



Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters

**61st Opening Session
Ramada Inn Downtown Topeka KS
Sunday April 26, 2015**

Cindy Renee' Blythe, Federation President, welcomed everyone to the 61st Annual Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters Convention at the Ramada Inn in Topeka KS.

Cindy thanked Jim Miller, and especially Gwen Ketter, and the members of Topeka Chapter #0002 for working so hard to make the convention experience a wonderful one. If during the convention anyone has any issues either bad or good, please see Jim or Gwen and let them get the issue straightened out. Secondly Cindy requested that persons set their cell phones to vibrate as to not disturb the procedures and other members attending the convention. Thirds she invited members to drop in on the hospitality room and thank the members from Topeka for their hard work.

The Legislative program has evolved during the past three years to provide our membership the best possible information available. Although we have been able to get state legislators to attend, we have been unable to get any federal legislators to participate. In planning this years' program the Federation Board made the decision to focus on NARFE's Federal Legislative Program and the Political Action Committee (PAC) Program.

Kansas is privileged to have two exceptional gentlemen as chairs for both committees. Louis Bornman has performed the duties of Federal Legislative Chair for the past three years. In his capacity as program chair, he has made available to members the Legislative Action Requests from National Headquarters, participated in Legislative Training conducted by National Headquarters, attended meetings with both Kansas Senators' and four Congresspersons numerous times, and written articles for the quarterly Federation Newsletter. Louis has embraced technology and is a frequent Twitterer on Legislative issues.

Don Cooper chaired the PAC committee for several years and after last year's convention asked that he be replaced. It seems he thought a new face would help get people excited about the program again. Tom Huntzinger accepted the chair and has taken to the challenge of refreshing the PAC program.

During the short time that Tom has been the chair, he has corresponded with the newly appointed Region V PAC Coordinator and has some new ideas for the program in mind. Tom has contributed articles for the Federation Newsletter and is looking forward to seeing you all out at his table display. I'm sure he will be telling you all how National Office is revamping the program and how we can help make this a success for Kansas.

The program was turned over to Louis who had a PowerPoint presentation of Federal Legislative issues. Louis discussed the details of the 114th Congressional Legislative Program and explained how the items are put together to create the program.

The presentation detailed how NARFE is working with our partner collation to bring more emphasis to Postal issues, the sacrifice that current federal employees have made over the past three years and what type of impact could be expected in the future.

Tom closed the Legislative Strategy Session with important points regarding PAC. Tom's PowerPoint presentation explained how PAC and the Federal Legislative Program work hand-in-hand to bring emphasis to NARFE's issues. We need to increase the awareness of the PAC program so that our members of Congress will take more notice to the issues effecting federal employees and retirees.

Those interested in using either presentation for their chapter meetings can contact Louis or Tom directly and it will be made available to them.

President Blythe announced that there would be training sessions available for the Online Activities Module (OAM), Membership, and Service Officer from 3:00-4:00 pm. Carol Ek will be conducting the OAM session in the Regency East Ballroom, Harold Klaege, Federation Service Officer will conduct the Service Officer Training and Judy Etter, Federation Membership Chair will conduct the Membership training session. Any and all interested individuals are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gwendolyn Ketter

Secretary, Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters