



Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters
Regular Session 61st Kansas Federation Convention
Ramada Inn Downtown Topeka KS
Monday, April 27, 2015

The convention was called to order by President Cindy Renee` Blythe, at 8:30 am in the Regency East Ballroom of the Ramada Inn Downtown, Topeka Ks.

Invocation was given by Judy Etter, Federation Chaplain, Amelia Earhart-Atchison Chapter #0621.

Elizabeth Bornman, 1st Vice-President, Shawnee Mission Chapter #1162, led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Cindy Renee` Blythe introduced the Federation Board members what were in attendance and all dignitaries attending the convention which included Past Presidents: Jim Dodd, James (Jim) Miller, and Carol Ek, along with Region V Area Vice-President Carol Ek and Region V Alzheimer's Chair Janice Neuschafer.

Preliminary Credentials Report – Sharon Rosenow, Credentials Committee Chairman

Motion to accept the preliminary credentials report was tabled to ensure the information was correct. Chapters with discrepancies were to meet with Federation Secretary Gwen Ketter in the Regency lobby to address issues.

Convention Rules – Gene Algrim, Convention Committee Chairman

Gene Algrim, Convention Parliamentarian, Salt City – Hutchinson, Chapter #0537 acted as Convention Rules, combined with the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chair.

The Convention Rules Committee was brought to order by Gene Algrim at 4:25 pm. Committee members present were: Mike Aherns, Elizabeth Smith, and Sheryl Gulley. Members of the Bylaws committee were: Ron Lull, Harold Stauffer, Byron Nicols, Jim Carlson, Navella Richey and Flo Biehl. There were two guests - Rick Snell and Dave Schafer.

Gene asked the committee to review the Standing Rules provided to the committee members. One of the guests asked for clarification of number 4 under the section on voting. As an explanation wasn't readily available, Gene will seek clarification and ensure he has the answer when the Standing Rules are read during the Monday Business Meeting session. The visitor was not opposed to the statement, but just wanted clarification. With no further questions, Sherry Gulley moved that we adopt the Standing Rulesn for the 61st Convention as written. Motion was seconded and passed.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Address by National Guest – Sarah Weissmann

President Blythe introduced Sarah Weissmann, Director of Grass Roots Manager, Department of Legislation, NARFE National Headquarters as our guest speaker.

Sarah spoke of the need for our voices to be heard loud and clear on Capital Hill in order to salvage our promised benefits as well as preserving those for current and future Federal Employees. As Sarah stated - "Silence is Acceptance" and if we don't voice our opinions, we will lose.

The Grass Roots program is a bottom up, not top driven, action program designed to get members involved in the legislative process. The bills before Congress are addressed in the Legislative Action Center at www.NARFE.org. There you will find sample letters already set up for easy personalization that can be sent to your Congressman/Congresswoman or Senator. One personalized letter has more impact than 100's of form letters, so take the time to make it your letter.

There are multiple toolkits available on the website to assist your chapter in getting involved in the legislative process. The most effective way in reaching Legislators is through the written word. Second is attending Town Hall Meetings and letting your presence be known by asking questions.

Another important thing you can do as a member is support PAC contributions. PAC contributions make a difference in supporting our 'friends' on Capital Hill. There are a lot of organizations raising money to make the Legislature fit their needs or desires; we need to address issues that impact our lives and the lives of our children.

Sarah passed out a handout to take to our chapter meetings to assist members in getting involved in the process. We cannot sit idly by and expect others to do it for us - if we want to keep our benefits, we need to act and act now.

Preliminary Credentials Report: Report was removed from the table - Sharon Rosenow, Chapter 0002, Topeka, gave the following preliminary credentials report:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Eligible</i>	<i>Eligible</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Proxy</i>
	<i>D - A - L</i>	<i>Delegates</i>	<i>D - A - L</i>	<i>Delegates</i>	<i>Alt. Del.</i>	
1	8	42	7	24	8	0
1A	6	23	4	6	2	0
2	6	12	3	4	0	1
2A	6	9	2	2	0	0
3	9	29	4	15	3	1
4	8	23	2	6	0	0
5	5	6	1	1	1	4
6	5	6	0	1	1	0
Totals	53	150	22	59	12	6
<i>Chapters Registered</i>	25					<i>Not reported til Tuesday</i>

There were 3 Vendor Guests and 1 National guests registered for the convention. Total Registered Members equal 104.

Sharon Rosenow moved that the preliminary credentials report be approved as read. The motion was seconded by Jim Dodd and approved unanimously by the voting delegates via a show of voting cards.

Business Quorum:

Convention Parliamentarian, Gene Algrim, Hutchinson Chapter #0537, determined that a quorum was present to conduct convention business according to Article IX, Section 5, Kansas Bylaws.

Minutes and Correspondence – Gwen Ketter, Federation Secretary

Gwendolyn (Gwen) Ketter, Topeka Chapter #0002, moved to waive the reading of the minutes since all minutes of previous meetings have been available to all members in advance of this meeting. The motion was seconded by John Rodgers and approved unanimously by the voting delegates via a show of voting cards.

We have received no correspondence to be read at this time.

Federation Officer Reports:

Federation President –Cindy Renee’ Blythe

Each year when I get ready to compose my President’s Report, I look back upon the months and take stock in the work performed and yet still to do. This year, the “still to do” takes center stage. With the proposed changes from Congress to the benefits of current Federal employees, we as an organization will be tasked with a multitude of priorities. Each day we will be asked to lend our voices in getting the message out to the public that Federal employees are proud of the service they provide and should be treated fairly.

October 2014 found the Executive Board here in Topeka at the convention host hotel. We meet with the hotel management and took a tour of the meeting facilities. We met again in January and again in July to assure the plans were on track for a successful convention.

I participated in the 33rd National NARFE Convention in August in Orlando. The theme was “NARFE is in your future: embrace the mission. Share the vision.” I am pleased to report that Kansas was represented 100%; all 40 chapters were represented either by member attendance or proxy. It is very important for Kansas to be represented 100% when it comes to making decisions about the future of the organization, especially now that Strategic Planning is a hot topic.

In conjunction with the National Convention, there was a Federation President’s Meeting. During this meeting, we discussed the Future of NARFE report and the subsequent 35 FON recommendations. I would draw your attention to the April 2014 edition of the *NARFE Insider*. It is a special FON edition and goes into detail on each of the recommendations. This document will provide you with an insight into the direction the National Officers are taking our organization. If you have not seen this edition, please read it on NARFE’s website.

Louis Bornman, Gary Townson, Carol Ek and I attended the Legislative Training Convention in March 2015. We traveled to Capitol Hill where we met with all of Kansas’s elected officials or their staff if they were not available. It is always interesting watching their expressions when we give them the specifics for Kansas. There are 47,963 active and retired federal and postal employees in Kansas.

From December 2015 to March 2015, Kansas has lost 65 members and I have closed two more chapters. As an organization during this same time frame, we have lost 3,249 members. Kansas has an impressive number of potential members; if only we could make them understand the importance of belonging to an organization that speaks for their benefits when they cannot.

I traveled out west to Dodge City to meet with Area 6 Vice-President, Charles Waknitz and the leadership of the Dodge City Chapter #1873. President Don Wiles was looking at the possibility of having to merge his chapter membership and was looking for ways to keep from doing that. Two of the members that attended the meeting are current federal employees and want to somehow entice their fellow AFE’s to join. For those that don’t know, there are several packing plants in that area and they have federal meat inspectors. Brenda was going to approach new members by placing some NARFE magazines in the break areas and with the strategic placing of NARFE bulletins. This is an instance where forward thinking can make a difference.

After the conclusion of our convention, I will be attending the Federation President’s Meeting July 6th thru 9th in Reno; the site for the 2016 National Convention. The direction of NARFE is upper most on the

agenda. I'm sure there will be much discussion about the current make-up of the 10 regions and how the Federations are sucking the money out of the organization. There are some at the National level that would see the makeup of the organization drastically change; whether it is a benefit to the membership or not.

I continue to write my article, and act as publisher, for the quarterly Federation Newsletter. I hope that you find the newsletter helpful in staying abreast of the issues of importance. It is sometimes difficult to address an issue when the time to publish the newsletter is not in sync with the short lead-time of certain legislative issues.

I have enjoyed being President of our organization and I thank you for placing your trust in me. We have a lot of work ahead of us and I look forward to it each and every minute of it.

Federation 1ST Vice-President Elizabeth Bornman

The Federation President did not assign me any specific projects this year. I did attend the 2014 National Convention and carried delegate votes. I thought it went smoothly. I visited only one chapter this year, Amelia Earhart. I wrote articles for the Federation newsletter. I however, did not get any requests for training from any chapter or a request to cover a topic for this year's convention. If at the next National Convention, Federations will remain within the current structure, I will continue my development to improve training that is beneficial to chapters. The CONK will be important this year. It's one of the best training opportunities provided to chapters in a regional setting. Carol does a great job in providing topics that are current and individuals to share their knowledge and experience on those topics. Encourage anyone to attend if possible. I will be attending with Louis. I hope you all will voice your opinions to our Senator's and Congressman to include your State representative on the issues affecting our benefits and retirement quality of life. Things currently are not going our way. We need change. I don't think the NARFE headquarters reorganization ideas will solve our problems with membership. Just like all politics is Local, so is membership recruitment. It is up to us to get new members.

Federation Secretary - Gwen Ketter

As Secretary for the Federation this year I found out just how hard Louise Lloyd and Lorene Mumm had worked to get the convention documents taken care of in a timely manner. Getting the mailings and emails correct was a task that I was totally unprepared for. Thank you all for allowing me to make mistakes and not berating me for them. The convention related duties including the correspondence with the chapters, and receipt of all the delegates listing, memorial listing, committee assignments, and award requests can be quite overwhelming. Also preparing the credential information for the registration table involves a lot of detail and is time consuming.

