



**Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters
Regular Session 61st Kansas Federation Convention
Ramada Inn Downtown Topeka KS
Tuesday, April 28, 2015**

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

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

1st Vice-President, Elizabeth Bornman, Shawnee Mission Chapter #1164, led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Final Credentials Report – Sharon Rosenow, Chairman

<i>Area</i>	<i>DAL</i>	<i>Delegates</i>	<i>Alternate Delegates</i>	<i>Proxy</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Guests</i>
1	7	24	8	0	0	2
1A	5	7	4	0	0	1
2	4	4	0	1	0	0
2A	2	2	0	0	0	0
3	5	21	3	1	0	0
4	1	7	0	0	0	1
5	1	1	1	4	0	1
6	0	2	1	0	0	0
<i>Totals</i>	25	68	17	6	0	5
<i>Total Attendance</i>	119					1 national guest and 3 vendor guests registered
<i>Total Proxies</i>	6 proxies turned in to registration					
<i>Total Chapters Attending</i>	26 chapters had delegates attending 6 proxies Total: 32 chapters out of 39 chapters represented					

Sharon Rosenow, Credentials Chair, moved that the Final Credentials Report be approved as read. The motion was seconded by Judy Etter and approved unanimously by the voting delegates via a show of voting cards.

NARFE- PAC Report – Tom Huntzinger, Chairman

The total amount of NARFE-PAC contributions collected during the Kansas Convention is \$2,800.00. Sixty-two (62) contributors combined to make the contribution total of \$45.16 each. Prior to the convention contributions totaled \$2,775.00; adding the convention contributions Kansas has a total of \$5,575.00 or about 1/3 of the way towards our goal for 2015. What an accomplishment!!!

Jim Miller, Convention Co-Chair, assisted by Ron Miller, conducted a door prize drawing.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee – Judy Etter, Chairman

Ten members from seven chapters attended the membership workshop on Sunday. The workshop began with the elevator game. A volunteer (Clifford Spaeth, thank you Clifford) wore a sign that had the NARFE logo and he and Judy Etter pretended they were on an elevator and Judy wanted to know what NARFE is. Clifford did an excellent job of explaining for someone who was caught off-guard. However, everyone needs to have an “elevator speech” ready so that he or she can explain to someone what NARFE is in about in 2 minutes. Go online to NARFE.org and you can print off sample elevator speeches to use.

We spent the rest of the time discussing what has worked for different chapters. We started with John Ourada, who has been very successful recruiting new members. He says he always carries membership applications in his truck or he has packets with membership information that he hands to individuals who are prospective members. These are people he knows that he sees in the grocery store or the coffee shop or on the golf course or at church. Janice Neuschafer takes copies of the NARFE Magazine and a membership application to individuals she knows who are nearing retirement or are already retired. Others, depending on the agency they retired from, got NARFE information in a retirement interview. Headquarters says it sometimes takes seven contacts with an individual before they join.

Membership is important to everyone; it is not the sole responsibility of the membership chair. Talk to your neighbors, friends, relatives, church members. Have a membership application handy. Talk up the magazine as worth the price of membership. It makes no difference what chapter the prospect joins—a member is a member. Remember, our organization depends on its members.

Membership Report 2014-2015

For the calendar year 2014, Kansas lost a total of 322 members through non-renewal and death (National keeps totals by calendar year, not Kansas fiscal year). It only gained 50 new members. A chapter not to be named lost almost that many members through non-renewal.

The following chapters gained new members in 2014: Chapters 2—Topeka; 27—Leavenworth; 280—Salina; 368—Manhattan; 378—Lawrence; 383—Junction City; 537—Hutchinson; 621—Atchison; 739—Belleville; 757—Winfield; 792—Fort Scott; 1162—Shawnee Mission; 1794—McPherson; 1873—Dodge City; 2053—Oberlin; 2077—Iola; 2086—Ulysses; 2098—Osawatomie; and 2231—Valley Falls. Thirty-eight were recruited and 12 were credited to National.

The following individuals recruited new members in 2014: Dorothy Armster, Louis Bornman, Jo S. Burenheide, Diana Dowling, Judy Etter, Daryl Ford, Beatrice Fraizer, Leah Hefner, Ron Katt, Boni Lages, Bill Lages, John Lancaster, Roger Lemon, Louise Lloyd, Joan Martin, Edward Matthews, Richard McChesney, Jim Miller, Elaine Montgomery, Janice Neuschafer, John Ourada, Ron Richey, Helen Rieph, John Rodgers, Kenneth Rose, Elisabeth Scribner, Sharon Stevens, Marcella Tinoco, William Vinyard, Frances Walsh, Tommy Williams, and Donald Whitman. Thank you.

