departed our ranks, but not forgotten.

A great step forward for NARFE membership is the approving the resolution for a name change. The new name now includes the currently employed federal employees. The new name is National Active and Retired Federal Employees. The acronym will remain the same, NARFE.

We Kansas NARFE persons must now move forward with; recruitment, retention, service to members, providing awareness of NARFE to those 17,000 Kansas federal annuitants, who are not presently members of NARFE, aggressive contact with members of the U S Congress and Kansas Legislature and also sharing the fellowship that can be had with fellow federal retirees and currently employed federal employees. Plan for and hold successful Chapter meetings. I'm looking forward to hearing of many good ideas carried out in the Chapters during October.

I will be seeing all of the Executive Board Members in Kansas City October 20.

I also look forward to visiting Chapters. I will be unavailable October 28 through November 10. Invite me to your Chapter meetings.

## **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

**John F. Surritte**  
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I have been busy since our last edition of the bulletin. During my annual golf trip with three of my fellow Postal Retirees, I convinced two of them to Join NARFE, one in Chicago and one in Las Vegas. Also, a new friend in Lawrence has joined our local Branch 378. Finally, yesterday, 9-18-04, Linda and I recruited a new member at the 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Lawrence. Since he is moving to Miami, FL our chapter will not gain this member but NARFE will and that is the most important thing. Linda and also conducted a booth to raise funds for Alzheimer's research. I'm sure she

will have a report in her bulletin article. A special thanks to Mary Margaret Rowen and Reba Bryant for the use of their tables and to Val Romero for his manning the booth with Linda and I.

I also marched in the Lawrence Birthday parade with fellow chapter members Val, Stan, Bob and Les. We advertised NARFE and the work we do for Alzheimer's Research. Mary Margaret also arranged for us to have a 1937 Pontiac to exhibit our NARFE banners loaned to us by State President Don Cooper. We had a great time because the crowd really cheered for us. We're not sure if they were cheering for old guys or the American Flags we were carrying, but the applause was great.

On a perhaps more serious note, the passage of our priority legislation by this Congress this year does not look good according to the FEDWEEK Weekly Newsletter dated 8-04-04. Both GPO/WEP and Premium Conversion are in great danger of not being passed by the Congress this year. Because of this, Linda and I along with Carl and Reba Bryant attended a meeting with Congressman Dennis Moore, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, and Candidate Nancy Boyda, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, to ask them for support of NARFE'S legislative agenda. Congressman Moore stated he would continue to support us and Candidate Boyda stated she would support us upon her election to office. As you may remember, Congressman Moore is the only elected federal officeholder out of 2 Senators and 4 Representatives to support both pieces of our priority legislation. With the National election coming on November 2, 2004, it is important that we support those elected officials that support us.

In closing, with the Holiday Season approaching be healthy, safe and enjoy.

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/PAC COORDINATOR**

**Gary E. Townson**

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Congress returned to Washington earlier this week after taking time off for its August recess and the Democratic and Republican conventions.

The Senate and House remain officially scheduled to adjourn by October 1, although that date may slip by a week or so before lawmakers return home for one final month of campaigning.

Prospects also appear good for a lame-duck session of Congress in November. A lame-duck session would require Members of Congress to return to Washington soon after the elections, primarily to continue work on unfinished fiscal year 2005 government funding legislation. The alternative scenario involves pulling the curtain when Congress leaves town in early October, continuing government funding at the fiscal year 2004 level and postponing final budget decisions until the 109th Congress begins early next year.

For the remainder of this month, Washington lawmakers will remain focused upon legislation enacting many of the 9/11 commission's recommendations and revamping

the government's intelligence apparatus.

The chief Congressional committees responsible for drafting the 9/11 intelligence legislation are the Senate Governmental Affairs and House Government Reform committees, the same committees with jurisdiction over the Postal Service and postal reform. Both committees held hearings during August on the 9/11 commission recommendations, a time when Washington typically nods off. Now the committees are drafting legislative proposals and searching for consensus with the White House. As a result, the 9/11 legislative focus – and election-year politics – have overshadowed and diverted committee attention from other matters.

President Fallis urges all NARFE members to use the toll-free number, 1-866-220-0044, to reach the Capitol switchboard and ask for Senators by name. Seeking to defend our earned benefits, the message remains: I urge you to protect my earned FEHBP drug benefits by asking Chairwoman Susan Collins and Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Senators to approve S. 1369 and H.R. 2631 at their earliest opportunity. I would appreciate a response from the Senator at my mailing address

You can also call the following toll-free number to reach the White House Comment Line. 1-888-225-8418 When you reach the Comment Line the message we wish conveyed is :“I urge President Bush to press the Congress to approve H.R. 1231 and S. 623 before the adjournment of the 108th Congress. These identical bills will allow federal retirees to pay FEHBP premiums with pre-tax income, just as executive and legislative branch employees do.”

**SECRETARY**

**Carol R. Ek**

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**Roster Changes:**

**Area 1:** President James Turrentine, Chapter 378: Correct address to 1700 Carmel Dr., Lawrence, KS 66047-1840

Chapter 1162: In the June-July newsletter, I mistakenly elected Ms. Virginia A. VanDerhagen to the office of Secretary for this Chapter. This is not correct, please make note that Mr. Wayne A. Smutz, 10602 Westbrooke Dr., Overland Park, KS 66214-2064, Telephone (913) 888-3423, E-Mail – wares49@aol.com was elected Secretary by his Chapter for the 2004 year. My apologies to both Ms. VanDerhagen and Mr. Smutz for this error.

**Area 2:** Secretary Glenda I. Failing, Chapter 384: Add new e-mail address glenfail@yahoo.com

Vice-President Thomas Maxwell, Chapter 2077: Change mail address to jmtmg@netks.net

Treasurer Lillian Qualls, Chapter 2077: Change e-mail address to qualls31@netks.net

**Items of Possible Interest**

Janice A. Neuschafer, president of my local Chapter

1794, Heart of America, McPherson, Kansas, and I traveled to the National Convention in Reno not knowing what to expect as both of us were first time attendees.

Janice got a big kick out of the fact that I was almost stripped searched at each check-in at the airports and she just walked through like a VIP – which of course she is.

Each of us carried proxies for other Chapters in the State which was a great honor for us. You would not believe the number of delegates from other areas who attended the convention who did not have any vote. It was very disappointing for them, first not to really have any say in the election process and secondly not being able to use the new voting equipment. This brings me to my next *great big “Thank You”* to every Chapter in the State of Kansas for getting the convention forms to me which enabled every Kansas delegate votes at the convention. Believe me; this was taken seriously by each delegate and I know each of them was as proud to cast your vote as I was. This was an experience which I wish each of you had the opportunity to enjoy at least once.

The 2006 National Convention will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Now is the time to begin making your plans to attend.

We did support many of the children of Reno leaving Nevada State tax money behind.

Kansas City, Chapter 1160, Sunflower Chapter is busy making plans to host the 2005 Annual Kansas State Convention to be held April 24 – 26<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn, Kansas City, Kansas. They are working hard to make this a fun and informative convention. I know this seems like a long time away, but time seems to sneak up on us before we know it. Maybe it’s because I seem to be getting slower – you think?

**“Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier.”**

**TREASURER**

**Jerry Ketter**  
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Edith and I drove out to the NARFE 2004 National Convention in Reno NV, August 29 – September 2. We went out through Denver and Grand Junction and then took the “Loneliest Road in America”, Highway 50, across Nevada. That route provides plenty of desert and mountain driving especially when we took side trips to the Arches and Canyon Lands.

The convention ran smoothly and everyone was happy that the electronic voting worked well because this was the first time electronic voting was used by NARFE. I’ll not go into details because you have no doubt seen and heard other reports.

The direct deposit system seems to be working very nicely. It does require a print out of the backup documenta-

tion of rebates for the state accounts or the dues amounts for chapter accounts but that is still easier than making deposits.

Our Federation expenses are somewhat down when compared to expenditures of the same time last convention year.

Hope everyone had a good summer. Don’t forget to reconcile your October membership report with National.

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
PUBLIC RELATIONS/EDITOR**

**John Lancaster**  
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These will be short subjects but it is felt that we all should know about them. As you have seen in Secretary Ek’s column, each chapter in the Federation was represented by either a delegate or a proxy. Kansas had 19 delegates attending. That makes us one of the two states in the Region with 100% participation. Thanks to each of you and to Carol.

Also, Kansas had three delegates serving on Committees at the National Convention. Barb Pretzer served on the Alzheimer’s Committee and Don Cooper and I served on the Ballot and Teller Committee. Don was asked, and agreed to step in at the last minute, to fill a vacancy on the committee. Congratulations Kansas!

The new electronic voting procedure was, at first, looked at with some doubt. With the help of Fred Hamidzada, of NARFE MIS section, each delegate was given training and the voting went without a hitch. No hanging chads, no over voting, no recounts, and no computer malfunctions. I got blamed for the lines, but what the heck!

The Legislative program for the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress will be basically the same. WEP, GPO and the protection of our benefits will fill the agenda. NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON DC, FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 1.

With 101 resolutions and bylaws changes in the book to be considered, I can say that we covered each through the recommendations of each committee that considered them. This is a first for some time.

Now, we have to look forward to the State Convention in Kansas City next April. If you chapter intends to have a resolution or bylaw change for the state, you need to get working on it. The Federation Secretary needs them in time to get to the chapters at least 60 days prior to the state convention.

Does your chapter have a nomination committee in place to get names for your chapter elections this fall? It is time to get started on this important committee assignment! For that matter, do you have a member who would be interested in running for a Federation Office? Send me the name and I can contact them.

*Just a reminder, if you chapter has elections this fall, you can get your F-7 into the Federation Secretary, President and National at the time of the election. You don’t need to wait till they are installed. The earlier the better!*

Have you done your Christmas shopping yet? Why not use NARFE Form F-85 and give a relative who is still working a Gift Membership **OR** use it to give a gift to your spouse or someone you know who does not belong? Remember, NARFE has a retention rate of over 92%, so once they are in, they will usually stay.

**AREA 1 VICE PRESIDENT**

**Tom Raby**  
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Johnson county "Old Settler's Celebration" is over. Members of Chapter 1162, Shawnee Mission, and Chapter 1994, Olathe manned a booth for three ten hour days. The actual number of Federal Employees/ retirees was low but there were several members that visited the booth. Four persons signed up for a chance at a free membership. Two others, from Missouri, took magazines and promised to join. There was a representative of NATCO that took 10 magazines and Area 1 VP business cards back to their FAA location.

Additionally, the National Guard Members at an adjacent booth agreed to take 12 magazines to civil service employees at the Armory and area offices. Thanks to Lorna Larson, Lucille Donnell, Harold Donnell, Frank McGough, Vern Hanser, Mary Weissenfluh, Keith Tolson, and Eunice Dayton for their contributions to this effort. We also raised \$8.00 for Alzheimer's.

Area 1 is making good use of the NARFE Display. In addition to Old Settlers, I delivered the display to Lawrence, for their use, and it will then be used by Topeka.

All chapters should now have plans for Chapter Meeting Month. I shared the trivia quiz from Olathe, from last year, with another Area 1 chapter for possible use.

It's time to start lining up officer candidates for this years elections. The same "old people" have done a good job, but the experience needs to be shared by replacing us all on a regular basis. This is the best reason for increasing our recruiting efforts; to get new chapter officers and committee chairs.

**AREA 1A VICE PRESIDENT**

**Kay F. Crossley**  
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I am encouraging chapter members in Congressman Dennis Moore's area to attend the October meeting in Lawrence, KS. It will be an occasion to meet with his field representative and hear current comments on issues. Think about carpooling to reduce your cost and enjoy others' company to and from the meeting; and a chance to mingle with the Lawrence, KS membership.