Newsletter - This year, I worked with President Cindy Renee' Blythe on the newsletter. I did print and disseminate the June, December and March newsletters. However, Cindy Renee' Blythe our Federation President served as the "editor" which worked great. We mailed the newsletter to all chapter presidents without an email address, but emailed the newsletter to chapter secretaries and presidents with an email address. Our Federation webmaster Jim Dodd, has been notifying all members that have provided an email, that the newsletter is available on the website, along with a link to the newsletter, as that is easier for people with dial up internet to access.

In August I attended the National Convention in Orlando, Florida, where we elected Richard Thiessen as National President. We went to only two elected officers, which are the National President and Secretary/Treasurer. We need to pay attention to what is going on in DC as they are trying to do away with the Federations and reduce the number of Area Vice-Presidents. This will mean less communication and support for our local chapters. Let your voice be heard.

In October a letter was sent to all chapter secretaries giving instructions on completing the form F-7, Chapter Officer Roster, along with a copy of the forms to submit bylaw amendments. I received notices from National that a few of our chapters have no email access. Several chapters submitted changes that I did not

received HQ notice on, which means that they are not being submitted. So I would encourage all the chapters to use the online reporting format as it's an easier system now, and provides much better info for the Federation Secretary, but I would ask that you email the Federation Secretary and President that you submitted a change so that they know a change was made. Hopefully when the timeframe comes around again later this year for entry of the F-7 forms again, HQ will have worked out the notification glitch.

In January I attended the Federation Executive Board meeting held in Topeka at Aldersgate Village. We met first at the Ramada Inn Downtown – site of the 2015 Kansas Federation State Convention. In January I attended the meeting in Topeka at the Ramada Inn, site of 2015 Kansas Federation Convention regarding the convention.

This past year I did attend the June and October Federation Executive Board meetings as well as the January meeting with 2015 State Convention host chapter Topeka. I wrote and disseminated the minutes to the board members and all presidents and chapter secretaries.

Federation Treasurer Rebecca Rodgers

This year has had a few more expenses than last due to both the National and Legislative Conventions this year. On last year's books we had neither of these. We have been able to cut down expenses in other areas to help offset these somewhat. We really need to work on recruiting new membership. Our finances do reflect the decline. Our per-capita and National Rebate Incomes have dropped by a good amount.

On a more positive note, I would like to thank everyone for the support and help I have been given on my first year as Treasurer. Almost everyone was prompt with the vouchers and quick with a response if I had a question. We are in relatively good shape financially, but again recruiting is a must. Thanks and enjoy the convention

We began the year with \$16,695, our national rebates were down from last two years for a total of \$11,346.88; per-capita was also down \$4,690.50; Our total Income this year was \$17,902.36 - down about 6% from last year and 11% from 2013. Expenses were \$15,888.29 which was an increase from 2014 of 12% but a definite decrease from 2013 (which was a National Convention year) of 16%. Income over expense was \$1,022.07. Total bottom line as of March 31, 2015 is \$17,717.07.

Rebecca stressed recruitment and retention is vital to our bottom line as per-capita and National Rebates are lowered with decrease in membership.

Rebecca moved, and Judy Etter seconded, that the Federation Officer Reports be accepted as read. Motion was approved unanimously by the voting delegates via a show of voting cards.

Audit Committee Report - Sylvia Riepen, Chairman

Sylvia thanked members of the committee Gary Kilgore and Duane Evans for their assistance in conducting the audit of the books of the Federation Treasurer. The Audit Committee conducted the audit of the Kansas Federation Treasurer records for the period from April 01, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally acceptable accounting practices. Selected testing of certain records was made to determine the reliability of the total records maintained by the Treasurer. Based on the testing it was determined that the records were sufficiently reliable. The committee found that the records were current, neat, easy to understand, all accounts balanced, bank statements reconciled and all questions were readily answered by the Treasurer. Rebecca did a fine job assisting the team through the audit.

Sylvia Riepen moved that the audit report be accepted as read. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the voting delegates via a show of voting cards.

Comments by Sylvia - you will notice that moving money to the new account increased interest income for the Federation. Also, epost card submission - Should the Federation Treasurer do the submission or should the chapter do the submission. Encourage chapters in using matching funds wherever possible.

Cindy explained the epost card submission - the importance of submission that chapters will lose their non-profit status without consistent submission. We will discuss this issue at the June Executive Board meeting.

Nominating Committee Report - Jim Miller, Chairman

Members of the Nominating Committee were Delores Steinke and Daryl Monaghan. Committee met in the Mansion Gold Room at 4:15 pm to interview candidates seeking election. Only two candidates were interviewed - Elizabeth Bornman for 1st Vice-President and Gwen Ketter for Secretary. Both responded to questions and gave their reasons for being a candidate, along with a statement of their qualifications. Both are well qualified for the position they are seeking. Both candidates were recommended by the Committee for nomination.

As required by Robert’s Rules of Order, nominations were asked from the floor. Phillip Matthews, Hutchison Chapter #0537 nominated Richard Diller for 1st Vice-President. There were no nominations from the floor for the Secretary position so Gwen Ketter was proclaimed elected by acclamation.

Both candidates were provided the opportunity to address the membership to explain why they were seeking the position.

While written ballots were being prepared, President Blythe read the voting rules to the delegates. The voting ballots were handed out to Delegates at Large and Chapters through their Area Vice-Presidents. The Teller Committee consists of Linda Ourada, Karol Katt and Louise Lloyd. Teller report cannot exceed numbers on Credentials Report. Each Area broke out into separate sessions for balloting; 30 minutes was allotted.

Business Meeting was recessed for lunch - General Business Session back in session 1:10 pm.

2015 Memorial Service – Judy Etter, Federation Chaplain

Judy read a beautiful poem befitting our deceased members. Each Area Vice-President read the names of the members from their area who passed away during the past year. Carol Ek read the Area 4 and Area 6 Memorial Lists. They then placed a sunflower into the vase as a reminder of those who dedicated their service to the American people as federal employees.

The totals for the memorial listing were: Area 1 (45); Area 1A (38); Area 2 (16); Area 2A (6); Area 3 (25); Area 4 (33); Area 5 (8); Area 6 (4). The total number of Kansas NARFE members who passed away within the twelve month period prior to convention was 172.

Memorial Listing – 2015

Area 1 – (Total -45)	Louis Bornman, Area Vice-President
Topeka – Chapter 0002	Total – 14
Margaret Aden	Topeka
Elie F Hendrick	Des Moines IA
Francis L Warner	Topeka
Helen Msetnor	Topeka
Cleo Fnoland	Topeka

Earl R Langley	Berryton
Warren C Teel	Topeka
Virgil H Flesher	Spring TX
Jeannine H Reed	Topeka
Frances C Bearce	Topeka
M Gloraine Batsell	Colleyville TX
Ruth P Harris	Topeka
Irene L Miller	Topeka
Mary Shannon	Topeka
Freestate – Chapter 0378	Total – 7
Gordon Carlisle	Lawrence
Virginia Price	Lawrence
Norma Gienau	Wellsville
Valentin E Romero	Lawrence
Carole Klopp	Lawrence
Thomas Waner	Lawrence
Roberta Crider	Lawrence
Shawnee Mission – Chapter 1162	Total – 21
Gloria Mitchell	Powderly TX
Mary Stack	Lenexa
Helen Domann	Lenexa
William Kalahurka	Prairie Village
Charles Hall	Colorado Springs CO
John Sullivan	Leawood
Ernest Chloupek	Overland Park
Charles Larson	Shawnee
J B Bybee	Leawood
Bettie Sue Scott	Lenexa
Bobbie Prior	Overland Park
Dorothy Sewart	Overland Park
Duane Vanhaverbeke	Overland Park
Anne Yelton	Shawnee
Barry Clements	Wichita
Oliver Hughes	Lees Summit
Marian Whirley	Overland Park
Mona Snowden	Olathe
Joanne Fetherolf	Leawood
Dorothy Sewart	Overland Park
Christinerichards	Olathe
Jackson County – Chapter 2215	Total - 2
Geraldine Sarensen	Holton
Alva Burns	Mayetta
Jefferson County – Chapter 2231	Total - 1
Ernest Coke	Soldier

Area 1A (Total - 36)	Judy Etter, Area Vice President
Buffalo Bill – Chapter 027	Total - 15
Vera Baldwin	Kansas City MO
Margaret Gorski	Leavenworth
Austin Hendrix	Leavenworth
Raymond Porter	Leavenworth
Cleda Faye Bugess	Leavenworth
Harry Mohan	Leavenworth
Jesse Bryan	Lansing
Faye Hlasney	Leavenworth
E Jean Snedgar	Leavenworth
Eleanor Ochs	Leavenworth
Clara Darrow	Leavenworth
Robert Hamilton	Sun City AZ
Martha Ochs	Leavenworth
Gary Doebele	Rogers AR
Martha Cain	Leavenworth
Atchison – Chapter 621	Total – 0
“None”	
Sunflower - Chapter 1160	Total - 20
Kathleen Bush	Kansas City
Velma Storz	Shawnee
Clifford Bauhard	Prairie Village
Emmett Tucker	Kansas City
William Williamson	Colorado Springs CO
Mabel Johnson	Kansas City
Paul Breitenstein	Overland Park
Geraldine Darden	Kansas City
Fred Peterson	Tonganoxie
Robert Horseman	Kansas City
Denzal Davison	Topeka
Yusuf Shareef	Kansas City
Constance Holliday	Kansas City
Alvin Drake	Kansas City MO
Albert Stevenson	Kansas City
Harold Rucker	Kansas City
Muriel Rucker	Kansas City
Marlene Hammontree	Louisburg
Zenobia Freeman	Kansas City
Esther Woodard	Broomfield CO
Pony Express – Chapter 1948	Total - 0
“None”	
Doniphan County - Chapter 2136	Total – 0
“None”	
Brown County - Chapter 2164	Total – 1
Bernadine Wright	Horton

Doris Zeiner	Horton
Area 2 – (Total - 16)	Sylvia Riepen, Area Vice-President
Emporia - Chapter 0384	Total – 4
Myron Van Gundy	Reading
John Bastin	Emporia
Myron Van Gundy	Reading
Burnice Ace	Emporia
Iola – Chapter 2077	Total – 4
Alfred Link	Iola
Fayette Walters	Iola
Evelyn Calhoon	Iola
Alvin Conner	Fort Scott
Tri River – Chapter 2098	Total – 7
Ruth Buchanan	Osawatomie
Clifford Durland	Paola
Rachel Milleer	Paola
Max Mccready	Osawatomie
Hilda Hornberger	Paola
Sterling Hornbuckle	Louisburg
Leroy Staley	Lees Summit MO
Osage County – Chapter 2099	Total – 1
Lucile Cummings	Pomona
Area 2A – (Total - 6)	Gary Kilgore, Area Vice-President
Pittsburg – Chapter 550	Total – 0
"None"	
Bourbon County – Chapter 792	Total – 1
Raymond Hueston	Mapleton
Chanute – Chapter 799	Total – 2
Ladica Dixon	Chanute
Gracie Studebaker	Sedgwick
Independence – Chapter 1763	Total – 3
E Paul White	Garnett
Carl Guyll	Independence
Dorothy Rockeers	Denver CO
Coffeyville – Chapter 2257	Total – 0
"None"	
Area 3 – (Total -24)	John Ourada, Area Vice-President
Salina – Chapter 280	Total – 5
Nova Atwood	Salina
Mary Payne	Salina

Edward Fleming	Salina
Linda Komarek	Salina
Ethel Hill	Salina
Kaw Blue – Chapter 366	Total – 10
Lavonne Greene	Manhattan
Jesse Settler	Manhattan
Wilber Ringler	Manhattan
Leland Elliott	Manhattan
Beert Lading	Westmoreland
Fred Hadle	Manhattan
Gerry Ungerer	Manhattan
Pauline Adoph	Manhattan
Les Frazier	Manhattan
John Amdhisler	Manhattan
Old Trooper – Chapter 383	Total – 3
Gerald Vincent	Junction City
Joseph Gilmore	Junction City
M Kenneth Morgan	Dwight
Crossroads – Chapter 739	Total – 1
Sharon Nelson	Jewell
Clayco – Chapter 1998	Total – 1
Elmer Duensing	Marysville
Chisholm Trail – Chapter 2137	Total – 4
Kenneth Wyman	Abilene
William Foreschler	Chapman
Madelyn Turnbull	Chapman
Eugene Dester	Herington
Area 4 – (Total – 33)	Gary Townson, Area Vice-President
Wichita – Chapter 138	Total – 24
June Webb	Wichita
John Senn	Wichita
Harry Murphy	Wichita
Ethel Ackerman-Burke	Wichita
Betty Shere	Mount Vernon WA
Edna Yauk	Andover
Grace Ferris	Wichita
Betty Jean Robinson	Derby
Amy Hildebrand	Kingman
Mildred Stiger	Clearwater
Dolpheus Kessler	Wichita
Evelyn Southwick	Derby
Dorothy Kilmer	Wichita
Audrey Honomichl	Wichita
Roman Humlicek	Wichita
Jeanne Parish	Denver Co

Frank Shofler	Wichita
Mary Crosby	Wichita
Mary Louise Marnett	Kansas City
Philip Beals	Wichita
Kenneth Mensch	Moundridge
Max Miller	Wichita
Jeanne Parish	Wichita
Judy Ward	Wichita
Hutchinson – Chapter 537	Total – 2
Ollie Nelson	Hutchinson
Margaret Albright	Hutchinson
Cowley County – Chapter 757	Total - 1
Jacky Odom	McKinney TX
Heart of America – Chapter 1794	Total – 6
Dorothy Hinman	McPherson
Donald Henry	McPherson
Lavonna Black	McPherson
Idonna Peters	McPherson
Thomas Cuggan	Tampa
Hugo Lindahl	Lindsborg.
Area 5 – (Total - 8)	Ron Katt, Area Vice-President
Goodland – Chapter 1991	Total – 2
Dale Ellison	Goodland
Harold Vanvleet	Goodland
Logan County – Chapter 2032	Total – 0
"None"	
Custer 7th Cavalry – Chapter 2050	Total – 3
Connie Knudsen	Russell
Charles Nighswonger	Hill City
Mary Goetz	Wakeeney
Oberlin – Chapter 2053	Total – 1
Jean Pochop	Hutchinson
Colby – Chapter 2291	Total – 2
Charles Simonton	Colby
Jo E Wolf	Colby
Area 6 – (Total - 4)	Charles Waknitz, Area Vice-President
Golden Belt – Chapter 1709	Total – 1
Daniel Nobles	Great Bend
High Plains – Chapter 1873	Total – 1
Evelyn Padget	Dodge City

Garden City – Chapter 1995	Total – 1
Ruth Maupin	Garden City
Ulysses – Chapter 2086	Total – 1
Ralph Deselms	Ulysses
Grand Total – 172	

Bylaws and General Resolutions Report- Gene Algrim, Convention Parliamentarian, Chair

The Bylaws and General Resolutions committee was called to order at 4:15pm. Members in attendance: Ron Lull, Harold Stauffer, Byron Nicols, Jim Carlson, Navella Richey and Flo Biehl. There were two guests - Rick Snell and Dave Schafer, along with the members of the Standing Rules Committee - Mike Aherns, Sheryl Gulley and Elizabeth Smith. The current federation by-laws were reviewed. Ron Lull moved that we keep the by-laws as currently published. Motion was seconded and passed.

A courtesy Resolution was presented expressing the appreciation of their services to NARFE by Sarah Weissmann, Director of Grass Roots Program, Department of Legislation, NARFE National Headquarters, Carol Ek Region V Area Vice-President, Janice Neuschafer Region V Alzheimer's Chair and Topeka Chapter #0002 for hosting the 61st Annual Federation Convention. Jim Carlson moved to accept the courtesy resolution. Motion was seconded by Elizabeth Smith. Motion was approved by the Committee to be presented during the Monday Business Session.

With no further business for the committee, Gene adjourned the meeting at 4:20 pm.

Due to discussion in the Standing Rules Committee, the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee was reconvened at 4:45 PM - all committee members were still in attendance.

Visitor, David Schaffer, Manhattan Chapter #0366 recommended that someone construct a Courtesy Resplution to be presented at the 2016 Convention concerning the need for Professionalism within the Federal employee workforce.

The Committee members recommended that Dave present the idea of such a resolution first at his local chapter and if approved forward the resolution on to their Area Vice-President so that the resolution could contain the needed language and be presented at the 2016 Convention.

Those in attendance agreed that he follow through with this recommendation. With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Region V Area Vice-President Report - Carol Ek

Carol presented a video from Richard Thiessen where he spoke on our mission as an organization of advocacy for all Federal workers. We are being attacked in both our benefits and salaries for current employees. We need to protect current employees from being attacked through the national budget decisions coming up in Congress. We need to keep Postal Reform from being enacted since it will not help any federal employees. One positive item is the option on FEHB next year for a Self + 1 option. \$120 billion towards deficit reductions has already been placed squarely upon the backs of Federal Retirees and current Employees.

One of the issues facing us is the millions of dollars being raised toward opposing candidates that are friendly to our organization. NARFE PAC is an important piece of our puzzle to support the Legislators that support our mission.

When looking for assistance on your benefits - FBSD responds to questions and concerns of members. They assist in understanding benefits. They are listed on www.NARF.org. There is also training online for Service Officers.

The NARFE magazine is a fantastic resource for keeping up on legislative issues. There is a congressional scorecard that shows where the votes were cast either for or against NARFE positions. Using social media, such as Twitter and Facebook will keep you and your members up to date on important NARFE issues. As far as Information Technology - NARFE is testing out a blog to be available soon.

There has been a decline in membership, which of course reflects on the amount of dues income. National Headquarters is reviewing other means of collecting revenue. Revenue sources beyond dues have been, mass mailing of items, such as the calendar and gift cards. Other options of fundraising are being explored.

The Strategic Planning Committee is looking into the Future of NARFE (FON) group recommendations and prioritizing items in the month of May. The National Executive Board recognized that the way the organization is going cannot continue and we need to look into the future for NARFE. If you have questions or concerns you can contact the committee at www.stratplan@narfe.org.

Carol - Richard has done a good job in the position of President of NARFE. He has shown a greater presence on Capital Hill. He realizes that the president needs to stay in DC and be outspoken behind legislation favorable to our membership. No one has more personal expertise in matters of legislation than Sarah Weissmann. You can find more information on www.NARFE.org under the legislative action area. Non-members can use this part of our website. Make sure to pass this on to all Federal workers and retirees.

The first question any legislator asks is "Do you vote for me". If no voters in their district contact them on issues they assume that they just don't care what happens. We need to back up our voice with our votes.

Smart phones, tablets, etc - there is an app for Congress that you can download to find our information about what is happening in Congress. You can find out up to the minute items and votes with this app.

As far as Strategic Planning - NARFE needs to change. We need new blood in our organization - new members willing to step up to fill positions of leadership. If not chapters and federations will disappear. The committee was appointed by Headquarters and there was no input requested via Regional Vice-Presidents. Bruce Coleman is still a member of the committee. You can contact him: Bruce Coleman, 301 Emery Dr, Waverly IA 50677 or bactjccoleman@msn.com. Please copy Carol on any issue so she can stay informed on what your thoughts are on these issues. The committee is looking into the Congressional District Liaison in the state as opposed to the chapter/federation system we currently have.

The committee will look into the 35 recommendations from the FON committee. They have already changed from 4 National Officers to 2. They have appointed a facilitator for Strategic Committee group who does nothing but facilitate change and is not associated with NARFE. Three goals for the 2016 National Convention - Recommend changing the way NARFE is structured to make it more accountable; Construct a Brand; Strengthen and Grow Membership. Nothing will go to 2016 convention unless they are sure it will pass.

Contact persons: Membership Changes - Sondra Lawing - slawing@narfe.org; Retirement benefits Davied Snell.

Region V News: 42 members were recruited. 10 in IA; 10 in KS; 3 in MN; 7 in MO; 6 in NE; 1 in SD and 5 in ND. Closing chapters - 2 in IA; 3 in KS and 4 in MO.

College of NARFE Knowledge will be held August 24 - 26 in Souix City IA room cost \$92 + tax and registration \$75.

15 minute break was sponsored by United Health Care and GEHA

Report of Teller Committee – Louise Lloyd, Teller Supervisor

The report from the Teller Committee indicated that Elizabeth Bornman was re-elected as 1st Vice-President for a two-year term. Congratulations Elizabeth.

Area Delegate Caucuses

President Cindy Renee’ Blythe announced the following individuals were elected as Area Vice-Presidents:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Area 1 | Louis Bornman, Shawnee Mission Chapter #1162, returning |
| Area 1A | Judy Etter, Atchison Chapter #0621, returning |
| Area 2 | Sylvia Riepen, Osage City Chapter #2099, returning |
| Area 2A | Gary L. Kilgore, Chanute Chapter #0799, returning |
| Area 3 | John Ourada, Salina Chapter #0280, returning |
| Area 4 | Gene Algrim, Hutchinson Chapter #0537 |
| Area 5 | Ronald Katt, Logan County Chapter #2032, returning |
| Area 6 | Charles Waknitz, Great Bend Chapter #1709, returning |

Welcome newly elected Area Vice-Presidents and returning ones!

Vendor Acknowledgement/Presentations

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Blue Cross | Lindsay Under |
| Bath Inovations | Gary Mehalic |
| Little Apple Hearing Aid | Scott Hesselstine |
| Hear Again Hearing Aids | Chris Harmon |
| United Health Care Vision | Robin Zack |
| JW Advisory Financial | Jeff Wolcox |
| Fed Retirement Benefits Assoc | Elizabeth Inman |

State Legislative Report - Jim Miller, State Legislative Chair

We have convened in Topeka at a good time. It's good due to (1) the full Kansas Legislature is out of session and only specific committees are meeting, (2) the State House is not crowded except for visitors and tour busses. Those with a flexible schedule can visit the state house and the offices of their Representative and Senators. This is a great opportunity to make yourself known to the legislator and or their staff. Ron Richey, Legislative Chairman for the Topeka Chapter does a great job and if you want to visit the State Capital and perhaps sit in on important committee meeting you will find Ron Richey a fine 'tour guide'.

When the full House and Senate return on April 29th to grapple with what has ballooned to an estimated \$800 million budget hole. Hundreds of possible sources have been mentioned, few will fly. Governor Brownback's proposal to sharply increase taxes on tobacco and alcohol is dead on arrival according to Senator Denning.

- E-cigarettes will probably be taxed, potential \$5 million - \$10 million or more as e-cigarettes are becoming very popular with younger people
- Gasoline Taxes – increase of \$.05 a gallon raising a possible \$80 million
- LLC exemption "fix" the loophole - highly controversial, possible \$110 million
- Raise the sales tax back to 6.3% - \$55 million estimated income;
- Plug the loophole in 'passive' income tax law - \$50 million (business income earned in Kansas by non-residents)
- Policy changes in MEDICAID - \$80 million (pharmaceutical) no chance of lowering benefits

- Tighten MEDICAID eligibility error rate in Kansas (12.3% vs a national average of 3%) improve/lower by 2% - \$26 million (controversial)
- Increase the Managed Care Organization Privilege tax from 1% to 5% - \$75 million to \$80 million (already catching major flack)
- KanCare - this change would raise \$75 to \$80 million federal matching funds
- Accelerated 50% "haircut" in itemized deductions to Jan 1, 2015 - \$50 million
- Tax Amnesty for delinquent taxes \$30 million

Federation Legislative Report - Louis Bornman, Federation Legislative Chair

Wow, what a busy year this has been with the elections last year and the political challenges that are jumping up this year. The election cycle last year was very interesting with there being several candidates campaigning against the current crop of Congressmen and Senators. I attended several fundraising events for several of these political hopefuls and yes, I did encourage them in their efforts. I did that because I have not been pleased with the position those existing politicians had taken in regards to the federal workforce. Now that the majority situation has changed in both the House and the Senate, the budget plans for both call for cuts for federal employees and retirees that range from \$170 billion to \$318 billion over the next 10 years. And if you don't think that could really happen then you are not paying attention. Judy Etter, our Area 1A Vice-President attended a recent coffee meeting with Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins where she confronted the Congresswoman about the fact that she and the rest of the Republican majority would not make any cuts to Social Security and Medicare because they knew they would not get re-elect. Congresswoman Jenkins replied that that was right and that is why they made the cuts to the federal workforce, because they (we) are a much smaller group and don't carry the political clout of the Social Security crowd.

While the Senate and House budget plans differ, in the next few weeks they will have a conference committee come together to work out their differences and develop a joint budget plan proposal. That plan will line out how much money each of the budget committees that develop the individual budget bills will be allocated. That will then dictate what programs actually get funded. This is a summary of the cuts planned in the existing budget plans:

- Increasing retirement contributions by roughly 6 percent for all current federal employees;
- Increasing some federal retirees' share of their health insurance premiums by basing the government contribution on their years of service;
- Increasing employees' and retirees' Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) premiums by tying the government's employer contribution to inflation and turning FEHBP into a voucher program;
- Decreasing the civilian workforce by 10 percent through attrition, whereby one employee would be hired for every three who leave government service;
- Decreasing the rate of return on the Thrift Savings Plan's Government Securities Fund (G Fund);
- Encouraging the total elimination of the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS);
- Eliminating the FERS Annuity Supplement; and
- Increasing postal employees' share of their FEHBP premiums.

Be prepared to respond to these attacks with phone calls, letters, personal visits, or any other actions you can come up with to help us all fight to protect and preserve our existing benefits and support our active employee counterparts as they fight against added costs being heaped upon their benefits. It is imperative that we all actively participate in this upcoming fight.

Our Federation President, Cindy Blythe, our Region V Area Vice-President, Carol Ek, Area 4 Vice-President Gary Townson and I all attended the NARFE Legislative Training Conference in Alexandria, VA this past March. We had several very interesting speakers and small group meetings. Several of the

speakers were members of Congress who are very favorable toward the federal workforce, have worked in private industry and understand that you cannot recruit, train, and retain quality people when you continually malign workforce performance through a public venue like the media as many in the current Congress seem to enjoy doing. At the end of the conference we all went up to Capital Hill and participated in meetings with members of the Kansas Senatorial and Congressional staffs. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins of the 2nd District of Kansas came into our meeting with her staff member and participated in the discussion. However as evidenced by the encounter by Judy Etter, mentioned above, I would have to say that all of our comments did not dissuade Congresswoman Jenkins from voting for the Republican House budget plan that requires federal employees and retirees to pay such a high price for serving their country. I fully expect all members of the Kansas Congressional delegation to vote in favor of any joint budget resolution that contains cuts to federal pay and benefits.

PAC Report - Tom Huntzinger, Federation PAC Chairman

The PAC donations contributed prior to our convention are \$2,583. Contributions from the convention came from 55 different contributors or \$46 per person, 2 of which are sustainers.

Convention recessed until 6:30pm

Federation 50/50 Drawing

The convention reconvened at 6:30 pm with the Invocation given by the Federation Chaplain Judy Etter. Members were entertained during dinner by Washburn Rural Middle School Quartet. The enjoyable music was shared by all. Louis Bornman was the lucky individual to win the Federation 50/50 raffle. Louis was awarded \$400.00, half of the total collected amount.

President Blythe acknowledged all those attending a Federation Convention for the first time. Gwen Ketter, Convention Chair, acknowledged and thanked all those individuals who had helped on committees for the convention. President Blythe thanked the Topeka Chapter #0002 members for all their efforts hosting the Federation Convention.

Oath of Office for Newly Elected Officers

Carol Ek, Region V Area Vice-President, administered the oath of office to the following newly elected officers:

1st Vice-President - Elizabeth Bornman
Secretary - Gwen Ketter
Area 1 Vice-President - Louis Bornman
Area 1A Vice-President - Judy Etter
Area 2 Vice-President - Sylvia Riepen
Area 2A Vice-President - Gary L. Kilgore
Area 3 Vice-President - John Ourada
Area 4 Vice-President - Gene Algrim
Area 5 Vice-President - Ronald Katt

Convention recessed until 8:30 am, Tuesday, April 29th, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gwendolyn Ketter

Secretary, Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters