



Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters
Opening Session 61st Annual Convention Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters
Ramada Inn Downtown Topeka KS
Sunday April 26, 2015

The opening session of the 61st Kansas Federation Convention was called to order at 7:00pm. on Sunday, April 26, 2015, in the RegencyEast Ballroom of the Ramada Inn Downtown Topeka Kansas, by President Cindy Renee` Blythe.

The United States Coast Guard Color Guard presented the colors.

Elizabeth Bornman, 1st Vice-President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation was given by Judy Etter, Kansas Federation Chaplin.

President Blythe turned the floor over to Jim Miller who delivered the "Welcome to Topeka" speech since there was no available speaker from the Mayor's office. Having been a long-time member and supporter of NARFE, Jim gave a very cordial invitation to each and every attendee to enjoy the convention, while remaining open to learning new things and renewing friendships.

President Blythe stated that this past year has been one with some issues that required experience to make final decisions. She called upon the Executive Board and previous Federation Presidents to guide her in the proper decisions. President Cindy Renee` Blythe introduced the elected officers seated at the head table which included 1st Vice-President, Elizabeth Bornman member of chapter 1162 Shawnee Mission, Secretary, Gwen Ketter member of chapter 0002 Topeka KS, and Treasurer, Rebecca Rodgers member of chapter 0366 Manhattan KS.

President Blythe introduced the dignitaries attending the convention: Past Presidents: James F. Miller, James E. Dodd, and Carol Ek.

Kansas is very fortunate to have as a member, the Region V Alzheimer's Program Manager, Janice Neuschafer member of chapter 1794 McPherson KS. President Blythe introduced Janice, who spoke on the current happenings in Alzheimer's and how our contributions are being used to further research. Alzheimer's is a form of dementia. 1 in 9 older Americans have dementia. As baby boomers age, the diagnosis of dementia is gaining more importance. 1/3 of all seniors who die are affected by some type of dementia. Alzheimer's is not a normal part of aging. Up to 5% of people have early onset Alzheimer's. Know the 10 warning signs. In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, *NARFE members have donated more than \$11 million to the NARFE Alzheimer's Research Fund.* 100 percent of NARFE donations to the Fund are allocated to research. NARFE is a member of the Alzheimer's Association's Zenith Society, a group of about 50 donors representing the highest level of giving. NARFE is one of only four organizations belonging to the Zenith Society and, of the four organizations; NARFE is the "number one" contributor. Many NARFE members not only contribute their dollars to the NARFE Alzheimer's Fund but also plan and participate in fundraisers, and volunteer at local day-care centers and other respite-care facilities. At the 2014 National Convention, delegates voted to extend our current goal to \$12 million in 2016. Janice reported that the Kansas Federation ranked fifth in total contributions from among the 54 Federations.

Tom Huntzinger – PAC Chair reported that thus far we had collected \$1,033.00 in PAC Contributions from 32 people; for over \$32 per person contribution.

A drawing for door prizes were performed before the session closed. There were no announcements are this time.

Janice explained how the Alzheimer's Live and Silent Auction would be handled. You received a yellow bid card in your convention packet. Use it to bid on silent auction items and during the live auction. The silent auction began at 3:00pm in the Regency West Ballroom and the live auction will begin at 7:30pm in the Regency East Ballroom.

With no other business to handle during this session, the convention recessed until 8:30am, Monday, April 28, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gwendolyn Ketter

Secretary, Kansas Federation of NARFE Chapters