Area 1A Chapter Presidents received a ball cap and I hope you will be wearing it proudly at the 2005 Federation Con-

vention in Kansas City, KS. It would be a great sight to see your chapter members wearing a denim shirt (or something of your choice) representing your chapter contingency.

A warm thank you to the Leavenworth Chapter inviting me and other Federation members to the August picnic; what a wonderful turnout; the food exceptional, the meeting area tremendous.

Food for Thought: Did you know that every 10 years, one fourth (1/4) of all current knowledge and accepted practices in health care as well as all other industries will be obsolete? Did you know that the life span of new technologies is down to eight (8) months and decreasing? Estimates are that people under twenty-five can expect to change careers every decade and change jobs every 4 years (either by choice or because the industry they work in will disappear and be replaced by other kinds of work). Did you know that the core business of long term care from the early 2000s may be entirely different by 2020? Did you know there are now 3 phases of old age: 65-74, 75-84, 85 plus; and that our eldest members are considered "vintage"?

**AREA II VICE PRESIDENT**

**Gale D. Beck**  
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The NARFE Biannual National Convention has come and gone. While all Kansas chapters were represented by delegates or proxies it is to bad that more members do not take the time to attend. The conventions are not only an education, but provide you with the opportunity to meet NARFE members and make new friends throughout the 50 states and territories. By not attending, it is your loss, and is something that passes you by and you will never have an opportunity to recapture. I hope that more of you do make an "effort" to attend the next biannual convention at Albuquerque, NM in 2006.

Since the convention I have had the opportunity to attend three chapter meeting all within a two day period. The Emporia Chapter #384, is loosing their long time Treasurer George Ford and his wife Ruth who are moving to Newton where they will be nearer their family. They will be missed, but have promised they will return and visit the Emporia chapter. Needless to say they were disappointed to find that there is no chapter at Newton. Thanks to George and Ruth for their contributions to the Emporia chapter.

Tri-River Chapter #2098 held their annual Alzheimer auction, and it was once again a great success. Members were asked to bring items for the auction. After a great evening meal, and everyone was "content" so to speak they held the auction. Selling \$704.50 worth of items contributed for the sale. Items sold were: pies, candy, birdhouses, squirrel feeders, breads, wrist watches and the list goes on and on.

Several new members were introduced with their current membership in the range of 107 members. Their highest number of members, ever. The chapter had several invited

potential members from the postal service. All in all it was a great event. Congratulations, "Tri-River Chapter.

Iola Chapter 2077 held their first ever picnic in the Iola Park. The weather was great that evening and there was plenty of food and visiting. Members who did not attend, miss a great evening. All business was suspended and will be taken up at the next meeting.

Watch for news about the Ottawa Chapter #785 and the Osage City Chapter #2099 in the next newsletter.

**AREA IIA VICE PRESIDENT**

**Jim Gaskell**  
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A couple of weeks ago on September 11, I was remembering where I was and what I was thinking three years ago. It makes me realize how fortunate we are as people living in this great nation of ours. We have been blessed as no other people on earth with the freedom we have to live our lives pretty much as we choose.

Three years ago I was driving my van east on K-39 highway toward Fort Scott to a part time job I had and still have in N. E. Crawford County. On the radio was an announcement that an airplane had ran into one of the twin towers. No explanation, just a report of this event. I thought, how careless to let your plane fly into a concrete building. It has happened before. I remembered seeing photos of an Air Force bomber years ago lodged near the top of a tall building somewhere here in the United States. Only later after I had arrived at work, and TV was on that I saw video of another plane slamming into the side of the second twin tower. This was not an accident!

We likely all had our impressions of what was happening that day and some were probably different than mine. We all learned later that this was a planned attack on our nation and their intention was to kill as many Americans as possible.

I support our President and our brave troops who are facing dangers each day. It is important that regardless of who is our next president, that we support that person with our fullest abilities. When we are in war, it is not a time to be partisan. Get behind our present and future president, whether Bush or Kerry, and give the President our backing and our prayers. Our nation is going through a time of testing and if we do not get together, and stay together, we as citizens and our nation will be in an even tougher situation then we are at present.

I believe that each of us as former federal employees learned that we worked for the president, regardless of the politics, and when they spoke, we listened. It is even more important now than before, that as NARFE members we set an example in giving our government our support!

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**State slogans:** Kansas: If you can dream it, we can tax it!  
Florida: Home of the headless drivers! (Think about it)

**AREA III VICE PRESIDENT**

**Judy Grossnickle**  
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My, how time flies! It's almost November and time to vote and for Veteran's Day, two very important days on my calendar. In November it's always appropriate to fly our flag. As I gaze at the flags the Pledge of Allegiance springs into my mind. I also remember how emotional our Olympic athletes are when they see our flag flown and the anthem played in their honor. So with these thoughts, I thought this article would be an appropriate vehicle to reflect on the words that come so readily to my mind and to my lips without though: **"I pledge allegiance"** -- I promise to be true. **"to the flag"** -- to the symbol of our country. **"of the United States of America"** -- individual diverse states bound together for greater strength and stability. **"and to the Republic"** -- a country where the sovereignty resides with the people who elect our representatives to govern in a democratic manner for the good of all. Bottom line -- **WE** are the government. **"for which it stands"** -- our flag stands for each of us, our neighbors, our community, our state, and our country. **"one Nation"** -- one country, made up of individual states. **"under God"** -- the majority of the people represented by the flag believe in a supreme being. **"indivisible"** -- once joined into the nation we cannot factor off. During the Civil War, many suffered and many died to cement this indivisibility. **"with liberty and justice"** -- with freedom and fairness. **"for all"** -- for everyone, equally.

I'm sure Reverend Francis Bellamy who wrote the original Pledge of Allegiance in 1892, would have approved of the 1954, insertion of the words "under God" into the pledge. I hope each of you has a "flag waving fall".

**AREA IV VICE PRESIDENT**

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I have failed to have much personal contact with Chapters since State Convention. I have attended Chapter # 1794 (McPherson) in July. Reports of the State Convention were very informative and a catered Picnic was enjoyed by all. Pat and I traveled to Minnesota for our Son's wedding and it was a great trip in July. August seemed to be taken up with appointments for both of us.

I attended Chapter # 138 (Wichita) to gain information relating to the National Convention in Reno, NV. Highlights I picked up were as follows. **1.** National Legislative Conference will be held in February 2005. **2.** FEHBP Insurance will increase. **3.** COLA stands at 2.6% increase at this time. **4.** Alzheimer's donations are healthy for our goal of 7,000,000 by 2007 and \$5,530,491 has been received

through 7-31-2004. 5. Albuquerque, N.M. is location for National Convention in 2006 and Louisville, KY. for year 2008.

Brad Reed, a Chapter 138 member and a pianist, entertained us with playing and Sing-A-Long for the program at the Wichita meeting.

**AREA V VICE PRESIDENT**

**Ronald Katt**  
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NARFE membership remains constant. Chapter member gains have been offset by chapter member losses. Our goal is for gains to outnumber losses, therefore NARFE members are encouraged to keep up recruitment so we may reach our goal 2004-05 of at least 3 % membership gain.

The Federation Display Kit was at the KASCOE State Convention October 16, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Holidome, Hays, KS. NARFE members took the opportunity to get NARFE information out to current Federal employees. We will review the success of this endeavor by the number of CFE's we have come on board as a NARFE member.

Federation President Donald Cooper accepted Hays Chapter 2050 invitation for attending their October Chapter meeting, October 13, 2004. Mr. Cooper is making every effort to visit Chapters as his schedule will allow. It is a rewarding Chapter experience to have President Cooper visit your Chapter with the NARFE knowledge he brings. Chapters are encouraged to contact Mr. Cooper as soon as possible to work out a Chapter visit.

**AREA VI VICE PRESIDENT**

**Bob Cranmer**  
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Another summer is over. My how time flies.

NARFE has a new name. National Active and Retired Federal Employees (Association). The National NARFE Convention in Reno, Nevada changed the name.

I attended the Chapter 1709 meeting in Great Bend, Sept. 9. The Chapter is planning their 25th anniversary in the spring and I plan on visiting all of the chapters in Area 6 in the next few months.

The State Board has a meeting planned for Oct 20, 2004 in Kansas City, KS to plan for the 2005 Federation Convention.

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

**Barbara M. Brownell**  
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The 28th National convention, at the Reno-Hilton Hotel, were extremely well. I now have attended 7 National con-

ventions. Helen Gallagher, Leavenworth President, and I flew to Reno, shared our room and enjoyed the Convention. The Electronic Voting method was a wonderful way to vote for the Officers, Region Field Vice President and the Site for the 2008's 30th National Convention.

The 29th Convention will be at Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2006 and the 30th Convention will be in Louisville, Kentucky, 2008. I ask you all to keep those dates so that your Chapters will be able to attend both Conventions.

Just a reminder that the *October 4th Annual National Chapter Meeting Month* is forthcoming and I hope that all 47 Chapters will ask their Chapter Members and the CFE's to attend their *very special* Month Meeting.

The NARFE June Magazine attached the F-100 Form on a special section of the Magazine, to help All NARFE members to 'Be Prepared for Life's Events.' Please 'clip' this section, S-1 through S-8, read the entire Form and fill-out all your papers that pertain to you needs and then keep this F-100 Form with your vital papers in your house. On second thought, have a copy of this Form placed into your lock-box at your bank. And check your Forms to up-date your needs. Why not put NARFE and other active organizations with your obituary papers in your safe place in your house.

If a member is not able to find their June, 2004 Magazine, the Chapter Membership Chair or the Secretary should have a copy of the F-100.

How fortunate we Members are to have National looking after our 'needs' with this information for: 'Be Prepared for Life's Events.!' "

**STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR**

**Jim Miller**  
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There are a few legislative committees meeting but, so far, none that affect NARFE members. The biggest news is the opening of the underground parking garage. As there are 133 spaces for visitors, parking spaces should be more readily available for other visitors. We'll have to start at square one to determine what key legislators park in the new facility.

With the General election looming, it is vital to our interests to visit with the KS Legislature candidates as to their positions on our concerns. Should candidates determined to cut taxes and benefits be elected, our federal annuities are sure to come under debate...and fire. The good news is that we have coalition associations in the fight, should that happen. The BAD news ? Federal annuitants can be isolated from other groups as we know far too well, and attacked because we lack the numbers. Our tasks ? Let the legislators know we exist and we will be heard !

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There is at least one mistake in the bulletin which was put there to satisfy those who like to find errors in other people's work! (Editor)

### SERVICE OFFICER

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The fall season is upon us and the leaves are beginning to change color and to fall from the trees.

We have been so fortunate to have had such good weather and so far have not had the devastating storms with huge amounts of damage. For those who have had damage and losses our prayers are with them, especially the Floridians, other states and the occupants of the many islands in the hurricanes paths. May the storms settle down and the land and buildings be restored.

The National convention is over and NARFE will have a new name after the 2006 convention. Although the acronym "NARFE" will remain the same, it will stand for "National Active and Retired Federal Employees," a name which better reflects the membership of our organization.

The By-Law 04-09 was overwhelmingly approved that will allow spouses of Honorary members to have "Dues Withholding" if approved by OPM. Resolution 04-37 was also overwhelmingly approved and provides for Federation presidents to reassign voter proxies for National convention at the last minute instead of the National Field Vice Presidents the National Resident Officers having to approve them.

Mr. Fallis urges members to call President Bush to ask for his help in getting Congress to move on the Association's Premium Conversion bill. Delegates unanimously approved a "Sense of the Convention" resolution calling on President George Bush and the Congress to enact legislation that would make health insurance premiums paid by Federal annuitants and Military retirees more affordable through premium conversion tax relief that is now enjoyed by active Federal employees and most private sector workers. The number to call is: **(888) 225-8418 a toll free number.**

I recently visited with an active member who joined NARFE and he was very complimentary of our publication and that it contains the best information relative to benefits and retirement that are available to him. Other active employees have commented that our magazine has been very helpful in keeping them informed. Keep visiting with active Federal employees encouraging them to join NARFE so they too can enjoy these benefits.

A word to those Federal retirees who are involved in the Thrift Savings Plan need to inform their survivors that they need to contact: Thrift Savings Plan Office, National Finance Center, P. O. Box 61135, New Orleans, LA 70161-1135, Phone: (504) 255-6000. They will also need to send them a certified copy of the death certificate.

Recently I learned that some of our Federal Retirees that have lost a spouse have failed to notify the Office of Personnel Management of the loss. If you elected a reduced annuity with survivor benefit, it is necessary for you to notify the U. S. Office of Personnel Management, Retirement Operations Center, Post Office Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-4500 by letter giving the date of your spouse's death and sending a certified copy of the death certificate. Be sure to give you CSA or FERS retirement number in your communication. Also you need to request your Health Benefits Coverage be changed to "Self Only" if you are the only person to have continued coverage. This procedure will provide you with your full annuity from the date of your spouse's death and lessen your health benefits cost.

### KANSAS ALZHEIMER'S CHAIR

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"We've moved from Hopeless to Hopeful." This is a quote by Joan Veazey, Chairman of the NARFE Alzheimer's Committee made at the NARFE National Convention in Reno. Recent research has given us a better understanding of the disease which we hope will lead to significant breakthroughs in the diagnosis, delay of onset and maybe even prevention. Year to date, through the end of August, Kansas NARFE chapters have collected \$9,923.70 which computes to \$1.78 per member. Our 2004 goal is \$3.00 per member. Over the last few years, NARFE members have contributed over \$5.5 Million to Alzheimer's research, which means we are getting closer and closer to our '\$7 Million by 2007' goal. This is something to be proud of.

My local chapter in Lawrence took part in the Lawrence Sesquicentennial Celebration. We marched in the parade and manned a booth providing NARFE and Alzheimer's information. It was a great way to give our organization visibility and collect a little money for Alzheimer's research. I know many of you take part in similar activities in your community. Watch for local opportunities to participate and present NARFE as an active organization that also supports Alzheimer's research.

Just a little advance notice...Jefferson County Chapter 2231 has donated a quilt which will be given away by a drawing at the NARFE Kansas Federation Convention next April. It is a queen/king, multi-colored 'log cabin' patterned quilt. We will be asking for a \$1.00 donation per ticket. More information and tickets will be mailed out to the chapters in the future. Thank you to Chapter 2231!

**KANSAS NARFE NETTER/HISTORIAN**

**Jim Dodd**

**1033 West Spruce, Junction City, KS 66441-3445**

**785 238 8041**

**jdodd40955@aol.com**

In checking the NARFE HQ Kansas e-mail listings I have found several incorrect e-mail addresses still listed. If you have not been receiving HQ messages, please check your HQ e-mail listing. If you have difficulty finding the correct page to do this on the NARFE HQ web site, I do have a link on the KS NARFE.org web site that will take you to the "member sign in" page. Just click on item #25 on the KSNARFE .org home page.

I have received several e-mails from NARFE members wanting their e-mail address changed at the NARFE HQ web site. I can do that for them if they will send me the "date of birth" that they gave NARFE when they first signed up.

I have also added three more links to web sites on the KSNARFE web site home page. At item # 28 is a link to the US Department of Homeland Security web site. At item # 29 is a link to the Kansas Judicial Branch web site and at item #30 is a link to the Kansas Board of Regents web site.

If you have any request for 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.



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**HILTON GARDENS HOTEL  
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**KANSAS FEDERATION 51ST STATE CONVEN-  
TION**

**APRIL 24,25 AND 26, 2005**

**THINK ABOUT GETTING  
YOUR FULL COMPLEMENT OF  
DELEGATES TO ATTEND!  
LETS HAVE 100 %  
PARTICIPATION, NOT JUST  
PROXIES.**