I have two certificates to present. The first goes to Chapter #2231—Valley Falls for increasing its total membership by four percent. The second goes to John Ourada for being the top recruiter in Kansas in 2014—four new members.

I conducted a mini membership workshop for Chapter #1162—Shawnee Mission on March 24, 2015. We played the elevator “game” and I had literature and applications available for the members.

Let’s try harder. I even filled out as much of the form as I could and addressed and stamped the envelope for the husband and wife I recruited and they do not belong to my chapter. A new member is a new member. If your uncle in Alaska works for the Federal Government, get him to join NARFE. Make sure he knows your membership number from the mailing label on the magazine cover so that you get credit for recruiting him. Sign people up on your smart phone. Be inventive.

Alzheimer’s Convention Report – Joanne Miller, Chairman

The Sunday afternoon Alzheimer’s Committee had the following 22 members in attendance:

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
George Spotts	0002 Topeka	Jo Burenheide	0002 Topeka
Earlene Jirik	0002 Topeka	Edgar Shaw	0002 Topeka
Leah Shaw	0002 Topeka	Karen North	0002 Topeka
Dolores Engel	0002 Topeka	Boni Lages	0027 Leavenworth
Bill Lages	0027 Leavenworth	Helen Stewart	0027 Leavenworth
Jean Brown	0027 Leavenworth	Bob Scuitte	0280 Salina
Deanne Lull	0280 Salina	Edith Ketter	1948 Nemaha County
June Bucles	0383 Junction City	Karol Katt	2032 Logan County
Philip Mathews	0537 Hutchinson	Darrell Williams	2098 Osawatomie
Doris Ericson	0792 Fort Scott	Ethel Jenkins	2231 Jefferson County
Judy Arnold	1162 Shawnee Mission	Janice Neuschafer	1794 McPherson

Members shared ideas on chapter fundraisers and a willingness to share annual Alzheimer’s campaign mailing letter. Copies of handouts for fundraisers, as well as memorial leaflet that can be given to funeral homes were available. Janice (Region V Alzheimer’s Coordinator) shared a novel idea – a North Dakota chapter raised money doing floral deliveries for Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day. Shared Gold Rush Girls Gold Party idea not yet tried by Topeka Chapter (contact info will be in my next quarterly).

In 2014 the Federation Contribution Goal was \$5.50 per member. After some discussion, the committee felt it was best not to increase the Kansas Federation goal for 2015, so it remains at \$5.50 per member.

My apologies – I failed miserably as your Federation Alzheimer’s Chair but at least the numbers are good:

2015 Live Auction - \$2,810.00	2014 Live Auction - \$2,340.00
2015 Silent Auction - \$3,137.00	2014 Silent Auction - \$3,586.84

The total raised during the convention is \$6,450.83; this includes centerpiece sales, offering for unclaimed items, and two chapter checks totaling \$503.83. This is an increase of **\$523.99** from 2014 totals.

Thanks to all bidders. Last year we had about 373 auction items. This year we had 356 auction items (56 in Live Auction). The idea of having some better quality items with a \$10 starting bid was suggested by some but not the success hoped; this resulted in some items being withdrawn while others were lowered \$2 on both the \$5 and \$10 items in the last 10 minutes of bidding.

Hopefully everyone took the opportunity to view the 1,000 Words Project showcasing portraits of famous people with Alzheimer's or related dementia done by talented Kansas high school artists. The traveling art display is here courtesy of the Topeka office of the Alzheimer's Association.

In the Silent Auction room you will find a "business-size card" that may be helpful when the behavior of an individual with Alzheimer's is undesirable and may help/aid a caregiver in giving an apology discreetly and without having to discuss it in front of the person who has Alzheimer's. *"My companion has ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE which causes memory loss and confusion. Please understand any unusual behavior. Your patience is appreciated. Thank you."* Courtesy of the Alzheimer's Association Heart of America Chapter in Prairie Village.

The following is a sketchy list of individuals who helped save the day. If you were overlooked my apologies but God knows who you are. A ton of thanks goes for all the helping hands.

Auction item acceptance and runners to staging areas:

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
Leah Shaw	0002 Topeka	Ed Shaw	0002 Topeka
Paul Manning	0002 Topeka	Shirley Manning	0002 Topeka
Flora Spotts	0002 Topeka	George Spotts	0002 Topeka
Bethel Davidson	0002 Topeka	Clarence Davidson	0002 Topeka
Earlene Jirik	0002 Topeka	Dolores Engel	0002 Topeka
Jo Burenheide	0002 Topeka	Karen North	0002 Topeka
Richard Wike	0002 Topeka	Norma Rice	0002 Topeka
Don Baxter	0002 Topeka	Judy Arnold	1162 Shawnee Mission
Karol Katt	2032 Logan County	Sylvia Riepen	2099 Osage City

Cashiers:

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
Robert Heller	0739 Belleville	Earlene Jirik	0002 Topeka
Judy Arnold	1162 Shawnee Mission	Duane Evans	0280 Salina

Live Auction Assistants:

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
George Spotts	0002 Topeka	Jim Miller	0002 Topeka

The following chapters met or exceeded the 2014 Federation goal of \$5.50 per member, and also recognize the chapters who made outstanding contributions during 2014:

2014 Federation Goal Award for "\$ Per Member" = 17

Chapter	Chapter Name	\$ per Member	Award in Excess of \$5.50 per member
0537	Hutchinson	\$5.60	
0002	Topeka	\$6.17	
0757	Cowley County	\$7.41	
1995	Garden City	\$7.68	
0378	Lawrence	\$8.19	
2098	Paola	\$8.23	
0384	Emporia	\$8.44	
1709	Great Bend	\$10.02	
1948	Nemaha County	\$10.16	Not recognized 4/28
1794	McPherson	\$10.36	
0799	Chanute	\$10.80	
0366	Manhattan	\$11.04	
0280	Salina	\$11.46	
2032	Logan County	\$11.83	
0027	Leavenworth	\$14.81	
0621	Atchison	\$15.19	
2086	Ulysses	\$16.43	

Certificates of Appreciation were given to Wayne Hunter & Gary Henson, Auctioneers for Benefit of NARFE/Alzheimer's Research Fundraiser

"Well Done" certificate was given to Chapter #0027 members for consistent high dollar donations to the auctions the past two years.

Headquarters (HQ provided these certificates) = 2

Ulysses Chapter #2053 members were awarded a certificate from NARFE National for the Highest Dollar per Member Contribution of \$16.43. Leavenworth Chapter #0027 members were awarded a certificate from NARFE National for the Highest Total Dollar Contribution of \$4,561.29.

Service Officer - Harold L Klaege, Chairman

Training was conducted on Sunday, April 26, 2015 – Twelve (12) members attended from eleven (11) different chapters. Harold passed out an information sheet of Overview for Service Officers. Names and Addresses for National Offices for references for the Local Service Officers to use. He placed some on a table for anyone to pick up to take back to their chapter Service Officers for usage. Harold will

renew the CD he made to assist local Service Officers. If you need any assistance Harold is available to assist anyone in need. He wants to pay it forward so there is someone knowledgeable to assist his wife in her future needs.

Time and Place Report – Ron Katt, Chairman

Ron Katt chaired the Tim & Place Committee meeting. Ten (10) Kansas federation members attended the meeting. Seven (7) appointed member Lois Carlson, Roger Mumm, Elizabeth Bornman, Lorna Larson, Lorene Mumm, John Ourada, Janet Mathews and three (3) guests Dale Jirik, Ronald Richey, and Linda Ourada.

In the absence of a chapter bid Federation President Cindy Renee' Blythe, with the support of the current Executive Board, presented a detailed proposal for the Federation Executive Board to host the 63rd Annual Kansas Federation Convention April 23-25 2017.

The committee approved the proposal for the Executive Board to host the 2017 state convention. Ron Miller made the motion to approve the bid from the Federation President for the Kansas Federation Executive Committee to host the 2017 Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters Convention. Motion was seconded and approved by a show of voting cards.

John Ourada, President Salina Chapter #0280, presented the invitation to come to Salina for the 2016 Kansas Federation Convention at the Ambassador Hotel (may be called something different by the time next year rolls around.) Cindy presented the Salina Chapter with Certificate of Distinguished Service for membership recruitment. Salina members attended the Tri-Rivers Fair Parade, manned a booth at the Sunflower Senior Fair and manned a table at the Farm Service Agency annual meeting.

President Blythe asked everyone to please be sure to turn in their Exit surveys. The surveys will be compiled and results discussed at the June Executive Board meeting. The comments are utilized by the next host chapter to enhance our convention experience.

Closing Remarks – Jim Miller thanked everyone for attending the 61st Annual Convention.

The United States Coast Guard Color Guard retired the colors for the closing ceremony. We thank the Coast Guard for their participation. President Blythe will send a personal Thank You to Captain Lebruska, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center.

Convention Closed – President Blythe adjourned the convention at 9:48 am. The Executive Board will meet at 10:00 am in the Mansion Dining Room.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Gwendolyn Ketter

Secretary, Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters